

State Senator Supports Renewable Energy

Photo and story by Neil Farrell

He brings a wealth of experience in the areas of local, county and state government — both elected and appointed — academia and especially environmental policy, and now he's begun his first term in the California State Senate.

Dist. 17 State Sen. John Laird was in Morro Bay recently, during a tour of his extensive senate district and in particular to meet with local officials and representatives of Vistra Energy, owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant and applicants for the world's largest Battery Energy Storage System or BESS.

Sen. Laird took a few minutes Oct. 20 to speak with Estero Bay News before heading over the hill for events in Atascadero and eventually a long drive home in the rain.

Sen. Laird explained over coffee at The Rock Espresso Bar that he was born in Vallejo in the Bay Area and raised in Santa Rosa. His parents were teachers, he said, and he was raised by his mom. When he was old enough she went back to teaching and worked in education until her retirement.

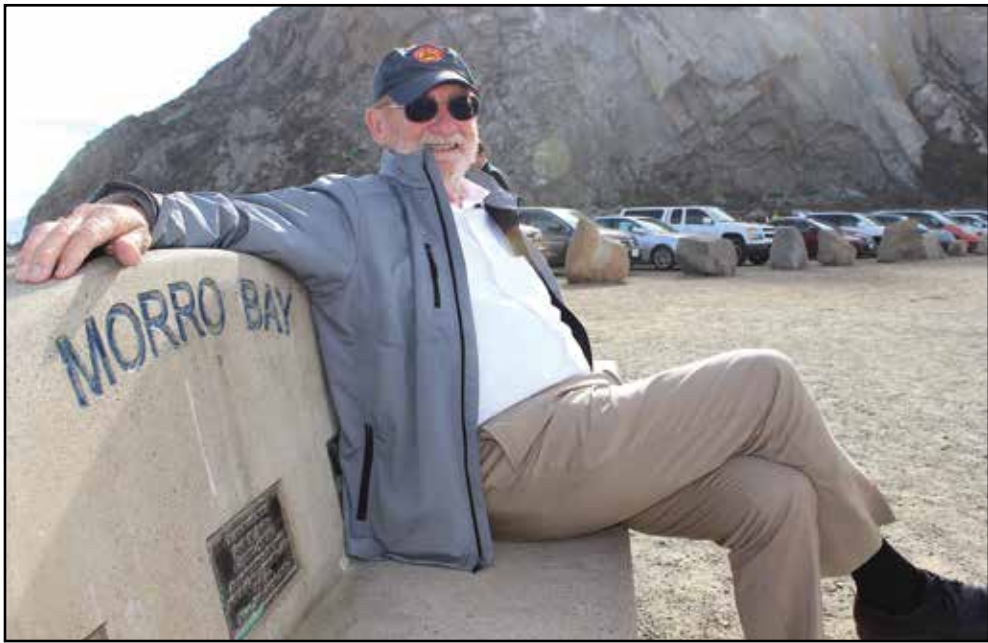
He attended U.C. Santa Cruz. "I was in the fourth graduating class at Santa Cruz," he recounts. He left Santa Cruz for an internship in Washington D.C., he says and when that was over he went to work for the County Administration in Health and Social Services. In 1981 he was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council where he served for nine years, including two terms as mayor before terming out in 1990.

"I did everything you could" on the council, he says. That includes working on subcommittees on things like transportation and water for most of those nine years.

He was on the Council during the October 1989 "World Series Earthquake" (officially the Loma Prieta Earthquake).

That 6.9 temblor was centered in the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, located just 10 miles from Santa Cruz. His City sustained significant damage, as did the Bay Area, which included the collapse of a section of the double-decker Nimitz Freeway in Oakland.

After holding elected office, Sen. Laird says he went to work



California 17th District State Senator John Laird was in Morro Bay recently to meet with officials from the City of Morro Bay and Vistra Energy.

for the County and was elected to the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees in Aptos. He was also a professor at UC Santa Cruz teaching environmental policy.

He's done a lot of things in his life, he says, including working for a local NPR Radio on the drive-time show. "I've always been actively involved in the community," he says.

In 2002, he was elected to the State Assembly where he served on the Budget Committee and termed out after 6 years.

He also served as a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008-09.

In 2011, Gov. Jerry Brown named him to head the State Natural Resources Agency, a cabinet post and a huge job that oversees dozens of agencies including Fish & Wildlife, Coastal Commission, Energy Commission, State Parks and Recreation and the State Water Resources Control Board. He feels that his varied experiences helped prepare him for his work in the Legislature.

"I was the only cabinet member to last all 8 years" with Gov. Brown, he says with a bit of pride.

Last November he was elected to the 17th Senate District a crazily drawn district that starts in San Jose in the South Bay Area, and includes Southern Santa Clara County, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Santa Cruz County, Coastal Monterey County, Big Sur

State Senator Continued on page 15

Moving Forward: One Family – Three Morro Bay Businesses

Story and photos by Judy Salamacha

It has been more than fifteen years that I have had the honor to write for Morro Bay and other SLO newspapers. Most of my interviews have been with small business owners trying to compete with Internet interlopers or Big Box giants. My belief has always been shoppers will support locals when they know, like and trust the business owner. Let me introduce Jim and Leslie (Rugerbregt) Sanders and their three affiliated Morro Bay businesses

– The Good Flea, California Marine & Salvage and Goddess Goods.

Wowzer! Everyone loves a tender romance! Jim and Leslie are newlyweds, but their friendship started years ago when their four kids attended Del Mar Elementary School.

"I was president of PTA and so impressed with Leslie as she chaired our art fund raiser," Jim said.

Their kids remained friends through high school while their parents focused on their businesses. Then Jim stopped by The Good Flea one day. Leslie found the nerve to be bold and say she was single. Respect instantly became love-in-bloom. Their first date was dinner and ballroom dancing at the Madonna Inn.

"I proposed two years ago on Winter Solstice while on a walk to Morro Rock," Jim said. "The sun was setting as the moon was rising." Leslie added, "The Chumash were drumming."

Jim said he fumbled in his pocket for the ring while she was distracted. They married Summer Solstice 2018.

"We have been working in the store ever since," Leslie said.

Jim has been coming back from carbon dioxide poisoning resulting from a home-safety incident. It forced him to stop diving, which is the core service of his business. He admitted he's taking it day-by-day before he can fully get back to diving. Leslie doesn't mind at all.

"We both love a good treasure hunt – he finds treasures by sea and my business finds them on land. For now, every day at work is fun," she said, "Whether picking up a heavy load from customers or helping people in the shop, we do it together."

The Good Flea is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Leslie has heard a lot of stories as she's helped people downsize. Her business goal became a quest to find new homes for her custom-



Leslie and Jim at California Marine & Salvage, one of three Morro Bay businesses they own.

er's treasures and castaways.

"I never expected a thrift store would introduce me to so many friends and let me help my community," she said. "We have customers come back on their vacation each year to say 'hello.' Others drop by to look around just to enjoy the memories. I thought I would be selling just stuff, but people have memories and attachments to their belongings."

Leslie was working retail-management on the waterfront when she saw an advertisement for a 25-year old business with a corner storefront right off Hwy 1. She wrote friends and family for loans to help her buy it. One friend's mother was a commercial real estate broker and schooled her on "due diligence" before she made the offer. She was able to negotiate a price she could afford. She changed the name to The Good Flea to avoid any past liabilities, and then her friends Don McLean, Bonnie Johnson and

Moving Forward Continued on page 15

Cambria Christmas Market Returns

by Theresa-Marie Wilson



Part of the light display at the Cambria Christmas Market in 2019. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Cambria Christmas Market will return this holiday season, but for some folks it isn't the most wonderful time of the year.

The San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission, on Oct. 22, approved a permit to extend the Cambria Christmas Market through the end of the 2021 holiday season with a few caveats.

"There is an enforcement problem; we write good conditions, and if adhered to, they seem reasonable," said Commissioner Michael Multari, representing District 2 covering Cambria. "The question is, are they indeed adhere to. We have to be sure that the applicant, in fact, acts in good faith to comply with them. There seems to be some doubt over the course of the history of this event, substantial evidence, that that's not the case. That's my only hesitancy about this, not my only hesitancy, but that's the primary one. I think staff has done the right thing coming up with the balance between the popularity of the event and the impacts on the neighborhood with very extensive conditions including these revised ones. I will support the expansion of this for one year."

The event takes place on the grounds at the Cambria Pines Lodge, operated by Pacific Cambria, LLC, and the adjacent Cambria Nursery. It was canceled last year, when the previous 5-year permit would have expired, due to the pandemic.

It features 2 million twinkling Christmas lights, complete with themed vignettes, visits from Santa, fire pits, food and drink and an authentic open-air German Christmas Market selling many handcrafted and specialty items.

Although thousands of people attend the market yearly arriving at the lodge by the busload, not everyone wants to see the festivities return this year. Russell Read, a Cambria resident and

Christmas Market Continued on page 15

Bombed Out Bike Lane — It's Not Finished Yet

By Neil Farrell

Passing by on Hwy 1, work on the conveyance system for Morro Bay's new sewer project looks a bit like a scorched-earth approach.

What used to be a continuous stretch of mature cypress trees along the highway and bordering a dedicated bike path has wide areas clear-cut of all vegetation. The scene, even viewed at 55 mph, is stark and has many in the community deeply concerned that the Water Reclamation Facility project is violating its permits and trees and the animals that live in them are paying the price.

But project and city officials say that every tree that's been removed has been documented and reviewed by the Coastal Commission, which took control of the project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) on appeal.

Trouble with the Trees

Morro Bay is a "Tree City U.S.A." designee, and one could lovingly call us "Tree Hugger USA." So Estero Bay News brought these concerns to the folks managing and constructing the City's largest ever public works project at \$144 million, and counting.

"It's not finished yet," was the initial reaction of Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, Carollo Engineering's Paul Amico, and Stephen Mimiaga of Mimiaga Engineering Group, who is managing the treatment plant construction for Filanc/Black & Veatch. But all acknowledged the appearance of the tree removal work along the power plant bike path is ugly.

They likened it to a painting that is half finished and urged everyone to be patient because all the removed trees will be replaced, and the bike path restored. It's also a bit like renovating an old house, which Kwolek said he is currently doing — the more you tear into the walls or the plumbing, the more problems you find.

Tree Cuts Necessary

The trio assured that only trees that are necessary to build the pipeline are being removed. The CDP says 21 trees, and Amico, checking on bills paid to the pipeline contractor, said they've paid for the removal of 24 and there'll likely be at least one more

Bombed Out Continued on page 14



Bewitched
on The Bay
Page 7

Police
Blotter
Page 8



Shop For a
Cause
Page 11



Stacks To Come Down



Though you may have thought you'd never live to see it, it appears that Morro Bay's iconic trio of smokestacks will disappear, after the City Council voted 4-1 to tell the plant owners to take them down along with the massive power plant building.

Vistra Energy and the City earlier this year signed an agreement that settled an eminent domain lawsuit the City filed to gain easements over the property for its Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project now under construction.

The City agreed to pay \$200,000 for the easements that will see a pipeline run from the Embarcadero to Main Street and another pipeline from Main to the northeast corner of the property where the City plans to install injection wells to recycle its wastewater.

Also as part of that memorandum of understanding (MOU) was a pledge by Vistra to tear down the 1950s-era power generation building, which stands 165-feet tall, and the trio of stacks.

It did however, give the City an option to leave the landmark stacks up, if the City Council wanted to, setting a deadline for the end of 2022 to decide. But the City would have to take over all maintenance and liability costs, as well as any future costs to tear them down, which was estimated to be upwards of \$5 million.

In return, the City agreed to give Vistra's application for a 600-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on 22 acres of the plant property, on a site that used to have large oil storage tanks, a fair hearing.

That project would become the largest BESS in the world and would be double the size of the current standard holder, Vistra's 300 MW BESS at the Moss Landing Power Plant.

Now Vistra will have until 2028 to complete removal of the power plant and stacks, or pay the City \$3 million.

The success of the BESS project isn't directly tied to the plant/stacks removal. The Morro Bay BESS has yet to make it to a public review, and has a long road ahead of it.

City Manager Scott Collins said the Council also voted to have some sort of a memorial built commemorating the stacks and the over 60 years that they towered over the waterfront.

Councilman Jeff Heller was the lone dissenter, holding out hope that someone would come along and repurpose what — at 450 feet — are the tallest manmade structures in SLO County.

Taking down the stacks promises to be quite a monumental job, as two of them, built in the early 1960s, are reinforced and poured concrete, 15-feet thick at the base. Those will be cut into segments and lowered to the ground. The northern-most and original stack is a chimney lined with bricks.

The stacks are 45-feet in diameter at the base, tapering to about 17-feet in diameter at the top.

Various schemes have been floated about including turning the stacks into observation towers with a interior elevator, to a platform for base jumping or bungee diving, to turning the outer walls into a rock climbing course.

Watching them come down promises to be quite the sight and Morro Bay's waterfront skyline will be changed dramatically.

Boat Creep Again Overtaking Cuesta Inlet

Story and Photo by Neil Farrell



This photo of the Cuesta Inlet in Los Osos shows some of the 570 kayaks, canoes, skiffs, multiple hulled and day sailors currently left at the inlet. Celebrate Los Osos plans on Nov. 13 to inspect and potentially remove any boat that is out of licensing (with the DMV), ruined with holes in the hull, not marked with ownership identification or otherwise abandoned. Photo by Pandora Nash-Karner

Boat creep is once again overtaking the Cuesta Inlet and a beautification group is once again planning a big cleanup day, and inspecting every one of the hundreds of vessels being left on what is private property.

Pandora Nash-Karner, who is with the Celebrate Los Osos said the Cuesta Inlet has again been flooded with abandoned boats. "The property is private," she said in a news release, "and the owners do not mind if people use the land to store boats if they are being used, however, they do want the boats to have current registration and contact information. For the gift of easy access to the bay, it's not too much to ask."

Nash-Karner said she and Lynette Tornatzky recently counted the boats at the inlet and found, "364 kayaks; 119 canoes; 32 multi-hulls; 17 mono-hulls (sailboats, two without any rigging); one trimaran without any ID or license; one outrigger canoe; 26 dinghies/skiffs; eight standup paddle boards (SUPS); one absolute wreck; and one abandoned multi-hull on a trailer, for a total of 570 vessels."

The 570 count is more than double the number of boats at the inlet when they first conducted a cleanup over a decade ago.

"Celebrate Los Osos' first clean up was in 2010 and involved 286 boats," Nash-Karner said. "We've cleaned up the inlet nearly every year since. Our last cleanup was in 2019, pre-COVID and there were just over 400 boats."

"Volunteers are needed on Saturday, Nov. 13 to inspect, inventory and post the boats at the inlet," Nash-Karner said. They need 30 people "to help in this process which should take about 1½ hours."

Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact People wishing to volunteer for the Cuesta Inlet cleanup can email Ellie Malykont at: MEPPS@Charter.net or see the website at: Volunteer@CelebrateLosOsos.org.

Anyone with a boat down there who doesn't want it to be removed and junked, needs to go down there and clearly mark the boat in paint not Magic Marker, with name and contact information (phone number). And all boats that require a DMV license needs to be currently registered.

Volunteers will inspect every boat at the inlet, Nash-Karner said, looking for the two things that would allow the boats to be in compliance with the owner's request — current boat registration if applicable, and contact information." It's recommended owners use paint to mark their boats and not an ink marker, as that fades quickly and the information becomes unreadable.

They plan is to remove any obviously abandoned or ruined boats, like any with holes in the hulls, on the 13th, but they mainly want to post all the boats without ID or licensing. Nash-Karner was trying to arrange for the Grizzly Academy cadets to assist with the heavy lifting, and she said if they are available, would remove the derelicts on the 13th.

Whenever the move out happens, the cadets will move them to an area on Doris Avenue before they end up in a landfill.

"Notices will be taped to all boats out of compliance and request that contact information be placed on the boat with some-

Boat Creep Continued on page 3

Publisher's Comment I'm Done!

In the 60 years plus I've been rambling around this world, I have never seen it this bad before — neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother. I am not sure who is really behind all of this or who really benefits from it, but, I'm done with the negativity, the anger, the division and the hatred.



I've been running the local newspaper on and off for over 32 years. Issues have divided us in the past, pro sewer, anti sewer, pro growth, anti growth and so on, but the stuff that is going on today has to stop.

There is no such thing as "fake news." It is either the truth or it is a lie. Just because you don't agree with something does not make it fake. It is up to everyone to do due diligence and research something before passing it along or sharing it as truth. Saying this is how I feel is one thing, but saying that "A" is true and "B" is a lie without real evidence is contributing to the problem. We use to have each other's back, now we are at each other's throats. How can we fix this?

If you don't like what a certain political party is doing, write your representative and vote. Then hope whomever is in office does the best they can for all of us, and if not, vote again.

Republican, democrat or independent, pro this or anti that, we are all in this together and can only get out of this one civil conversation at a time. One should not hate the other because of a difference of opinions. Anti mask, pro mask, anti vaccine, pro vaccine, we are still all in this together.

The question we should ask is, "How can I help my fellow friends and neighbors? What can I contribute for the good of all, not just take mine and the hell with everybody else?" I see what is going on around our country and it sickens me. Short-term solutions for a long-term issue. We will never repair things with this attitude.

We live here, so let's do our part to make it that much better for all of us, regardless of religion, political beliefs, gender and on and on. I want to leave this world a better place for my children, and their children.

I am truly a lucky man with a great family and friends, living in one of the most beautiful places in the world, and I want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Can we just have a civil conversation, express our thoughts to each other without wishing anyone harm because we don't agree, please? I will do my best to do my part, how about you?



Dean Sullivan
Owner - Publisher
dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson
Editor
editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell
Reporter
neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan
Marketing Director
shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan
Jill Turnbow
Ruth Ann Angus
Judy Salamacha

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC. Copyright 2019 all rights reserved. We are a bi-weekly publication with 10,000 copies distributed throughout Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com. You can reach us through emails listed above, by phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at: P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.



WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!

Morro Bay Appliance

805-772-2755

Sales - New & Reconditioned

Service & Repairs On All Major Brands

Freezers • Refridgerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves

Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods

Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971

935 Main Street, Morro Bay

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Advocate for Bikes in LO

Do you believe Los Osos could use some safer bike routes to get around town? Community members have been working diligently to advocate for bike paths to schools and community centers. Check out this recent report about active transportation and local voice on page 30 at slocogatp.org.
The next Bicycle Advisory Council meeting is November 9 at 6 p.m. For more information, go to slocounty.ca.gov and type bicycle advisory in the search bar.

SLO Veterans Museum Survey

The Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum (CCVMM) in San Luis Obispo wants feedback on how they can be more connected and relevant to the community in 2022. They ask folks, who have visited or have not visited the museum to complete an anonymous survey to help them in the planning process.
Take the community feedback survey at vetmuseum.org/community-feedback-survey.

Vaccine Boosters Available

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department has booster doses of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and Moderna vaccines by appointment to eligible community members at public health clinics in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo. Booster doses are also available from local pharmacies and healthcare providers.
“The most important dose of vaccine is still the first one, and I encourage everyone who has not yet started or completed their vaccine series to make an appointment today,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “We’re also happy to now offer this additional boost of protection, which is especially important for those most at risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19.”
All those who received the J&J vaccine (age 18+) are eligible to get a booster dose two months or more after receiving the initial vaccination. Those who received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines are eligible for a booster dose at six months or more after their initial series if they are:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings

- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings
- Age 18+ who are at an increased risk of social inequities

With this update, the FDA, CDC and Western States workgroup have also authorized “mix-and-match” (heterologous) booster shots, meaning those eligible for a booster dose may receive any type of vaccine. Public Health clinics will continue to schedule appointments by vaccine type, and residents may select their type of vaccine when scheduling an appointment. Walk-ins will be available as supply allows but may not offer a choice of vaccine type.
“It’s held true throughout this pandemic that the best vaccine is the one available to you and which you feel comfortable getting—and that is true with boosters, too,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “For those seeking guidance on vaccine type based on your personal health situation, I encourage you to talk with your doctor. Since most hospitalized persons who were fully vaccinated are over 65 years old, this group should prioritize getting a booster dose as soon as possible.”
Vaccines are available at no cost countywide at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, Public Health Department clinics, and mobile clinics. More than 72.3% of eligible San Luis Obispo County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 65.5% are fully vaccinated.
To get your COVID-19 vaccine at a public health clinic, go to myturn.ca.gov or call (833) 422-4255. See hours and pop-up clinics at www.RecoverSLO.org/Vaccine. To find other vaccine providers, visit myturn.ca.gov or VaccineFinder.org.

Shower the People Returns

Folks in need can take free showers with Shower the People. After a short hiatus, the San Luis Obispo Library will again partner with the local non-profit on Sundays from 1-3 p.m.
The shower trailer is located between the library and parking structure. Toiletries are provided.

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

State Water Shutdown for Maintenance

Morro Bay residents and businesses may have noticed their tap water is a bit different than normal, as the city goes through the annual State Water Project Maintenance Shutdown, now through Nov. 16.
Damaris Hanson with the City Public Works Department, said, “During the shutdown, the City will use our groundwater wells from the Morro Valley. Due to the high level of nitrates in this aquifer, this water must be treated prior to distribution to the residents. The City treats this water at the Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (BWRO) treatment plant to remove the nitrates prior to distribution.”
The BWRO used to a seawater desalination plant that treated brackish groundwater pumped from wells along the Embarcadero but the City gave up on the plant after it was neglected for years and removed its capability to treat seawater. It was re-outfitted to treat groundwater instead and filters nitrates out of the well water at Lila Keiser Park before piping that water to the Kings Avenue water storage tanks via a so-called “blending” pipeline.
They’ve changed the disinfection used for this well water too. “During the treatment process,” Hanson said, “the water department uses the ‘free Chlorine’ method of disinfection. Customers may experience brief periods of higher chlorine odor due to the

State Water Continued on page 4

Boat Creep From page 2
thing permanent other than ‘permanent’ Magic Marker, which is not,” Nash-Karner said.
“Celebrate Los Osos’ first clean up was in 2010 and involved 286 boats,” she said. “The following year, more boats showed up, and they were tagged and towed too. In 2012, with the assistance of the Grizzly Academy there was a massive attempt to clear out abandoned boats.”
There are signs posted around the inlet listing the rules and there is a County Ordinance that allows abandoned boats to be removed. Abandoned boats can be removed by the property owner after 60 days under County Code Section 8.24, which allows ‘abatement and removal as a public nuisance of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled and inoperative’ vessels, Nash-Karner said. “Owners could also be on the hook for the costs to remove your boat, if it should come to that.”
Or the property owners could put up a fence around their property and not let anyone store any boats there, something Nash-Karner hopes to avoid.
“It’s such a gift for local bay users to be able to leave their boats at the inlet — for no cost — and be able to launch easily,” she said. “There are currently 570 boats at Cuesta Inlet, many are not in compliance and eight are broken or have holes in them.”
The group has worked hard to keep the inlet open for the public to use, as it’s been for many decades. Celebrate Los Osos Board member, George Kastner, said, “After all the years of public outreach about the rules at Cuesta Inlet, it is disappointing to see so many people taking advantage of the storage and launching privilege but not complying with the owner’s requests.”



Bayside Cafe

Serving Morro Bay, Los Osos Area for over 30 years.

Just plain good food, generous portions



Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

Open Monday-Wednesday 11:00am - 3:00pm.
Thursday-Sunday 11:00am - 3:30pm. Closed between 3:30-4:00
Open again from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm
10 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Phone 805-772-1465
Visit our Menu at Baysidecafe.com

Time To Sell?



Morro Bay

SOLD - November, 2021



San Luis Obispo

SOLD - November, 2021



Call the Broker with the **SOLD** signs!

Kelly Vandenheuvel

Central Coast Property Sales
Owner / Broker / GRI
CalBRE# 01472453

I Can Sell Yours Too
Call Me Today!

805-471-1046

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com

Explosive Device Taken By Bomb Squad

By Neil Farrell

A planned garage sale avoided being a big bang, when an explosive device was discovered in the items being prepped for sale and safely taken care of by experts.

The case started at 10:08 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 in the 2700 block of Elm when police were called about a suspicious device.

MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said someone was helping a friend get ready for a garage sale when they came across items that they “believed were possibly explosives. An MBPD officer responded and contacted a member of the SLO Sheriff’s Office’s Bomb Task Force. A member of the task force responded and took possession of the items. Nothing malicious or suspicious about the items.”

Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said it was a “commercial blasting cap,” which was safely destroyed by the bomb squad.

According to Wikipedia, “a blasting cap is a device used to trigger an explosive device. Detonators can be chemically, mechanically, or electrically initiated, the last two being the most common.” Cmdr. Watkins said they often deal with suspicious items.

“This is a common call for service that we respond to,” she said, “when people clean out their homes or garages and have items from family members who may or may not still be in the home, and are unfamiliar with certain items that appear dangerous, they call us and we come out to check things out; and sometimes if we aren’t sure, we will call the experts.”

Motel Gunman Caught, Convicted

A man who brandished a handgun at a motel clerk in August and was arrested in September, has now pled guilty on two felonies and is slated to be sentenced in November, Morro Bay Police said.

MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said the case started at 5:51 p.m. Aug. 27 when officers responded to a report of a man with a gun breaking into a room at the Rodeway Inn, 2460 Main St.

According to Cmdr. Watkins, “Suspect was contacted by the victim (a motel employee) when an argument ensued and was told he was going to contact law enforcement. At that time, the suspect retrieved a handgun from his waistband and pointed the firearm at the victim. Suspect then fled on foot.”

Police searched high and low for the gunman but didn’t find him. Witnesses reported he got picked up by someone in an unidentified vehicle and made his escape. Police did find two handguns in their search along with some personal property. And like a homing pigeon the turkey eventually returned to the scene.

On Sept. 2, the suspect, identified as Emery Grohregin, 26, was located again at the Rodeway Inn and after a brief standoff with police, as arrested. He was charged with several felonies, according to Cmdr. Watkins, including Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Criminal Threats, Felon in Possession of a firearm, and Burglary.

Last week, Cmdr. Watkins said, Grohregin pled to felony charges of ADW and criminal threats. He is slated to be sentenced to prison sometime in November.



Emery Grohregin

Wrong-Way Driver Wasn’t Drunk

A possibly mentally ill man was potentially stopped from hurting anyone after police stopped him going the wrong way on Hwy 1 through Morro Bay.

According to MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins, at 3:55 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, police were notified by dispatch that County Sheriff deputies were after a wrong-way driver who was going southbound on the northbound side of the segregated Hwy 1. The wrong-way driver was traveling about 45 mph and the driver was failing to yield to the red-blue lights, according to the news release.

MBPD officers responded and went to the South Bay Boulevard interchange to try and stop the vehicle. “The officer used an intervention technique, placing his vehicle in the path of the oncoming car to stop the driver and the vehicle from continuing and potentially injuring others. The intervention was successful, and officers were able to stop the vehicle and made contact with the driver.”

And while it might have been a fair assumption, police said the driver, who they did not identify, wasn’t driving drunk.

“Officers determined the driver was possibly having a mental health episode and was transported to a local area hospital for evaluation,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “No injuries were sustained to the driver or officers. The investigation into this incident is ongoing including evaluation of charges on the driver.”

3-Car Crash on Main Street



Police are investigating a 3-car crash on Main Street reportedly caused by an alleged drunk driver going too fast while exiting Hwy 1.

According to Morro Bay Police, officers and firefighters responded at 5:13 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22 to a car crash at Main Street and the northbound Hwy 1 off ramp. MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins said in a news release, a vehicle driven by Christopher David Dery, 22, “exited the highway traveling at speeds too fast for road conditions, which at the time were wet from a light rain.”

Dery, “failed to stop for the posted stop sign and collided with another vehicle traveling south on Main Street,” Cmdr. Watkins continued. “The collision caused the second vehicle to spin causing an unsecured, small motorcycle to eject from the bed of the second vehicle and strike a third vehicle traveling north on Main Street. No major injuries were reported at the scene.”

Officers reportedly evaluated Dery at the scene, and he was arrested for suspicion of drunk driving, Cmdr. Watkins said.

It took about an hour to clear the scene, blocking traffic in both directions. In the photo, police investigate the crash scene; firefighters and tow trucks then worked to clear the scene (photo courtesy MBPD).

Readers are advised to be careful driving, as rainy weather after it being dry for so long, can make for slippery roads and hazardous driving conditions. You should make sure your tires are properly inflated, your brakes are good, and you have good wiper blades, as winter appears to be upon us.

Wear your seatbelts, don’t speed, and, perhaps most importantly, don’t drink and drive.

State Water From page 3

change in disinfectant. If this happens, it is suggested residents flush the faucets to run water through the system for 10-15 seconds. The City water system will continue to meet all Federal and State drinking water standards during this time.”

The shutdown notice comes after the City advised everyone that the tap water — State Water — was again suffering an algae bloom in the source water in the Sacramento Delta due to high temperatures in Northern California. The algae bloom, which the City said posed no health threats, made the water have an “earthy” smell and taste.

Hanson also reminds everyone to conserve water. “Morro Bay,” Hanson said, “is currently under severely restricted water conservation requirements. Please continue to conserve water and limit the amount of water used outdoors.” See: www.morrobayca.gov/waterconservation for information on current water restrictions and more ways to conserve water.

If readers have questions about the water, call Hanson and (805) 772-6265.

Paso Man Nicked in Bronze Train Heist

By Neil Farrell



Train parts and farm equipment were allegedly stolen from a ranch in rural Santa Margarita.

Sheriff’s investigators arrested a Paso Robles man after he allegedly stole tens of thousands of dollars worth of bronze parts off a historic train plus thousands more in equipment from a ranch in rural Santa Margarita.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, a deputy responded to a reported vandalism at 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 11 at the Santa Margarita Ranch, in the 9000 block of Yerba Buena Ave., in Santa Margarita.

“It was reported numerous items were stolen,” Cipolla said in a news release, “including multiple pieces of a steam locomotive train, which were made of solid bronze and valued at more than \$10,000.”

While bronze has value as scrap metal, the steam train parts are rare. “These train parts are extremely rare with only eight sets of them made,” Cipolla said. “One set is in New York, the other seven are in California including the one set that was taken from Santa Margarita Ranch.”

The thief or thieves stole some valuable equipment too. “In addition,” Cipolla said, “two generators, drones and other equipment were taken with an estimated value of approximately \$20,000.” The estimated total loss was \$30,000.

Sheriff’s investigators including some from the North Station (in Templeton) and the Rural Crimes Unit developed evidence including a possible suspect. On Oct. 20, a search warrant was served at a home in the 3000 block of Bridle Trail Ln., in rural Paso Robles.

Deputies reportedly found several items suspected to have been stolen property, Cipolla said, but nothing was found connected with the train parts theft.

However, Cipolla said, “Receipts for recycling centers in Santa Maria and Nevada were discovered. Most of the train parts, approximately 800 pounds of bronze, were discovered at the Santa Maria recycling center. Several other stolen items were discovered at the recycling center in Nevada. In all, approximately \$20,000 in stolen property was recovered and returned to the rightful owners.”

Deputies arrested Jacob Scott Johnsen, 33, for suspicion of grand theft and receiving stolen property. He was booked into County Jail.

Bronze is a manmade alloy that is typically 80% copper and the rest tin, according to the website: forscrap.com, which bills itself as a green recycling company. “The properties of bronze put it in high demand as it is employed for a variety of purposes,” according to the website. “Of course, architecture and sculpture have been the main uses of bronze for hundreds of years. However, in our industrial and high-tech world, this alloy finds its use in manufacturing of bearings, machinery parts and tools.”

The current price for recycled bronze is from \$2 to \$2.50 per pound and fluctuates depending on how much copper is fetching, according to forscrap.com.



Jacob Scott Johnsen

PAUL'S PRECISION PAINTING

Central Coast

(Painting Houses on the Central Coast Since 1994)

805.464.9805

Licensed & Insured
Lic. # 1035020

www.paulsprecisionpaintingcc.com

Confused about Medicare?

Call Laurie Lackland

Absolutely no charge . . . ever!

Annual Enrollment is October 15 - December 7, 2021

My focus: Education, Integrity, YOU

805-506-1649

LacklandHealthPartners.com

Laurie.Lackland@Hey.com

California License #4051815 • By calling the above number you will be speaking with a licensed agent.

News

Rocks Cleared, Hwy 1 Reopened



Contractors made quick work clearing a landslide on Hwy 1 during an Oct. 27 rainstorm just north of Ragged Point that completely blocked the roadway.

Caltrans hired Papich Const., of Arroyo Grande to haul the 20 truckloads of dirt and rocks that came down at mile post 0.25, about 2 miles past Ragged Point in Southern Monterey County. The contract was for \$500,000 and the road was reopened on Oct. 30.

But it mightn't have gone so smoothly, as the hillside above the roadway got undermined by the landslide and was looking perilous.

"Crews were able to dislodge an undermined rock outcrop the afternoon of Friday October 30," said Caltrans spokesman, Kevin Drabinski. The agency had estimated it would be Nov. 3 before the road was cleared.

Though this rockslide was quickly cleared, it doesn't bode very well for California's most scenic and most famous stretch of roadway — Hwy 1 through Big Sur — to get blocked by the first rainstorm of the season.

This landslide is several miles south of the massive Mud Creek Slide of May 2017 that kept the highway closed for over a year. Photo courtesy Caltrans



Happy 96th. Birthday Joan Sullivan



We all Love You!

Morro Bay Chamber News

Shop Local, Shop Small Business Everyday

The Chamber is excited about our Small Business Everyday Campaign. There is no doubt about it, when times were tough our community came together to support each other. As we continue to move forward into brighter days the Morro Bay Chamber wants to remind our community to keep supporting their neighbors by shopping local. The shopping season is fast

approaching! Follow us for the best gift ideas and local shopping lists, October through December.

This year we've been thinking outside the box. We have ideas for everyone! Whether it is adventure, antiques, environmentally friendly and everything in between we have you covered.

ART & CULTURE

- Amandalee Design
- Art Center of Morro Bay
- David J. Rogers Fine Art
- Forever Stoked
- The Ugly Mug Ceramics

WINE, BEER, & SPIRITS

- Absolution Cellars
- Albertsons
- Bottle Liquor
- Dubost Winery
- Libertine Brewing
- Stax Wine Bar and Bistro
- The Savory Palette
- Three Stacks and a Rock Brewing
- Wicked Harvest Pistachio Bourbon Whiskey

SELF-CARE

- All Good Products
- Don's Barber Shop
- Fitness Works
- Megan's CBD Market
- Mike's Barber Shop
- Natural Healing Center (NHC)
- Perfect Union
- Shellie Anderson Therapies
- The Skin Stop

SHIPPING

- The UPS Store

ADVENTURE & ACTIVITIES

- Bay Cruisers
- By the Sea Productions
- Central Coast Car Rentals
- Central Coast Lift
- Lost Isle Adventures
- Morro Bay Golf Course
- Morro Bay Landing
- Morro Bay Maritime Museum & Gift Shop
- Museum of Natural History & Gift Shop
- Project XO
- Sub Sea Tours
- Toast the Coast!

ANTIQUE & THRIFT SHOPPING

- Highway 41 Antique Emporium
- Nifty Thrifty Thrift Store
- The Good Flea

RETAIL

- Aloha Shirt Shop
- Beads by the Bay
- Boat Yard Marketplace
- Carousel Taffy
- Coalesce Bookstore
- Dolphin Shirt Co.
- Dress Your Soul
- Gaia's Garden
- Goin' Coastal
- Morro Bay Appliance
- Morro Bay House of Jerky
- Patlo Pacific
- Perry's Parcel & Gifts Poppy
- Rancho Olivos
- Seven Sisters Gallery
- Smoobage
- The Garden Gallery
- The Hermit Crab
- The Shell Shop
- Under the Sea Gallery

New Chamber Members

- R. Reisner & Associate LLC
- Aurora Adventures, LLC
- Central Coast Car Rentals
- Project XO
- Joel Pace Real Estate

Find your shopping ideas by following us on Facebook, Instagram or our website; morrochamber.org. For more information, contact Lynsey Hansen, membership director at lynsey@morrochamber.org or 805.772.4467

Make memories that last a lifetime.

CHERISH THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON!

Morro Bay Hearing Aid Center

Schedule a Free Hearing Test! CALL TODAY

Morro Bay Hearing Aid Center
1052 Main Street, Suite B | Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-3277
morro-bay-hearing-aid-center.business.site

Oticon More™ is designed to support your brain by giving it what it needs to make sense of sound, bringing you closer to those life moments that you've been missing.

Hear and be heard by your friends and loved ones. Hearing devices can alleviate communication issues and make social gatherings enjoyable for everyone! Contact us today about your hearing health.

Jim Marshall

INSURANCE INC.

- AUTO
- HOME/RENTERS
- BUSINESS
- HEALTH
- LIFE

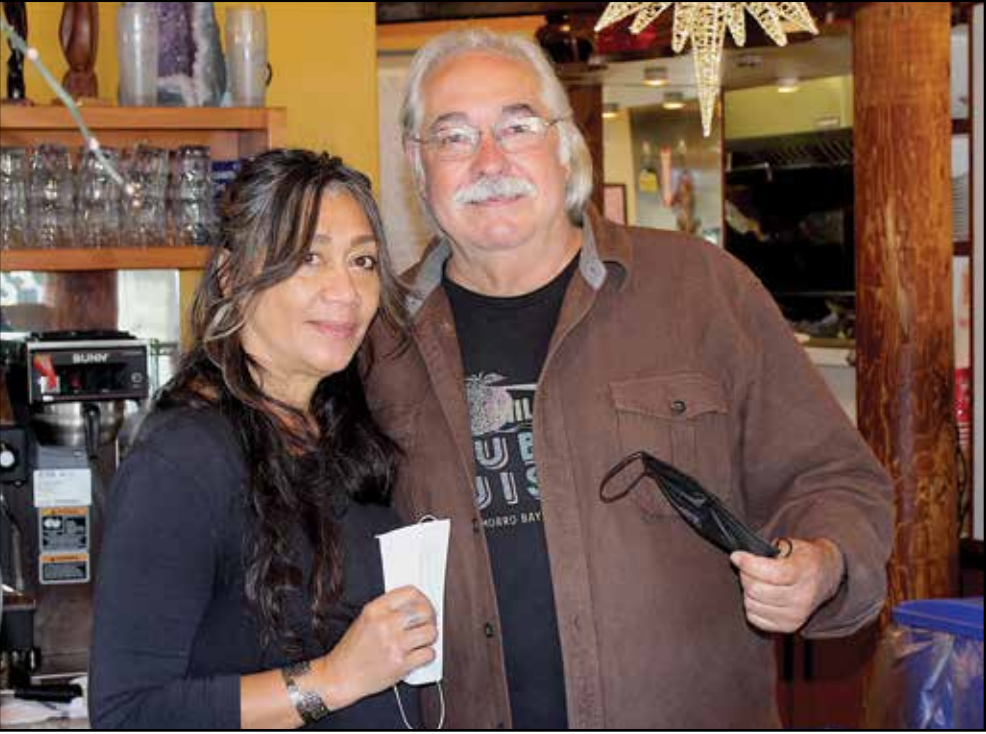
(805) 528-4739

2141 10th St., #A • Los Osos
www.jimmarshallinsurance.com

Community

Home of the Cuban Sandwich Getting New Home

Story and Photo by Neil Farrell



Elizabeth Kennedy and Jorge Milanes are working to open Milanes' Cuban Food — Bakery Café & Grill at Morro Bay Landing sometime in the coming weeks.

A local restaurant owner is about to double down on his investment in the Morro Bay waterfront, and folks will soon have another eatery and nightclub to enjoy themselves, while getting a taste of Caribbean culture.

Jorge Milanes, owner of Thai Bounty, 560 Embarcadero, is working to open Milanes' Cuban Food — Bakery Café & Grill, at Morro Bay Landing, clear on the other side of the waterfront at 1215 Embarcadero.

For Milanes, he's coming around full circle, returning to the location where it all began.

Thai Bounty, he explained, started July 4, 2009 in the "Finicky Fish" building, a small space next to Tognazzini's Dockside Restaurant and part of the MB Landing lease site.

That quaint building, with the façade of a boat, was torn down with the redevelopment project that included a new 2-story building and extensive floating docks, built by Bob Fowler.

Milanes said Thai Bounty started serv-

ing just Thai food and subleased from Sharon Moores, whose family had the long-time Virg's Landing. Fowler took over in 2012 and completely rebuilt everything.

"Bob was my landlord for 3 months," Milanes said. They continued with the Thai menu at the new location until 2017, when Milanes decided to expand and offer a Cuban sandwich and other items, making it both a Thai and Cuban eatery.

Milanes said he's had the normal ups and downs at Thai Bounty and recently was facing his lease coming up for renewal. He had to make a decision whether to stay at the location, which includes a wonderful outdoor patio. "It's certainly one of the nicest patios" on the Embarcadero, he said. Then Fowler, who had not found a tenant for the upstairs restaurant space at Morro Bay Landing, approached him.

"He made it attractive for me to make the leap," Milanes said. But instead of moving again,

he decided to open a second restaurant that will only have the Cuban cuisine from his Caribbean homeland.

It's a huge and costly undertaking, as the new space hasn't been finished out. "We have to put in everything," he said. "From the ground up." That includes finishing the walls and installing a commercial kitchen; work that is being done now.

"Bob's been great to work with," he added. His plan is to decorate in a tropical theme, feature exotic cocktails, beers and wines, and also have a live music venue. Milanes is an accomplished harmonica player himself and has often sat in with friends playing around the area.

Anyone who owns a restaurant could tell you how much work it is, but owning two? Milanes said he realized that he needed some help and decided to take another leap of faith and hire an operations manager to get the new place up and going. He found someone on Craig's List.

Elizabeth Kennedy, Liz for short, a respected industry hospitality consultant & senior restaurant operator from San Francisco, answered his ad. Hailing from Hawaii, she brings over 20 years of experience, along with an upbeat, "Aloha" spirit.

Kennedy explained that she was born and raised on the islands. She spent summers on Molokai, Hawaii's fifth largest island, just 38-miles long and 10-miles across at the widest spot.

She got a passion for the food business attending luaus where "some of the best cooks on the island would get together and create mouth-watering dishes that danced in your mouth once it hit your palette using exotic fruits, fish and meats," she said.

Kennedy said she moved to San Francisco in 2005 bringing the Aloha hospitality spirit with her and worked from the ground up — as a server, host, cook and bartender, before moving up to senior management. She took that experience into her consulting business and with this new position, has moved to Morro Bay. "The Central Coast brings the feel of Hawaii," she said.

For Milanes, the new restaurant will allow him to introduce more locals and visitors alike to further enjoy the flavors of Cuba. He'll be bringing the delicious Cuban sandwich to the new place, adding new dishes, including what he humorously calls the "Smash burger," flavored with Cuban blends of spices, fried plantain chips, and several specialty fresh seafood dishes, as well.

He even plans to get a commercial fishing

license to go out on his boat — Instant Karma — and catch fish himself. He'll also buy from the local commercial fleet, as he acknowledges that he won't be able to catch all the fish himself.

He plans to have "savory" fish and chips. "We will be heavy on fresh fish," he said. And his Cuban spiced ceviche (fish stew) will be unique, as well.

Milanes said as part of the new venture, he's also leased a small fish processing plant at the Landing to cut fish for the restaurants, as eventually he will be expanding the menu at Thai Bounty, too.

But it's the sandwich that Milanes said is the key. "Everybody does a Cuban sandwich," he said. "But it's not a real Cuban sandwich. You have to start with Cuban bread." The bakery will bake fresh daily, the special rolls that make his Cuban sandwich so good.

He will advertise the new restaurant as, "Home of the Original Cuban Sandwich," he said.

Kennedy said the real difference is that Milanes' food will "really be sticking to the culture, the traditions. I know all we have to do is introduce this to people."

The Cuban bakery will also have pastries the island is known for, and Milanes said he'll be open for sport fishermen, who depart pretty early in the morning from the landing's sport boats.

"I'm going in with the mindset that the whole sport fishing fleet is below me [on the docks]," he said. "I'll be open early for them."

The interior of the new place will be casual, Kennedy said, with the warm feeling of Aloha, but "pretty elegant for a burger and sandwich spot."

Milanes said he would like to include some tribute to author, Ernest Hemmingway, who famously hung out in Havana, deep sea fishing the Caribbean and enjoying the island lifestyle.

"I just want a bigger audience for the Cuban sandwich," Milanes said.

Kennedy said the plan is to be open sometime in November, certainly before the holidays begin, within the next few weeks. "Staffing has been a real challenge," she added.

If readers would like to apply for a job at the new restaurant, they should call Thai Bounty at (805) 772-2500 and ask for Liz Kennedy. She said they are starting people at competitive pay with growth opportunities.

And Milanes said if the new restaurant takes off — as he believes it will — they might look to open a third spot.

Morro Bay

Rotary

"People of Action"

Presents a Drive thru BBQ EVENT!

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Full Size PREMIUM TRI TIP ROAST,
Sourdough Garlic Bread Loaf,
Garden Salad,
Ranch Style Beans,
Serves up to 6 people!

Drive Thru Pick up at Carla's Country Kitchen
213 Beach Street, Morro Bay
5:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 17th

COMPLETE MEAL FOR \$50!

Purchase advance tickets by 11/15 at
Morrobayrotary.org

All Proceeds benefit Help Us Help Others

PIZZA with POLICE!

Join MBPD Officers at Pizza Port on
Thursday November 4th, 2021
from 5 - 7 PM

Come and enjoy your favorite pizza and
get to know your MBPD Officers!

Pizza Port
787 Main Street
Morro Bay

www.morrobayrotary.org

Community

Witches Paddle's Bewitched Beginnings

Information gathered by Judy Salamacha and Theresa-Marie Wilson - Photos by Neil Farrell



The witches came out to play, paddle, and ponder another year of celebration on Oct. 29. Amidst a cackling of “tee-hee-ing” and “ha-ha-ha-ing” from the flotilla of mischief, were vessels of many types — paddleboards, kayaks, inflatable rafts and boats, and more, as men, women and kids paddled over the calm waters of the bay, and through a gathering fog bank that lent a spooky atmosphere to the spectacle. Our own warlock, Neil Farrell, shot photos from the view of a harbor patrol boat

According to the Guinness Book of World Records’ website, the largest gathering of people dressed as witches (on land) is 1,607 and was achieved by La Bruixa d’Or (Spain), in Sort, Lleida, Spain, on Nov. 16, 2013.

But there doesn’t appear to be a world record for the largest witch’s “paddling” parade on water. Paddling witch gatherings for Halloween are held in several harbors on both the East and West Coasts.

The next big water-borne spectacle for Morro Bay is the return of The Lighted Boat Parade in early December.

Estero Bay News thought readers would love to hear the origins of this annual wicked event that brings joy to participants and those watching from the shore travelling from Coleman Beach to

Tidelands Park and back. Annette “Nettie” Ausseresses, who leads the coven that has been flying across the water since 2013, provided the historical perspective. “It began as a way to get together some friends to celebrate three birthdays.” The original group was about 30 people. This year about 300 witches and warlocks joined in and put their “good” spells on the bay.

EBN: When did it start? Is there an official name?
Nettie: The Witches Paddle started in 2013 as a way to celebrate the birthdays of our friends born on or around Halloween. It was a very small group. There is no official name. We just call it the Witches Paddle.

EBN: Are there any rules/unwritten protocols?
Nettie: We meet at Coleman Beach and then paddle down along the Embarcadero. There is no organization behind this event. There is no sign-up or registration. This is just friends gathering to paddle. To participate you should be an experienced paddler. There is no instruction, lifeguards, or supervision at the event. Paddlers must provide their own equipment and costumes, and are encouraged to follow Coast Guard requirements for personal flotation devices and leashes.

EBN: Who were the first witches to paddle?
Nettie: Well, that’s a good question. Since no one had any idea that this event would explode, no one really felt the need to document the first outing. But some of the originals are Muffy Johnson, Kim McCurdy, Chrissy Hall, Susan Clifford, Kelly Stella, Karla Von Zup, Joan Solu and myself - Annette Ausseresses.
EBN: How has it grown annually? How have people heard about it?

Nettie: After years of word-of-mouth, in 2019 a Facebook group named Paddle SLO was created. The Witches Paddle is posted as an “event” in this group so that if weather causes a cancellation or change (as was the case in 2018 due to rain) paddlers could stay informed. The event gets shared between friends. In addition, a photo of the event was on the front page of the Tribune in 2014 and KSBY has covered it as well. So the event has grown from a handful of friends to 150-plus paddlers.

EBN: Why do you think it caught on?
Nettie: Because it is really neat to see a bunch of people in costume paddling on the bay. It is fun for the participants and fun for the onlookers, and everyone wants to be part of something unique and fun.

EBN: When did men start showing up? What about kids? What is the age range or witches and warlocks?
Nettie: Warlocks have always been welcome. It’s never been an exclusive event. Again, it is just friends gathering to paddle so if your friend is a witch or a warlock it doesn’t matter. Some people bring their kids.

EBN: What’s been the most unusual costume?
Nettie: Some people really put effort into their costumes. I don’t know that any single costume has stood out in particular. While we paddle collectively as a “coven” it is fun to see the groups of friends milling about and enjoying the event.
EBN: Where has it expanded that you know about?

Witches Continued on page 14

experience

DALE KAISER TEAM

805-995-2900

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERTS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

DALE KAISER REAL ESTATE

DRE 01297036

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

We proudly support and give thanks to Bobby DeLancellotti & the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition for their work in our community.

Through their program, BAGS OF LOVE, Bobby & his team deliver free food every week to more than 200 students in SLO County and their families who are struggling with food insecurity.

Let us remember the reason for this season

For more information on how you can volunteer or donate please visit

EsteroBayKindnessCoalition.org

All Broker Dream Team

counts. | **CAYUCOS.COM**

P|C|M **PACIFIC CAPITAL MORTGAGE**

805-528-5353
www.pacificcapital.biz

1352 Los Osos Valley Rd., Ste - C
Los Osos
Across from Ralph's

Pac Cap Mortgage, Inc dba - Pacific Capital Mortgage
NMLS #273846
Ca Bureau of Real Estate License #01195922

Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **Oct. 24:** Police responded at 9:39 p.m. to a disturbance in the 800 block of Pacific. Logs indicated they restrained an unrestrained fellow, 49, for violating a restraining order. He was hauled to the gulag.
- **Oct. 24:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 4:41 p.m. in the 200 block of Beach. A 40-year-old driver was cited and released for suspicion of driving slaughtered and could no doubt use a beer about now.
- **Oct. 24:** Police responded at 12:20 p.m. to a car crash at Kings and Quintana. No gruesome details were available.
- **Oct. 24:** Police stopped another suspicious car at the highly suspect time of 4:10 a.m. on Hwy 1 at Morro Bay Boulevard. A 26-year-old meatball was pinched for allegedly driving sauced.
- **Oct. 24:** Police stopped yet another suspicious vehicle at 12:10 a.m. at Main and Radcliff. A 61-year-old juice weasel was arrested for suspicion of driving juiced.
- **Oct. 23:** Police responded to a nursing facility on Teresa Drive where someone had passed away.
- **Oct. 22:** Police responded at 5:13 p.m. to a 3-car crash on Main Street at northbound the Hwy 1 off ramp. A car driven by a 22-year-old man exited the highway too fast and overshot the stop sign on Main colliding with a pickup truck, which sent a small motorcycle in the truck bed flying out and hitting a third car coming from the other direction. No injuries were reported in the freak accident, and the speeding driver was nicked for suspicion of driving smashed.
- **Oct. 19:** Someone found a pair of tri-focal glasses and turned them in to police to see if they can spot the owner.
- **Oct. 21:** Police responded at 8:36 p.m. to a disturbance in the 3300 block of Tide. Logs indicated a 29-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of felony domestic violence, a crime that has no gender.

Morro Bay Upholstery
Furniture • Boats • Autos • Commercial

805-225-5252
805-538-0543 - cell

2602 Main St. Morro Bay
mbupholstery1@gmail.com

Central Coast Hauling

Since 2002

Your Local Junk Removal Experts!

We Haul/Remove

- Household Debris
- Furniture & Appliances
- Remodeling Debris
- Yard Waste
- Storage Unit Clear-Outs
- Garage/Attic Clear-Outs
- Dirt & Concrete
- And More!

Miguel Gomez • 805.801.4887
www.centralcoasthauling.com

LIVING TRUST

WILLS = PROBATE

Without a Trust, the courts decide who gets all your property and...WHO RAISES YOUR CHILDREN... The Government or your family **PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS!**

- In-home Appointments!
- A complete Living Trust

For only \$400

Call Edward at: 805-772-2655

Since 1980

Call now for your peace of mind • ELH Trust
Lic# 095935-03

- **Oct. 21:** Police are investigating a possible case of domestic violence in the 2700 block of Alder.
- **Oct. 20:** Police responded at 11:45 p.m. in the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd., as there was apparently some hoo-ha theatrics going on at the Bay Theater. A 40-year-old woman was hauled to the gaol for suspicion of being boozy in public.
- **Oct. 20:** A citizen in the 600 block of Morro reported his or her car was broken into. No word on the treasures taken. Another car in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., was also broken into.
- **Oct. 20:** Police were called at 1:54 p.m. to the 400 block of Avalon where someone left paradise for Heaven.
- **Oct. 19:** Police responded at 10:09 p.m. to the 1100 block of Market. They arrested a 40-year-old zhlub for suspicion of battery.
- **Oct. 19:** Someone turned in two cell phones and a Fitbit that some slacker left behind. Police have them now.
- **Oct. 19:** Police contacted a fellow on Hwy 1 at Morro Bay Boulevard. The 35-year-old scofflaw was cited and released with a promise to appear for a failure to appear warrant.
- **Oct. 18:** Police stopped a suspicious car in the 300 block of Quintana Pl., at 11:16 p.m., which in this town is a sure bust. The 18-year-old woman driver was cited for a suspended license.
- **Oct. 18:** Police responded to the 700 block of the Boulevard where a citizen said some scoundrel stole a redwood gate off his fence, proving once again that people will steal anything.
- **Oct. 17:** Police responded at 9:36 p.m. to a disturbance in the 200 block of Beach. Logs indicated a 35-year-old, lady louse was arrested for suspicion of abuse of her spouse or cohabitant.
- **Oct. 17:** Police responded to a domestic dust up at 8:30 p.m. in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. A 57-year-old meat sack of testosterone was jailed for allegedly being the aggressor in a domestic violence incident.
- **Oct. 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:50 a.m. somewhere on Main. Logs indicated the fellow driving, 42, got cited for driving with a restricted license “outside of restrictions,” which goes without saying.
- **Oct. 16:** A disturbance in the 800 block of Pacific brought the police a runnin’ at 11 p.m. A 49-year-old mulish fellow allegedly violated a stay-the-hell-away order.
- **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 10:08 p.m. to the 2700 block of Elm after someone apparently found an “explosive device.” Logs indicated the Sheriff’s Bomb Squad came out to take it away for a controlled destruction. Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said it was a “commercial blasting cap,” which was safely destroyed by the bomb squad.
- **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 10:39 a.m. to Rite Aid on Quintana Road where they’d apparently nipped a suspicious fellow for having sticky fingers and helping himself to the merchandise, like he was in Frisco or something. The man, 47, was arrested for suspicion of shoplifting and trespassing, as well as alleged possession of illegal drugs and being schwacked on drugs, which explains a lot.

City Concert Was a Rainout

The City of Morro Bay scrubbed the launch of an outdoor community music concert series, citing a rainstorm forecast for that same day.

The City’s announcement reads, “Due to the potential for a significant rain event, the Concert in the Cloisters outdoor test concert scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m., has been postponed. Given the unpredictable nature of winter weather, the project team will be looking to reschedule the event for the spring. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.” The cancellation came on the Friday before the Sunday show.

The City had booked San Diego-based jazz band, “LP And The Vinyl,” to play what was advertised as the first of regular musical events produced by the City and featuring a variety of musical genres.

City Manager, Scott Collins said, “The vision 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.”

He added, “This initial concert may be the starting point for a future multi-event concert series for all of Morro Bay and beyond!”

But it looks like Mother Nature had other ideas, and while the canceling of what promised to be a fun event with a talented group of veteran musicians is disappointing, the rainfall was welcomed given the drought conditions and resultant wildfires we’ve been experiencing.

Fingers at Estero Bay News are now crossed that the return of the Annual Lighted Boat Parade in early December, sponsored by the Rotary Club, sees starry skies and good weather.

- **Oct. 15:** Police responded at 11:15 p.m. to the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a disturbing fellow getting all hurly burly in City Park. The 42-year-old squit was arrested for suspicion of disorderly conduct.
- **Oct. 15:** Police responded at 9:52 p.m. to a reported assault at the Rodeway Inn and fight club in the 2400 block of Main.
- **Oct. 15:** At 3:56 p.m. police towed away and jailed an offending vehicle from the 2900 block of Main and sentenced the owner to the DMV to get the registration straightened out.
- **Oct. 15:** Someone at Main and Las Vegas rolled the bones and drove with a suspended license but crapped out when a policeman had the car towed away.
- **Oct. 15:** Police were at an inn in the 2400 block of Main at 10:30 a.m. and contacted a familiar fellow with a warrant. The 51-year-old hombre was cited and released with a second disappearance ticket.
- **Oct. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:17 a.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. Logs indicated they had the offensive vehicle towed for expired tags.
- **Oct. 14:** Police responded at 10 p.m. to a disturbance at an apartment in the 400 block of Napa. Logs indicated a 29-year-old ruffian was nicked for suspicion of battery.
- **Oct. 14:** Police responded at 6:07 p.m. to the 700 block of Butte for a reported vandalism. Logs indicated a 24-year-old man was arrested for suspicion of vandalism and violating probation, making him a reprobationer.
- **Oct. 13:** Police responded at 1:19 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated a 26-year-old apparent hothead was arrested on suspicion of “domestic violence, criminal threats, violation of court ordered stay away, resisting arrest and probation violation.”
- **Oct. 13:** Police responded at 9:46 a.m. to the high school in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated a juvenile was taken away for a 72-hour timeout.
- **Oct. 11:** Police got a tip from Crime Stoppers regarding someone making criminal threats. Police determined the threats actually originated in Cambria, which makes it the Sheriff’s kler-fluffle to rectify.
- **Oct. 12:** Someone stole something in the 1200 block of Morro Ave., and the district attorney will soon hear about.
- **Oct. 12:** Police sent a crime report to the DA regarding an alleged assault in Los Osos involving two Morro Bay High School students.
- **Oct. 11:** Police responded at noon to a traffic collision that was, according to logs, at: “Lat: 35 22.206/Lon. -120 51.336,” wherever the hell that is...
- **Oct. 11:** A citizen reported vandalism to his or her car at Albertson’s Market, in the 700 block of Quintana, as if the prices of food weren’t a bad enough trainwreck.

The rare two-headed mini panther

Photo by Cat Noir CC

Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at CatNoirCC.com.
Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

Coastal Real Estate

The McDonald Team

REALTOR ASSOCIATES®

www.McDonaldTeamRealty.com

When it comes to experience, expertise, & knowledge look no further than the McDonald Team for your central coast real estate needs! From your first meeting, to well beyond the close of escrow, the McDonald Team of Coastal Real Estate is here to help you every step of the way!

Broker’s CalBRE# 01157101

Sophia McDonald-Laugharn
805-234-5828
REALTOR ASSOCIATE®
CalBRE# 01487058

Coastal Real Estate
1301 Los Osos Valley Rd., Ste. D, Los Osos, CA 93402

Christine McDonald-Weiss
805-441-5018
REALTOR ASSOCIATE®
CalBRE# 01193039

Community

Events From page 9

All needed Covid precautions will be in place. McGill said Honor Flight board members are holding the ticket price to \$20. “We want people to come...and have money to buy wine!” Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance at www.honorflightccc.org/wine. The drop in event will include a short program at 2:30p.m.



The Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum (CCVMM), 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, invites all veterans and everyone in the community to join them for a celebration on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11. The event, co-hosted with American Legion Post #66, is self-guided tours from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will also be two docent-led tours at 11 a.m. and again at 1 p.m., featuring a special display called “Women in the Military: Local Heroes,” showcasing a tribute to First Lieutenant Hazel McNett- Blumhorst, a WWII Army Nurse.

During WWII, Hazel served in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded battle stars, a victory medal, and an ETO medal. Locally, Hazel retired as Assistant Director of Nursing at the County General Hospital, served as an active volunteer in the community, and was the first woman to be the Commander of San Luis Obispo’s American Legion Post. Learn more about Hazel and other exemplary women who have served our country and sacrificed for our freedoms.



The Lighted Boat Parade is back this year and will be held on Saturday December 4 starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Morro Bay Embarcadero.

For Boat Entry forms and Skipper information go to morrobayrotary.org and look for the “download” section on the right-hand side. The application deadline is Wednesday, December 1 by 4:30 p.m. and the entry fee is \$25.

Boats will be judged and cash prizes are \$500 for first, \$350 for second, and \$150 for third.

The Morro Bay Rotary Santa’s House will welcome families at the Chessboard on the Embarcadero on the weekends of Dec. 3, 4, 5 and Dec. 10, 11, 12 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact Nancy at 805-235-3733 or rotaryfromtheheart@gmail.com. To keep up to date on the parade, sail on over to Facebook and follow at Morro Bay Lighted Boat Parade

...

Take part in the American Field Service-Humankind Free Trade Fundraiser at Humankind Free Trade, 974 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo on Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ten percent of sales go to the local AFS Chapter also known as the student exchange program. Shop in-store all-day or online at humankind/slo/shop. For more information, contact (805) 801-1132.

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



By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Jim Lester of Pacific Auto Service Retiring

After nearly 40 years of servicing automobiles and telling stories to his customers, Jim Lester is retiring and closing shop the first week of November.

Always a natural at mechanics, Jim began his automotive training in his teens in 1968 while attending MBHS. He soon began working for E&H Garage in Morro Bay then later at Pacific Motor Imports in San Luis Obispo, and eventually Jim’s Automotive in Morro Bay.

The ocean was Jim’s first love, so, in between mechanics jobs, he did several years of commercial fishing with Art Johnson on the Corregidor out of Morro Bay Harbor. He loved the adventure and hard work, and Art was a great mentor and friend. As Jim’s

family grew, he retired from commercial fishing but it was never far from his heart.

In 1984, he ventured out on his own and started Pacific Auto Service in the old Sunland Station on Morro Bay Blvd., now the location of Pacific Premiere Bank. He soon moved to Quintana Road in Morro Bay, and by then his son, Nick, was his trainee, another natural at mechanics. A few years later Jim opened Pacific Offroad for motorcycle enthusiasts, and his son, Charlie, managed that operation.

In 2010, when the auto shop on Los Osos Valley Road in Los Osos became available, he jumped at the chance to work “on the boulevard” as he said. He has enjoyed the central location and the community has treated him well.

Jim says he will miss all his customers who have become more like friends through the years. On his next venture, he will enjoy some well-deserved time while boating, fishing, traveling, and working on his hobbies.

Happy retirement from all of us at Estero Bay News. Thank you for keeping us up and running over the years.

Mustang Media Group Earns 28 National Awards

Cal Poly’s Mustang Media Group took home 28 national awards at the 2021 virtual ceremonies of the Associated College Press (ACP) and the College Media Association (CMA).

Of the 28 total awards, 16 were individual, including advertising, video, digital, print and broadcast journalism. The organization received three first-place awards, four second-place, two third-place, five fourth-place, one sixth-place, one 10th-place, and three honorable mentions from ACP. Among these awards, eight of the 16 were in the Best of Show Category.

Mustang Media Group also received one of the most prestigious awards of the ACP competition: the Online Pacemaker Award, which is judged by coverage and content.

Omar Rashad, senior data and investigations editor at Mustang News, took fourth place for ACP’s Reporter of The Year. “I take journalism really seriously, and I’m humbled and honored to be recognized at the national level alongside other student journalists I deeply admire,” Rashad said.

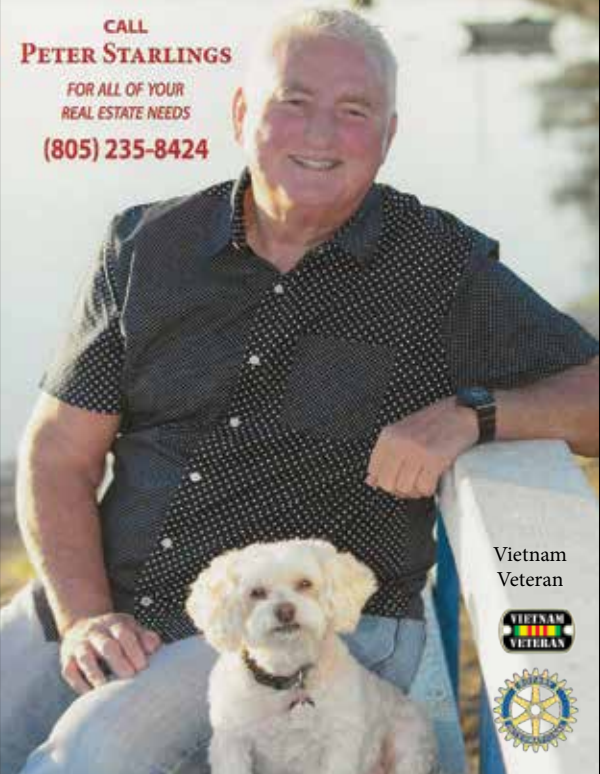
Mustang Media Group took home eight total awards from CMA, including four first-place, two third-place, and two honorable mentions.

“I can’t express how proud I am of the efforts across the board,” Mustang Media Group General Manager Jon Schlitt said. “This past year, they had to do their work for the most part virtually and under the most extreme of circumstances, so to see these efforts gain such national recognition is outstanding. To see the team win the Pacemaker award is truly amazing. It reflects the cumulative effort of all of their hard work since the pandemic began and shows that said work was truly among the very best in the nation.”

SLO Chamber Looking for Citizen of the Year

Know someone who has contributed selflessly to the SLO community over the past two years? The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2020/2021

CALL
PETER STARLINGS
FOR ALL OF YOUR
REAL ESTATE NEEDS
(805) 235-8424




Vietnam
Veteran

Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

PETER STARLINGS
BROKER/OWNER

805.235.8424
peterstarlings@yahoo.com

 BRE# 00692586

We Understand Commitment

You can rely on Edward Jones for one-on-one attention, our quality-focused investment philosophy and straight talk about your financial needs. To learn more, call today.

Los Osos



Deanna Richards, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

1236 LOVR, Suite J
Los Osos, CA 93402
(805) 534-1070



Alex Schams
Financial Advisor

241 S. Ocean Ave
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805) 995-2110

Morro Bay



Nelson Pamplona
Financial Advisor

501 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-6188



Jennifer L. Redman
Financial Advisor

1085 Kennedy Way
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-7938

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

Community

Citizen of the Year Award. This honor is the sole award given at the Chamber's Annual Dinner in recognition of outstanding and unselfish service to our community. This year's unique combined award will honor one recipient who was the Citizen of the Year for both 2020 and 2021. Anyone may be nominated who lives or works in the San Luis Obispo area; however, only Chamber members may nominate someone.

Those who submitted nominations last year for the 2020 Citizen of the Year will have their submissions rolled over for consideration this year. Members are also welcome to update their nominations from last year or submit new nominations for the combined award.

Review the eligibility and selection criteria at <https://bit.ly/3mmfkIL>, which includes the list of previous Citizen of the Year award recipients, before nominating as well as a voting form.

The deadline is Friday, November 19 at midnight. Finalists are chosen by Chamber volunteers, and the winner is selected by the Chamber Board of Directors.

Note that the nomination and selection process is entirely confidential. The Chamber asks members to keep their nomination private so feelings are spared should your nominee not be selected for the award. Likewise, the SLO Chamber will keep all nominations confidential, even after the winner has been chosen.

The winner's identity will be kept closely guarded until the announcement by this year's sponsor at the SLO Chamber's 116th Annual Dinner on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

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](https://www.esterobaynews.com).



Jeff Buckingham, 2018 Citizen of The Year

Music Boosters Selling Christmas Wreaths, Trees

The Morro Bay Music Boosters Club is in the Christmas spirit early and hopes everyone will support music in our schools through their Holiday Fundraiser. The boosters are selling Christmas wreaths, poinsettia plants and Christmas trees to support the Morro Bay High and Los Osos Middle School bands and choirs. Wreaths are \$26; poinsettias are \$15; Douglas fir trees 6-7-foot tall are \$60; and Noble fir trees 6'-7' are \$75. Orders are being done entirely online this year and are due by Sunday, Nov. 14. Pick up your orders at LOMS from 2-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 for the wreaths and plants, and from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 for trees. To order online, see: morro-bay-music-boosters.square.site. For information on the Music Boosters and to donate see the website at: lombmusicboosters.wixsite.com/music.

Warrior Ride Passes Through



A contingent of soldier heroes rolled through Morro Bay with a police escort on Oct. 22, stopping at Morro Bay High School to meet the students before pushing on southward on Hwy 1. Photo by Neil Farrell

Thrift Store Goes to the Dogs — and Cats

By Jill Turnbow



Gigi's Thrift Store owners Liz Bannon and Holly Nero.

The minute you walk into Gigi's Thrift Store you'll see that it's not like any other you have visited. Owners Liz Bannon and Holly Nero think of it more as a thrift "boutique." Located in the West Village of Cambria, the store is light and bright with room to browse the artfully displayed items. And what's more, it's shopping with a purpose. Holly is quick to explain, "This is a for-profit store that gives back to non-profits."

Holly and Liz met back in 2005 while both working with an organization that rescued dogs left stranded by Hurricane Katrina. Both being passionate about animal rescues, they became good friends. Earlier this year, Liz had the idea of a thrift store in order to support non-profits that support animal welfare. Holly jumped aboard.

"It happened really fast," says Holly. "Everything fell into place, and we opened last May, right in the middle of the pandemic. We weren't sure that was the best idea, but it's been very well received. We've had a great response."

Holly describes the partnership as extremely compatible. "I handle the books and finances," she said, "and Liz has a great eye for what sells and a real talent for display. We both handle the day-to-day operations."

The name of the shop, Gigi's Thrift, was chosen in honor of a scruffy dog that was rescued after her 99-year-old owner passed away. No one stepped up to adopt her, so Liz started a GoFundMe for the dog's health needs. That awareness got the dog adopted and raised so much money that there is still a credit at the vet for Gigi and other dogs in need. "Plus," adds Holly, "Gigi is such a classy name."

Gigi's Thrift occupies the space where the Soldier Gallery once stood. They are open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store has collectibles, small furnishings, vintage clothing and accessories. A large portion of the shop is dedicated to books — lots of books.

"We were surprised so many people still like to read a real book, both paperback and hardcovers," Holly said. "We sell a lot of books and bring in more all the time."

One hundred percent of all book sales go directly to a non-profit. There is also a selection of handmade dog toys with proceeds going directly to the non-profit of the month.

Gigi's Thrift rotates the non-profits it supports. They have donated to HART, Meade Rescue in Creston, and Short & Sweet in Templeton. Both Meade and Short & Sweet focus on rescuing senior dogs. Future non-profits are Pacific Coast Wildlife and the Marine Mammal rescue in Sausalito.

Stop by Gigi's Thrift Store at 816 Main in the West Village of Cambria, and feel good knowing your discovered treasure is helping a rescued dog or cat, or perhaps a seal or other marine wildlife. Donations are accepted anytime, but Gigi's ask that you call first at (805) 203-5769.

A TRADITION OF TRUST ON THE CENTRAL COAST.

TIM COWAN
REALTOR® LIC# 02021716
805.459.3818

Tim@BHGREHaven.com

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, BUYERS OR SELLERS ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS ON THE CENTRAL COAST.

3195 LIRIO CT.,
SAN LUIS OBISPO

NEW LISTING

640 PINEY WAY,
MORRO BAY

SOLD

1475 LITTLE MORRO CREEK ROAD,
MORRO BAY

SOLD

FLOORING DISCOUNT CENTER

Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring

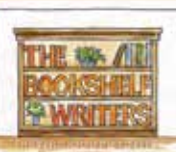
For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.

787 HARBOR ST. MORRO BAY, CA 93442
PHONE 772-2211 FAX 772-7747
Monday 9-4 • Thurs • Fri 9-5 • Saturday 10-3

2450 Main St Suite A, Cambria, CA 93428
(805) 203-5544
Monday - Friday 10-4
www.fdcmb.com

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

Unbucketing

Story & Art By Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich



Driving down Highway 1 I saw a rather portly gentleman trying to stuff himself into a wetsuit. He looked ridiculously uncomfortable. I confidently decided right then and there that I would never contort my frame into one again.

I've been lucky enough to accomplish many of my goals, and put a check in front of numerous items on my Bucket List. But at this point, there are things I simply no longer want to do. Some of those Bucket List items aren't appealing any more. Some of my goals are no longer attainable, due to physical, time or financial limitations.

I've decided to cross a few things off my list. In fact, I'm creating a new Unbucket List (in pencil...I may want to make some adjustments).

I'm no longer an adrenaline junkie, or feel like I need to try

Morro Bay Chamber Recognizes Estero Bay News



We are thankful to the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce for honoring us with the Spotlight Award.

"This community paper delivers the best local news around," the chamber said. "This is a group of people truly dedicated to supporting their community. Thank you for all you do."

Photo: Left, Theresa- Marie Wilson editor. Dean Sullivan, owner/publisher, Neil Farrell, reporter. Not pictures: Judy Salamacha, Paul Irving, Jill Turnbow, Shari Sullivan, Joan Sullivan and Ryan Sullivan.

everything at least once. I'm tossing out the impossible dreams... and guilt. I'm accepting the things that just aren't gonna happen.

About twenty years ago I damaged my knees in a terrible ski accident, and arthritis has moved in and gotten cozy. So I can no longer do anything that challenges my knees: medium/high impact sports, skiing or even squatting. I will never hop off the couch effortlessly. Crummy ankles mean no more high heels. Fine. No more guilt, no more sorrow, just acceptance.

I'm removing fluent Spanish from my Bucket List, as the old brain refuses to memorize anything...including, but not limited to what I had for breakfast this morning. Learning to play bridge is off the table. A master's degree isn't as important as it used to be. Scratch. Off the list.

I've always planned to clean and organize my garage. Nope. No more fretting. Same with remodeling the bathroom. I accept.

I also thought I'd eliminate climate change and create world peace. Too lofty? Yes, so I've changed that to "do my part."

There are items on the list that sounded challenging or fun... but now just seem silly. Believing I have to finish every puzzle I start or finish reading every book in the house (there are more than 700 on my shelves!) are no longer goals, but I know I'll always be a voracious reader and will still do puzzles. I'm pretty confident that I won't have a best-selling book in this lifetime... and that's ok, too. I will continue writing anyway.

I've scratched having dinner and laughing with Steve Martin. Or lunch and inspiration with Thich Nhat Hanh. Just not gonna happen.

I'm comfortable saying I'll never again attend ear-shattering rock concerts (country and jazz can remain as options).

What a relief to Unbucket! It feels great to let that s**t go.

I know there's less road ahead of me than behind, so my Unbucket List gets longer, and my Bucket List is now more reasonable. I'm ok with the things I'll never do in this lifetime, because there are still so many things I can do.

I'll always be grateful for the life I've had, the people I've known, and all of my First World benefits. I'll do my best to make our planet a better place. I'll keep believing that people are good.

I'll attempt to finish writing my books; type up all of grandma's recipes from the old country; sleep in an ice house and watch dazzling northern lights; stay in an overwater bungalow in Bora Bora; go salmon fishing in Alaska; spend a month in Italy taking a culinary immersion class; witness Antarctica's Ring of Fire; cross Vancouver's Capilano suspension bridge; circle the country with my dog and little RV; spelunk in New Zealand's Waitomo Caves; and sprinkle kindness like confetti.

I'll always keep in mind that a visit to Estero Bay is a Bucket List item for many people, and that I am blessed to call it home.

And I'll continue to live life as fully as I can, and motivate my friends to do the same. If there's something I really want to do, I'll just do it. For as Herb Magidson wrote: "Enjoy yourself, enjoy yourself. It's later than you think."

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

DUTCHMAN'S

SEAFOOD HOUSE





NEW HAPPY HOUR - MON-THURS 3-5



BEAUTIFUL MORRO BAY



FRESH SEAFOOD

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

We follow all State Guidelines to keep you and our staff safe.

It's the only way to live. It's the only way to eat.


701 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Call: (805) 772-2269 • www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com

10 WAYS


SOLARPONICS CAN HELP REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILL, ADD COMFORT, and

SAVE MONEY

3



5



#3: WATER RECIRCULATION PUMP
#5: SOLAR ELECTRIC

Save 10,000 gals. of water per year + save \$1,000's on your energy bill.

SOLARPONICS

See all ten at solarponics.com • (805) 466-5595 • CSLB# 391670 • SINCE 1975

12

November 4, 2021 - November 17, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Letters to the Editor



Good Article

Boy, ain't that the truth. (Vol. 3, Issue 18) China #1 in math, U.S. #37 according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 2018-19 rankings. Just like a golfer or batter perfecting a swing with repetition. Not intellectual stuff, but it works.

*Lee Drocco
Morro Bay*

Tried Opening The Merrimaker

Being the manager of La Palapa in Baywood, I always wanted to own and operate a bar. We wanted to bring back the bar in Baywood and add to all the wonderful things happening here. Unfortunately the logistics did not work out. Between all the agencies we were not able to do so at this time.,

We really appreciate the support the community gave us. We will keep moving forward. Thank you.

*Monica Flores
Los Osos*

Thanks to M.B. Police

A special thank you to one of Morro Bay's fine police officers. Today after waiting for a green light at Main and Quintana, I proceeded and almost immediately had a police car behind me with lights flashing. He pulled over a young man screaming down Main on a skateboard so fast I knew he hadn't stopped at the light.

When I was a member of council, we drafted an ordinance that made it legal to skateboard on Morro Bay streets. The only provision was that boarders ride in the bike lanes and follow the same rules as bikes and cars. Reckless young men like this one today may not only hurt themselves but make it more difficult for law bidding young people to skateboard on our streets.

Thank you Morro Bay Police for patrolling our streets.

*Nancy Johnson
Morro Bay*

Appreciation

I appreciated Neil's thorough article re the IWMA (Vol.3, Issue 20) - which legitimately qualifies as investigative journalism.

I also appreciate you running the piece about the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department raising \$100K for the newest Harbor patrol boat. An amazing effort on the part of the Friends and the many folks who contributed.

*Ron Reisner
Morro Bay*

Obituaries

Gloria Givens 1932 - 2021



Gloria Givens, born in Rochester Minnesota in December of 1932, passed away at the age of 88 years of age at Ingleside Assisted Living Center in Atascadero, CA on October 9, 2021.

Gloria raised her family of 4 children in Modesto and worked at Doctor's Hospital. She was also a graduate of Stanislaus State university (class of 1986).

She is survived by her four children, Kevin Givens of Santa Cruz, Kelly Givens of Newport Beach, Kerry Warmack of Paradise, and Kendi Root of Los Osos. She also had 8 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her beloved Kenny Givens.

A private memorial is planned for her in Hailey, Idaho this coming spring.

A Lot of Help

During a September 11, 2021 community event, Morro Bay Beautiful and the City held a 20th anniversary remembrance of 9/11 and honored our first responders. The event also celebrated the Founding of Morro Bay 150 years ago, and celebrated Morro Bay Beautiful's 40th Anniversary. One big community party for all three occasions!

At this event, Morro Bay Beautiful unveiled the beautiful puzzle of Morro Bay created by renowned artist Eric Dowdle. Eric attended the event for the unveiling, and to present a video his company made for the occasion, as well as a huge wooden version of the Morro Bay puzzle, which Eric presented to the City. The huge wooden puzzle features many Morro Bay citizens and businesses, each of whom was invited to fit their special piece into the puzzle.

The event was well attended. Live music was provided by The White Caps Community Band. Morro Bay Beautiful members directed parking and handled the sale of puzzles and puzzle image related art. Morro Bay Senior Citizens served cake while Morro Bay Rotary added ice cream. The Morro Bay Lions Club

Kimberly Theresa Kavanagh 1955-2021



Kimberly Theresa Kavanagh, 65, of Los Osos, California was born in 1955 in North Carolina and died October 17, 2021 at her home in Los Osos

Born Kimberly O'Dell, oldest of seven children to Major Donald and Shirley O'Dell. Kim grew up across the United States in a large military family, eventually landing in Irvine, California for her teen years.

Kim went on to earn a bachelors degree in Journalism at UCSB where she was the editor of the school newspaper, the Daily Nexus. She then pursued a degree in oriental medicine at an acupuncture college in Santa Barbara. She returned to Orange County and opened an acupuncture clinic. It was then that Kim had her only child, Danielle Lindsay Miller. Kim moved to Los Osos in 1989 and started the Holistic Medical Clinic in San Luis Obispo. Kim was a gifted acupuncturist and healed countless people and animals with her knowledge and skills. Kim enjoyed playing soccer, coaching soccer, yoga, meditation, and music in her spare time.

Kim's selfless care and devotion to her friends, family, and clients defined her, and she was loved by all who knew her. She will be forever missed and remembered for her healing hands and generous heart.

Kim is survived by her daughter Danielle Evans and her son in law Matthew Evans, and her five siblings, William O'Dell, Karen Andersen, Jennifer Leva, Amanda Roach, and Amy Vincent.

provided event decorations. We can't say Thank You enough to all these organizations and their volunteers. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

And to all who asked if they could help, thank you also, but we had way enough help. What a pleasure to work with such a caring community!!

*Ann Reisner
Morro Bay Beautiful, morrobaybeautiful.com*



Kiwanis

CLUB OF BAY-OSOS



See's

CANDIES

You can now order See's Candies online from the Bay-Osos Kiwanis Storefront! All profits support our local kids...Morro Bay High School, Los Osos Middle School, Elementary Schools, and Youth Sports. Place an order with your friends to avoid shipping charges. Scan the QR Code to see the available treats and to place an order.



QUESTIONS? Call (310) 486-3795

Help Us Reach Our Goal!



<https://kiwanisbayosos.org/events/month/>



Fall Challenge

Save up to \$50!

Drop and give me 12.... Workout Days that is!



Sign up this November & earn a FREE Month* when you work out 12 of your first 30 days!

*New members only signing up for a 1 or 2-year agreement during the month of November 2021. Free month based on 12 or more days of gym attendance in the first 30 days of membership.

Extensive Strength and Cardio Equipment ♦ 35+ Group Classes Each Week!

Functional Training Zone ♦ On-Site Child Care ♦ Personal Training

Outdoor Training Options ♦ Central Coast's Friendliest Staff & Members!

Morro Bay's Premier Fitness Club

www.FitnessWorksMB.com

(805) 772-7466 ♦ 500 Quintana Rd. Morro Bay

News

Bombed Out From page 1
taken out for the pipelines.
All removals were approved before the chainsaws roared to life.

As evidence, they supplied an email string concerning those three additional trees, where they are, and why they must be removed (for worker safety and to clear the way for a large crane that will be used to help bore under Willow Camp Creek).

That chain ends with Kevin Kahn, the Coastal Commission’s Central Coast District Office Supervisor in Santa Cruz, approving the extra removals. His only concerns are to make sure they replace the trees with native species and re-plant “...in the vicinity to replace those that are lost.”

They also noted that PG&E, which owns the high voltage power lines crossing overhead to a substation on the power plant property, has taken out trees over the years, as regular maintenance.

For the WRF, they’ve also had to trim back numerous trees overhanging the construction zone to clear a 70-foot wide “right of way” area for the job and make room for the heavy equipment that will be brought in to do the trenching work.

When the bike path was built, the route through the site was mapped to avoid taking down trees, resulting in a pleasant, meandering path through a copse of mostly cypress trees.

Critics have claimed that as many as 41 trees have been cut down, but the job supervisors disputed this and said there are some stumps that were cut long ago that might be part of those counts but were not part of the WRF; and others weren’t considered trees.

What is a Tree?

Part of the boggle for citizens might be in the official definition in this regard of what exactly is a “tree?”

In the CDP a plant is considered a tree if it has a trunk diameter of 6-inches or greater at “breast height” or DBH for short — roughly 5-feet off the ground.

So if a tree is less than 6” DBH, it isn’t considered a “tree” per se, but a “bush” or a “shrub” and the permit allows the clearing of whatever bushes or shrubs necessary.

Kwolek said, “The City is confident that we are in full compliance with the CDP.”

Mimiaga said that all extra trees that have been cleared were done with the approval of the Coastal Commission district supervisor and the project biologist. “A few dead trees were taken out

prior” to the WRF work, he said.
And a separate tree company has also gone on site recently and done extensive trimming under contract with PG&E, but Amico said they would not be let back in while trenching is going on.

The City has a Plan

Kwolek said they would be submitting a tree replacement plan to the City Council early next year that would decide what type of trees and where trees would be planted as replacements. We lost another tree when the pipeline trenching recently reached Main Street.

At Main and Quintana, he said, there was a tree in the way of the pipeline alignment that they decided to take out. “You have to decide, do you take out the tree or realign the pipe?” Kwolek said.

Realigning the pipes would’ve added time and costs to the project. They also have more shrubs to remove.

Another possible misunderstanding on the subject is that the environmental impact report doesn’t go into the level of detail that would name all the trees to be removed, but just makes a general statement requiring replacement.

Mimiaga pointed to a thick set of stamped engineering plans sitting on a table at the construction office trailer at the new treatment plant site and said those and the final CDP approved by the Coastal Commission are the project’s controlling documents, not the EIR.

Many Eyes on WRF Work

As one might expect, the WRF construction work has many eyes upon it for the tree removals but also at the way the costs have risen from the initial \$126 million estimate that was the subject of the Prop. 218 vote in July 2018, to now \$145 million. But the loss of the cypress trees lining the bike path might hurt more for many. After all, the Monterey Cypress is the “Official City Tree” here in “Tree City U.S.A.”

EBN was sent a lengthy email from a reader who’s been critical of the tree removals, as well as the City’s overall approach to the project. We sent those to the city manager for a response and Public Works Director, Kwolek responded, giving much of the information reported above with regards to the permitted tree removals.

Included in the reader’s email, was the following statement, “Morro Bay is not only a Tree City but also a Bird Sanctuary. Apparently, the city officials really don’t give a hoot about this destruction. Care to report on this latest mess?”

Kwolek responded: “Not true that the City doesn’t ‘give a hoot’ about tree removals. Much time has been spent reviewing environmental impacts such as removal of trees. Additionally, any unavoidable tree removals are expected to be mitigated through the City’s tree replacement plan, which will support the planting of new trees and will be brought to City Council in the coming months.”

Coastal Commission’s in Deep

And as for the Coastal Commission’s role, Kwolek cited a passage in the CDP: “Trees not marked for removal within the temporary construction easement limits and over 6” DBH shall be protected in place and may be trimmed per the project arborists recommendations. Trees smaller than 6” DBH may be removed by the contractor as part of clearing and grubbing operations within temporary construction access limits in coordination with project biologist and arborist. If delineated, environmentally sensitive areas shall be cordoned off per biologist’s recommendation.”

And with the City reporting to the Commission on something as routine as removing a tree, it appears the Commission is deeply involved in the project. That’s probably fitting as the City moved the treatment plant away from the current site on Atascadero Road, piping raw sewage 3.5 miles and 300-feet in elevation gain to a new plant sited on pristine ranchlands sitting outside the City Limits, in order to comply with the Commission’s orders.

Build Back Better

And there could be more trees and bushes removed once the City has finalized the easement with Vistra, which cost the City \$200,000, to allow a bypass sewer main, and the reclaimed wastewater pipe and injection wells to be installed on the power plant property.

Amico, the pipeline project manager, said they will be boring underneath Willow Camp Creek, a seasonal stream that starts on the east side of Hwy 1 in the hills above Morro Bay Boulevard, travels underneath the highway into a cement culvert that runs between Quintana and Hwy 1.

That creek dips under Main Street and emerges on the bike path where it crosses into the power plant and eventually flows to Morro Creek.

The culvert under the bike path is silted in and the project will clean that out too. That should help with the frequent flooding that leaves slippery mud on the bike path. “The intention is to leave it better than it was,” Amico said.

Kwolek added, “We’re all environmentalists here. Every time you lose a tree is a loss, but it’s a necessary and temporary part of

this project.”
Meanwhile, all three urged the public to keep out of the bike path construction site, even on weekends when there’s no work being done. That’s because the pathway is not a public street and holes and trenches don’t have to be covered up with steel plates, as the trenches on Quintana Road have been daily.

Micro-Tunneling Done

In another update on the project, Amico said the micro-tunneling subcontractor, Vadnais Trenchless, was able to finish up the 5-foot diameter tunnel under the Roundabout at Quintana and Morro Bay Boulevard after it got bogged down in early September and the company stopped work for several weeks.

Vadnais was hired by pipeline contractor, Anvil, to bore the tunnel from the site of a former U-Haul store under the Roundabout to Las Tunas Avenue on the other side of the Morro Bay Coffee Co.

When the giant boring machine bogged down, Vadnais dug down in front of the machine’s cutter head, and while they discovered it was missing some teeth, they didn’t figure out what the problem was.

“They didn’t figure out what went wrong,” Amico said. When they started the boring machine back up, it pushed through with no problems.

Mimiaga added, “They didn’t find an obstruction. There was no evidence of anything in the ground to cause this.”

Vadnais last week was filling in the 35-foot deep hole they’d dug at the U-Haul property and packing up its gear.

WRF Not Yet Half Done

So how much longer will residents have this massive construction job going on? Amico estimated they were about 40% done with the conveyance system and Mimiaga said, based on what they’ve paid out so far, the treatment plant was about 43% completed.

The City has until some time in 2023 to finish the job, a deadline set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which kick-started this project in 2003 when it wrote to the City and Cayucos Sanitary District urging them to upgrade their jointly-owned treatment plant (on Atascadero Road) to a full secondary level of treatment.

That upgrade would do away with a so-called 301(h) waiver under the Federal Clean Water Act. Morro Bay had one of the last active waivers in the entire State of California. San Diego has the other.

Compounded on that order was a 2013 denial of a previous project, and a mandate by the Coastal Commission to move the plant away from the shoreline to avoid coastal hazards.

Zoom-Zoom Goes Boom

On another note, Carollo shutdown its Friday morning Zoom meetings and community updates due to a lack of participation but still has a PR team dedicated to keeping citizens informed. That includes emailed newsletters being sent out.

If readers would like to sign up for their notification list, send an email to: wrfinfo@morrobayca.gov or call 877-667-7622 to speak with a representative. The City also has a website for the project, see: www.morrobaywrf.com.



Always in Perfect Taste!

805-995-3272

296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

MED SYNC

The FASTEST, EASIEST way to get your medications each month

Los Osos Rexall's MED SYNC SERVICE

is FREE, easy, and convenient!

- Get all your medications refilled on the same date each month
- No need to order refills
- Fewer trips to the pharmacy
- No worries about running out of your medication
- Prescriptions ready on your refill date



SPEAK TO THE PHARMACIST TODAY

to sign up for this service

IT'S FREE!

989 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos, CA 93402 • (805) 528-1017

Remember to Turn Your Clocks Back, November 7, 2:00 a.m.



BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Stamped Concrete

- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations

State Lic# 816944



burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com

www.burchconcretesolutions.com

News

State Senator From page 1 communities and SLO County.

Despite the varied district he isn't concerned about having the boundaries redrawn after the 2020 Census redistricting. "The District is right on the population cut," he says, "within one-tenth of a percent within the population limits for senate districts." The Dist. 17 population stands at 987,581, but he adds, it depends on what happens with surrounding districts whether or not the boundaries are changed.

An active legislator, in the State Senate he chairs and serves on a broad array of committees: chairman of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 1 (Education); Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee; and is a member of the Appropriations Committee, the Budget & Fiscal Review Committee, the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget, Judiciary Committee, Labor, Public Employment & Retirement, Natural Resources & Water Committee, Rules Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Rules.

As a leading environmentalist in the State Government, Sen. Laird says he is very interested in a couple of energy projects being pursued — offshore wind and the battery facilities.

The district already includes Vistra Energy's Moss Landing BESS, a 300-megawatt facility in Moss Landing that is currently the largest in the world.

The proposed Morro Bay BESS would be double that capacity and Sen. Laird sees it as an integral part to the State's shift to "more renewable power."

He also supports the offshore wind farm being worked on by the Federal Government as to licensing a 399-square mile area — the so-called "Morro Bay Call Area" — in federal waters, 30 miles off the Coast from San Simeon.

"I'm supportive," he says of the wind power proposal, "there are obviously things to work out, that's why I co-authored the Off-shore Wind Bill" (with 35th District Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, who also represents SLO County and several others).

Assembly Bill 525 directs the California Energy Commission to study and establish 2030 and 2045 goals for electricity generated by offshore wind. It also requires the CEC to work with other agencies — namely the Coastal Commission — to develop a 5-part strategic plan for offshore wind development and submit the plan to the Natural Resources Agency and Legislature by June 30, 2023.

As for the wind farm(s), President Biden recently issued an executive order that called for over 4 Giga-watts of offshore wind energy development in the Pacific Ocean but Sen. Laird acknowledges there are issues.

A man issue will be where to locate the necessary large maintenance facility that a Cal Poly feasibility study said would need to be 40-50 acres, with a deep-water port and large waterside area for a floating work quay.

Offshore wind turbines are enormous structures and 4 GW of capacity would require some 4,000 of them.

No such place exists in SLO County and Sen. Laird, when asked where that maintenance facility might be located, said "Port Hueneme." That's in Ventura County at Oxnard, and if that's where the maintenance yard is most likely to go, the thousands of "good paying union jobs" promised by the President won't happen in Morro Bay, where the electricity is slated to be brought to shore to connect with the state energy grid at the shuttered Morro Bay Power Plant.

So Sen. Laird, the former secretary of natural resources, finds himself again in the middle of efforts to protect the environment as the State pursues the parallel goal of renewable energy development.

"It's always been an issue," he explains, "if you have wind and solar, they peak at certain times. The question is whether you can store energy at peak times for later use, and for that we need battery storage."

On the education and budget committees, he's worked with school districts on re-opening after the pandemic closures, increasing financial aid to get them back to pre-pandemic levels.

The State just passed "the best budget for education in recent memory," he says.

He's also been involved in helping decide how the State will spend a huge budget windfall of some \$75 billion, with \$25B in reserves. He says they'll spend roughly half that money on "pressing problems."

Among those is housing. "There's a lot going on with housing," he says. "Some are controversial including money for homeless housing."

The State is also providing money to leverage affordable housing projects. "It's not just the deficit of housing," in the state he says. "We need to do affordable housing, too."

Christmas Market From page 1

attorney, started an online petition, Stop 2021 Cambria Lodge Christmas Market, on Change.org. It states, in part, that the market would be a COVID-19 superspreader event that will endanger the public.

"It advertises [the] event to out-of-county residents and provides a fleet of buses to transport them," the petition states. "Applicant wants attendees to be crowded shoulder to shoulder. This is a perfect environment for the spread of COVID."

The approved permit stipulates that maximum attendance on any given night shall not exceed 3,000 guests using a ticket-based system to track the number. That number falls below the increased restrictions that come with what is considered a mega event of 10,000 or more people. Violation of the daily maximum attendance or failure to implement a ticket-based system (or equivalent) is grounds for permit revocation.

Further, the application allows for 26 temporary vendor booths with increased spacing between them. The structures are required to be dismantled and removed at the conclusion of the event.

"The current operation of the market has been updated to provide more spaced out vendor booths for the enjoyment of light installations," Project Manager Nicole Ellis told the Commission. "Staff is supportive of the layout, whereby the more spaced out vendor booths better encourages physical distancing."

Victor Montgomery, of the firm RRM Design Group representing Pacific Cambria, added, "The owners of the event and the lodge have already contacted the County Health Department to talk about the event. They understand the regulations that are in place and are applicable to the event. Those regulations do not preclude having this event."

Employees are required to wear a facemask. The event is outdoors and county mandates on masks at this time only apply to indoor events. Facial coverings are required on busses and shuttles.

The petition adds that the market is bad for local businesses that are already having a tough time in 2021 with pandemic restrictions. "Reducing their Christmas sales while at the same time giving the applicant a free pass to capture tourist dollars is unfair and inequitable."

"You don't bring customers to a community and then complain that you have too many customers," said Multari.

Traffic congestion, noise, and trash are also issues listed in the petition. "Local residents wishing to reach Burton via Yorkshire confront applicant's rude and threatening guards who block them from the public road. Running this gauntlet [gauntlet] is the extreme opposite of Christmas spirit. Locals must also deal with noise and trash left in market's wake."

The approved permit allows shuttle buses to only use Burton Drive, Patterson Place, Highway One, Santa Rosa Creek Road, and Main Street. It restricts event parking on the following county roads: Burton Drive, Eton Road, Martindale Street, Patterson Place, Rogers Street, Yorkshire Street and Wood Drive.

The online petition had 212 signatures. The Commission also received letters objecting to the market citing excessive water usage, more vendor booths than stated, more attendees than stated, parking and noise among other complaints.

Initially, event organizers wanted to increase the market's days of operation from five days a week to seven, expand the shuttle and bus routes, extend operational hours and add up to 15 more vendor booths. Finally, Pacific Cambria requested that the permit period cover 10 years rather than the current five years.

As it stands, the decision by the Planning Commission could be appealed to the Board of Supervisors and then the California Coastal Commission. Pacific Cambria, LLC currently has a separate application for a longer term permit that requires an additional hearing.

The market runs Nov. 26 through Dec. 24 at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, and Cambria Nursery & Florist, 2801 Eton Road. It is open Wednesday through Sunday (and all of Christmas week) from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more details and ticket information, go to cambriachristmasmarket.com.

Witches From page 7

Nettie: In 2016 a woman from Portland was in Morro Bay when the event was taking place. She organized a witch paddle on the Willamette River and contacted the media in the area so they got great coverage (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyl3jM9h4w0>). I think the story may have even gone out on the Associated Press wire. Now there are witch paddles all across the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico, the UK, and possibly other countries.

EBN: Do you or your friends have any aspirations for this to grow, continue - or keep it loose and just for a fall day on the bay?

Nettie: We are happy with it just being a way to enjoy time on the bay and to celebrate birthdays and friendships. A few years ago we started using the event to raise funds for charitable organizations. This year we are partnering with the South Bay Women's Network to help with providing scholarships for female re-entry students.

Moving Forward From page 1



Goddess Goods



The Good Flea

Tammy Haas helped her clean it out before opening.

"At first I was overwhelmed with what to take in or buy," she said. "I received good advice from other thrift owners, especially 'You make your money when you buy it.' But I also learned I love to help people and it hurts me when customers say they took their things to the landfill."

Over the years Leslie has had several fond memories of her own. "A girl cried when she saw her mom's basket. She had missed the estate sale. I had to give it to her."

Another young man struggled with siblings thinking they were getting rid of their parent's estate too fast. "I saw him focus on a painting. I had to give it to him."

Leslie has learned there is a timeline in the grief process. She had to learn to be respectful of people's attachments. "Recently I had to call my sister in to listen to one lady's stories about each item as she was downsizing, so I could finish the job she hired me to do."

The most unusual estate sale acquisition was the remains and letters to an owner's dog. And then there was the ghost story inside The Good Flea...

Jim has just as many rescue stories from California Marine & Salvage. "I love to help the traveler fix the vibration they've heard before they travel on and get in trouble at sea."

Leslie says he can find anything in the bay – wedding rings, keys, phones. "Some things just want to be found," Jim said. "A guy lost his phone in Avila in the mud near all the seals, that made me nervous. I finally said to myself 'I just want to stick my hand in the mud and come up with the phone.' I did. There was a phone, but not his phone. I went back another time and pulled out the guy's phone."

Another time a lady was positive her purse was all white. "When I brought up a multi-colored purse, she said it was the right one. It was all white inside when she opened it."

Jim and Leslie were entertaining visiting friends when a couple came up, frantic, they had lost their keys that had dropped through a hole in the T-Pier. "I got a flashlight and dove and found them. Our friends were amazed."

Another time a man lost a ring from his deceased wife. Jim found it in an oyster shell. "The man decided his wife had led me to the shell. She loved oysters, he said. He kept the shell, too."

The entire family is in a good place right now. Leslie's son, Jett, just started the University of Oregon. Her daughter, Holland, is in the National Guard at Camp Roberts.

Jim has two daughters, Melissa and Martina. During 2020 one of Leslie's friends owned Goddess Goods on the Embarcadero. When they discovered it was for sale, they decided to help Jim's daughter purchase it. It specializes in vegan/gluten-free offerings."

"Melissa has always wanted to be in the nutrition business," Jim said. "Since it was take-out only for months, she had the time to develop her menu plan and learn to run the business."

Leslie concluded, "There isn't anything better than having your kids all grow up finding their way as you hoped they would."



O'Connor
Pest Control
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

SPECIAL
\$49 MONTHLY SERVICE
General Pest Service Only. Gophers & Rodents Not Included.
One Year Term Minimum. Homes up to 3,000 sq. ft.

Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates
Same Day Service M-F
ECO SMART PRODUCTS
805-544-1170
www.oconnorcentralcoast.com

Kevin says,
"Look
for the
ANT
on the
Door"



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



It just doesn't
get any better
than this!

Celebrating In Business
50
YEARS
1971 - 2021



805-772-2411
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open 7 days a week.

HALLOWEEN

2021 Decoration Contest Winners

Overall Scariest - Damian Neiman - Tapidero Ave, Los Osos



First Place (tie)

Morro Bay Resident
Greg Wilson - Las Tunas, Morro Bay



First Place (Tie)

Morro Bay Resident
Donald Repucci - Las Tunas, Morro Bay



First Place

Los Osos Resident
Sue McMillan - Pine Street, Los Osos



First Place

Morro Bay Business
Tammy Cline
Savory Palette, Embarcadero, Morro Bay



First Place

Cayucos Business
Carol Kramer & Bill Shea
Sea Shanty, S. Ocean, Cayucos



First Place

Cambria Resident
Larry Rhoades - Whindsor, Cambria



First Annual Halloween Decorating Contest

Thank you to all of our readers who found their inner ghouls and goblins and joined the fun in the first annual Estero Bay News Halloween Decorating Contest. We had a great time driving through Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cambria and Cayucos to see what spooktacular creations lit up the night at both homes and businesses. One of us screamed once, but we aren't telling who that was.

Winners will receive a customized gift and bragging rights. Thank you to all of the contest sponsors: Morro Bay Beautiful, The Flying Dutchman, Bayside Cafe, Dale Kaiser Real Estate, Pacific Capital Mortgage and B&B Garage Door Service Co. Make plans now to take part in our Estero Bay News Holiday Decorating contest.

Sponsored by

