

The header for the Gift Guide Page 12 features a large, stylized text "Gift Guide Page 12" on the left. To the right is a photograph of a person with long dark hair wearing a blue and black 3D-printed mask, working on a small electronic project on a breadboard.

Another Water Main Cracked in WRF Trenching Operation

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay’s Water Recycling Facility continues its dance with Mr. Murphy after a second water line was recently broken on Quintana Road.

Morro Bay Utilities Division Manager, Joe Mueller, told Estero Bay News that they were notified by one of the contractors on the WRF’s conveyance system on Saturday, Nov. 30 that water was running down Quintana at Kings Street, the general area where the main contractor, Anvil of San Francisco, has been trenching to install the WRF project’s bundle of sewer mains and water lines that will stretch when completed from the old sewer plant on Atascadero Road, up Main Street and out Quintana to South Bay Boulevard. The piping will turn left on South Bay and continue up to the new treatment plant site on a hillside above the terminus of South Bay.

“Staff responded,” Mueller said, “and found a crack in a 6-inch main waterline that runs from Quintana up Kings Street. This waterline is in a trench that Anvil had just backfilled and compacted on Thursday the 28th.”

The City crew dug out the water line and replaced a small section of it, Mueller said, “and was able to leave the line insulated and turned off, for there are no customers on that section of line and had no adverse effects due to looping of the water system.”

On Monday, Nov. 1, Anvil reportedly filled and re-compacted the trench where the repair was made. The City turned the water back on three days later and a second leak was detected on the same water line about 4-feet past where the first leak was fixed, Mueller said.

Anvil fixed the second leak, he said, and City staff inspected the repair and placed the line back in service. “While the leak occurred near Anvil’s work area and trenching,” Mueller explained, “this waterline is not part of the project work.”

“It is possible,” he added, “that the leaks could have been caused by Anvils backfill and compaction methods.”

In any event, the City has kept track of its time and expenses and will submit a bill to the project manager.

“In this case the Cities project manager will determine if Anvil is responsible for the leak and if the City should be reimbursed. Minimal water was lost and the damage was similar to leaks that naturally occur over time throughout the city on this type of pipe material.”

This latest mishap follows a number of other snags and SNAFUs the WRF project has experienced. In May 2020 a landslide on the treatment plant site caused a huge headache for the contractors — Filanc/Black & Veatch, which has since been dealing with shifting land for many months, an issue that is expected to cost the project over \$1 million.

On the first day of trenching, Anvil hit a water main at Quintana and La Loma that sent water gushing 20-feet into the air. City crews responded to fix that leak but before the dirt had settled, an above ground sewer bypass line that Anvil had installed at Lift Station No. 3 (near Quintana and South Bay) was bumped into by a worker on a piece of machinery and the pipe was sliced open, spilling sewage onto the roadway. The City crew also fixed that leak.

The project saw a third brush with Murphy’s Law in early August when a massive tunneling project to run pipes 35-feet underneath the Roundabout, hit some kind of snag that bogged down the 5-foot diameter boring machine, bringing that portion of the project to a halt.

Anvil’s subcontractor, Vадnais Trenchless, dug a deep pit near the digging head to investigate what was bogging down their machine, which digs with some 300,000 pounds of force.

After about 6 weeks, Vадnais started work again and the boring machine quickly punched through to a receiving hole on Las Tunas Avenue, next to the Morro Bay Coffee Co. They never did figure out what had obstructed the tunneling operation.

And there could be another Murphy’s Law mishap

in the future, as the City has determined that it will need to remove more trees — beyond the 24 removed so far — along the Power Plant Bike Path.

Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek said they were still putting together a report on the additional trees that will have to be removed in anticipation of notifying the Coastal Commission of the change.

The Commission staff in Santa Cruz has been closely monitoring the tree removals and the City has gotten their OK when it’s needed to remove more trees than originally planned in the project’s coastal development permit.

So far, the commission staff has okayed the additional three removals emphasizing that they must be replaced with native species of trees and in an area close to where they came out.

The City staff plans to submit a tree replanting plan to the City Council for approval sometime after the first of the year. Every tree they remove will be replaced with a new tree.

Also, the WRF pipeline construction underway on Main Street was approved by the City to proceed, the City said in its regular project update, and the contract requirement that would have prevented work in this area during the holiday season was waived.

“While allowing the work to occur on Main Street was an inadvertent oversight,” the City said, “the City will not allow the contractor to work on Quintana Road between Main Street and Morro Bay Boulevard during the holiday season from Nov. 1 to Jan. 15.”

The work restrictions were waived with the understanding that two-way traffic on Main Street will be maintained at all times, the City said.

“The City and project team are continuing to evaluate the current traffic control configuration at Main Street as the contractor progresses the work toward the access road to the bike path to make sure that they are conducting the work as safely as possible for the contractor and the motoring public. Consequently, the team is discussing restoring the stoplight on normal phase [red-yellow-green] for the weekends, as long as the traffic control is set up to permit this to happen safely.”

The stoplight at Main and Quintana has been on set to “flashing red” in all directions for many weeks, which at times has caused major backups on Main towards Downtown.

Smoke House to Close



A popular Cayucos eatery will call it quits in January as the tiny building by the beach is slated to be torn down.

According to an Internet post by Rose Ruddell the owner of Ruddell’s Smoke House, 101 D St., said, “We have an important announcement to share with you. We have made the incredibly difficult decision to close Ruddell’s Smokehouse effective Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022.

“The historic building at 101 “D” St. will be coming down, and after weighing every possible alternative, we have come to this conclusion.”

She thanked their many customers of the past 20 years. “We want to thank everyone for 20 years of incredible support.

Thank you to my dad, Jim Ruddell, for making this all possible and to my mom, Kathleen Ruddell, and our loyal

crew for keeping the magic alive and the integrity of our product true to Jim’s recipe.”

Jim Ruddell died in February 2018 and local surfers gathered in March at the smoke house for a touching, memorial paddle off Cayucos Beach, a testament to how much he was loved among the surfer folk. The family carried on without Smoker Jim, and the Smoke House is as popular as ever. Indeed, at the recent Cayucos Car Show, folks were lined up to order Jim’s famous fish tacos (see photo).

“This decision was not made lightly,” said Rose Ruddell, “and we recognize that this is not only a huge change for us but for our community as well.”

The Smoke House remains open, Thursdays-Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A Little Kindness for Kindness Coalition

By Neil Farrell

He started a little produce stand in north Morro Bay, making a risky switch to only sell organically grown fruits and vegetables, and now Michael Wolfe of the Avocado Shack is opening his business to a local non-profit feeding needy kids and families.

Wolf said he’s lent one of two out buildings at his business, 2190 Main St., to the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, which they’ve set up for storage and a food pantry filling boxes with foodstuffs that their volunteers deliver to families in the area.

It’s a way for him to give back, Wolfe told Estero Bay News. His produce stand was the home of Shorty & Son automotive repair for many years and the little shed he’s lent to the Kindness Coalition used to be a muffler and welding shop.

The Kindness Coalition (see: esterobaykindnesscoalition.org) has a simple mission statement: “Our primary mission is to partner with for-profits, nonprofits, churches, and schools to benefit the greater good and those living on the margins in the Estero Bay community.”

It was started in December 2017 by Pastor Bobby deLancellotti after he visited the Principal at Del Mar Elementary seeking a way to help the school kids for the holidays.

“The principal connected Bobby with 10 families,” the



Estero Bay News Staff

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.





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

organization’s website said. “Bobby bought them two gifts each — a fun, practical gift and a \$100 gift card to a local supermarket. In January, the principal sent Bobby a letter thanking him for the impact the gifts had on the families. She also informed him that 64% of the students at Del Mar were living at or below the poverty line.”

And while the school feeds them lunch, they often go hungry over the weekends.

That led to the start of the “Got Your Back” program in March 2018. Got Your Back helps feed kids over the weekend, providing two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, healthy snacks, fruit, milk, and juice to each kid enrolled.

The care packages were sent using backpacks. The kids brought in empty packs on Monday, and the Coalition filled them up and gave them back on Friday.

“By June 2018, Estero Bay Kindness Coalition was serving 48 students with Got Your Back. The following school year, it jumped to eight schools and over 200 students in the SLO Unified School District. During this time, our organization became a non-profit 501 C-3. By the 2019 school year, we were feeding over 200 children in eight schools.”

Wolf said deLancellotti officiated his wedding, and when he asked if Wolf knew anyone with storage space available, he offered the former shop building. It was cleaned up and the coalition took over the space Nov. 1.

Such an operation needs storage and workspace and The Avocado Shack’s kindness towards the Kindness Coalition jibed with Wolf’s desires to do something to better his community.

County to Buy New Shower-Trailer

Amenities at the County’s only safe parking area for the homeless will soon get a tad better, after Supervisors agreed to buy a larger and more permanent shower trailer for the facility.

Supervisors on Nov. 16 approved spending \$83,000 for a portable shower and restroom trailer for its “Kansas Avenue Safe Parking Site,” a vacant plot of land next door to the County Animal Shelter and across the street from the County Honor Farm, where the County allows homeless people living in vehicles to safely stay.

The parking program was started a few months ago in large part to respond to an untenable situation in Los Osos’ Palisades Avenue. That dead end street by the Community Center and Public Library had become overrun with homeless folks parking their various vehicles and camping on the street.

People have long parked overnight on that street and enforcement was lessened during the coronavirus pandemic

ic but it quickly grew to overflow and citizen’s began to complain.

It should be noted that people are not supposed to live or camp on public streets and there are even limits — 72 hours — to how long someone can park any vehicle on public streets. If the vehicle stays past the 3-day limit they can be ticketed by the Sheriff’s Department and ordered to move.

Seeking to alleviate the situation on Palisades, County officials opened the parking area on Kansas Avenue initially intending to accommodate just 24 vehicles and including a 2-unit shower/restroom trailer.

“As participation increased,” reads a staff report from the County Department of Social Service’s Devin Drake, “and as the only current 24-hour safe parking site within the county, an expansion of the site was deemed necessary.”

“The expanded site has space to accommodate over 50 vehicles. Demand on shower and restroom resources has increased and the two-unit shower trailer is having to be serviced five times a week to keep up with demand.”

Maintaining the trailer, plus the rental cost, is apparently too high. “This increased service frequency along with the rental cost of the trailer costs the program an estimated \$16,000 a month,” Drake said. “Based on the high costs of rental and services, purchase of a permanent asset is the most fiscally responsible option.”

The current facilities can barely serve 50 people, and Drake said there are 100 people staying there now.

“The current unit is already struggling to meet the needs of the program participants,” Drake said. “The County Administrative Officer requested a larger unit be purchased as soon as possible to meet the health and safety needs of the program participants.”

The County is set on providing restrooms and hot showers to a population of people for whom that’s a luxury, especially with winter fast approaching.

“As winter approaches and weather turns colder,” Drake said, “having multiple hot-water shower units available to program participants will reduce stress regarding basic human needs, and allow capacity for individuals to pursue long-term housing or to address issues surrounding their homelessness with service providers.”

The new shower trailer will have five shower stalls and is accessible for the handicapped. The County will tie into the existing water and sewer lines, which will allow them to “eliminate the need for pumping and servicing costs. As a permanent asset, the new trailer could also be utilized at future sites should the Kansas Avenue Safe Parking Program end, or in case of emergency or natural disaster.”

The \$83,000 cost is coming out of the Social Services Department’s budget and the County has to put half the money down before the manufacturer would build it. It’s expected to take up to four months to be delivered, which would put its arrival for sometime towards the end of February or early March.

MBPD Tips for a Safe Holiday

The Morro Bay Police Department shared some helpful ideas to keep the Grinch at bay during the holidays.

Tips for keeping packages safe from theft during holiday season:

- Send packages to a secure location (work, PO Box),
- Use delivery instructions when available such as; leave behind front gate or, around a corner out of sight,
- Track your packages and be ready for their arrival,
- Require a signature,
- Install a front door security camera and post a sign warning that your property is under surveillance.

Tips for keeping your home and property safe:

- Keep driveways and yards free from debris and clutter, trim trees and bushes for clear lines of sight from inside the home and while approaching your home,
- Using motion lights to alert when someone or something enters your property,
- Use surveillance cameras for monitoring or purchase a monitored security system,
- Install a smart doorbell,
- Install and use window locks,
- Lock and secure all doors,
- Do not leave your garage door opener inside your vehicle that is not parked inside your garage.

Neighborhood watch type information, keeping an eye our for your neighbors

The Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch Program is a non-profit organization that is part of the National Neighborhood Watch program that empowers citizens to become active in community efforts to keep their neighborhoods safe from crime, criminal elements, traffic safety concerns, and other quality of life issues. Neighborhood Watch is designed to bring neighbors together to help each resident feel safe and encourages neighbors to contact the police if something doesn’t seem right either in the neighborhood or maybe at a particular neighbors home. In a well organized neighborhood watch neighborhood, a person looking to do harm will feel exposed and seen by the residents and will generally leave to look for a less monitored neighborhood.

- Reporting things that don’t look right, hotline tips.
- If something does not look right, contact the police department. In an emergency the number is always 911. Non-emergencies the number is (805)772-6225 and press * for dispatch. When reporting suspicious activity please remember that the simple appearance of a person is not in and of itself suspicious. Race, age, gender, does not establish suspicious activity. When calling the police for suspicious activity please remember to provide a clear description of the actions and activities of the person(s) causing you to be-

MBPD Tips Continued on page 4

Bayside Cafe

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

Just plain good food, generous portions




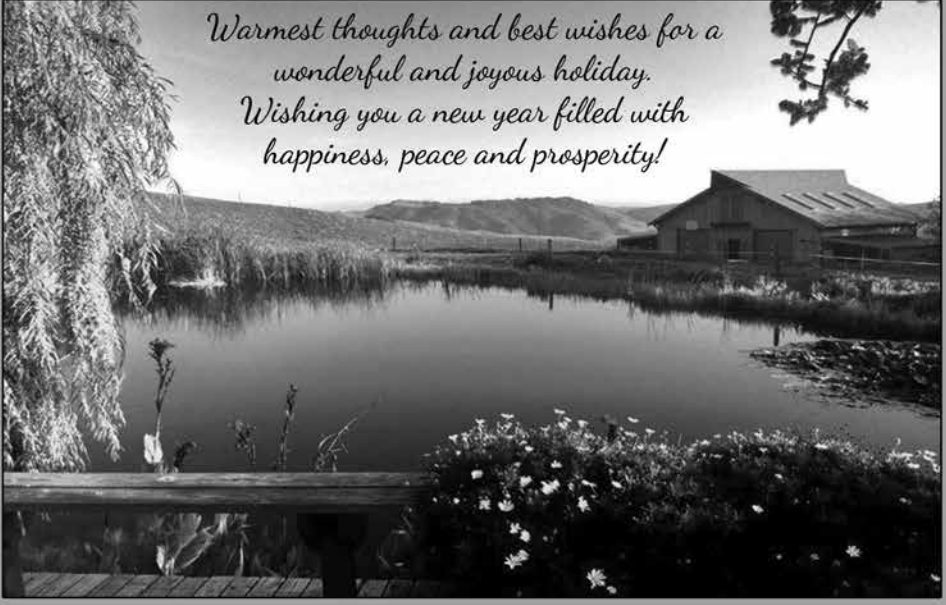
Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

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

Peace on Earth

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful and joyous holiday.
Wishing you a new year filled with happiness, peace and prosperity!



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

News Briefs
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cuesta Recognized for
Equity Champion

Cuesta College has been named a 2021 Equity Champion for Excellence after demonstrating exemplary work in supporting Latinx students on their path to completing a bachelor’s degree. The Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit California education advocacy and policy organization, recently recognized Cuesta College at its annual “Champions of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer”

“I am thrilled to accept this recognition on behalf of our faculty and staff whose tireless work and dedication help guide the success of our Latinx students,” said Dr. Jill Stearns, superintendent/president. “Cuesta College remains committed to closing gaps in equity and student achievement and will continue to create opportunities and programs to ensure that our students reach their educational goals.”

According to the Campaign, Cuesta College was honored among dozens of leading California community colleges and California State Universities for demonstrating that “a high proportion of degree or transfer seeking Latinx students received an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) in the 2019-2020 academic year.” The ADT allows students who meet minimum eligibility requirements guaranteed admission to a CSU campus.

In the 2019-20 academic year, Cuesta had 4,432 Latinx students, representing 34.5% of the student population. Latinx students earned 193 associate of arts or science degrees for transfer representing 33% of the total degrees awarded

In Fall 2020, 189 Latinx students from Cuesta College were admitted to a California State University. The top five CSU campuses for Cuesta College’s Latinx students transferred to were:

- 1. Cal Poly SLO: 56 students (47%)
- 2. San Jose State: 11 students (9%)
- 3. Fresno State: 8 students (7%)
- 4. Sacramento State: 7 students (6%)
- 5. Chico State: 6 students (5%)

Due to racial equity gaps that persist in transfer rates between Latinx and Black students and their peers, the Campaign developed an equity measure that assesses how these students access and earn an ADT relative to the campus average. To learn more about how the honorees are selected, go to collegecampaign.org.

Flu Season Has Begun

The flu is circulating throughout the county as confirmed by the County of San Luis Obispo Public

Health laboratory. Public Health officials are reminding folks that staying home when sick and washing hands well and often are effective tools in curbing spread of many different viruses that circulate now and throughout the year.

“Our community is fully reopen and we are seeing more activity in terms of flu and other viruses than we saw last year, in addition to COVID-19,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer.”

COVID-19, the flu, and the common cold are all respiratory viruses that spread the same way: close contact with someone who is infected, or touching your face with unwashed hands.

Proactive steps to staying healthy:

- Get your flu shot and your COVID-19 vaccine — even at the same appointment (children included).
- Wear a mask in public indoor spaces — preferably a well-fitting N95, KN95 or KF94, or surgical mask. If you wear a cloth mask, more layers provide more protection.
- Avoid crowds.
- Keep gatherings small, brief, and outdoors — or well ventilated if they must be indoors.

If you are feeling sick, get tested for COVID-19 — it’s free and convenient. If that comes back negative, but you still feel sick, stay home to avoid spreading the flu or common cold.

Seek medical care if your symptoms get worse or are unusually prolonged, advised public health.

Both COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots are widely available at no cost at pharmacies, doctors’ offices, public health department clinics, and mobile clinics countywide. Visit myturn.ca.gov to schedule vaccine appointments for COVID-19 or flu.

PG&E Testing Artificial
Intelligence

During extremely dry, hot, and windy weather, being able to differentiate wildfire smoke from fog and other false indicators is invaluable to analysts in Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) Wildfire Safety Operations Center and fire agencies. That’s why PG&E is testing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning capabilities in the growing network of high-definition cameras across Northern and Central California to see how it can enhance fire-watch and response capabilities.

This year, PG&E, in collaboration with Alert Wildfire, has installed 138 new HD cameras across High Fire-Threat Districts, in accordance with its 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan. PG&E began installing HD cameras in 2018, as part of its Community Wildfire Safety Program. As of October 31, 487 cameras are now in operation.

The pilot program is already demonstrating the



AI’s potential to reduce fire size expansion. On August 4, 2021, PG&E’s Howell Mountain 1 camera located in Placer County spotted smoke one minute before the actual fire dispatch and several minutes sooner than the manual movement of the camera. That smoke ended up becoming the River Fire. This is one example of many noted during both pilots confirming the value of early fire detection technology.

Agencies use the fire-watch cameras to monitor, detect, assess for threats, and respond to wildfires. The AI test program includes PG&E determining a way to get the new data to the right people quickly and effectively. The quicker the data is received, the more rapidly first responders and PG&E can confirm fires and move the right resources to the right place.

The cameras provide 360-degree views with pan, tilt and zoom capabilities and can be viewed by anyone through the Alert Wildfire Network at www.alertwildfire.org. By the end of 2022, the company plans to have approximately 600 cameras installed, providing an ability to see in real-time more than 90% of the high fire-risk areas it serves.

Clarification

Last week’s story about paid parking on the Morro Bay Embarcadero misstated the date of the City Council’s actions. The meeting wasn’t held on “Nov. 90” but on the 9th, a mistake owing no doubt to fat fingers flying too fast on the keyboard.

Also last issue the front page image of Buttercup Bakery photo was by Kori Savoie and the cake image was Antonia (Toni) Walsh. We wanted to make sure they got credit for their images

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.

MBPD Tips From page 3

lieve their behavior is suspicious. For example, hiding from approaching vehicles, knocking on doors asking for odd things or people, sitting inside of a vehicle for an extended period of time, checking residential doors or vehicle doors to see if they are locked, walking in and out of yards, sitting in a driveway of your neighbors home who is out of town, removing items from a home and you don’t see the owner of the residence around.

- Leaving a tip on a tip line does not generate an immediate response. Tips are great if they are something that can be followed up on after the fact. In progress crimes should be called into dispatch for an officer to respond immediately. MBPD has a tip line on our website as well as our mobile app. SLO Crime Stoppers is also available for crime tips at (805)549-STOP or online at <http://sanluisobispocounty.crimestoppersweb.com/sitemenu.aspx-ID=805&>

PAUL'S PRECISION PAINTING

Central Coast

(Painting Houses on the Central Coast Since 1994)

805.464.9805

Licensed & Insured
Lic.# 1035020

www.paulsprecisionpaintingcc.com

JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS IN CAYUCOS

Start or finish your Holiday Shopping w/ 20% off all Gift Items
Saturday December 11th 5pm-8pm



Cayucos Cheer!

CAYUCOS

PHARMACY & GIFTS

3 - Day Buying Event at Bronze, Silver & Gold Gallery

Sell your
Diamonds,
Gold, Coins
& MORE!

 Santa a little short this year? 

SELL YOUR VALUABLES FOR CASH!



Receive an
Additional
15%

Some exclusions may apply*
For the value of your collectibles
when taken as store credit ***

DECEMBER 6TH - DECEMBER 8TH

786 Main St #1, Cambria, CA 93428 | (805) 927-5421 | 10 AM - 5 PM Monday - Wednesday



FINE JEWELRY



DIAMONDS



WATCHES*



COINS & CURRENCY



STERLING SILVER



RARITIES



SCRAP GOLD & SILVER



TOYS & ADVERTISING



FINE ART

**NATIONAL
RARITIES**
*Will match any
competitor's offer!***



IMMEDIATE PAYMENT



FOR EVENT INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 888-787-1112

Sterling Silver

- ☐ Any type and all makers
- ☐ No need to polish
- ☐ We can help carry
- ☐ Sterling silver & turquoise jewelry

Toys & Advertising

- ☐ Pre-1960 advertising
- ☐ Tin & Lithograph Ads Preferred
- ☐ Pre-1960 toys
- ☐ Pressed Steel Toys

Watches

- ☐ Any condition, wrist watches
pocket watches
- ☐ Rolex*, Patek, Breitling, Cartier
- ☐ Elgin, Hamilton, Waltham, Illinois
- ☐ Omega, Tag Heuer

Fine Jewelry

- ☐ Any age & any style
- ☐ Broken or damaged jewelry
- ☐ Tiffany, Cartier, D.Yurman & more

Coins & Currency

- ☐ Gold & silver coins
- ☐ Bullion & bars
- ☐ Old paper money
- ☐ Coin collections

Scrap Gold & Silver

- ☐ Scrap gold, silver, or platinum
- ☐ Dental gold
- ☐ Old mountings
- ☐ Fraternal pins & class rings

Diamonds

- ☐ Loose or mounted diamonds
- ☐ Damaged stones
- ☐ All sizes, colors, and styles

Rarities

- ☐ Old photos (Tintypes, etc.)
- ☐ War memorabilia
- ☐ Uniforms, badges, daggers, etc.
- ☐ Autographs

Fine Art

- ☐ Original oil & watercolor paintings
- ☐ Any type of sculpture
- ☐ Any subject or style

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 888-787-1112



National Rarities will provide a free evaluation, but is not obligated to purchase your items. *We are not an authorized Rolex dealer nor are we affiliated or endorsed by Rolex, Rolex USA, or any of its subsidiaries. **Offer must be in writing and current. National Rarities will provide a free evaluation, but is not obligated to purchase your items.



Learn More



State to Parole
Convicted Murderer

By Neil Farrell

A participant in one of San Luis Obispo County’s most infamous murders has been granted early parole, much to the displeasure of the District Attorney.

District Attorney Dan Dow, responding to the State Parole Board’s decision to grant convicted murderer Jason Greenwell parole, said, “I strongly disagree with the Parole Board’s decision to release Mr. Greenwell into our community after serving only 11 years for such a shocking crim. My office will aggressively seek review and repeal of the Parole Board’s decision in this case.”

Greenwell was convicted along with four others in the September 2010 torture and murder of 15-year-old Dystiny Myers of Nipomo.

Greenwell and his partners in crime, DA Dow said in a news release, “bound and savagely beat young Dystiny, then buried her in a shallow grave near Santa Margarita Lake. Before they fled, they set a fire. Dystiny’s bound and partially burned body was later discovered in the grave.”

Greenwell pleaded guilty to second degree murder in



Jason Adam Greenwell, shown in a 2010 mug shot, has been granted parole after serving 11 years of a 15-years-to-life sentence in the grisly, torture and murder of teenager, Dystiny Myers. The district attorney has vowed to appeal the parole board’s decision.

2013 and was sentenced to 15-years-to-life in state prison. At the time of his sentencing, people convicted of murder were not eligible to receive “good time” credits — time taken off the end of a sentence for good behavior in prison. Dow said that meant that Greenwell “was required to serve every day of 15 years prior to even being considered for parole.”

But California has been on a trend of lessening sentences and crimes the past several years, and, “In 2016, Proposition 57 was passed, which provides individuals convicted of violent crimes, such as murder, up to a one-third or 33% reduction in their sentence,” Dow said. “As a result, Greenwell was granted paroled after serving only 11 years for his part in the murder.” It was the first time he was up for parole. Greenwell was 20 when he took part in Myers’ murder and the D.A. said he’s had a clean record in prison.

Myers’ family members attended the parole hearing via video and “strongly objected to his parole.” A representative of the SLO County District Attorney’s Office attended the hearing in person “and voiced a forceful objection to the release of Greenwell based on the vicious nature of the crime and continued danger to the community should he be released,” DA. Dow said.

Readers shouldn’t worry too much that the rest of these barbaric hooligans will be granted freedom, as three of the four — Ty Michael Hill, Frank Jacob York, and Rhonda Wisto — are serving life without the possibility of parole. The final murderer, Cody Miller, killed himself in prison back in June 2016, the DA said.

Myers reportedly was a runaway teenager that was staying in the Nipomo mobile home of Wisto and her son, York, when she ordered them to attack the teen, “for being disrespectful.”

Myers was beaten with baseball bats, brass knuckles, kicked and punched, forcibly injected with drugs and then driven to rural Santa Margarita. According to the autopsy, Myers suffocated to death because a glove had been shoved down her throat, apparently to keep her quiet on the drive to the killing place.

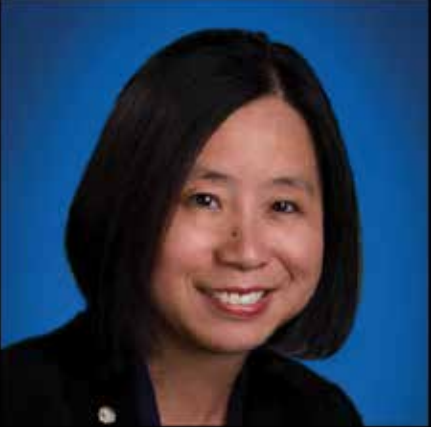
Wisto and York were tried together after Hill and Miller had pled guilty to all charges. Wisto and York were found guilty of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, plus special circumstances charges of kidnap-murder and torture-murder.

Greenwell testified against his accomplices and thus got the lighter sentence.

The District Attorney said he’s not done fighting Greenwell’s parole. “The District Attorney will seek a review and reversal of the Parole Board’s decision directly to Gov. Gavin Newsom.”

Sherry Sim Named
Rotary District Governor

Cayucos businesswoman, Sherry PeckHoon Sim of the Rotary Club of Cayucos has been selected as the 2024-2025 District Governor for District 5240 of Rotary International. Sim is a founding member of the Cayucos Rotary Club, which became chartered in March 2008 with 22 men and women representing a wide cross-section of local businesses and professions.



A real estate professional by trade, Sim and the Cayucos Rotary Club have made a big impact on the community. Club members enjoy fellowship, meals, and interesting and informative programs dealing with topics of local and global importance. Member fellowship includes many social and community service events that include beach cleanups, fundraisers like the annual Marked Ball raising scholarships for young people, supporting Cayucos School and more.

The Cayucos club is a member of Rotary District 5240, which is comprised of 71 clubs and over 3,000 members located throughout the Kern County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and a small portion of Los Angeles County.

Cayucos Rotary meets the first Thursday of the month at 8 a.m. and the third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are at Luna’s Café, 84 N. Ocean Ave.

According to the Club’s webpage, “Our Vision is to be recognized as a vital community service organization in Cayucos.”

In response to the District’s announcement, Sim posted, “This is a tremendous honor for me to be selected to serve as District Governor in 2024-2025. I am truly humbled and grateful for the many texts and emails received today. Thank you, everyone for your love, guidance and support. Big smile and much love.”


**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




Shari Sullivan
Jewelry

handcrafted from gold, silver,
copper, brass, found objects,
precious and semi-precious gems
and beads, and more.


Shari Sullivan
metalsmith
www.ShariSullivan.com

experience





All Broker Dream Team


counts. | CAYUCOS.COM

**DALE KAISER TEAM**
805-995-2900

YOUR LOCAL
REAL ESTATE
EXPERTS
FOR OVER
35 YEARS


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



Community

Local Business Donates to School Library

Story and photos by Theresa-Marie Wilson



Students at Monarch Grove Elementary School hold up some of the new books donated to the library.

Dragons, robots and cats have invaded a local school. Don't be alarmed, they come in peace and only live on the pages of books.

Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe in Los Osos recently donated 20 new books to the Monarch Grove Elementary School Library that serves TK- sixth grade students.

"Children are the most wonderful, infinite resource that we have as people," said Carroll Leslie, Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe owner. "The only thing we can do is to invest in them, so that they will grow and mature and understand their role as a part of this country is to help one another, to take care of the climate. Reading helps them make pictures in their head. They're so used to television that has assaulted them with images. When reading, they can form pictures in their head, so they are in charge of it, not a box. It is really quite wonderful."

The idea for the donation program came to life about two years ago when Ellen Perryess, who works at Volumes of Pleasure, wanted to give her husband a book donated in his name to the county library system for a Christmas present.

"We got talking about it and realized it was a great gift for anybody who goes to the bookstore," said Perryess. "It's a great Christmas gift or all year round."

Since each new, hardback book costs about \$17 to purchase, Volumes of Pleasure has a program where people can donate \$20 and schools will receive the new reading material, which include a bookplate recognizing the donor or someone of their choice. Donors can also select a specific school on the list that the funds will go towards. Any residual money or smaller donations, are held until there is enough to purchase more titles of books.

Leslie and Perryess, plan to expand the program to six more schools in the San Luis Obispo Coastal Unified School District, concentrating on those with a high percentage of students on the free and reduced lunch pro-

gram. As funds come in, each school will receive the same collection of books, which are based on a list created with the help of the school district.

"We're just so grateful for Volumes or Pleasure," said school librarian Alisha Santoianni. "This is the second donation that they've made to us just this year, which is fantastic. We now have probably close to 50 or 60 brand new books thanks to them. That is huge — probably close to what I can add to our library each year with my district budget, — they're basically doubling that."

The students are likely as happy with the new reading material as Santoianni is.

"A story is like going to a different place and time," said Sophia, a fifth grader, who is looking forward to reading "Room to Dream" by Kelly Yang. "You can just kind of go somewhere else."

When asked if she reads every day, Sophia said, "Oh, yes. definitely."

The books will get their use with students visiting the library every week as part of their studies. Additionally, many frequent the stacks beyond what is scheduled. During this interview, a group of kids came in on their lunch break to check out a few more titles.

"At the bare minimum they get to check out at least one new book depending on their grade level," Santoianni said. We have upper grades that are checking out three or more books every week and then as you could see, some students were just coming in to switch out books even though it's not their library time."

The average monthly circulation at the library is about 2500 books, so new titles are always needed. With more than 350 students in attendance, the choices of reading material needs to be as varied in topic and voice as the kids are themselves.

"I'm constantly evaluating our materials to make sure they're current and they meet the needs of our population,"



Carroll Leslie, the owner of Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe in Los Osos, reads from a book donated to the Monarch Grove Elementary School by her store.

Santoianni said. "I love the philosophy of books being windows and mirrors; kids need to see themselves in books and that needs to be mirrored back to them. Books also give them windows into other worlds, other cultures, and other beliefs so they see that there are different people out in the world. I'm constantly looking for books to expand our kids' horizons and looking for diverse books that will help us all understand each other a little bit better."

Readers who want to give the gift of a donation to the school book fund for the holidays or any time of the year, are asked to call the store at (805) 528-5565 and pay by credit card or stop in at Volumes of Pleasure located at 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos.

Women's Surfing History Author in Morro Bay Dec. 4

By Neil Farrell



Famed surfing journalist, Jim Kempton will be in Morro Bay Dec. 4 to sign his new book: 'Women on Waves,' a history of women surfers from ancient Hawaii to the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

A famed surf writer will sign his new women's surfing history book at a special surfing-centric event in December in Morro Bay.

Jim Kempton, the former editor-in-chief of "Surfer Magazine" and author of two other surfing books, will discuss and sign his newest book entitled "Women on Waves: A Cultural History of Surfing: From Ancient Goddesses and Hawaiian Queens to Malibu Movie Stars and Millennial Champions" (Pegasus Books, July 2021).

The event is set for 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at the CenCal Roofing office building, 2030 Main St., in Morro Bay (corner of Hill Street). Following will be a panel discussion on women's surfing with top lady wave riders.

Kempton's previous books are: "First We Surf, Then We Eat" and "Surfing: The Manual." Kempton, who lives in San Clemente, Calif., is the president of the California Surf Museum and previously served as a project director for Quiksilver" a leading surfing gear and clothing manufacturer.

Women on Waves is the definitive history on women's Surfing History Continued on page 9



Muffins



Coffee Cakes



Breakfast Sandwiches



Buttercup Bakery
— & CAFE —

Holiday Order Form

Open Christmas Eve, 7 - 2; CLOSED Dec. 25th, 26th and 27th.

PIES AND DESSERTS

— Pecan Pie \$23.95	— Pecan Tarts 12 for \$32.00
— Mixed Berry Pie \$18.95	
— French Apple Pie \$19.95	
— Raspberry Almond or — Chocolate Tarts 12 for \$28.00	
— Plain Cheesecake (small) \$23.00	
— Eggnog Cheesecake (small) \$28.00	
— Eggnog Bundt Cake \$19.95	
— Holiday Cookie Gift Box \$12.95	

(includes brownies, mexican wedding cookies, cranberry white chocolate, and walnut toffee chocolate chip)

DINNER ROLLS

— Pkg. of 12 - \$6.95	— 6 - \$3.95
— Stollen loaf \$11.95	

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Pick-up Date: _____ Time: _____
Paid: YES or NO
Special Requests: _____



Cookies



Cardamom Roll



Scones

To Order Yours Today - Go To:
www.clover.com/online-ordering/buttercup-bakery--cafe-morro-bay
430 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay • 805.226.6678



RadioShack
COAST ELECTRONICS

OPEN FOR BUSINESS!
Curbside service available.

Morro Bay
510 Quintana Road
805-772-1265

Paso Robles
1171 Creston Rd. # 109
805-369-2811

San Luis Obispo
1336 Madonna Road
805-544-5400

Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

• **Nov. 21:** Police responded at 3:50 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Allesandro. Logs indicated they arrested some 65-year-old louse for alleged abuse of his spouse, so they carted him off to the big house.

• **Nov. 21:** Police towed off an offensive parked vehicle from the 700 block of Harbor for its owner not giving up the arm and leg demanded by the DMV.

• **Nov. 19:** Someone turned over some undisclosed item they found somewhere in the 1100 block of Main, and after 30 days, it’s finder’s keepers.

• **Nov. 20:** Police responded at midnight to the Inn at Morro Bay where some she-devil was apparently raising Caine. The 31-year-old raucous tomato was tossed into the clink for being stewed.

• **Nov. 20:** Police responded at 10:55 p.m. to a condo complex in the 900 block of Morro Ave., for a theft report. An apparent tourist said some scalawag stole his or her luggage and its contents worth some \$5,000, which is a felony even in San Francisco.

• **Nov. 20:** Someone found presumably a woman’s purse somewhere in town and gave it to police.

• **Nov. 19:** A citizen in the 400 block of Panay told police that he or she was the victim of a phone scam and had lost a whopping \$10,000, in what is just about the crime of the century for these parts.

• **Nov. 19:** Police contacted an apparent bail jumper at 2:49 p.m. in the 2900 block of Beachcomber and nicked the fool for violation of his PRCS.

• **Nov. 19:** Another citizen reported getting ripped off via false pretenses by a phone scam, this time at Rite Aid on Quintana.

• **Nov. 19:** Someone gave police something they’d found at Morro Bay High School. No word on what it was but you can probably bet it wasn’t schoolwork.

• **Nov. 19:** Police responded at 6:49 a.m. to a reported assault in the 300 block of Embarcadero. Police reported they have no leads to report.

• **Nov. 19:** Police contacted a wanted fellow at 2 a.m. in the 500 block of Quintana, and no doubt up to no good at that hour. The 51-year-old nodcock had a felony warrant and was nicked.

• **Nov. 18:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to the 700 block of Quintana where some poor schmoe said his car was stolen.

• **Nov. 18:** At 1 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject in City Park, 734 Harbor St. Logs indicated the apparent moonraker, 29, had a bench warrant. He was given another ticket to slide and released, part of the ol’ catch-and-release job security program.

• **Nov. 18:** Police caught up to the crook of the week at noon in the 1100 block of Napa. The 47-year-old snake had six bench warrants but was issued a seventh and allowed to slither away.

• **Nov. 18:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 11:47 a.m. loitering behind the Flavor Factory in the 400 block of Quintana. The lawless lass, 34, had a bench warrant and was issued her second and allowed to skate away.

• **Nov. 18:** Yet another wanted person, a 42-year-old man, was caught loitering about in the 500 block of Quintana who had a bench warrant and once again the fooliot was cited and released.

• **Nov. 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:14 p.m. in the 900 block of Piney Way. Logs indicated the 58-year-old woman driver was arrested for suspicion of driving sassified.

• **Nov. 17** Police responded at 8:42 p.m. to the 200 block of Morro. A 23-year-old fellow was arrested for suspicion of being spanked in public and allegedly providing alcohol and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile delinquent.

• **Nov. 17** Police document a minor traffic bust-up in the 600 block of Quintana.

• **Nov. 17:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 5:14 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. The 23-year-old misbegotten knave was popped for suspicion of being high on drugs.

• **Nov. 16:** Police towed away an orphaned vehicle left in the 1300 block of Main.

• **Nov. 16:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:31 p.m. in the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd., which is right in front of the police station. The 52-year-old driver was arrested for suspicion of being half cut at the wheel.

• **Nov. 16:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:52 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. A 27-year-old driver was tossed into the dungeon for suspicion of driving lambasted.

• **Nov. 16:** Police responded at 8:32 p.m. to the 600 block of MBB where they arrested a 36-year-old apparent grifter for suspicion of purchasing a prescription medication using a forged prescription and the model citizen also had a no-bail warrant out of Monterey County.

• **Nov. 16:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 12:37 p.m. at Main and Driftwood. The 56-year-old apparent bail-jumper had a bench warrant and was issued another and released to go about his heathen ways.

• **Nov. 16:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 10 a.m. at the City Park and homeless clubhouse. The 63-year-old apparent slugabed had a warrant and when searched, police allegedly found a suspected crack pipe in her possession, so she’s in real trouble now.

• **Nov. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:47 p.m. in the 1600 block of Main. The 46-year-old fellow driving and his 40-year-old female passenger each had three bench warrants. Both were given another disappearance ticket and sent on their merry way.

• **Nov. 14:** Police caught some apparent would-be thief lurking about at 12:15 a.m. in the 2100 block of Main. Logs indicated the sneaky muchacho, 19, was cited and released accused of petty theft and vehicle tampering.

• **Nov. 13:** Police responded to Rite Aid at 7:49 p.m. after

they reported a suspected shoplifter. Logs indicated the fellow said “Oops” returned to pay amends for his sin and was forgiven.

• **Nov. 13:** Some Pilgrim on Piney Lane turned in firearms and ammunition they were aiming to be rid of.

• **Nov. 12:** Police towed a vehicle parked too long in the 3000 block of Main, no doubt they tired of looking at it. A 72-hour move-it ticket preceded the impoundment.

• **Nov. 12:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a traffic collision. There were no injuries reported, but the poor fence will need some tending to.

• **Nov. 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:42 a.m. for some no doubt trumped up code violation. Logs indicated the woman driver, 42, was cited for a suspended license and no proof of insurance, though surely the DMV could verify one way or the other.

• **Nov. 11:** Police responded at 3:15 p.m. to the 300 block of Embarcadero for a reported case of “forcible rape” that was reclassified as “sexual assault.” An investigation was launched.

• **Nov. 11:** Police contacted a familiar foe at 11:18 a.m. in City Park. The 28-year-old Mamaluke was arrested for violating parole.

• **Nov. 10:** Police responded at 11:38 p.m. to the 2300 block of Nutmeg where they arrested a 37-year-old apparent scofflaw who had a felony and a misdemeanor warrant and chucked him into the County B&B. A 23-year-old secret agent Double-O I.Q. at the same address had three bench warrants. He was given another ticket to ignore and released, spared that walk of shame down Hwy 1.

• **Nov. 10:** Police took a report of suspected financial elder abuse at an undisclosed location in town and will investigate.

• **Nov. 10:** At 1:17 p.m. police arrested an apparent street yob and ruffian for suspicion of felony vandalism and misdemeanor assault in the 200 block of Atascadero Road.

• **Nov. 10:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10:25 p.m. in the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the zoom-zoomer was allegedly in possession of and spun on methamphetamine.

• **Nov. 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:13 a.m. — a dead giveaway every time — in the 1200 block of Atascadero Road. A 19-year-old rookie was nicked for suspicion of driving stupid, and doing it when you’re a minor. The dingus was taken downtown, booked and eventually released to his no doubt proud parents.

• **Nov. 10:** Another model citizen with a bench warrant was contacted at 12:53 a.m. in the 700 block of the boulevard. The 35-year-old squirt was cited and released to catch another day.

• **Nov. 9:** A citizen in the 400 block of Embarcadero reported his or her catalytic converter was stolen, and yet their car probably never ran better.

• **Nov. 8:** Police took a courtesy report concerning some undisclosed incident that occurred between residents at Bayside Care Center on Teresa Drive. No word on what was no doubt a scandalous event.

Time to get cleaned up for the holidays?

How to book your appt:
Go to [MikesBarberShop.com](https://mikesbarbershop.com)

Book Now

- Choose location
- Choose barber
- Choose service
- Choose date/time
- Enter contact info
- Click "Reserve"
- Cash preferred. To pay in cash slide to "Reserve Only"

Reserve Now

LIVING TRUST

WILLS = PROBATE

Since 1980

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

Call now for your peace of mind • ELH Trust

Lic# 095935-03

Join us for the 2nd. Annual

Christmas Tree Lighting at

Pizza Port

Friday, Dec 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for

- Hot Chocolate
- Christmas Carolers and Family Fun

805-772-9540

787 Main St.

Morro Bay

Community

Surfing History From page 7

roles in surfing lore, spanning centuries, from Hawaii to Malibu, New York to Australia, and from South Africa to the South Pacific, and beyond.

According to the book jacket, it’s “A captivating look at two centuries of surfing — “the Sport of Queens” — from Native Hawaiian royalty to the breakout style and jaw-dropping feats on the waves today.

“From smart, strong, fearless women shattering records on 80-foot waves to professional athletes fighting for equal pay and a fair and just playing field, these amazing, wave-riding warriors provide an inspirational and aspirational cast of powerful role models for women (and men) across all backgrounds and generations.”

The book comes on the heels of the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games last summer when surfing was included as an exhibition sport for the first time ever and as surfing gear and clothing that emulate the carefree surfing lifestyle are growing in popularity worldwide.

“The sport’s explosion and Olympic appearance marks a massive shift from when colonizers tried to extinguish all traces of Native Hawaiian surfing and its sacred culture,” reads the book jacket.

“What is it about surfing that intrigues people of all ages, from all corners of the world? The beaches and idyllic locations? The unique style and mystique that surfers project? These women, riding giant waves and fiercely competing on the world circuit, have made their mark not just on their sport, but on our wider culture, whether it is fashion or Hollywood.”

Bethany Hamilton, author of “Soul Surfer” said, “I love being part of women’s surfing right now! There are so many girls rocking it and pushing hard. It’s so awesome to see and inspires me to push hard, too. I can’t wait to see what women’s surfing will be like when I’m an oldie!”

Shannon Aikman, co-founder of the Women’s International Surfing Association, said, “This is going to be the Gold Standard for women’s surfing history around the world. The visual story telling interwoven with historical facts is stunning.”

And Samantha Dunn, author of “Not By Accident: Reconstructing a Careless Life,” and special projects editor at Southern California News Group, said, “The sheer number

of stories, from competitive triumphs to personal struggles makes this fascinating history of women’s surfing more than just comprehensive. It is, in effect, the entire sweep of surfing culture — told for the first time through the lens of women’s experiences.”

Signed copies of Kempton’s 464-page book with 24 pages of color photographs are \$29.95. There will also be a display of beautiful surfboards to check out at the event.

Chamber Corner



Shop Local, Shop Small
Business Everyday

The Chamber is excited to continue encouraging people to shop local. As we move forward through the holidays the Morro Bay Chamber is reminding our community to keep supporting their neighbors by shopping locally.

We have the best ideas for your last minute shopping list! Follow us for the best gift ideas and local shopping lists through December. And this year we’ve been thinking outside the box. We have ideas for everyone!

Don’t forget, getting out and enjoying your city with the ones you love most is the best gift you can give.

Find your shopping ideas by following the chamber on Facebook, Instagram or their website; morrochamber.org. For more information contact Lynsey Hansen, Membership Director at lynsey@morrochamber.org

Celebrate New Chamber Members

- Lumina Alliance
- Citrine and Sage Aesthetics
- Anvil Builders Inc.
- Set and Setting

A Visit from The Cannabis King

By Neil Farrell



Tommy Chong, 83, activist, actor, comedian, director, musician, writer and cannabis rights activist, greeted his fans Nov. 26 at the Natural Healing Center’s Morro Bay dispensary. Chong was on hand to meet fans and promote his Tommy Chong Cannabis line of products. Photo by Neil Farrell.

He’s gone from being an icon of the hippie, peace-love-dope generation to now a corporate CEO, but comedian Tommy Chong is right at home doing what he’s been doing all his life.

Chong starred along with comedic partner, Cheech Marin in such 1970s-80s classic comedy films as “Up in Smoke,” and “Cheech & Chong’s Next Movie,” plus mega-selling comedic albums — like Big Bamboo, and Los Cochinos and now is the head of a major cannabis company, specializing in both CBD products and the evil weed.

Still very much the stereotypical hippie stoner, Chong, now 83-years young, was in Morro Bay last week for a special appearance at the Natural Healing Center’s dispensary on Morro Bay Boulevard.

And judging from the over 300 people who stood in line for the chance to meet the man who made smoking pot cool, he’s as popular as ever.

Chong, who was born in Canada, took a few minutes away from signing autographs and posing for photos to answer a few quick questions from an Estero Bay News reporter.

Asked if Tommy Chong’s Cannabis was a new company for him, he replied that it was “relatively new. I’ve been doing this all my life [advocating for marijuana legalization] and after I got out of prison, we started to do cannabis.”

He explained that he got into the medical marijuana scene in the mid-1990s after California legalized medicinal use of cannabis (“marijuana,” “pot” or “weed” to us older folks). For many years he sold paraphernalia through classified ads in publications like High Times and over the Internet.

In 2003 he pled guilty to selling paraphernalia on the Internet through a family-owned company — Nice Dreams Enterprises — “Nice Dreams” was also the name of a 1981 Cheech & Chong movie. That October he started serving a 9-month prison sentence at the Taft Correctional Institution, a federal prison.

He said in 2005, after he got out of prison, they started with the full line of CBD products, in what could be called a bit of nose-thumbing at the man.

They started with the THC cannabis about 2-years ago, he said, after California legalized recreational pot use with Proposition 64.

“We’re going crazy with the CBD sales,” he said, “and

Cannabis King Continued on page 10

nhc NATURAL HEALING CENTER

LOCALLY OWNED | CENTRALLY GROWN

SLO COUNTY'S PREMIERE Cannabis Dispensary!

INHALE WELLNESS

EXHALE THE REST

NHC SPECIAL HOURS

15% OFF 7:00 - 8:00am

10% OFF 8:00 - 9:00 am | 2:20 - 4:20pm

CUSTOMERS UNDER (-55) 15% OFF FIRST PURCHASE PROMO CODE: NHC1

VETERANS & SENIORS (-55) 20% OFF FIRST PURCHASE PROMO CODE: NHC2

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW MORE DEALS!

BEST OF WITT 21

BEST OF WITT Winner

EXPERT 1-ON-1 SERVICE | CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS | SENIOR & VETERAN DISCOUNTS

GROVER BEACH 998 Huston St.

MORRO BAY 495 Morro Bay Blvd.

LEMOORE 338 West D St.

SAN LUIS OBISPO 2640 Broad St.

TURLOCK 3401 W. Monte Vista Ave.

Shop in-store & online for express pickup and delivery

(805) 201-1498 | NHCDISPENSARIES.COM | OPEN DAILY 7AM-9AM

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

Community

Events and Activities

Los Osos / Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual parade and tree lighting festivities once again. Join them Friday, December 10 at 4:30 pm at the picnic area of the Red Barn, on the corner of Los Osos Valley Road and Palisades Avenue! We'll have a cut Christmas tree to decorate, sing carols, and enjoy light snacks! Bring the kids and an ornament for the tree if you like.

The Los Osos Baywood Park Christmas parade is Saturday December 11 at 10 a.m. from Fairchild Way to Palisades Avenue. The theme this year is Parade of Thanks. Email info@lobpchamber.org a sentence or two to thank someone local and they will read your thanks out loud during the parade.

Bay Osos Kiwanis Club will have a pre-parade Pancake Breakfast (pancakes, sausage and orange juice) in front of Bay Auto & Tire on Los Osos Valley Road starting at 8 am.

Following the parade, the Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter Fundraiser will be held at the South Bay Community Center until 9 p.m.



The 2021 International Surfing Association World Para Surfing Championship takes place in Pismo Beach on Dec. 5 through 11. Organizers say the champi-

Cannabis King From page 9
we pushed up into the big money thing” his line of Tommy Chong Cannabis.

Asked if he ever thought he’d become “the Man” that he used to mock, Chong grinned and said, “I never thought I’d be a CEO. I never thought I’d go to jail either though.”

Asked if he and his partner in comedy Marin would ever do another movie or album, he said, “This is it. I donate all my time and energy to it.”

He lowered his voice to a whisper and said the next thing for Cheech & Chong will be ringing the opening bell at the Stock Exchange.

Yes, the old hippies and counter culture icons are going public with what is now a \$50 million company. But for the hundreds of fans who lined up in Morro Bay and later the same day at nhc’s Grover Beach dispensary, he’s still that guy who famously said, “Dave’s not here, man.”

Since 1971

HOFBRAU

Hand Carved Roast Beef

It just doesn't
get any better
than this!

Celebrating In Business
50
FIFTY YEARS
1971 - 2021

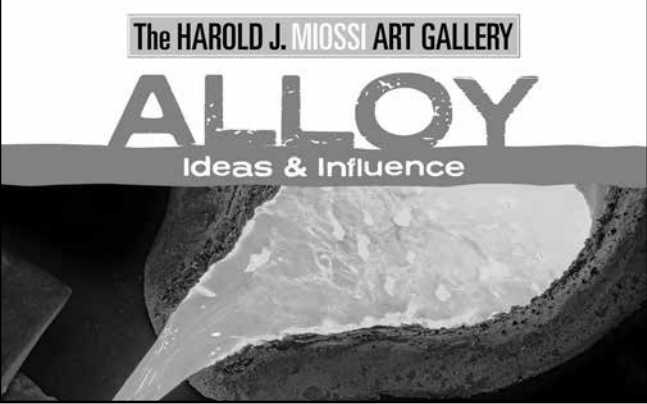
805-772-2411
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open 7 days a week.

onship has created a stage for surfers with physical challenges to display their talents in world-class competition. The event is a team competition where athletes compete individually earning points for their nations in an effort to win the Team World Champion. Athletes are assessed based on strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination grouped with surfers with similar impairments into one of nine Para Surfing Sport Classes. The event will feature a Learn-to-Surf clinic for those just starting out as well as a symposium on Dec. 5, opening ceremonies on Dec. 6 and the competition between Dec. 7 and 11. For a schedule, go to bit.ly/307HyhP. Photo by Sean Evans



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

Left Coast Art Studio, a space for local artists in the community to share their art as well as their knowledge with families in the community, is holding a Holiday Craft Market Sunday, Dec 5 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1188 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos.



The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College hosts the foundry bronze exhibit through Jan. 28. The invitational group exhibition “Alloy: Ideas and Influence” brings together representative works of contemporary cast metal by current and former faculty and alumni and highlights the depth of talent inspired by the Cuesta College Sculpture Foundry Program.

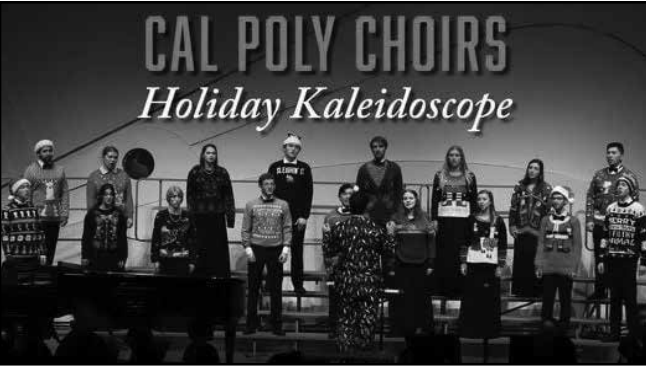


On Friday, December 10, join the History Center of SLO County for the Carnegie Lecture, “Reflections on the Life of the famous William Goodwin Dana,” via Zoom at 5 p.m. Participants hear from Dr. Joseph Dana, great-great grandson and the definitive biographer of one of the most famous rancheros of early California: William Goodwin

Dana. Together with his wife Maria, their 21 children, and many native Chumash laborers, they built the Dana Adobe in Nipomo, now a National and State Historic Monument. Call the History Center at 805/543-0638, for more information or go to www.historycenterslo.org/lecture to register for this free event.

The Morro Bay Police Department continues the popular Caroling Cops on Dec. 6, North Morro Bay, Dec. 7, Central Morro Bay, and Dec. 8, South Morro Bay. Caroling begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. each night. Santa will give away gifts from the back of his altered sleigh. Due to COVID-19, only MBPD and Santa will be allowed on board. The department will also decorate the front of the station, and there is a Coffee with a Cop event on Dec. 11, place to be determined.

Hospitality Day 2021 takes place on Monday, December 6, all day in Cambria. Shops, restaurants and other businesses will host special events and other promotions. There will be barbecue and hotdogs provided by the American Legion in front of the Chamber starting at 3:30 pm.). For more information, go to cambriachamber.org/event/hospitality-night.



The Cal Poly Choirs will be back live and in person with the fifth annual “Holiday Kaleidoscope” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center. Continuing the tradition of community collaboration, the choirs will be joined by the Cabrillo High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Cal Poly alumna Jennifer Peterson, and the San Luis Obispo High School Chamber Choir directed by Rick Robbins.

The four university choirs and the two guest ensembles will each perform a short selection of repertoire, then unite for some larger works.

A small student orchestra of Cal Poly students and faculty will be also featured. The orchestra will accompany the choirs for several pieces, and will provide music for various carols, during which the audience will have an opportunity to hum along.

The Cal Poly Chamber Choir will perform the stunning “O Sacrum Convivium” by Vytautas Miškinis, as well as the world premiere of faculty member Meredith Brammeier’s gorgeous setting of “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.”

The University Singers will perform works by Eric Barnum, David Childs, Victor Johnson and more.

The Cal Poly Women’s Chorus will perform a portion of the program it will perform for the California All-State Music Education Conference in February. The group was honored to be one of only two college choirs invited to perform.

Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).

Enjoy this 25th annual Silver Celebration, presented by North County Dance and Performing Arts Foundation at the Cal Poly PAC. Dancers from across San Luis Obispo County come together on stage to present this timeless story of Clara and her beloved Nutcracker. Tickets range from \$24 to \$85. Shows take place on Sat., Dec. 4, 2 and 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 5, 2 p.m. For more information, go to pacslo.org or call 805-756-4849

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

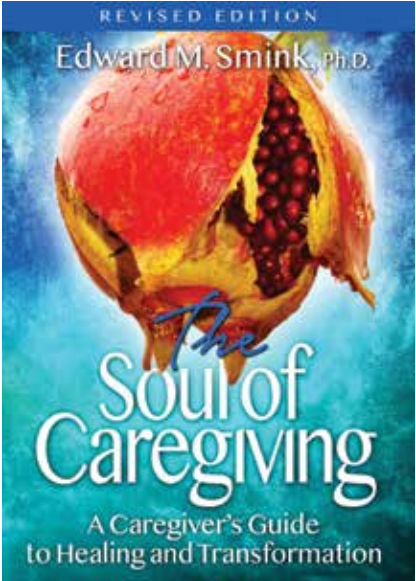
Christine McDonald-Weiss
805-441-5018
REALTOR ASSOCIATE®
CalBRE# 01193039

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

Community



Santa’s Coming to the Embarcadero thanks to the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, who have an in with the big guy. Visit Jolly ol’ Saint Nick and get a picture at the Chessboard on the Embarcadero on Dec. 3-5 and 10-12 from 5 to 8 p.m. Santa will be in his house to pose for photos and share presents and treats with the children. Pictures are free, but frames do have a small cost.



Don’t miss the next book signing at Coalesce Bookstore at 845 Main Street, Morro Bay on Sat., Dec. 4 featuring Dr. Edward Smink. The newly released, revised edition of “The Soul of Caregiving: A Caregiver’s Guide to Healing and Transformation” captures and expands the essence of the first edition, originally released in 2018. Readers will learn about the dance of caregiving, balancing self-care with other care, strengthening caregivers

by rediscovering the archetypal nature of caregiving, the struggle between perfectionism and the “wounded healer,” and how to recover from compassion fatigue, especially in the time of the nebulous and uncertain “new normal” that is pandemic life. Dr. Smink shares this idea of the universal compassion fatigue in this new revised edition of his formative book of caregiving.

...

Get tickets to the Great American Melodrama, 1863 Front St., Oceano and see the Scrooge find his Christmas spirit in a heart-warming tale of holiday magic, laugh until your sides ache at the zany characters in a fractured fairy tale opera, and celebrate the music of the season in our Holiday Vaudeville Revue. Tickets are \$30-\$35 and can be purchased at <https://www.americanmelodrama.com>. The show is Wednesdays – Sundays through Dec. 31.



Need a unique, holiday gift for a special someone? Join Black Rabbit Studio in SLO, 1154 Mill St. to paint a portrait of their best buddy at this December Paint Your Pet event on Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased at blackrabbitstudioslo.com to sign up. They can be reached at 805-550-2181.

...

Literacy For Life has a SLO countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. This tutor training will be held virtually. As they slowly transition to in-person tutoring, this training will focus on hybrid models. Sessions are Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call them at 805-541-4219.

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

Turkey Giveaway Success



Volunteers with the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition loaded up truck full of food from the Los Osos Grocery Outlet. Photo submitted

Shoppers have probably seen the donation bins in the entry to the Los Osos Grocery Outlet, asking community members to lend a hand to those in need. The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition recently collected the items along with close to 70 turkeys from the store and delivered them to the doorsteps of families in Baywood Park and Los Osos.

“We try to help our community here at home,” said Malia Cross, co-owner and operator of Los Osos Grocery Outlet “Yes, we partner with the SLO Foodbank, but we prefer to work with the ‘micro ministries’ that help — Kings Cupboard from The Nazarene Church. The Morro Bay food group that feeds people at the veterans hall in Morro Bay came to us after Cookie Crock closed. They pick up food and feed groups of people in need, usually the day they pick up the donations. We also work with Mama Gina’s Closet and Hope’s Village, which move around the coast as needed.

“I would like to think our store is helping the community with lower prices and great value for our neighbors. Our customers are our business. We do a month long food

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 18

10 WAYS
TO REDUCE ENERGY
AND SAVE MONEY

#4

#7

SOLAR ELECTRIC + BATTERY BACKUP

Savings + security + 26% tax credit thru 2022.

See all ten at solarponics.com • (805) 466-5595

Tesla Powerwall, LG Chem, Enphase Certified Installers • CSLB# 391670 • SINCE 1975

GROCERY
OUTLET
bargain market

Los Osos

We Are Local

- We are your neighbors!
- Each store is run by independent owner-operators.
- We live locally, hire locally, and give back to local organizations.

Shopping Tips

- 1. Shop us first, save more!
- 2. Stock up! Many of our bargains are one-time deals.
- 3. Stop by often to see what's new.

1130 Los Osos Valley Rd. | Los Osos, CA
(805) 534-9778 | 8am - 9pm Every Day!
lososo@groceryoutlet.com
@LosOsosGroceryOutlet
@Los_Osos_Grocery_Outlet

THE DEALS
DON'T LAST.
So Grab 'em Fast.

Season's Greetings

OFFER VALID THROUGH 12/31/21

\$5 OFF

\$35 minimum purchase
(excludes alcohol, dairy, gift cards, tax & state bottle deposits)

Valid at Los Osos Grocery Outlet only. One coupon per person. No cash value. Not valid with any other offer. Duplicated coupons will not be accepted. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. Expires 12/31/21.

December 2, 2021 - December 15, 2021 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 11

ESTERO BAY NEWS

2021 |

Holiday Gift Guide

Why fight the throngs at big box stores only to struggle with empty shelves thanks to supply chain delays? Double your gifting power and buy locally! Every sale is a gift to a small business owner.

Our county is home to a wide array of local artisans, writers, and small businesses offering unique items and experiential opportunities for your holiday gifting needs.

Read through this local guide for ideas to jumpstart your local holiday shopping. We've gathered an assortment of ideas and resources to get you started covering handmade items, carefully curated shops, outdoor experiences, gifts to support and encourage self care, local food finds and options for gifting a donation.

More can be found at esterobaynews.com/holidays.



CREATED at Home

Buying from artisans and other creatives and supporting local small businesses just feels good. Big box stores have their place, sure, but walk into a studio or a lovingly curated small store and it just feels different, in the best way.

However, these days many artisans and even small businesses have migrated online, making it a bit harder to find and support these folks.

The Estero Bay News has searched down a few places for you to start.



These charming, locally made dolls are available at Cambria Inspirations in the West Village.

The town of Harmony, harmonytown.com, is infamous for its lack of population (18 residents at the time of writing) but you'll want to visit for its wealth of unique items. Find a pottery collective, glassblowing shop (ask about lessons) and an ice cream truck. Up the road a bit you'll also find Harmony Cellars tasting room, harmonycellars.com.

Left Coast Art Studio in Los Osos offers a variety of workshops from local makers and carries work from several local artists. Visit by appointment, or attend their Holiday Craft Market on Sunday, Dec

5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information can be found at harmonytown.com.

Winter Faire & Juried Craft Show brings together artists and craftspeople to offer exceptional paintings, photography and fine crafts, spanning a variety of artistic mediums from traditional to contemporary. Through January 3 at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street. Find out more at art-centermorrobay.org.

Back Bay Pottery is the creative home of Christine Silbaugh, a potter with a charming textural style for her functional pieces. In Los Osos, by appointment or at backbaypottery.com.

Check out Los Osos artist Larry Le Brane's unique visions in fused glass, mixed media and traditional art forms as well as sign up for classes at larrylebraneart.com.

Morro Bay Beautiful, morrobaybeautiful.org, organized the creation of the Morro Bay Puzzle. It is being sold on their website and in Morro Bay at Dorn's Breaker Cafe, Giovanni's Fish Market, Dutchman's Seafood House, The Shell Shop, Morro Bay Oyster Co., Hungry Fisherman Restaurant, The Inn at Rose's Landing, and Marina Square.

Jeffrey + Jean Stone & Wax Co, jeffreyandjean.studio, has been makes natural soy jar candles from mindfully sourced ingredients in Los Osos.

Looking for books by local authors to give the readers in your life? Checkout Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe, 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd, or Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main St, Morro Bay, for a collection of new reading material.



Looking for more local art options?
Here's a few more choices, and it's just a start!

Gallery at Marina Square
Features the work of more than 60 award-winning professional artists.
601 Embarcadero, Morro Bay • galleryatmarinasquare.com

David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery
Watercolor paintings by David J. Rogers
407 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay • davidjrogersart.com

Seven Sisters Gallery
Jewelry, art and gifts
601 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

Fiona Bleu Gallery
900 Embarcadero, Morro Bay • rowanchasestudio.com

Forever Stoked
Stickers and t-shirts to museum quality limited edition prints and original paintings.
1164 Quintana Road, Morro Bay • foreverstoked.com

INVEST in Yourself



Everyone could benefit from a gift that makes them feel better, sleep better and improves their mental health. Self-care gifts are thoughtful and have a range of prices to fit almost everyone's budget.

Babylon Soap Company in Baywood makes and sells natural, plant-based skincare products for both women and men that are paraben and sulfate free using organic and locally sourced. Clean up your act at 1216 2nd Street. For more information, go to babyloniansoap.com.

Sacred Earth Remedies supports natural health and healing by utilizing nature's essential gifts to improve the quality of our lives. They sell products and offer workshops with the goal of empowering by creating an awareness of

Invest Continued on page 16

Find The Gift Guide online at: esterobaynews.com/gift-guide

GIFT of Giving

The holidays are a great time to donate to organizations supporting our community's needs. A donation in someone's name makes a great gift for folks who already "have it all."

Most local service organizations facilitate charitable donations. Check with your local group or visit our online gift guide for more contacts.

Family Care Network funds immediate and ongoing needs for youth and families. Donate at fcni.org.

Woods Humane Society serves, protects, shelters and rehomes homeless companion animals. Donate at woodshumanesociety.org.

SLO Food Bank works to alleviate hunger in our county. Donate at slofoodbank.org.

Estero Bay Kindness Coalition Make partners with for-profits, nonprofits, churches, and schools to benefit the greater good and those living on the margins in the Estero Bay community. Make a donation at esterobaykindnesscoalition.org.

Visit. Stay. Play!

The Green Cottage ~ a peaceful, romantic, waterfront get-away for 2 with spectacular views. Now with 317 ~ 5-Star reviews!

Perfect for a staycation or your visitors.

Book directly and save:
805-440-7574
www.GreenCottageOnMorrobay.com
Or vrbo.com/260613

the Leather Shop
MORRO BAY CA

Open
Tuesday- Saturday 9-5

Like us on
Facebook

Hand Made Gifts for the holidays Made right here in Morro Bay

880 Morro Bay Blvd.,
Morro Bay • (805) 772-0255
www.finnisleathershop.com



Gift in a Glass

By Shari Sullivan

The winter holidays are often more of a chaotic shopping event than a celebration of friends, family and/or faith as we scurry about buying for everyone on our list.

A physical gift certainly can convey the magic of the season, but a gift that just crosses a name off a list is another matter. As an alternative to the latter, the gift of an experience is a great solution.

Earlier this month, I took my in-laws wine tasting – a totally new experience for them. We spent a beautiful afternoon enjoying a stunning property, enjoying a bit of wine and a few bites. Everyone had fun but more importantly it allowed the time and space for conversations we never would have had at my house or theirs. In our family, these

Additional Experiences

Looking for adventure? We are blessed by an embarrassment of riches if you are in search of fun, outdoor experiences. Rent bikes, kayaks and more or choose a guided tour. Whichever way you wish to go, you're sure to find something to suit any level of physical exertion.

Kayak, standup paddle board and bike rentals and tours, surf lessons and other outdoor experiences.

Rent a bike (standard or electric), gift a surf lesson or set up an e-bike tour through Cal Coast Adventures, cal-coastadventures.com/centralcoast.

Central Coast Outdoors, centralcoastoutdoors.com, has been hosting hiking, biking and kayaking tours (a few self-guided) throughout the central coast since 2003.

Estero Adventures can be found online at esteroinn.com/estero-adventures and offers electric pontoon boat rental in addition to kayaks, bikes and more.

Morro Bay Paddlesports, paddlemorrobay.com, has an array of standup paddle board lessons if you are gifting, or were gifted, a shiny new SUP for the holidays. They also offer an interesting array of kayak tours and a nature tour on an 8-person SUP.

Looking for more options for surf lessons? Morro Bay Surf School has locations in Morro Bay, Avila and Pismo, so you can choose your break. You can find all of their location information at morrobaysurfschool.com.

Book whale watching tours or a bay tour on a clear-bottomed boat at Sub Sea Tours, morrobaywhalewatching.com.

Gift your loved one a chartered yacht, hour-long excursions to overnight get-aways, from Toast the Coast, toast-thecoast.com. Hopefully, they'll invite you along!

Prefer to stay on land? Tour the coast on a scooter from Central Coast Carts, centralcoastcarts.com. Staff will help you select two-, three-, or four-wheeled carts depending on the size of your group and your tour needs.

The Museum of Natural History in the Morro Bay State Park, is a great excursion for people of all ages. Fun, educational, and interactive exhibits cover the natural habitats of the area. After touring the museum, there's a number of gentle walks in the surrounding area where you may see some of the wildlife from the exhibits.

Finally, if you are looking for a low-cost experience this season, consider packing a picnic and heading out to one of the many state parks for a day. Whether you are planning for a group with young children, physical limitations, or one looking for an intense workout, the Central Coast State Parks Association's website, centralcoastparks.org, is a great starting point for planning your day.

experiences last much longer than hastily purchased items.

Our family's visit was to Talley Vineyards which requires a reservation in advance as do most tasting rooms now. The \$30/person tasting fee is waived for wine club members (Club memberships are also a great gifting idea.)

Personally, I belong to two wineries. Talley, talleyvineyards.com, and Daou, daouvineyards.com, which allow me to bring up to three additional people for no charge. I consider the waived tasting fees when calculating the cost of membership. Thinking of membership this way, I get early access to new vintages, tasting notes, regular shipments and free tastings throughout

Photo by Claudia Gwinn




the year for myself. Joining wineries in different regions is a great way to experience how terroir and climate affect the final wines.

Our county is blessed with a selection of wineries that borders on ridiculous. Wine and tourism organizations (see sidebar for a few suggestions) are great starting points to find tasting rooms, getaways, tours and more.

San Luis Obispo Coast Wine Collective
www.slocoastwine.com
SLO CAL
www.slocal.com/things-to-do/wine-country
Wine Country:
www.winecountry.com/regions/san-luis-obispo-county

Wine Country also covers a lot of other regions if you wish to gift travel with your wine
Discover California Wines
www.discovercaliforniawines.com/discover-california/central-coast/san-luis-obispo-county/



No Purchase Necessary

Stop by and complete a short entry form for our holiday drawing of fun gifts. Drawing will be Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

Need not be present to win.

1st Prize
Lovely Hoola-Hoop

2nd Prize
Gift Certificate for TWO Waffle or Crepe Meals which always include choice of coffee, tea, cocoa AND a side of REAL frozen yogurt or REAL Almond Milk

3rd Prize
Pop-Beads – Choice of Colors

4th Prize
Gift Certificate for a Large REAL Frozen Yogurt or REAL Almond Milk

Morro Bay's Community Band, "The White Caps" plays holiday music in our courtyard, "The Gathering Place" during the local Farmer's Market, Saturday, December 18, 2021 from 2:30-5:00 pm. The vendors have some wonderful gift giving ideas. Our downtown locally owned shop owners welcome your holiday greeting.



This is the 9th year Grandma's and Womenade have sponsored our high schoolers by donations of items as needed.

This year we ask that you purchase a backpack and spiral note book and drop it off at Grandma's either during the Farmers Market Saturday's or anytime during our open hours.

307 Morro Bay Blvd., (Corner of Main Street) • Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 704-9866

Holiday Events From page 15

For information on this and other holiday events, visit www.VisitAtascadero.com/events.

Don't miss the Winter Faire & Juried Craft Show at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street, Morro Bay runs through January 3, 2022 featuring paintings, photography and fine craft

For more information, go to www.artcentermorrobay.org or 805-772-2504.

A beloved annual Cayucos tradition is back! Christmas in Cayucos combines holiday festivities with a special open house evening to connect with community and support Cayucos businesses.

Business began decorating Dec. 1 and will continue to add flair to their décor throughout the month with the chamber judging on Dec. 7 to award prizes. The tree lighting is on Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. at the corner of Ocean Ave/D Street. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to chat with children. Dec. 11, is the business open house in Downtown Cayucos from 5 to 8 p.m. The event also features free horse-drawn carriage rides.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions events may have some modifications around food service and activities. Indoor face coverings may still be required at the time of the events. For a list of activities, go to cayucoschamber.com/christmas-in-cayucos.

Santa's Coming to the Embarcadero thanks to the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, who have an in with the big guy. Visit Jolly ol' Saint Nick and get a picture at the Chessboard on the Embarcadero on Dec. 3-5 and 10-12 from 5 to 8 p.m. Santa will be in his house to pose for photos and share presents and treats with the children. Pictures are free, but frames do have a small cost..

Winter Wonderland in Atascadero returns on Friday, December 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. Atascadero's Sunken Gardens and the entire downtown will be transformed into a magical snowy paradise with 65 tons of snow creating play areas and a massive snow slide built by Kiwanis Club of Atascadero. The event is free but don't forget to bring along your wallet for holiday shopping, great food and all of the extra fun. For more information, call (805) 470-3360.

The SLO County Friday Night Live Reindeer Run takes place Dec. 11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting at Mitchell Park. It is a 5k run that follows the Railroad Trail to Orcutt Road, returning to Mitchell Park via Broad and Santa Barbara Streets. The majority of the course is on the trail or sidewalks, and will have volunteers cheering participants on along the way. Participants, volunteers, and spectators are encouraged to dress in their favorite holiday attire and kick off the winter season! Participation is \$25 to \$30. For more information, go to eventbrite.com/e/reindeer-run-tickets-167092902369.

Holiday Magic at the Charles Paddock Zoo on Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Zookeepers have stepped in as Santa's elves to prepare gifts for the animals. Santa will be at the Zoo to help welcome visitors and deliver gifts to the animals. Gifts will be delivered to the animals throughout the three hours along with activities for the entire family to enjoy throughout the day. New this year is a strolling magician to engage all ages. For more information about the Zoo, go to charlespaddockzoo.org.

The Cal Poly Choirs will be back live and in person with the fifth annual "Holiday Kaleidoscope" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center. Continuing the tradition of community collaboration, the choirs will be joined by the Cabrillo High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Cal Poly alumna Jennifer Peterson and the San Luis Obispo High School Chamber Choir directed by Rick Robbins.

Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).

Costa Gallery, 2087 10th St. Los Osos, co-hosts ARTS Obispo's art walk, with more than 200 Holiday gifts \$50 and under by more than 20 local artists. Browse fiber art, glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, prints, and sculpture. Give them a call at 559-799-9632.

A local artist is hosting "Hope for Homeless" a donation drive featuring a visit from Santa Claus (and rumor has it the Grinch will be lurking about too), from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 at Morro Bay City Park, at Harbor and Morro Bay Boulevard.

Spray can artist, Tommy Bright of Off the Wall Creations (see: [@offthewallcreations](https://www.instagram.com/offthewallcreations)), organizes the annual charity drive to assist the folks living outdoors and to spread the good word that "The holiday season is about giving NOT getting."

Santa Claus will be at the event and with any donation you'll get a free picture with Santa. Bright listed several suggestions on what donations might be most useful: most hygiene products — bar soap, body wash, tooth brushes and toothpaste, combs, brushes, hand sanitizer and wipes.

As for foods, crackers, Granola bars, Top Ramen/Cup of Noodles soups, restaurant gift cards, dog (cat) food and treats, snacks, dessert and other food items. (If you give canned goods, you might include a can opener, too).

They could also use jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, socks, scarfs, socks, thermal underwear, blankets and pants.

Invest From page 13

and knowledge about medicinal plants and their healing and nurturing properties. For more information, go to www.sacredearthremedies.com.

Talley Farms Fresh Harvest offers locally sourced fruits and vegetables delivered for pickup to businesses throughout the county with a direct to home option available. Choose from two box sizes and how many times a month you want farm to table produce. Check them out at talleyfarmsfresh-harvest.com.

Beauty Poet Clean Beauty Boutique and Holistic Spa, 1920 Broad St. San Luis Obispo, offers both spa services as well as a wide array of natural skin care, hair care, body care and makeup. For more information, go to thebeautypoet.com.

All Good Products out of Morro Bay is committed to living in balance with nature. They are a certified Climate Neutral Company and B-Corporation that creates skincare, health, and beauty products that are clean and never tested on animals. For more information, go to allgoodproducts.com.

Perfect Union, 1000 Quintana Rd Suite A, Morro Bay, and Natural Healing Center, 495 Morro Bay Blvd, Morro Bay, have a large selection of cannabis products from edibles to rolls that can help with anxiety, sleeplessness, aches, pains and overall mood.

Working out is good for the body and mind. Fitness Works has a wide variety of cardio and strength machines. They offer personal training, group classes or individual exercise opportunities. Give them a call at (805) 772-7466 or stop by at 500 Quintatna Rd. in Morro Bay.

Sycamore Mineral Springs and Resort, 1215 Avila Beach Dr., is a pampering paradise with luxurious suites for over-night stays, hot mineral soaking pools, massage therapy, and spa treatments. Don't forget to enjoy a meal at The Gardens of Avila. For more information, go to sycamoresprings.com.

Looking for a day of self-care, Serenity by the Sea Spa, 545 Main Street, Suite C1 in Morro Bay, has everything needed to feel refreshed and looking your best. They offer pedicures, facials, massages and more. For more information, go to serenitymorrobay.com.

Give the gift of nourishment with Shine Cafe, 415 Morro Bay Blvd, Morro Bay, or Goddess Goods, 1124 Front St., Morro Bay. Both offer vegan and vegetarian friendly menus.



Morro Bay BUTCHER & DELI

Preorder NOW for Christmas by December 18th

Offering: Prime Rib, Tenderloin (Whole & Filets), Duck, Lamb, Venison & more!

DAILY SPECIALS



805-225-1440
Open Tues-Sat 10am-7pm
DOWNTOWN MORRO BAY
911 MAIN STREET



MorroBayButcher.com





Light up Los Osos

Let's kick off the holiday season by decorating our homes & businesses together!

TO ENTER THE CONTEST

Please Visit Our Website

lobpchamber.org/light-up-lososos

to fill out the form to be entered into the contest with a chance to win prizes and awards! You must enter before Dec 21st!

A collaborative event by



ESTERO BAY NEWS
Your Community • Your News

IS THERE a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*"Dear Editor--I am 8 years old.
"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'
"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-fifth Street*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe

in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

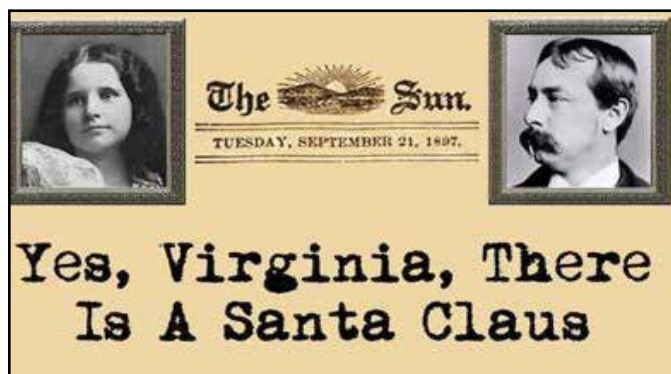
No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, was asked by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia (1889-1971), whether Santa Claus really existed. Virginia had begun to doubt whether there was

From the
Editorial Page
of The
New York Sun,

written by
Francis P. Church,
September 21, 1897



a Santa Claus, because her friends had told her that he did not exist.

Dr. O'Hanlon told her to write to the New York Sun, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her the paper would tell her the truth. While he may have been passing the buck, he unwittingly gave one of the paper's editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question, and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Church was a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time which saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society. Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the editorial page, below even an editorial on the newly invented "chainless bicycle," its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yes,_Virginia,_There_is_a_Santa_Claus_-_note-new_details

The History Channel, on February 21, 2001, noted that Virginia gave the original letter to a grand daughter, who pasted it in a scrapbook. It was feared that the letter was destroyed in a house fire, but thirty years after the fire, it was discovered intact.

Some people have questioned the veracity of the letter's authorship, expressing doubt that a young girl such as Virginia would refer to children her own age as "my little friends." However, the original copy of the letter appeared and was authenticated by an appraiser on the Antiques Road Show in 1998. Its value was appraised by Kathleen Guzman, formerly of Christie's - now with PBS' Antiques Roadshow - at approximately \$50,000.[2]

Interestingly enough, when the editorial is reproduced today, it often omits more than half of Church's original response. One paragraph that is not often repeated begins, "Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies."

Virginia O'Hanlon's real name is Laura Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas. She was born on July 20, 1889 in Manhattan, New York. She was married to Edward Douglas and was listed as divorced in the 1930 United States Census. Her marriage to Douglas was brief and ended with him deserting her shortly before their child, Laura, was born.

Virginia received her Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in 1910; a Master's degree in Education from Columbia in 1912, and a doctorate from Fordham. Virginia was a school teacher in the New York City School system. She started her career as an educator in 1912, became a junior principal in 1935, and retired in 1959.

Virginia died on May 13, 1971 in a nursing home in Valatie, New York.[4] She is buried at the Chatham Rural Cemetery in Chatham, New York.

Every year, Virginia's letter and Church's response are read at the Yule Log ceremony at Church's alma mater, Columbia College of Columbia University.

The story of Virginia's inquiry and the Sun's response was adapted into an Emmy Award-winning animated television special in 1974, animated by Bill Melendez (best known for his work on the various Peanuts specials) and featuring the voices of Jim Backus and Jimmy Osmond. In New York City, local television journalist Gabe Pressman has recounted the story each Christmas for the past thirty years.

Virginia O'Hanlon received a steady stream of mail about her letter throughout her life. She would include a copy of the editorial in her replies.[6] In an interview later in life, she credited the editorial with shaping the direction of her life quite positively.



**Experience Morro Bay
Like Never Before**

E-Foils Lifting Soon

805-395-1440
1215 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open Daily • www.centralcoastlift.com



**At Bay Cruisers in Morro Bay, we pride ourselves in giving you and
your family the best experience possible.
Bay Cruisers is where your journey begins!**

805-771-9339
845 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open Daily • www.baycruisers.com



**GELLERMAN
CONSTRUCTION**

Phone (805) 439-4950
Fax (805) 439-4955
gcbuilt@yahoo.com

License #832059

drive, Independence from Hunger, the month of July, and monies go back to the local community dinners at the community center. A pallet of soups went to a micro ministry that needed it at the time. We help People Helping People, Los Osos Cares and whoever has the courage to ask — we try.”

For more information about the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, go to EsteroBayKindnessCoalition.org. Grocery Outlet is located at 1130 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos.

Free Parking in SLO

For readers looking to do some holiday shopping in the big city, parking is free courtesy of the City in its three public parking structures in downtown on Sundays and holidays through New Year’s Day.

“We encourage community members to visit the downtown area and support downtown businesses this holiday season,” said Parking Manager Gaven Hussey. “Historically, we’ve offered free parking on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s days, and this is an extension of that. Sundays during the holiday season can be fairly slow-traffic days and suspending parking enforcement in the parking structures on those days will help our efforts to support our community’s economic recovery.”

In addition to Sundays, free parking will be offered on the following days this holiday season:

- December:**
- Christmas Eve Day (Dec. 24)
 - Christmas Day (Dec. 25)
 - New Year’s Eve Day (Dec. 31)

- January:**
- New Year’s Day (Jan. 1)

Overnight parking rates in the structures will still apply on free-parking days. For more information, go to slocity.org/parkingguide.

French Hospital Recognized for 75 Years



To recognize the milestone 75th anniversary of French Hospital Medical Center, official proclamations from

the City of San Luis Obispo, County of San Luis Obispo, and California State Legislature were recently given to hospital leadership. The documents acknowledging the decades of care provided to county residents.

In 1946, Edison French, MD, set out to meet the health care needs of the residents of San Luis Obispo. After serving in the Navy Medical Corps, Dr. French purchased the San Luis Sanitarium at 1160 Marsh Street and the doors of the original French Hospital opened to serve the county of San Luis Obispo.

The 1950s were referred to by many San Luis Obispo County health care practitioners as “The Golden Years,” according to Sara San Juan, director of marketing and communications. During this decade, the county grew to a population of over 50,000 and the need for specialist doctors arose.

In 1972, as the community continued to grow, Dr. French saw a need to expand on the facility and services, and opened the doors to a larger French Hospital at its currently location on Johnson Avenue.

Dr. French passed away in 1985, but his memory and the contributions he made to local health care are still appreciated to date.

Today, as the community continues to grow, French Hospital is growing as well. As such, French Hospital is building the hospital of the future, Your New French Hospital, a culmination of a vision of superior health care and a pledge to care for the community, well into the future.

Upcoming work will transform the current campus and set the standard for care on the Central Coast with:

- A welcome center for patients and their families
- A private admitting area
- A four-story patient care tower
- Private patient suites – the only private patient rooms in SLO county
- Advanced neonatal and adult critical care
- A helistop for life threatening emergencies
- Enhanced services and technology
- Healing views of the San Luis Mountains and a Roof-top Garden Terrace

To learn more about Your New French Hospital, visit gobeyondhealth.org. Readers can also follow “75 Years of French” on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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.

Letters to The Editor

Kudos to Buttercup Bakery and a Wish



What a beautiful and uplifting report your paper had on Buttercup Bakery and Café (Vol. 3, Issue 22). The story of Carrie Raya, the owner, showed her passion, perseverance, stamina, determination, and focus to accomplish her childhood dream. Each time I pass the bakery, the smell from the bakery invites you in to taste the very many delights.

If only you know, Carrie, what it’s like to be drawn to your bakery and realize that you cannot have any cakes and scones. I am diabetic; so all these delights are poison for me since they are made with sugar!

I trust one day, I will be able to savor again your bakes made from gluten-free and sugar-free ingredients!

Francis Aloisio
Cambria

Stop Paid Parking Plan

While working the front desk at a waterfront hotel, I often brag to our guests that “nowhere in Morro Bay do you have to pay to park your car.” The day that is no longer true will be a sad one for this town.

Dan Curtis
San Luis Obispo

Social Security Reform Now

Social Security reform for Social Security Disability Income, known as SSDI, and Supplemental Security Income, known as SSI, should happen shortly. Because living on low income each month has been affected by inflation within the recent months of the second half of this year of 2021, under a budget especially for people with disabilities such as Asperger’s Autism and other people affected by disabilities too.

The “Band-Aid” solution for 2020 and 2021 is giving such people stimulus checks by the federal government through the IRS and not tackling the problem of raising benefits to the 100% to 125% of the poverty level (watch Matt of the Blind to Billionaire Youtube channel on the Internet).

Letters Continued on page 19

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

FitnessWorks for life

NEW YEAR NOW!

1ST MONTH FREE!
SAVE UP TO \$50

WHY WAIT? ENTER 2022 HEALTHY, HAPPY AND FIT

FUNCTIONAL TRAINING ZONE (FTZ)

DECEMBER PROMOS

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL*
1st Month FREE • Includes complimentary Body Composition Analysis and 1-Hour Gym Orientation.
*Not valid with any other offer or prior purchases. Expires 12/31/2021. Offer valid on 1 & 2-Year Memberships.

KIDWORKS CHILDCARE SPECIAL
3 FREE Passes with 20-Pack Purchase
Not valid with any other offer or prior purchases. Expires 12/31/21

TRAINING SPECIAL
FREE Session with 10-Pack Purchase
Not valid with any other offer or prior purchases. Expires 12/31/21

JUMP START YOUR 2022 FITNESS RESOLUTIONS!



FITNESSWORKS
MORRO BAY CALIFORNIA

805-772-7466 ♦ 500 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay ♦ FitnessWorksMB.com

Barbershop to Celebrate 80 Years

By Neil Farrell

It's the longest continuously run business in Morro Bay having opened the day before the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor and in December, Mike's barbershop will celebrate its 80th Anniversary.

Jon Elliot, who bought Mike's Barbershop, located at 280 Morro Bay Blvd., in May 2012, is only the third owner of the iconic, little, shop in a box, said they would celebrate the shop's long history and untold number of customers with a private party set for Sunday, Dec. 12 from noon-8 p.m. in the parking lot he shares with Pizza Port, which will be catering the party.

The party is free but he asks that people go to his website at: Mikesbarbershop.com or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mikesbarbershop805, or Instagram: @mikesbarber.shop and sign up for a ticket to be able to attend.

He said there would be several bands playing music — The Murder Hornets, and Lyle Fuller Band for sure, but he said they may have others play too.

The party, he said, is primarily for his customers, friends and supporters but anyone can go online to get a ticket.

The party will be a breath of air after what has been a tumultuous year-and-a-half for Elliot. Before the coronavirus pandemic, Elliot had grown his business into four shops — a North Main Street location, one in Downtown SLO and another in Pismo Beach, he explained.

The SLO shop closed when the state shuttered "non-essential" businesses, of which barber shops were included, and he'd just weeks before that, sold the Pismo Beach shop. He was working too many long hours and had to make some changes. He'd already agreed to sell the North Main shop — named Tiny Mike's — but the pandemic forced those folks to give it back.

The SLO shop was in a building that had a popular restaurant — Barrel House Brewing — on Chorro Street and when the state eased up the restrictions somewhat after a couple of months, the restaurant did some math and decided it needed the barbershop's space to maximize its reopening, he explained. So that shop was closed all together.

So now he's down to just the two Morro Bay shops, which keeps him pretty busy, alternating where he sets up to cut hair. But there's no more working double shifts.

He took the time off to do some remodeling in the original Mike's location, adding in a TV that runs a loop of historic photos for his customers to enjoy. He's added some traditional barber's poles and interior décor — historical photos and antique fishing rods among other touches. The new décor fits nicely with the concept of an old-time barbershop.

The virus business restrictions also led to them switch to appointments-only scheduling, a move he said has helped with the business' overall efficiency and helped him to better manage his time (make appointments online or call them (805-772-9262) to get an appointment.

It's a big change from the way the shop had been run since Lindell Johnson opened the barbershop on Dec. 6, 1941. A young local kid, Mike Dominguez, who became a barber in 1960, started working for Johnson that same year.

Dominguez bought Johnson out in 1967 and he ran the shop until retirement in 2012, when he sold the shop to Elliot. Dominguez owned Mike's Barbershop for 52 years.

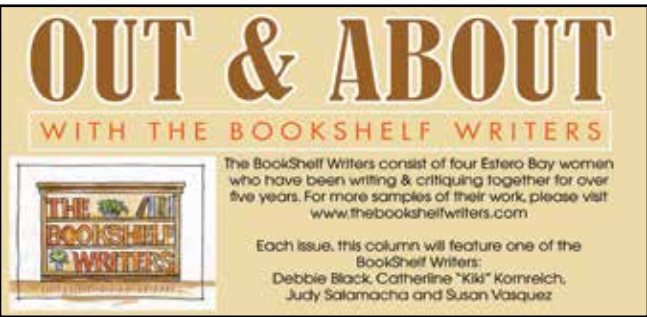


Mike's Barbershop in Morro Bay will celebrate its 80th Anniversary on Sunday Dec. 12 with a private party for customers, friends and supporters. Pictured here standing left to right are: barbers Tony Longarini and Morgan Monteros and shop owner, Jon Elliot (with an unidentified customer in the chair). Photo by Neil Farrell

So in 80 years now, there have been only three owners, a remarkable record of longevity and a testament to how hard work leads to success.

Dominguez' and his wife Dolores, were named Morro Bay Living Treasures in 2012. Dolores worked at Village Cleaners for decades and retired along with her husband.

The barbershop has been a needy mistress. "The shop never closed," said Elliot, "except for hunting and fishing trips."



Anne R. Allen, A Writers' BFF

By Judy Salamacha

Thinking about writing a novel? Stuck on a draft in-progress? Need to market your published book? Los Osos award-winning author/blogger Anne R. Allen makes housecalls.

Before it shuttered in 2008, Allen advised writers in a column published by a Toronto-based magazine. With content ready for consumption, she asked fellow-author/friend Catherine Ryan Hyde what to do with her pearls of writer-wisdom.

"Catherine suggested I start one of those newfangled "blog" things," Allen said. And so, it was her weekly blog emerged as "Anne R. Allen with Ruth Harris...writing about writing. Mostly." (www.annerallen.com).

"At first, the blog drew a modest audience until I landed a guest spot published on then-agent Nathan Bransford's popular blog," Allen explains. "Today the blog has an Alexa rating of about 89K.

This means it's in the top 100K websites in the world. Not just blogs, but websites, so that's a big deal. It's in the top 20K in the U.S. We average about 50K readers per week from almost every country in the world."

She had to learn a lot about SEO (search engine optimization). "Now our blog dominates the Google search page in a number of categories, especially 'publishing scams.'" And her book on blogging, "The Author Blog: Easy Blogging for Busy Authors," was recommended by Book Authority (www.bookauthority.org) in "Best 100 SEO Books of All Time."

Allen and Hyde met and became friends at the Santa Barbara Writers' Conference. They would ultimately write a book together, "How to be a Writer in the E-Age." And Allen would also join Hyde as a past recipient of the Central Coast Writers Conference Lillian Dean Inspiration Award for her blog's support for fellow writers and her prolific publishing career in diversified genres.

Allen always knew she wanted to be a writer - maybe influenced by her father, a Yale classics professor. By high school she was already published in literary magazines. However, she got the theater bug when she wrote and starred in her senior class play. She became totally hooked in theater at Bryn Mawr College and headed for California after graduation. Instantly consumed with directing and teaching acting, she spent most of the 1980s as artistic director of the Patio Playhouse of Escondido.

"But writing still called to me, so in 1987 I moved to Los Osos and started writing my big book about women of the Baby Boomer generation, 'The Lady of the Lakewood Diner.'" She survived working at "...a bunch of bookstores, retail jobs and free-lanced writing for local papers and magazines."

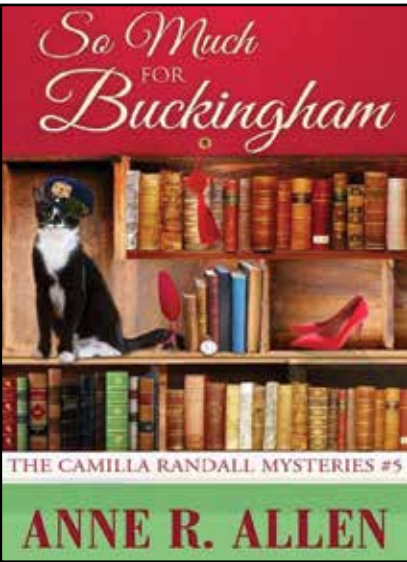
She says she'll always be grateful to the late Steve Moss, editor of New Times, for trying out innovative ideas. For 30 consecutive weeks, the newspapers' readers enjoyed her serialized mystery novel "Coming Up for Air." She'd found her voice and preferred genre.

Allen admits, "It was not all perfect. I bloodied my knuckles on publishing industry doors starting in the late 90s. I had three finished novels under my belt before I finally had a book accepted in 2003. "Food of Love" was a comic thriller."

The publisher was based in the UK and invited her to England to promote the book. She leaped at the opportunity and rented her Los Osos home.

"But things were not exactly as I'd expected. It turned out the company primarily published erotica and my room was a corner of a warehouse surrounded by pallets of porn." The silver lining, "I lived in a Victorian-era building on the banks of the River Trent, two blocks from where George Elliot wrote 'The Mill on the Floss' — and not far from Sherwood Forest, of Robin Hood fame. The rest of the inhabitants were all men. Most were very kind, and wildly entertaining. I had lots of material for my next book, a mystery, 'Sherwood, Ltd.'"

Her newest mystery "Catfishing in America" comes out fall, 2022. Set in Morro Bay, it's number-8 in her Camilla Randall series. Her blog is available now at www.annerallen.com. Expect a new topic each Sunday — archives offer past advice. Her books? Ask Volumes of Pleasure in Los Osos or Coalesce Book Store in Morro Bay.



Anne R. Allen's book "So Much for Buckingham" is available at Volumes of Pleasure in Los Osos or Coalesce Book Store in Morro Bay.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact us for a complimentary review.

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

Letters From page 18

In closing, I would most likely benefit from the changes that are being done to Social Security, as well as my second best friend Richard Ricketts of Atascadero. It would also help us to have a budget without going into debt in the future.

Scott C. Presnal
Morro Bay

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

Community

Lady Pirates Take Second in CIF

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay High Girls' Varsity Water Polo Team took Second in the Div. 2 CIF Playoffs for the Central Section. Pictured here are from left: Alana Sachs, Ryan Diodati, Pearl Wishon, Devin Downing, Carmen Panian, Sydney Beckett, Kali Gammie, Josephine Davis, Carly Muff, Maya Hitchcock, Ava Baeckett, Grace Lindsey, Gwen Muff, Quinn Wilson, Tessa Standridge, Coach Ryan Davis (Back Row). Photo courtesy Ryan Davis

There was no treading water for the Morro Bay High Girls' Varsity Water Polo Team this season, as the Lady Pirates battled through a tough league season and went deep into the CIF Playoffs, finishing the highest ever for the school's program.

According to Coach Ryan Davis, the girls finished third in the Mountain League — the highest Mountain League finish this fall of all Morro Bay's teams. They won the Western States Polo Tournament in Stockton and also the Arroyo Grande Fall Classic Tournament to qualify for the CIF Central Section Div. 2 Playoffs, and nabbing the fourth seed, the highest seed ever for the program, Coach Davis said.

The team beat Redwood High of Visalia, 8-6 in the first round, and faced the top-seeded Tulare Western in the semis. Coach Davis said the girls won a nail-biter 10-9 over Tulare to make it to the finals against Righetti High of Santa Maria.

But the Lady Warriors prevailed and Morro Bay ended a terrific season, 22-1 and second in CIF.

Sophomore Center, Josephine Davis, earned First Team All League honors, as well as First Team All CIF and Sydney Beckett, earned Second Team All League, and First Team All CIF.

The future looks bright for this team.

"This year's team was a very young team," Coach

Davis said. "There are only two senior girls, driver Sydney Beckett and goalie Kali Gammie. The other starters for this year's team were center defender Devin Downing; sophomore center, Josephine Davis; sophomore utility player, Quinn Wilson; and junior drivers, Carmen Panian, and Stella Mahan.

For this team, defense was the name of the game. "This team's success came from being a great defensive team," Coach Davis said. "Sydney Beckett and Stella Mahan led the team in steals, while Devin Downing was able to comfortably handle most centers in the section."

The offense ran through top scorer, Davis. "This team's offense ran through the team's center and leading scorer, Joshine Davis," Coach Davis said. "Josephine was consistently double teamed allowing for our primary shooters, Carmen Panian and Sydney Phillips to score from the outside. "Goalies Kali Gammie, and Gwen Muff [a junior], did an outstanding job in the cage anchoring the defense. Other notables were sophomore Quinn Wilson as our top utility player and able to play multiple positions, and Alana Sachs as our top player in counter attacks."

Expectations are high for next year and the girls can't wait to get back in the pool. "The girls are excited moving forward," Coach Davis said, "as they return most of this year's team and expect to be one of the top teams in the section once again."

Dan at Autohaus Celebrates 30 Years



Jamie, and Dan Hunt with their dog Solomon

Dan Hunt at Central Coast Autohaus is celebrating 30 years of automobile repairs that keep the community on the road.

"I thank God every day that I'm able to serve the community here on the Central Coast for the last 30 years," said Dan. "To my faithful customers and those who have traveled through our town, I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to all who have been a part of the Autohaus experience."

"Even through these difficult times as we adapt to change, I'd like to personally thank everyone that has continually supported my family and business."

Stop by and congratulate the folks at Central Coast Autohaus at 2125 Fairchild Way, Los Osos.

Enter our
Holiday Decor Contest
Visit our website at:
**esterobaynews.com/
holidays**

Always in Perfect Taste!
805-995-3272
296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

Coffee With Joan
By Joan Sullivan

The William 'Bill' Froom ranch, with its cluster of old buildings nestled against the hills, beckoned to be painted from the first time I saw it in 1971. Over the years it became the most popular ranch the Thursday Painters enjoyed visiting.

Locating the resident/owner of the ranch, I introduced myself and asked permission to bring the Thursday Painters to paint on the ranch for the first time. Mr. Froom agreed reluctantly and a day and time was agreed upon.

Shortly before I left the house on the scheduled date,

Mr. Froom called to cancel our visit because he said they were moving cattle. I was upset at the time because it was too late to notify students of the change.

I parked on Los Osos Valley Road just outside the ranch, hoping to steer students clear of the ranch and to

Coffee with Joan Continued on page 23

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

B-C-S
BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com
www.burchconcretesolutions.com

Sea Shanty
RESTAURANT & CATERING

Always in Perfect Taste!
805-995-3272
296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

News

Dog Park From page 1

modifications to the park,” McKeown said. “The first phase is complete. The second phase consisted of three additional tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, picnic and barbecue areas, new play structures, etc. Phase 2 is proposed for the northern portion of the park and requires participation in the community-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).”

An HCP is a document required by the Endangered Species Act that guides protection and enhancements of habitat for threatened or endangered species — in this case that species is snails.

“The big challenge is the potential presence of Morro Shoulderband Snails which would likely prohibit development until the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan is completed,” McKeown said. “Any development would need a coastal development permit.”

Once the Habitat Conservation Plan is in place, McKeown says the following steps would need to be taken to change the master plan to include a dog park area:

- Public input to consider the change
- General Plan conformity determination for the change
- Environmental determination for any development

“If the dog park moves forward, the park master plan will need to be updated which will be done by the County not the CSD,” said CSD General Manager Ron Munds. “Any work on the park whether it is based on the current master plan or a revised plan with the dog park will have to wait until the HCP is approved by all the regulatory agencies and be implemented.”

The delay in creating the often requested dog park over the years is also related to the price tag that comes in at about \$300,000, depending on amenities, for which there is no funding source nor an organization to keep the effort on track.

“The Park & Recreation Advisory Committee seems committed to at least finish a final design so funding sources, mainly grants, can be pursued to actually construct the project,” Munds said. “The other key thing that needs to happen is finding a non-profit or other entity to take on the operations and maintenance of the dog park. All the other dog parks in the county have such an organization.”

McKeown posted suggested modifications to the existing plans on Facebook. They include:

- Putting the dog park in front of the property (next to the street); the community garden in the back half of the property. This would minimize noise issues with the residential area in the back of the property.
- Create a drought tolerant native plant pollinator garden along the side (next to the church parking lot) and back of the property (next to the residential neighborhood).
- Add shade trees to the dog park area.
- Include a driveway leading to a small handicapped-parking area to the right of the dog park.
- Extend this driveway along the right side of the community garden area with a turnaround, for dropping off supplies needed by the gardeners.

Folks are asked to provide input on the dog park and community garden before the Dec. 14 meeting at lososcsd.org/los-osos-dog-park-concept-plan.

A few folks on social media suggested that the dog park and community garden should be separate projects.

McKeown and Katayama said that there are multiple reasons to move forward as a joint venture including that the area is SLO County Parks & Rec land that is already available for public use; the size of the property could accommodate both, it is centrally located near other community facilities, the children’s park is nearby offering added convenience for families, public parking and restrooms are available at the South Bay Community Center right next door and; a habitat conservation plan has already been submitted for the area.

The Los Osos CSD Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will discuss the issue at its next meeting on December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Los Osos Community Services District Office Meeting Room, 2122 9th Street, Suite 106.

To find out more about the task force and keep up on the progress, send an email to info@lovgardenclub.org.

Energy

From page 1

water tanks to store that energy, albeit in a different form.

When the energy is needed, the plant blows the compressed air up through turbines that turn generators and recreate the electrical power.

The plant would use the 230,000-volt (230 KV) power lines that cross south to north near the site and end up at the Pacific Gas & Electric substation at the Morro Bay Power Plant.

From there the juice would transmit to the state power grid. It’s a technology that Hydrostor invented and owns the rights to. The plant will have the ability to deliver 400 MW per hour for 8 hours, according to Hydrostor. That’s more energy over a longer period of time than traditional battery plants, the company claimed.

“Pecho’s ability to deliver 400 megawatts of carbon-free electricity for eight hours will be comparable in size and resiliency to some of California’s largest fossil-fueled power plants,” the company said on its website. “Pecho’s quick-starting, flexible and dispatch-able, long-duration energy supply will have the ability to ramp-up and down through a wide range of electrical output.”

As a comparison, the Morro Bay Power Plant, when it was still operable, could produce 1,000 MW, burning natural gas to make electricity, and run 24/7.

Vistra’s BESS and Hydrostor’s Pecho plant have both stated intentions to use that same PG&E substation and high voltage wires. There is capacity available on those lines because the MBPP closed in 2014 and Diablo Canyon at 2,200 MW, is slated to close in 2025.

The Pecho plant is expected to cost some \$800 million, and “will provide between 200 to 450 skilled labor jobs [average to peak] during its 4-years of construction,” the company said. “Once operational, Pecho will create 30 to 40 full-time equivalent, good paying jobs.

“The Project will also generate significant new property tax revenues for San Luis Obispo County and is expected to generate over \$500 million in direct and indirect regional economic benefits during its commercial lifespan.”

The Energy Commission is apparently going to be the lead agency in the extensive permitting the project is going to need, including a full environmental impact report.

The site is in SLO County’s jurisdiction, so the County will likely have a big say in whether it gets built, just as the City of Morro Bay held the reins for Duke Energy’s failed attempt to replace the old Morro Bay Power Plant back in the early 2000s. The Energy Commission also headed that project up.

One obvious issue will be land use, and though the County’s zoning regulations for ag lands are pretty flexible (Morro Bay’s sewer treatment plant is being built on ag land in County jurisdiction), a facility such as this is something new.

Curtis VanWalleghem, CEO of Hydrostor, said in the news release, “Today’s filing marks the first of many important milestones in the implementation of Hydrostor’s commitment to helping California meet its recognized long-duration energy storage needs.

“Deployment of Hydrostor’s unique combination of

being a proven, cost effective and carbon-free long duration storage solution will greatly enhance California’s program to fully transition to a reliable and carbon-free energy future. Our A-CAES facilities are designed to operate safely and efficiently for over 50 years with zero degradation.

“We look forward to working closely with the citizens of San Luis Obispo County to earn their trust and support on our way to becoming a valued member of the community. Pecho complements our previously announced 500 MW, 4,000 MW-hour Gem Energy Storage Center located in Kern County.”

Whether the City of Morro Bay has much say in the project or shares in the property tax windfall remains to be seen. However, the City would be an interested party, as its lone drinking water well in Chorro Valley is near the site on Canet Road.

Hydrostor has put up a website discussing the project, see: www.hydrostor.ca/pecho-energy-storage-center.

The Energy Commission has yet to post anything on its website for the project, but it could be expected to and to hold public meetings in SLO County, as it moves the project through its permitting process.

Cop Program

From page 1

rules we’ve accepted to make our community safe, but I also believe we must personally and collectively protect and serve those men and women we have employed, those officers who have agreed to protect and serve us.

Currently the City of Morro Bay has a “top-cop” that believes law enforcement works better when residents personally know the officers that have pledged to protect and serve their city and neighborhoods. As a young boy growing up in the Central Valley, Morro Bay Police Chief Jody Cox recalls regularly visiting the city with his grandparents. His grandfather would tell him stories about the small community that blossomed during World War II. Now as chief of police, Cox intends to reinvigorate that some-time-ago era when neighbors, business owners, community organizations and law enforcement knew and depended on each other to weather the tough times and build on future opportunities.

Chief Cox has been in law enforcement for 34 years. He’s experienced the good times and lean times as an employee of the City of Morro Bay as well as a resident. It is no big mystery that this current national climate with shout-outs to defund the police can’t help but impact community and department attitudes, although Chief Cox has always maintained vigorous ongoing training and community interaction.

Chief Cox contends, “It is impossible to do more with less; you have to reformulate how you do things to handle the big issues. The greatest challenges facing law enforcement today are the strained and failed relationships with the communities we serve. Our motto of protect and serve has come under fire. Our tactics and our commitment to our communities is being questioned...they question our motives, our tactics, and our commitment to unbiased policing, and procedural justice.”

When Chief Cox served as Morro Bay’s commander, he would suggest to his superiors to rebuild community trust with neighborhood policing, but there was never the time or funding to implement it. He called the program he had designed simply the Neighborhood Cop Program.

“If you want to be different, you have to be different,” he said. “We need to return to a pro-active community policing model, where police officers are known in the neighborhoods they serve. When they know their neighborhoods, they can anticipate patterns of behavior and understand when something isn’t right. And when the neighbors get to know them on a more personal basis, they are more willing to call and give the officers a heads-up if something is wrong.”

He believes crimes are not just solved by cops – they are solved with the support of the community members who step forward to help guide the process.

Once he was selected chief, he knew it was finally time to implement his plan. In 2019 the program’s website and mobile app were implemented. In an interview with

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



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

News

KSBY-TV, Commander Amy Watkins explained the Neighborhood Cop Program. “The ultimate goal is to become very interactive with our community.”

Morro Bay has been divided into five sectors. At least two officers have been assigned to each one of those sectors. The app identifies the name and contact information for the designated officer for their sector areas.

To be clear, 911 is still the call for all emergency requests. The Neighborhood Cop Program handles requests such as noise nuisance or parking problems, reports of unusual activities in the neighborhood, or an issue with a neighbor that might be better negotiated with the help of a trusted neighborhood police officer. Once residents are signed up for the program there is access to one’s assigned neighborhood cop as well as alerts the department sends out, such as “Be on the lookout for ‘xyz’ suspicious person(s)” reports.

“The intent is to get to know one’s neighborhood officers personally before an issue might arise or blowup and become a bigger issue,” Chief Cox explained. “Residents are more comfortable calling when they know and trust who to call.”

Getting to know the officers in a neighborhood’s sector can be done on a personal one-on-one basis or at a Neighborhood Watch meeting or even if a few neighbors are getting together for a potluck or sunset dinner. Why not have the officer(s) drop in and meet everyone?

Although the department has held Coffee with Cops at local shops and a Pizza Night Social at Pizza Port’s outdoor garden, the pandemic has made it more difficult to get the word out about the program. It is hoped more neighborhood meet and greets will happen once the pandemic has lifted.

So, Morro Bay, I’m suggesting a New Year’s 2022 resolution. Let’s make a community pledge to hold up our right hand and commit to embracing a community partnership with our law enforcement officers by downloading and registering at the Neighborhood Cop Program app and extend an invitation to our designated neighborhood officers to visit our areas and get to know us. I bet they would enjoy a cookie! Or a cold drink on a warmer day, certainly, a handshake and a smile!

Residents can download the free interactive app on their smartphone for a complete explanation. It is available at Google and Apple app stores under Morro Bay Police Department. After installing tap the Neighborhood Cop icon and register.

Vet’s Hall From page 1

now slated to expire in 2024, but Mayfield said they have an agreement in the works for a 50-year extension.

The repair job is apparently ready to go. “The County contracted with an architectural firm, Studio Design Group,” Mayfield said, “to develop a design that meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. The State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with findings that the Cayucos Vet’s Hall has historic significance at the local, state and national level. Construction documents prepared by Studio Design Group have been approved by the State Fire Marshall and a building permit was issued in December of 2020.”

The project will entail new structural framing, raising the foundation to address sea level rise, restore the historic “fabric,” add a handicap-accessible deck over the beach and “return a cultural and economic resource to the community and region.”

The job will be expensive and the County has been paying for preliminary work over several years. “The County has funded \$571,600 to carry the project through the completion of the Bid Documents,” Mayfield’s report reads, “including a \$50,000 internal loan from the Tax Reduction Reserve Fund.”

“The project was awarded \$1,937,000 from the Proposition 68 Cultural, Community and Natural Resource Grant Program, which the Board accepted on Sept. 1, 2020. The citizens of Cayucos have also vowed to pitch in, forming the “Cayucos Vet’s Hall Committee” (see: www.

restorecayucosvetshall.org) and raised some \$340,000 in a matter of days, with a goal of raising \$500,000 to pay for “new furnishings to replace the heavily used ones in storage since the closure,” reads an announcement on the Committee’s website. “Nor is the money donated so far sufficient to guarantee that the rent schedule will make the Hall truly accessible for local service organizations.”

The current total estimated cost for the rehabilitation project is \$5,958,600, said Mayfield.

The loan is a “line of credit” and the hall is expected to repay the money over time. And the clock is ticking on the Prop. 68 grant.

“The purpose of the loan is to demonstrate complete funding is in place for the project in order to allow legal award of a construction contract,” Mayfield said. “Proceeding with the bidding and contract award is required at this time in order to meet project completion deadlines required for the Prop. 68 grant.”

The County has hatched a funding plan that will be tied in with a bond measure — officially a “debt issuance plan” — that they intend to bring forth in 2022. That debt measure is intended to pay for a new Probation Department office and a new emergency dispatch center that would combine the fire and law enforcement dispatching duties under one roof.

The \$3.5 million Vet’s Hall loan would get bundled in with those other projects, with the Vet’s Hall’s account kept separately.

If the probation and dispatch projects fall through, the Vet’s Hall project isn’t big enough for a bond and Mayfield said they would seek other financing options. Or they could just leave the loan they just passed in place.

“The potential would exist,” Mayfield said, “if unable to find alternative financing, that the \$3.5M Tax Reduction Reserve Fund would remain, to be repaid over a 30-year term [with interest equal to the Treasury Pool] or until alternative financing is found.”

And the County continues to apply for more grants from the Locally Operated State Parks Grant from Prop. 68, and the State Coastal Conservancy.

“If successful with one or both grants, the need for interim loan draws and bond funding will be reduced,” Mayfield said.

In the past, the County subleased the operations and minor maintenance responsibility to the Lions Club, a situation that appears will continue.

“Prior to project completion and re-opening of the Cayucos Vet’s Hall, operation of the building will transfer from Real Property Services to County Parks so that the Pier, Beach and Cayucos Vet’s Hall can be operated together,” Mayfield said. “Parks will work with the Cayucos Lions Club to operate the facility to generate sufficient income to operate and repay the financing debt.

“A new fee schedule will be established that will include higher rental rates for the much-improved facility, with reduced community rates included to keep small local events affordable.”

County Parks is banking on the hall’s desirability for things like weddings. “County Parks is confident that the new facility features along with its beach front location will be a high draw event space with significant revenue potential.”

The forecast is that he Vet’s Hall will be able to cover the debt service by 2026, 3-years after it reopens, but will lose a cumulative \$179,000 in the interim. If the bond financing is successful, the hall would have to start repayment in 2023, before the anticipated reopening.

“The portion of the first payment attributable to the Cayucos Vet’s Hall project is estimated at \$164,000,” Mayfield said. “When combined with the pro forma operating losses of \$192,250, total projected three-year shortfalls of \$342,675 are expected through Fiscal Year 2026.”

Despite the risk, the County is obligated to get the hall fixed and reopened to the public under the terms of its lease with State Parks.

Coffee with Joan From page 21

make alternate plans for the day. When no one showed up, I cautiously drove the long driveway toward the ranch house. Lo and behold, artists had already set up around the ranch and in the distance, I saw Mr. Froom talking to a student, Natalie Gamboni.

Mr. Froom had a good memory and was a great raconteur. He was charming and friendly, a healthy-looking man with a ruddy complexion. This day he wore a blue-and-white checked shirt, blue jeans, a jean jacket and a straw cowboy hat. I never saw him without sunglasses, and his dogs followed wherever he went.

I soon discovered he knew half the class. Many of the students were retired, long-time San Luis Obispo County residents. By late afternoon, as the students folded their easels to go home, Mr. Froom had moved from one student to the next, chatting about dairying, farming, family and county history.

Today the ranch is undergoing major changes since the Madonna family, who now own it, has plans to add more activity to the area.

Reference: Rounding Up The Ranches by Joan Sullivan - 2015



805-528-SOIL (7645)

SOD • Rock • Bark • Planter Mix
Borders • DG • Base • Rock

FREE Delivery with most orders

Since 1981 and Still Farming


Jim Marshall
INSURANCE INC.

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

(805) 528-4739

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

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 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



Pre-Parade Festivities

Free Photo Taking with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Santa's House next to the Chess Board

Dec 3, 4, & 5 • Fri & Sat 4:30-7:30PM Sun 12Noon -3PM

Dec 10, 11, & 12 • Fri & Sat 4:30-7:30PM Sun 12Noon -3PM

Saturday, December 4, 2021

5:30PM at South T-Pier

Holiday Music by White Caps Band

Parade Begins at 6:30PM

Find Your Viewing Location Early Along the Embarcadero

ROTARY FUNDRAISER SALE

Coffee • Hot Chocolate • Other Goodies

Entry Applications

www.morrobayrotary.org

or email : rotaryfromtheheart@gmail.com

For More Information

Morro Bay Harbor Office 1275 Embarcadero 805.772.6254
or call Nancy 805.235.3733

Tourism Bureau of Morro Bay

Lolo's Mexican Food • Hay Printing

Estero Bay News • Central Coast Music • Carla's Country Kitchen

Casida Family • Rich Reidel Home Improvement • Morro Bay Butcher & Deli