

Citizen Initiative Would Ban Waterfront Camping

By Neil Farrell



Should the City of Morro Bay offer RV campsites along the waterfront to bolster the Harbor Department budget? A group of citizens feels so strongly against it, that they've turned in a petition that would put the matter to the voters to decide "Yes" or "No."

In 2020, the Harbor Department got permission from the City Council and then the Coastal Commission for a pilot RV camping program that established nine spaces in a vacant lot adjacent to Morro Creek, three at Coleman Park, seven in the Triangle lot and three in a parking lot on the way to Tideland's Park, as a means to increase revenues for the department, which were hurt by the Coronavirus Pandemic response after the nationwide emergency hit in March 2020. The pilot program began in September 2020 and though it started off sluggishly, has produced as predicted.

Petitions Turned In

Betty Winholtz, Carole Truesdale and Jim Curnutt on Dec. 29 turned in petitions with some 1,017 signatures for a ballot measure that would prohibit RV camping along the

Embarcadero and at Morro Rock.

If passed, it would greatly curtail the camping program, eliminating the creek area, and Tideland's Park (Coleman Park has already been eliminated).

The Petition gives four reasons for passing what would become a new City ordinance:

- To protect the natural beauty, sensitivity, and intrinsic value of the named areas.
- To prevent the visual and physical degradation of public places by private housekeeping.
- To preclude competition with local businesses and State (Parks) campgrounds.
- To preserve day use parking.

The actual text of the measure reads: "The people of the City of Morro Bay do ordain as follows: An addition to the Morro Bay Municipal Code, Chapter 8.24 — Camping, Section 8.24.010 — Prohibited at certain times and in certain places, D. Tent camping and all classes of recreational vehicle camping, dry or otherwise, are prohibited along Embarcadero Road, including Tidelands Park, and along

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Celebrations 2022: MB Chamber to Salute Community Honorees at Gala

Coalesced by Judy Salamacha

Announcement! Announcement! Be sure to calendar Friday, March 4 and book your reservations to dine with this year's elite honorees! The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce has wisely postponed the 2022 Awards Night Gala, so all will feel comfortable to mix and mingle.

CEO/President Erica Crawford said, "We had hoped to kick off the new year in January installing our 2022 Board of Directors and celebrating the Morro Bay honorees for Citizen, Business, Living Treasure and Non-Profit of the Year, but we felt it safer for all to wait another month."

"Morro Gras: Down on the Bay-ou" will parade into the Community Center presenting Louisiana-styled Mardi Gras décor, entertainment and cuisine to celebrate Coalesce Book Store & Wedding Chapel as Business of the Year, Non-Profit Morro Bay Lions Club, Living Treasure Carole Truesdale, and Morro Bay Police Chief Jody Cox as Citizen of the Year. Reservations are still available at www.morrochamber.org.

Now I have the distinct honor to shout out the laurels of two of our city's honorees in this issue of EBN and then looking ahead before the big gala event, I will preview Chief Cox and Ms. Truesdale.

Coalesce Book Store & Wedding Chapel has been owned and operated by Linna Thomas since 1973 with the original near where The Blue Sail Inn now stands overlooking the Embarcadero.

The founding philosophy of the store is inherent in its name. The word "coalesce" means to grow together, to unite. "That joining has always been the aim of the book-

store," says Linna. "We wanted everyone to feel comfortable at Coalesce, to find something of value."

In the early 80s the move to 845 Main Street expanded their book offerings and gift sales, added a lush garden meditation courtyard and a chapel designed and built by Cal Poly students. Linna explained the expansion allowed Coalesce to share "our own backyard" for community activities. Not only locals, but also out-of-area visitors booked their weddings, anniversaries and other small-venue celebrations in the garden chapel.

Intimate musical concerts have been performed often produced by the SLOFolks Concert Series. Linna recalled some notable performances: "Lawrence Juber, who played

Gala Continued on page 18



Coalesce Bookstore and Garden Chapel, located at 845 Main Street, in Morro Bay is the recipient of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year honor.

Redistricting War Ramping Up

By Neil Farrell

The war over San Luis Obispo County's new supervisor districts has begun, after a citizen's activist group vowed to challenge the new district lines in court after a split board, 3-2, approved the new map Dec. 14.

The "SLO County Citizens for Good Government" (see: sloccgg.org) announced it was planning a challenge to the new maps, which greatly redraw all five Supervisor Districts the SLOCCGG said.

"We believe," Linda Seifert, one of the non-profit group's directors, said, "the supervisors' formal adoption Tuesday of the so-called Patten Map clearly violates California election law."

At issue is the California Fair Maps Act. According to a fact sheet put out by the League of Women Voters, "Redistricting determines which communities are placed together into a district and whether communities are split up across different districts. The decisions made during the redistricting process determine whether residents have fair representation in government and whether their representatives will reflect their interests."

The citizen's group claims that the new Supervisorial maps constitute Gerrymandering and are unnecessary because the County's population hasn't grown enough or where people live hasn't changed enough to warrant such drastic redrawing of the map.

The map allegedly breaks up long-standing "communities of interest," they claim, in particular, the North Coast communities of Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, and Cambria, dividing what has always been a contiguous block of like-minded Dist. 2 voters into three different districts.

Los Osos is now in Dist. 4 along with Avila Beach and much of the South County; Morro Bay and SLO City are in Dist. 3 a narrow slice of the County following the Chorro Valley corridor; and Cayucos and Cambria along with Atascadero and San Miguel of the North County now make up the population centers in Dist. 2.

According to an article in New Times, SLO County was also notified by the "Latino Caucus of California Counties" — a coalition of county supervisors that includes Dist. 4 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg — that they too plan to sue. The Caucus also has issues with the new maps in Butte and Merced Counties as well.

The Citizens for Good Government also claims the new maps lessen voting power for Hispanics in the South

Redistricting War Continued on page 19

Beaches Returning to Normal After Shark Attack

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay harbor officials posted this ominous warning at Morro Strand Beach after a shark attacked and killed a 42-year-old Sacramento man, Tomas Butterfield, on Christmas Eve morning. Photo by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's beaches returned to a semblance of normal, days after a Christmas Eve shark attack took the life of a Sacramento man who was in town to celebrate the holiday with family.

The Dec. 24 attack happened about 10:30 a.m. on Morro Strand State Beach, some 100 yards north of the Hwy 41 (Atascadero Road) beach access point, according to Harbor Patrol Officer, Stella Nicodemus, who was one of the first rescue people to arrive on scene.

A woman surfer, identified only as "Rebecca" in var-

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LAFCo. to Hear Panorama Lot Matter

By Neil Farrell



The map shows the location of the five Panorama Lots to be discussed by LAFCo., on Jan. 20. Map courtesy City of Morro Bay.

The City of Morro Bay is moving on amending its “sphere of influence” to bring several residential lots on Panorama Drive into its fold.

The City applied to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo.) in November to expand its sphere of influence (SOI) to include some 212.81 acres — six buildable lots — of what used to be part of the greater Chevron Estero Marine Terminal property, which starts at Toro Creek to the north and goes southward and includes much of the area on the western edge of North Morro Bay and east of Del Mar Park.

The six, so-called “Panorama Lots” were part of a deal the City cut with Chevron to allow some development on the vast terminal lands, and included the purchase of Dog Beach and the future conservation of the canyon east of Del Mar, which is drained by Alva Paul Creek.

The SOI is in essence an area on the edges of a city where the city’s services — water and sewer — are likely to be extended into and also designates areas that are likely to some day be annexed.

It’s also a means for stopping urban sprawl that might occur if a property owner adjacent to a city went to the County to develop their land. If it’s within a town’s SOI, the town has a big say in how it gets developed.

The Panorama properties and the City’s efforts to expand its SOI have been met with lots of opposition.

“Our main concern,” said Yvonne Bruckner, who is leading the opposition to the SOI designation, “is that this area is identified as geologically hazardous by the City of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, the State of California, and U.S. Geological Survey. These slopes have a history of landslides and we have observed many areas of slippage throughout.”

She pointed out that this hillside is the same composition as the Water Reclamation Facility’s (WRF) new treatment plant site, which sustained a sizable land slip early on in construction.

The same geology is in Southern Cayucos, the so-called “paper lots” at Hwy 1 and Toro Creek Road. The County declared those lots unbuildable because of the steepness and over landslide concerns and has been buying them up in tax lien sales for years. Indeed, retiring all of these lots is a main goal of the Cayucos Land Conservancy.

She also argues that the open hillsides are wildlife areas. “These lots are used as a migratory route for many coastal birds, raptors and mammals,” she added. “Development of these lots could destroy this precious habitat.”

And Panorama Drive is too narrow and in disrepair. The City’s Pavement Management Plan, Bruckner said, “has favored the main arteries and neglected our neighborhood streets, which are crumbling in disrepair. Panorama Drive, which runs along the base of these lots is very narrow and would require cutting into the hillsides — a known

cause of landslides — to widen.”

Bruckner said she has petitions with some 1,000 signatures, mostly from folks in her North Morro Bay neighborhood, opposing the SOI designation, which in and of itself, doesn’t mean the property will be developed, but is a first step in that direction.

She said Chevron wants the SOI designation to increase the land’s value for sale. “Bottom line,” she said, “Chevron wants these lots in the city so they can get more money for them. The Panorama lots are essentially the sacrificial lamb of the Toro Coast Preserve/Beach lot acquisition plan.”

Community Development Director, Scot Graham said, “Any future development of the properties would require submittal of a soils/slope stability report to address any slope stability issues.”

The Panorama lots were included in the City’s recently updated General Plan.

The lots along Panorama Drive hillside has a history of moving downhill during heavy winters. Indeed, on more than one occasion (1988, 1995 and 2005) in the midst of very wet winters, the hillside above Panorama began to move and damaged the foundations of several homes below.

An investigation by Chevron after the area moved in 1995 and burst the Whale Rock water pipeline, concluded that the hillside was subject to movement when the rain totals are over 30 inches, a total that usually happens with the infrequent El Niño weather patterns.

The SOI request would begin the reversal of an action in 2007 by LAFCo., that stripped away all of Morro Bay’s SOI because it had done nothing in decades to go to the next step and annex the properties.

So the City has been bereft of any SOI for nearly 15 years but that’s likely to change substantially, as there are several properties that the City is supposed to try and bring into its SOI — the Tri-W Property adjacent to the City’s new sewer treatment plant; and another large parcel adjacent to the plant that the owners hope to subdivide and develop; as well as the plant property’s nearly 40 acres.

Those properties are apparently not part of the current LAFCo., work.

LAFCO. is slated to release its staff report on Thursday, Jan. 13 and will meet via Zoom at 1 p.m. on Jan. 20. The call-in number for the meeting is 1-669-900-6833; Webinar ID is: 817 5762 3348; and the Password is 200441.

The web address for the meeting is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81757623348?pwd=cGQyRC9LZi9ra3c5eWpMS1lyT3Zudz09> or see: www.slolafco.com and follow the link to the meeting sign in. The agenda should also be posted on the website.

Hwy 1 Closed-Opened-Closed Again by Rock Slides

By Neil Farrell



The unstable hillsides above Hwy 1 continue to cause major headaches for Caltrans, which has closed and re-opened stretches of the scenic highway at least three times since last November, in order to clear away mud, rocks and debris that’s come down in recent storms.

On Dec. 14, Caltrans closed Hwy 1 “between Ragged Point in San Luis Obispo County and Deetjen’s Big Sur Inn in Monterey County [44.6 miles], while emergency rock fall

and debris removal take place,” reads a news release from Caltrans spokesman, Kevin Drabinski.

Papich Const., of Arroyo Grande was awarded a \$1.3 million emergency contract (no bids were taken) to remove fallen rocks and repairs to the rock fall system at Cow Cliffs (Post Marker 28.2). They were also going to remove rocks and debris from the site of “Paul’s Slide” a massive landslide that came down in early 2017, as well as debris removals at Caltrans’ Willow Springs Maintenance Depot.

The Big Sur Coast got over 12-inches of rain in a 24-hour period, including recent wildfire burn scars. A big storm in January 2021 also caused a lot of landslide activity, which the recent storms exacerbated.

On Dec. 23, Caltrans reopened this stretch of Hwy 1, after Papich did extensive removal of debris and rocks but it didn’t stay open for long, as on Christmas Day Santa left motorists a surprise gift — another massive landslide, this time entirely within SLO County.

In a Dec. 18 news release, Drabinski said, “Highway 1 remains closed due to rock fall and debris in the roadway in Northern San Luis Obispo County from just south of Ragged Point to the Elephant Seal Vista Point.”

The slide was actually located at a place called Polar Star (PM 71.8), which is about 2-miles south of Ragged Point.” Drabinski told EBN that the “Polar Star” landslide is between Ragged Point and San Carpoforo Creek, as apparently the Elephant Seal Rookery is a convenient place for a turn around.

This cleanup job went to Souza Const., of SLO with a \$1.25 million contract to “clear the slide, remove the unsupported rock above the roadway, and perform other related repairs.” That rock removal included blasting at rocks still in the hillside undercut by the previous slide and in danger of coming down as well.

In a photo released by Caltrans of the slide at Polar Star, it appears about 75 feet of the hillside turned to mud and came down onto the roadway. In other photos, huge boulders and massive amounts of rocks are shown blocking the roadway from the first closure area.

With a couple of weeks of relatively good weather, Caltrans’ contractors were expected to make great progress



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News

on removing loose debris and rocks and shoring up the hillsides, however, the winter isn't over and so one can expect numerous other slides and road closures in the coming weeks and months.

Barricades, cones, as well as message and directional signs are in place at both ends of the closures to alert motorists traveling in the area.

For traffic updates on other state highways in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs Office at (805) 549-3318 or see the District 5 website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>.

Police Step Up Leash Law Enforcement

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay Police are cracking down on unleashed dogs in town, targeting pet owners who aren't obeying the City's leash law.

MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins, in a news release issued Monday, Jan. 3, said the "Leash Up" campaign would last a month. "The campaign will run for 30 days and will include officers making contact with people in parks and around the city to remind them to leash up their dogs if they are seen without leashes," Cmdr. Watkins said. "Also,

our P.D. message boards have been placed at our two larger parks, Del Mar and Cloisters, to help remind people to leash up their dogs."

The City and the police "receive complaints on a regular basis regarding unleashed pets in the city," she said, adding that the Leash Up campaign is being done to draw attention to this problem.

While their first action won't be issuing tickets for the unleashed, they have that option. "During the campaign," Cmdr. Watkins said, "officers will make contacts with unleashed-dog owners and will also write citations if needed. Our goal is to educate first and seek compliance prior to issuing any citations."

Local leash laws vary depending on location and jurisdictions.

In the City of Morro Bay, dogs are required to be on leash — on city streets, the Embarcadero, public parks and even the City's Beach (Morro Strand from Morro Rock to Morro Creek).

Dogs however are entirely prohibited on State Parks' beach — from Morro Creek to North Point — and enforced by state park rangers.

The City will not enforce the leash law at the Chevron Dog Beach, Cmdr. Watkins clarified to Estero Bay News, which was obtained last year and the City has pledged to remain an off-leash beach.

And Morro Strand from the end of Studio Drive (in Cayucos) to the Cayucos Pier, while owned by the State Parks Department, is leased and under SLO County's jurisdiction. Dogs on leash are allowed there, with the County Sheriff's Department doing enforcement.

The Giannini Family off-leash dog park located inside Del Mar Park will also remain an off leash area, though the larger park — as well the path to the dog park — falls under the leash law.

Cmdr. Watkins said, "Dog Beach is considered an off-leash dog area similar to Del Mar dog park, so no, the law does not apply to specified 'off-leash' areas." Under the City's Municipal Code, Section 7.08.020, the fine for a leash law violation is \$62.

In a poster for the campaign, police said, "It is the law in Morro Bay for all dogs to be on a leash. While walking in a park, around the city, or in your neighborhood, all dogs are required to be on a leash. Leashing your dog in public areas is a simple act that has many positive outcomes:

- Keeps your dog safe from traffic and wildlife;
- Prevents bites and fights;
- It's courteous to your neighbors and people who do not know your dog's level of obedience;
- When used properly, most canines do not mind leashes or collars."

And a final piece of advice: "Remember, leashing your dog protects the animals and people."

Morro Bay Man Dies in New Year's Eve Crash

Morro Bay area native, Jerome "Jerry" Perry, 62, died in a fiery car crash on Hwy 1, on New Year's Eve.

According to news reports, Perry was driving his vintage Chevy pick up south on Hwy 1 at about 7:22 p.m. when he reportedly turned in front of a vehicle traveling north at the intersection of San Luisito Creek Road, which is where Perry lived on his family's farm property.

Perry's truck was broadsided by a Hyundai Sonata driven by Gerardo Aldama, 38 of Santa Maria who slammed on his brakes but was unable to avoid the crash. The collision pushed Perry's truck about 80 feet into shrubbery and it caught fire. Aldama was reportedly unhurt in the crash.

Highway Patrol is asking anyone who witnessed the crash to contact them at (805) 594-8700.

Jerry Perry was the son of the late-George Perry, a retired San Luis Obispo County roads crew worker who died just a few months before his son.

Natural Landmark Crumbles in Storm

Photos by PhotoByVivian.com



Likely thousands of people have enjoyed the natural rock formation at Montano de Oro that is no more.

The more than century old arch at Spooner's Cove was decimated during the unprecedented storms at the end of 2021. It collapsed on Christmas Eve.

These images show the area before and after the storm event.

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This was possible only because Kelly's knowledge of the market for properties on the Central Coast is extensive. Additionally, her relationships with other realtors and service providers like title companies and home inspectors make her a realtor you can count on to complete a timely and hassle-free transaction.

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Dominic R. and Beth F.

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Winter Bird Fest Canceled

The Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) voted to cancel in-person events at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival (MBWBF), which has been in the works for the past two year.

"As the conditions of the pandemic changed in San Luis Obispo County, the MBWBF board struggled over the last couple days with strategies to continue the festival while keeping its participants and the Morro Bay community safe," said the board in a news release. "This has been our overriding goal in addition to providing an amazing birding adventure in a lovely Central Coast location. This decision is incredibly difficult if not heartbreaking to say the least.

"As a responsible mitigation, the San Luis Obispo Public Health Department encouraged the MBWBF Board to postpone until a later date. This is not as easily done with a birding festival of this size. With that in mind, we are pivoting to a completely virtual Festival event via zoom this coming week of which the details will come later."

All registration fees will be refunded. With more than 600 registrants and over \$100,000 in receipts, it will take some time to process. Organizers will send folks an email confirmation once your refund has been processed. Questions and concerns, should be sent to refund@morrobaybirdfestival.org

The board of MBWBF intends to return to bird-watching festivals in the coming years once the COVID-19 crisis abates.

Coronavirus Cases Surge, New Guidelines

SLO County reported a somewhat eerie reminder that some of the bad aspects of 2021 many folks hoped to have said goodbye to are still among us.

A staggering 2,021 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed over the week of Dec. 21 to 28, said the Public Health Department in a news release. Hospitalizations increased as well, with 38 SLO County residents currently hospitalized (as of the latest weekly report ending Jan. 7) from severe COVID-19 complications, including seven in the ICU.

With these additional cases, SLO County's 14-day daily average increased to 228, up from 72 in mid December, and is the highest it has been since January 2021.

Because cases have surged beyond the capacity of local contact tracers to keep up, Public Health will no longer provide personalized isolation and quarantine orders to each individual who tests positive or has been exposed. Instead, a new Health Officer Order to Isolate or Quarantine applies. Those who test positive will receive a text message or email notification, together

with detailed instructions to isolate and direction to inform their close contacts. However, even these notifications may be delayed as cases increase at an unprecedented pace in SLO County.

"The bottom line is, stay home if you are sick or if you test positive for COVID-19 with a lab test or a home test," said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. "If you're a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and aren't up-to-date with your vaccination, you need to quarantine. In either case, act immediately and do not wait to hear from a contact tracer or expect to receive a personal letter."

Detailed isolation and quarantine guidance, along with a copy of the new Health Officer Order, is available online at www.slopublichealth.org/quarantine-iso. This guidance reflects recent changes from the CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regarding the duration and specifics of existing isolation and quarantine.

For people without symptoms who test negative after five days, this may result in a shorter isolation or quarantine period followed by strict masking.

"If you meet the criteria to exit your isolation or quarantine after five days, please remember you must be extremely diligent in masking until after day ten," said Dr. Borenstein. "That means avoiding places where you might take off your mask, like restaurants, bars and movie theaters, and places where you might breathe heavily around others, like the gym."

Employers and school administrators should accept these notifications and self-attestation documents as valid documentation of the need to isolate or quarantine, and of release from isolation and quarantine, as Public Health is no longer able to provide personal letters for this purpose.

Masking is required in indoor public places in San Luis Obispo County and across California. Medicalgrade N95/KN95 or surgical masks provide additional protection. Vaccines—both boosters and primary series—are available at no cost at pharmacies, doctors' offices, Public Health Department clinics, and mobile clinics countywide. To schedule an appointment, visit myturn.ca.gov or VaccineFinder.org, or call (833) 422-4255.

Traffic Signal Repair in Cambria

Folks living or planning to play in Cambria, might have to linger a little longer due to traffic delays.

The traffic signal located at Main Street and Pineknolls Drive will be worked on by County Public Works through January 15, during the hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The work includes replacing signal heads and re-wiring the signal to ensure safe and reliable operation of the traffic signal and reduce future costs for unplanned maintenance.

The project is funded by San Luis Obispo County Road Maintenance funds, and County staff will complete the job.

Aviation Scholarship Deadline Jan. 15

The Estrella Warbirds Museum deadline for Central Coast high school seniors to get an application for the annual Aviation Youth Program Scholarship is Jan. 15.

The \$1,200.00 scholarship is awarded to one senior student for aviation related education such as private pilot flight instruction, aircraft and power plant maintenance, avionics installation and maintenance, aviation management, flight attendant training, or other aviation related programs. The application can be requested by emailing cwmyouthaviation@gmail.com or texting 510 407-3727. The application must be submitted by February 15.

Applicants must be high school seniors and must verify their identity with a driver's license, passport, or birth certificate. They must submit their application form with a 200-word essay on eligibility and aviation career goals, a letter of recommendation with an email address from a non-relative, and a list of aviation and non-aviation accomplishments.

The Estrella Warbirds Museum is a non-profit located at 4251 Dry Creek Road, Paso Robles.

New Library Hours

The San Luis Obispo County Library system has new hours. Check out North Coast times before you plan to check out a book.

Cambria Library

Tue. and Wed. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cayucos Library

Tue., Wed., and Thu. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Los Osos Library

Tue. and Wed. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Morro Bay Library

Tue. and Wed. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

San Luis Obispo Library

Tue. and Wed. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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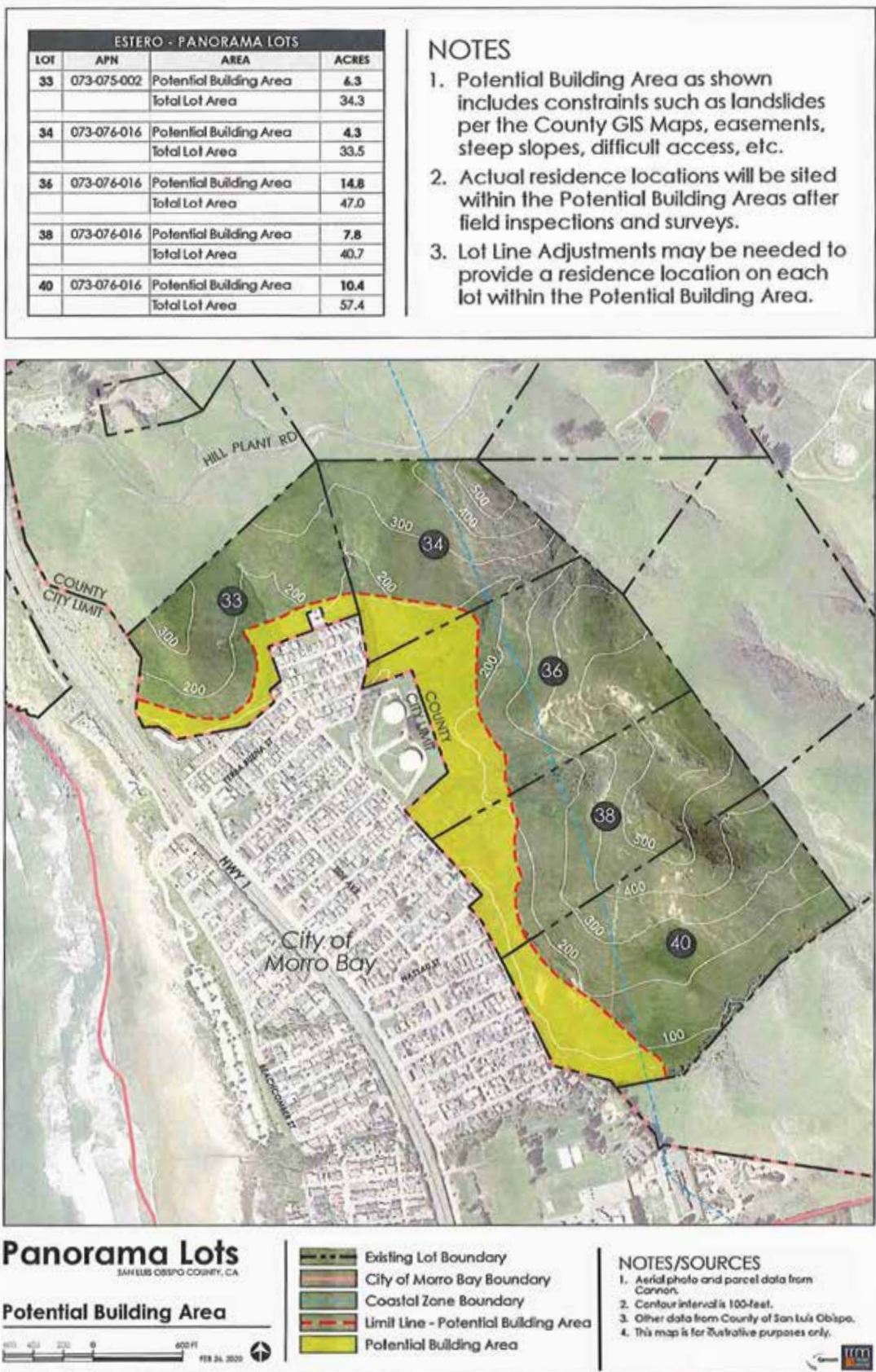
The Morro Bay City Council is proposing to extend the town’s “sphere of influence,” leading to annexation of 212.81 acres of land, located east of north MB in the County, and owned by Chevron. This land is rated
“VERY HIGH LANDSLIDE POTENTIAL” AND “HIGH LANDSLIDE POTENTIAL”

Source: Plan Morro Bay, May 2021, Figure PS-4: Landslide Susceptibility Map

Goal: Future residential development along Panorama Drive. See map below for details.

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO) WILL CONSIDER MORRO BAY’S PROPOSAL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022.

VOICE YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING THIS “VERY HIGH LANDSLIDE POTENTIAL” AND “HIGH LANDSLIDE POTENTIAL” AREA BEING BROUGHT INTO THE CITY’S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.




HERE IS HOW TO VOICE YOUR CONCERNS:



EMAIL by JANUARY 18:
“THE COMMISSIONERS” of LAFCO
at

rfitzroy@slolafco.com
then, if possible

ATTEND THE ZOOM LAFCO PUBLIC HEARING
ON JANUARY 20, 2022 AT 1:00 PM



San Luis Obispo LAFCO | Notice of Public Hearing

January 20, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81757623348?pwd=cGQyRC9LZi9ra3c5eWpMS1YtT3Zudz09>

Call-in Number: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 817 5762 3348

Password: 200441

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will consider the proposed Sphere of Influence (SOI) Amendment to the City of Morro Bay. The proposed SOI is approximately 212.81-acres located within the western boundary of the County and surrounds the northern portion of the City of Morro Bay with Highway 1 situated to the west. The SOI will encompass the five lots often referred to as the Panorama Lots, Assessor Parcel Number 073-075-002, and portions of 073-076-016. LAFCO is a Responsible Agency for the purpose of complying with the California Environmental Quality Act and will rely upon the certified Environmental Impact Report prepared by the City (SCH# 2017111026). This item was taken to the LAFCO Commission on November 18, 2021 and was continued to January 20, 2022. The Staff Report will be available on the LAFCO website www.slolafco.com by Thursday, January 13, 2022.

www.slolafco.com Phone: 805.781.5795

News

City Grants Grants to Non-profits

Morro Bay’s City Council was in a giving mood shortly before Christmas, doling out over \$51,000 to 11 non-profit groups involved in the local community.

The Council had included the grants in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget using some \$26,000 in apparently excess general fund monies and \$25,344 in federal “American Rescue Plan Act,” monies. The ARPA was a \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package approved by Congress and signed into law in March 2021 by President Joe Biden.

Criteria for the City’s grant program included: senior services, art and culture, climate action, diversity and inclusion, youth services, and small business support, according to a news release.

Some eight non-profits shared the take from the City budget. Morro Bay Maritime Museum got \$5,000 for its Kids Cove project. Ecologistics, Inc., got \$1,000 for CO2 monitoring devices. Morro Bay in Bloom, Inc., got \$6,500 for its town beautification work and the Community Foundation of Estero Bay Inc., got \$2,000 for youth recreation scholarships.

SCORE got \$1,000 for free business marketing; and the 5 Cities DBA Diversity Coalition got \$4,000 for something called “Community Diversity Education & Training Program.”

The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition got \$3,000 for its Bags of Love food program with local elementary school kids and their families, and the Morro Bay Seniors Citizens, Inc., got \$3,500 for a project to remodel the lobby of the Senior Center, which is located inside the City’s Community Center.

As for the ARPA monies, the Senior Nutrition Program got \$7,500; By the Sea Productions got \$8,344 (to support its community theater productions); and the Morro Bay Art Association got \$5,000 for Art Center Morro Bay, the Association’s gallery on Main Street.

Nearly every year, the City sets aside a chunk of money in its budget to be shared among local non-profit organizations, with the priority always being those that directly provide services and assistance to local residents and families. The amount has varied over the years and in some lean times, the City allocated zero to community assistance grants.

Mayor John Headdding said, “We are so pleased to be able to support our local non-profits who contribute significantly to the well-being of our community.”

Morro Bay Art Association President Patricia Newton was grateful for the City’s assistance. “The pandemic significantly impacted our ability to provide our services to the Morro Bay community,” she said. “We are thankful for this City grant, which will allow us to continue to provide art enrichment and education activities to all ages in Morro Bay.”

City Manager Scott Collins was charged with cutting the grant checks and delivering the monies over the next couple of weeks.



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New Executive Director of Cancer Support Community



The Cancer Support Community California Central Coast (CSC-CCC) named Candice Sanders as their new executive director.

CSC-CCC is a local non-profit, supporting the social and emotional needs of cancer patients and their families at no charge. They offer services to the whole family, no matter what stage of cancer or recovery. The organization offers free weekly support groups, education, restorative fitness, hats and wigs, family programs, patient navigation, individual counseling, grupo de apoyo, and more to all people touched by cancer.

Sanders is an ovarian cancer survivor and served as former Development Director at CSC-CCC. She is excited to take on this new role as the Executive Director of CSC-CCC and is proud to continue their great work of offering support resources.

“Cancer Support Community served as a beacon of hope for me during my battle with cancer,” Sanders said. “I look forward to carrying on the torch of our mission to ensure that all people touched by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by our community.”

CSC-CCC’s serves the entire county with an office located in the medical center of Templeton at 1051 Las Tablas Road.

“Although all our programs remain virtual via Zoom,” Sanders said, “we are still here, and our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and additional hours are available by appointment. If you or someone you know is affected by cancer, we are here to help, with more than 30 programs offered each month.”

“We will continually strive to widen our support to those impacted by cancer,” Sanders said. “We are looking

forward to expanding our services and reaching further into our community. I am humbled to be able to help lead that growth. CSC-CCC holds a special place in my heart, and I look forward to giving back to a place that gave so much to me during a very scary time in my life,” says Sanders.

Cancer Support Community – California Central Coast is solely funded by private donors, endowments, and sponsorships. All funds raised stay in San Luis Obispo County to support local families.

For more information, go to cscslo.org.

County to Add Zip Lines at El Chorro Park

By Neil Farrell



The transformation of El Chorro Regional Park into a family-friendly multiple attractions amusement park took another step forward recently when County Supervisors approved a contract to build and operate zip lines at the Dairy Creek Golf Course.

Near the close of 2021, Supervisors approved a 15-year contract with options for two, 5-year renewals with EcoLearn to install and operate two zip lines on a portion of the municipal golf course.

El Chorro Regional Park is 723 acres of rolling hills located off Hwy 1 across from Cuesta College. Dairy Creek was an 18-hole golf course built in the mid-1990s and became the County’s third public golf course, joining the Morro Bay Golf Course and Chalk Mountain in Atascadero.

But in recent years, especially during the recent drought, the County’s allotment of irrigation water was insufficient to keep all the grass growing and Supervisors rejected a proposal to use Whale Rock Reservoir water for irrigating the golf course.

And so in June 2017 the Supervisors approved a new programming plan for El Chorro and Dairy Creek that included dropping it down to a 9-hole course and using the extra land to build other entertainment facilities.

“County Parks,” reads a staff report from County Parks

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News

Director Nick Franco, “has successfully transitioned the former 18-hole golf course into a quality, 9-hole course with a 3-hole practice and training facility and, in partnership with Cal Poly, created the Top Tracer Range and Cal Poly Practice Facility.”

TopTracer is essentially a practice range, elevated, with computerized tracking of shots that can be translated into a video game for multiple players. It has become very popular in a short amount of time.

“County Parks has the opportunity to initiate a Concession Contract with EcoLearn for the construction, installation and management of zip line facilities in El Chorro Regional Park at Dairy Creek Golf Course.”

EcoLearn also operates Vista Lago Adventures at Lopez Lake in another contract with County Parks (see: vistalagoadventurepark.com) and Franco said they have been “good park partners at Lopez Lake.”

EcoLearn has been successful with the zip lines at Lopez and Franco added that the County staff would have no responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the Dairy Creek zip lines.

The terms of the contract are that the County will receive 5% of the annual gross receipts the first year, increasing by 1% annually to 8% in the fourth year. The County expects to get \$17,000 the first year, \$22,400 the second; \$35,000 the third; and an unknown amount beyond that.

Franco said they consulted with the Cal Poly Golf Team on where to locate the zip lines and also got the OK from the National Parks Service to install zip lines.

El Chorro Regional Park is actually owned by the National Parks Service (as part of the original Camp San Luis) and deeded to the County, but the agency has restrictions on what can be done there.

Franco said their plan for repurposing El Chorro and Dairy Creek, which included remodeling and reopening of the golf course’s restaurant by the owners of The Siren in Morro Bay (renamed The Siren at El Chorro, see: <https://thesirenelchorro.com>) is working well.

“The activity at Top Tracer has increased demand for additional active outdoor recreation and there are few similar facilities in the county,” Franco said. “It is anticipated that these facilities will be popular for campers, day use visitors to the park and those attending events at the park. They also will tie in nicely to existing features and the new features that will be added in the future consistent with the Programming Plan.”

Other amenities within the programming plan include: bocce ball courts; a barn for special events; electric go-cart track; miniature golf; a mountain bike skills course; expanded RV camping sites; batting cages; a mountain course for Frisbee golf; horse corrals; an area for tent camping and a children’s play area, among others.

Funding for Cambria Community Healthcare

The Cambria Community Healthcare District ended the year with some needed funding. CCHD received California COVID Relief funding last month to the tune of \$165,533, which it plans to use for relief from coronavirus related impacts.

The funding was made available from a \$100 million allocation provided by the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom in the 2021-2022 State Budget.

“During these challenging times in the COVID pandemic, these funds will provide much needed relief from the unanticipated financial impacts we have experienced,” said Michael McDonough, CCHD administrator. “We’re extremely grateful for this support to continue our essential mission of public service.”

This funding follows budget and staff cuts necessitated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in special districts across California.

“Special districts are addressing our biggest statewide challenges, all at the local level,” said Neil McCormick, CEO of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). We applaud Governor Newsom and our Legislature for recognizing this and responding to our requests for partnership. Special districts make a difference throughout California and this funding will make a difference in the

communities special districts serve.”

Statewide, more than 2,000 independent special districts across the state serve the needs of all 40 million Californians at some level, and more than 60 percent of these local agencies provide specialized services to a disadvantaged community.

CCHD is a public tax and fee supported special services district operating an Advanced Life Support ambulance service and providing community health education. A locally elected 5-member board of directors provides administrative and financial oversight.

The CCHD’s coverage area includes the seaside villages of Cambria and San Simeon and outlying agriculture and recreation areas.

Police Pop Porterville Hooligans in Car Theft

Local police arrested two suspected gang members from the Central Valley who allegedly stole a car and took several friends on a joy ride to Morro Bay where they were spotted by police, chased to Atascadero and crashed the car before attempting to flee the scene.

According to Morro Bay Police Cmdr. Amy Watkins, at 9:17 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 26 dispatch notified the department of a report that a car stolen in Porterville was possibly in Morro Bay. Porterville is near the Sierra Nevada Foothills of Tulare County.

MBPD officers began to search for the vehicle and an officer spotted it at about 9:48 a.m. heading north in the 1300 block of Main St., according to Cmdr. Watkins. The driver pulled what could be described as a suspicious maneuver.

“The vehicle pulled through the Chevron Station at Main and Highway 41,” she said, “and proceeded back onto Atascadero Road.”

That bonehead shortcut led the officer to pull the car over, which didn’t work. “The vehicle failed to yield to off-

Car Theft Continued on page 8



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Police Blotter



• **Dec. 26:** Police spotted a car reported stolen out of Porterville in Tulare County and gave chase through town and out Hwy 41 at 9:17 a.m. According to police, a Sheriff’s deputy deployed a spike strip on the roadway in Atascadero at San Gabriel Road, which though it didn’t blow out the tires, did force the driver to veer clear and ram into a telephone pole; the hooligan — joined by another delinquent — took off running, leaving behind three passengers for the police. They were soon caught and the driver, a 16-year-old from Porterville, was charged with suspicion of grand theft auto, possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, felony reckless evading, and a Tulare County warrant. The second moonraker, 15, was charged with suspicion of resisting arrest and a bench warrant from back home. Both are alleged gang members from Porterville.

• **Dec. 25:** Police responded at 3:21 p.m. to the 300 block of Dunbar where they were asked to help deal with a troubled juvenile having a bit of a breakdown. He or she was taken for a 72-hour timeout.

• **Dec. 25:** At 3:10 p.m. someone reported a fender-bender in the 400 block of Dunes. No injuries were reported.

• **Dec. 24:** Police were called to the Mobil Station in the 900 block of MBB for a reported forged business check that they’d apparently cashed for a whopping \$8,000.

• **Dec. 24:** Police, fire and harbor patrol all responded at 10:38 a.m. to the beach at the end of Atascadero Road where a Sacramento man was bitten and killed by a suspected great white shark while boogie boarding in the ocean about 100 yards north of the Hwy 41 beach access.

• **Dec. 23:** Police responded at 9 a.m. to the 2000 block of Seaview where logs indicated a 57-year-old woman, “falsely reported her vehicle as stolen after it was crashed by her adult daughter the night before,” also called a Juicy Smoley.

• **Dec. 22:** Police contacted an apparent swagman at 5:30 p.m. on Hwy 1 near the MBB exit who had two bench warrants. He was issued another ticket and released.

• **Dec. 22:** Graffidiots struck in the 900 block of Carmel. Police took note of it.

• **Dec. 22:** Police responded at 8:42 a.m. to a disturbance in the 800 block of Monterey. Logs indicated a 36-year-old bounder was nicked for suspicion of being schwasted in public.

• **Dec. 21:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:19 p.m. in the 100 block of Little Morro Creek Rd., and arrested the driver, 29, for allegedly driving with beer goggles on.

• **Dec. 20:** Citizens in the 2500 block of Greenwood said they was robbed!

• **Dec. 20:** Yet another catalytic converter was stolen off a parked car in the 2800 block of Fir.

• **Dec. 20:** Police responded to Bottle Liquor in the 900 block of Main where some scalawag passed a fake Benjamin

to no doubt buy hooch and smokes.

• **Dec. 19:** At 9:21 p.m. police got a 9-1-1 call from a woman in the 300 block of Oahu who wanted to have an incident “recorded” but didn’t want police to respond. So naturally, police responded to the scene immediately and contacted the Bickersons, who were “uncooperative.” A report was taken for the D.A.’s no doubt amusement.

• **Dec. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. A 35-year-old fellow was nicked for alleged driving on a toot.

• **Dec. 19:** Police responded to Garden Gallery in the 600 block of Embarcadero for a theft report.

• **Dec. 18:** Police responded at 1:24 p.m. to Miner’s Hardware in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd. for a reported burglary. Logs indicated they have no leads on the scoundrels.

• **Dec. 17:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow hanging around Rite Aid at 11:13 a.m. The 63-year-old apparent skint had two warrants and was given a third and released.

• **Dec. 16:** Police responded at 7:48 p.m. for a disturbance in the 300 block of Dunbar. A troubled child was given a 72-hour recess with County Mental Health.

• **Dec. 16:** A citizen in the 400 block of Kodiak had the catalytic converter stolen off his or her car. A second resident in the 3300 block of Panorama Dr., had their catalytic converter stolen, too, with a third, fourth and fifth stolen in the 400 block of Orcas, 3000 block of Main and 400 block of Oahu, in what’s become the scourge of the 21st Century.

• **Dec. 15:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to somewhere on Atascadero Road for a report of two cars being vandalized by some apparent maniac. One car had its tires slashed and the other had the paint keyed, and the door panel kicked in.

• **Dec. 15:** Police contacted a regular customer, 40, at 12:17 p.m. causing a kerfluffle in City Park. He had warrants and was given another useless ticket that he’ll likely ignore too.

• **Dec. 14:** Police contacted a buzzed lady, 40, at 8:30 p.m. in the 300 block of Surf causing a ruckus. She was nicked for suspicion of being fizzucked in public and tossed into the hole.

• **Dec. 14:** Police responded at 6:15 p.m. to a traffic crash somewhere on Kern Avenue.

• **Dec. 14:** At 7 a.m. police served a warrant in the 1000 block of Market. A 44-year-old fellow had two bench warrants, was given a third and released. At 5:15 p.m. police contacted another suspicious fellow in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. This idjit, 49, had a non-local bench warrant and was cited and released, no doubt guffawing at police as they drove away.

• **Dec. 13:** A citizen in the 2500 block of Greenwood reported getting a scam phone call but apparently didn’t fall for the skullduggery, as one should never bow before hyenas.

• **Dec. 12:** Police looked up a familiar fellow, 31, with a warrant at 10 p.m. in the 700 block of Butte but alas, they simply cited and released the scofflaw with another disappearance ticket.

• **Dec. 12:** Yet another sneaky fellow, 27, with a warrant was contacted by police at 9:30 p.m., in the 300 block of Quintana. He became part of the new catch-and-release job security program.

• **Dec. 12:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 3:22 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. The 42-year-old rascal from Los Osos had a no-bail arrest warrant out of Kern County and was actually arrested for a change. Logs indicated the model citizen was also charged with suspicion of possessing illegal drugs for sale and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked a return trip to the hoosegow.

• **Dec. 12:** Police responded at 1 a.m. to a disturbance in the 500 block of Morro. Logs indicated a 33-year-old allegedly fit-shaded woman was engaged in some sort of raucous nincompoopery and got nicked for it.

• **Dec. 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4:42 p.m. in the area of Main and Hill. Logs indicated a 44-year-old fellow was hauled to the gaol for suspicion of driving pickled and child endangerment.

• **Dec. 11:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 1100 block of Monterey for a reported stolen vehicle. Logs indicated police located the stolen car and returned it to the owner, and the caze is sol-ved.

• **Dec. 10:** Police responded at 10:17 p.m. to Pacific Premiere Bank in the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd., where they took “an unfounded report” that a 72-year-old apparent ruffian assaulted an employee of the bank. Police filed a crime report with the D.A.

• **Dec. 10:** Police at the high school filed a missing/run-away hooligan report.

• **Dec. 10:** Someone turned in an undisclosed amount of cash they apparently found at Albertson’s Market.

• **Dec. 10:** A citizen in the 1500 block of White Pine Dr., reported a case of Internet identity theft via his or her personal banking account and credit cards. No word on the extent of the carnage.

• **Dec. 9:** Police responded at 10:54 p.m. to a disturbance at the Morro Bay Mobil Gas Station in the 800 block of MBB. A 52-year-old tomato was nicked for suspicion of being stewed and tossed into the County stew pot.

• **Dec. 9:** Police were called at 5 p.m. to Albertson’s where some crankypated tool, 36, was goin’ all woolly-booger in the store. He was hauled to the gaol for a timeout.

• **Dec. 9:** A juvenile at the high school was placed in a 72-hour timeout with County Mental Health. A short time later, they were notified that a student had posted online a photo of himself holding a gun and officers were asked to have a little chat with him to make sure there was no credible threat.

• **Dec. 8:** Police contacted a disturbed fellow at 11:15 p.m. at Main and Quintana Pl. Logs indicated the 19-year-old muchacho was allegedly stoned on drugs and was checked into the County’s Kansas Avenue detox center.

• **Dec. 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:37 a.m. at South Bay and State Park Road. Logs indicated the borra-cho, 78, was arrested for suspicion of driving butt-toasted and on a suspended license no less. He was arrested and released to a sober friend while at French Hospital.

• **Dec. 7:** Police stopped a 21-year-old woman at 9 a.m. on Hwy 1 at MBB. The little imp had a warrant but was only cited and released.

• **Dec. 6:** There is apparently a thief loose at the high school and police have no leads as to which miscreant might be responsible.

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Car Theft From page 7

cers,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “The vehicle traveled east bound on Highway 41 pursued by Morro Bay Police Department.”

Radioing ahead, officers got help from a County Sheriff’s deputy. “As the vehicle entered Atascadero,” Cmdr. Watkins said, “a San Luis Obispo County [Sheriff’s] Deputy attempted to deploy spike strips at San Gabriel Road. Suspect vehicle avoided the spike strips, however, lost control while attempting to make a left turn onto San Gabriel Road. The vehicle collided with a telephone pole, disabling the vehicle.” No one was hurt in the crash.

Two suspects jumped out of the car and took off running but were caught a short time later by officers, which included MBPD, County Sheriff and Atascadero Police. Three other subjects stayed in the wrecked car, which was recovered, albeit damaged significantly.

The two hooligans that fled the crash were arrested.

The driver, identified as a 16-year-old boy from Porterville was charged with suspicion of grand theft auto, possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, felony reckless evading, and a Tulare County warrant, according to Cmdr. Watkins.

The other teen, a 15-year-old from Porterville, who was reported as “missing” out of San Jose, was charged with suspicion of resisting arrest. He also had a no-bail warrant out of Tulare County. Both were booked into the Juvenile Services Center, and, “Both suspects are documented gang members from Tulare County, Porterville area,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “No injuries or additional collisions were reported as a result of the pursuit and apprehension.”

Cmdr. Watkins said the other three people in the car, all juveniles as well, were taken into custody but not arrested.

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Police Catch Alleged Converter Thief



Officers arrested the one suspect that remained in the car but the other two escaped. Police charged the remaining suspect, Maxwell Steven Lopez Sosa, 22 of Oakland,



Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact the Morro Bay Police Department (805) 772- 6225 or San Luis Obispo County Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-STOP.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Connie Babcock celebrated her 80th birthday with the help of folks in Los Osos. Photo by Heather Babcock

In all, 24 trees were donated along with bags and boxes of holiday décor including lights, candles and holders, baubles, wreaths, garland, beads and more, many of which were red and gold, Connie's favorite colors.



One of Christmas trees
donated by community
members to celebrate
Connie's birthday.
Photo by Heather Babcock



Cupcakes made by Carlock's Bakery in Los Osos.
Photo by Heather Babcock

"We had enough to surround, my house, place on the fences, and decorate the trees," Heather said. "We were even given projector lights that twinkled green and said 'Happy Holidays;' all donated by the people of Los Osos. Not only did I have enough for the front yard, I was also able to decorate my entire house inside. We were surround-



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Connie Continued on page 10

Community

Cal Poly Float Wins Animation Award at 2022 Rose Parade

Photos by Tom Zasadzinski of Cal Poly Pomona



Cal Poly universities' Stargrazers float that brings to life a scene from the classic Mother Goose rhyme "Hey diddle, diddle" received the Animation Award at the 133rd Rose Parade held New Year's Day.

The honor, announced two hours before the start of the parade, recognizes the most outstanding use of animation, said Regina Chapuis, the Cal Poly SLO team president. It's the first time that the schools earned the designation since the award names were changed in 1984.

"That's all the moving parts on our float and also how that meshes with all the other parts," she said. "How it meshes with the deco, how the concealments from design work with those animations to make them look smooth and fluid and put on a show for the parade."

"It's really exciting and for me personally, working in electronics the past few years, to see that the animation team and how far they've come. I'm really proud of them

Connie From page 9

ed by the love of this community at every entrance, exit and outdoor area."

As the day drew closer, it was impossible to keep everything under wraps, but there was still a surprise to be had.

"We kept the magnitude of what Los Osos was doing for her a secret," Heather said. "As my mom walked up to my house for her party, her eyes just sparkled, taking it all in. As I described what this community had done, she was overwhelmed."

Since Connie ended the year surprised by what people in the community did for her, Estero Bay News thought she should start the new year with another surprise, she doesn't know her story will be in the newspaper. We did ask Heather to be sneaky and ask her mom how she felt about the shindig.

"I am ever-so-grateful and pleased beyond belief for what this community did for me for my birthday," Connie said. "Thank you."

Heather, herself, has been personally touched by the caring nature of local residents. She is the owner of Sea Glass Salon in Los Osos that employs seven people. During the pandemic shutdown, the business had to close and reopen three times. It was during one closure that the Support Los Osos group on Facebook asked local small businesses what they needed to stay open.

"This community stepped up and helped us remain open by donating enough money to cover rent," Heather said. "One thing I know, every time life has dealt me uncertainty, this community has given me strength. It has never let me down. I am truly blessed to be called a friend here."

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and for the program as well. That's really awesome to see that a bunch of us college students can go and make an animation performance that is on par and in this case better than a lot of the professional floats."

The entry aims to exemplify the parade's 2022 theme of "Dream. Believe. Achieve." — a celebration of education's ability to open doors, open minds and change lives.

Stargrazers mixes the whimsy of the nursery rhyme with the hardworking atmosphere of a polytechnical university campus, with colleges dedicated to engineering and agriculture among other disciplines. As the float traveled the 5½-mile-long parade route, the audience learned the answer to how "the cow jumped over the moon." It was by jet propulsion.

More than 80 students, equally split from each university, worked to finish the float during the COVID-19 pandemic and last year's parade hiatus. While the Cal Poly campuses are multi-decade veterans of the Pasadena classic, this year's entry overcame a number of administrative challenges and achieve some milestones: It is the first "two-year float"; and this is the first time that student float leaders who initiated the project had to hand over completion responsibilities to a new group, said Chapuis, whose duties as club president include promoting communication between the various departments, heading team events and facilitating the float move to Pomona.

The schools re-imagined the children's poem, creating a bigger-than-life rendering of if fleshed out with wit, wisdom and some intricate engineering.

"On the float, we follow the story of the cows' journey to achieve their dream, but with a twist — jet packs," Cha-



puis said. "As our float turns the corner, the first thing the audience sees are the cows fabricating and testing jet pack designs. As the float continues forward, we see that the cows are aided by other characters from the nursery rhyme.

"As the float moves away, the cows finally achieve their dream: One courageous cow is flying over the moon using one of the jet packs they all worked so hard to construct. They achieved their goal by dreaming big, believing in their ability and working hard."

On a sad note, students added a tribute to Cal Poly alumnus John Madden, who died Dec. 28. This late addition to the float included a football, coach Madden's name and "Ride High" that alludes to Cal Poly's official fight song "Ride High You Mustangs."

"Stargrazers is unique among all the floats that our students and their counterparts at Cal Poly Pomona have produced over the decades in that it combines the efforts of two separate teams of individuals at each campus over the past two years. They persevered through the pandemic, overcoming the frustration from last year's parade cancellation to present this stellar floral bouquet for the world."

It was one of only six self-built entries in this year's extravaganza that included 41 other floats, including one for the Royal Court and each of the two Rose Bowl teams, 20 marching bands, 18 equestrian units and actor LeVar Burton, the 2022 grand marshal.

Rose Parade officials estimate that 700,000 people saw the parade in person, while 37 million Americans and an international audience of 28 million tuned in to watch it on TV.

The 18- by 55-foot entry, with a flying cow that rose to 23 feet, used animation to showcase the builders Learn by Doing experience: The high-flying cow rocked back and forth; the cow at the front of the float lifted its arm up and down as it welded; and the third pressed a button to test fly a jetpack. The test jetpack rotated, rose up and down, and had clear tubes with dried deco material flowing through it. Carbon dioxide burst out of each jet pack to simulate propulsion. In addition, the dog rocked back and forth on its back consumed by laughter.

"Stargrazers" was decorated with thousands of cut

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Making a move in 2022?

Community

flowers and plant materials from across the nation, reflecting Cal Poly Rose Float's new relationship with Certified American Grown, a unified and diverse community of American cut flower and foliage farmers. It ended a 10-year partnership with the California Cut Flower Commission that disbanded last December after 30 years as the Golden State's major cut flower trade association.

During the recent Decorations Week in Pasadena, the float was adorned with nearly 20,000 colorful blooms — chrysanthemums, Gerbera daisies, pink roses and carnations,

The color scheme spans the whole rainbow: green rolling pastures (Crane Feather Queen and Russian kales, prairie dropseed, various foliage and mosses); multi-colored cows (decorated with a variety of seeds, Chinese black moss and rice powder); to a moonscape of yellow and white chrysanthemums; to a bed of clouds at the rear of the float with a sunset color palette of roses, irises and carnations, along with cotton, cauliflower and mushrooms.

The silvery-gray colored milk cans and jetpacks were flocked in a mixture of onion and lettuce seeds and rice powder.



tal responsibility, health and wellness, and charitable giving. We look forward to helping promote World Obstacle's efforts in the digital space, further growing the community of athletes, participants, and fans around the world."

The most well-known World Obstacle events include Ninja competitions, Spartan obstacle course racing, and adventure races such as Eco-Challenge and Primal Quest. Ninja TV Show competitions have approximately 1 billion viewers worldwide. Adventure racing has been widely practiced and televised since 1989, and it is estimated that over 300 million people have watched the Eco-Challenge since 1995. A part of the World Obstacle's mission is to lead obstacle sports to Olympic recognition.

Rock Harbor Marketing recently launched its own endurance sports division (Endurance Town USA. Learn more about World Obstacle by visiting worldobstacle.org. For more information about Rock Harbor Marketing, go to rockharbormarketing.com or endurancetownusa.com.

New Board Chair of Sierra Vista Named



Keith Humphrey will lead Sierra Vista's Governing Board of Directors in 2022

Keith Humphrey has been named incoming chair of the Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center board of directors.

Humphrey, the vice president for student affairs at Cal Poly, has been a member of the Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center Board since 2016. His one-year term as board chair began Jan. 1.

An advocate and leader in community health and well-being at Cal Poly, Humphrey plans to apply his knowledge and experience to support Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center's prominent role as a trusted healthcare provider for community members in San Luis Obispo and the larger Central Coast region.

"Sierra Vista has always had a community-oriented approach to its standard of care, and I am excited to help

hospital leaders amplify that effort so that our community always has access to the highest quality of care," said Humphrey, Cal Poly's vice president for Student Affairs since 2012. "I have had the opportunity to witness this care up close as the heroic healthcare workers have supported our students through many medical challenges."

Humphrey previously served as a member of the Community Counseling Center of San Luis Obispo board of directors from 2017 to 2018.

Affordable Homes in North County



Affordable homes in SLO County are difficult to come across, but a new development in Atascadero starts in the high \$200,000s. Cal Coastal Communities is selling the first phase of its cottage homes in a new community near downtown Atascadero called Grand Oaks Paseo.

The company built affordable-by-design homes that are a 1.7-acre mixed-use development project located at 4711 El Camino Real. The community consists of 25 single-family homes and four live/work units in a future phase. The cottage homes surround a landscaped gathering place for residents to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends among Heritage Oak trees.

The homes feature vaulted ceilings to create an open, spacious interior with modern finishes that come standard in every home, including quartz countertops, smooth textured walls, LED lighting, tiled shower, tank-less water heater, washer & dryer hook-ups, full-sized stainless-steel appliances, and brushed nickel fixtures throughout. Smart home technology packages and bonus storage options are also available.

For more information, visit www.calcoastalcommunities.com.

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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Rock Harbor Welcomes Obstacles

Morro Bay's Rock Harbor Marketing (RHM) has added World Obstacle to its growing list of globally recognized clients.

World Obstacle, also known as the Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (FISO), is the sole international governing body for the sports of obstacle course racing, ninja competitions, and adventure racing. The association is composed of national member federations in more than 100 countries, promoting obstacle sports throughout the world.

"We are excited to welcome World Obstacle to our RHM family," said Travis Ford, Rock Harbor marketing president and World Obstacle media director. "We've had the honor of working with the World Obstacle President and a ten-time world champion Ian Adamson previously. We admire his dedication to not just supporting athletes, but establishing a culture of ethics, inclusivity, environmen-

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Events and Activities

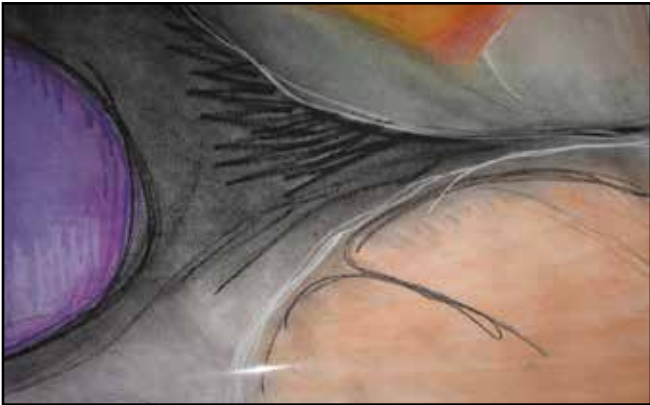
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Enjoy the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden for free on Jan. 17. The Garden is offering free admission to all visitors from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The normal admission cost of \$5 for adults and children over 12 will be waived. This is a great opportunity to spend time outdoors and learn about native plants. There will be a guided sketchwalk with a garden docent at 11 (weather permitting). Paper and basic drawing supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. The garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Road in San Luis Obispo, inside El Chorro Regional Park. If you can't make it out on the 17th, the next free day is on Saturday, February 12. For more information, send an email to dara@slobg.org or call 805-541-1400 x 302.



The Cal Poly College of Architecture and Environmental Design presents “Julia Morgan, Architect: Challenging Convention,” which is open to the public Saturday, Jan. 15, through Friday, Feb. 11. The exhibit features curated artifacts from Special Collections and Archives at Cal Poly’s Kennedy Library and highlights original drawings, photographs and correspondences from Morgan’s personal and professional papers. The exhibit reveals Morgan’s integration of diverse and seemingly unrelated styles and technologies as she fostered collaborative relationships with her clients. Additionally, many artifacts will be brought to life by actors, featuring a series of voiceovers that tell the story of the challenges Morgan encountered in Paris and throughout her career. The show takes place at Cal Poly’s University Art Gallery in the Dexter Building (No. 34), Room 171, and will remain open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. An interactive virtual tour mirrors the exhibition online and will also be open to the public through April 30. Morgan was the first woman to be accepted to and graduate from the prestigious architecture program at the

École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1904, she became California’s first female licensed architect and continued to break gender barriers throughout her career. As one of America’s most prolific architects, Morgan designed more than 700 buildings, including Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. In another first, she was the initial woman to receive the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, the profession’s highest honor, bestowed posthumously in 2014.



The Morro Bay Art Association a workshop in abstract drawing and painting with artist with Vicky Hoffman on January 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This workshop introduces attendees to abstract drawing and painting. You will explore color, texture, shapes and mark making that will improve composition and improvisation. This workshop is designed to expand your ability to enjoy and respond to abstract art. This is the one workshop that requires a minimum of 8 people, so sign up early. The class is \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. Reserve your space online: <https://artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/shop>

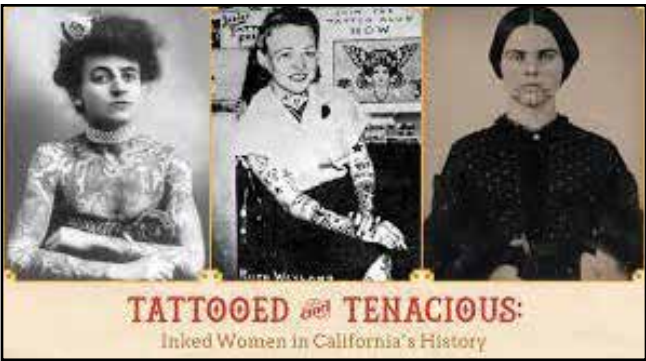
...

Discover California Central Coast Pastel Society’s new online exhibit, with vibrant contemporary and classical paintings in varied styles and themes. Find exhibit, workshop, membership, paint-out dates, and event info at 3cps.org/3cps-online-show.



The Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer and two Cal Poly choirs present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center. The concert, titled “Beauty of the Day,” after Nico Muhly’s composition of the same name, is the world premiere performance by the combined choral groups. Chanticleer was hailed as “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker, and it is known around the world as an orchestra of voices. Founded in San Francisco in 1978 by singer and musicologist Louis Botto, the group has sold more than a million recordings and performed thousands of live concerts to audiences worldwide. Chanticleer’s repertoire is rooted in the Renaissance but has expanded to include a wide range of classical, gospel, jazz and popular music. It has a deep commitment to the commissioning of new compositions and arrangements. For the concert, Chanticleer will perform repertoire from its current tour, and the Cal Poly choirs will perform preview selections from their upcoming March 12 Winter Concert. PolyPhonics will perform a movement of Caroline Shaw’s “To the Hands,” and the Chamber Choir will perform a movement from Dieterich Buxtehude’s “Jesu Membra Nostri.” At the end of the concert, the choirs will join Chan-

ticleer for the premiere of “Beauty of the Day,” Muhly’s composition which was commissioned by Chanticleer. The piece will feature university organist Paul Woodring on the Forbes pipe organ. Muhly is well known for his commissions for both classical and popular musicians, and he has written two operas for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Director of Choral Activities Scott Glysson conducts the Cal Poly Choirs. Woodring is the accompanist for the choirs. Tickets are \$24 and \$35 for the public, and \$15 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).



SLO Library presents a topical film series highlighting issues of representation in film on Jan. 14 in the Community Room from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The featured film is the landmark 1932 film, “Freaks.” Professor Paul Marchbanks of the Cal Poly English Department will introduce the film and facilitate discussion after the showing. Dr. Marchbanks specializes in representations of disability in literature and film. For more information, send an email to mmatta@slolibrary.org. The SLO location will also host “Tattooed and Tenacious: Inked Women in California’s History” Jan 24 through March 19 in partnership with Exhibit Envoy. From the upper-class women who started the tattoo craze to the working-class Tattooed Ladies who performed in circus sideshows, this exhibit puts the foremothers of modern tattooing in the spotlight. Through photographs and personal histories, this exhibit uncovers the fascinating and largely unknown story of women and tattoos before WWII. A show-stopping mannequin, hand-drawn by current Bay Area female tattoo artists and specially commissioned for this show, highlights how far women and tattooing have come.



Gallery at Marina Square features Craft Artist Carole McDonald Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Jan. 29. As a native Californian, Carole McDonald started her art career working in the film industry. Her oil paintings reflect the vibrant colors tranquil feelings of the Central Coast where painting is a daily joy. Stop by at 601 Embarcadero Suite 10, Morro Bay. The online Jewish Film Festival streams twenty films and you have twenty days ending Jan. 30. The lineup includes feature films, documentaries, and shorts from around the planet celebrating the Jewish experience. The cost is \$50 all-access, \$25 three-movies, or \$10 one-movie. For more information and to get tickets, go to <https://www.slojff.com>. 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.

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WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

Blame the Kitty

By Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich



I sit down to write a verse, but nothing comes to me
I tap a key and glance around the room so absently.
I hear the other keyboards, clacking constantly
Maybe I'll find a plotline if I turn on NBC?

But no, I can't distract my fellow writing peeps
They're so good they even write when I am fast asleep.
I tiptoe past to get another cup of tea to steep
And see them all so focused, their concentration deep.

Then suddenly I hear a croak, a throaty little rasp...
I see a tiny feline nose is pressed against the glass.
She's giving me the stink-eye, showing me some sass,
I open the door and watch her as she sashays right past.

She goes straight to my buddies and weaves between their feet
And instantly they coo and pet this visitor so sweet.
And just as fast they're back to typing ...never missed a beat
But I'm distracted all to hell, it's surely time to eat?

I pad into the kitchen, pull out each cupboard door,
When I see the little kitty is quietly on the floor.
Forgetting I was hungry, I scoop this bitty savior
And head back to my laptop to stare at it once more.

The lil calico furball, curls into herself to nap
Her head is on my keyboard, her body on my lap.
And while it's fun to snuggle this luscious little sap
She really is for me a giant handicap.

I try to work around her, god forbid I make her go.
Sometimes it seems she gets upset, she kinda tells me so.
And once she even hit a key when she stretched out a toe
But I'm still not really writing, this is my status quo.

I'd love to blame the kitty for my failure to write,
But if I were being honest, it's really my own plight.
If she weren't curled up purring, all orange, black and white,
I'd blame it on the potted plant that's in my line of sight.

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

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Chamber Corner



Morro Bay's Big Night Out Returns!

All are invited to revel at a Mardi Gras themed fundraising gala on Friday March 4. Celebrate members of the community who went above and beyond in 2020 and 2021. We will transform the Community Center into a venue worth of Bourbon Street itself! Eat local fare, enjoy signature cocktails, beer and wine, bid on auction items and play a fun crowd participation game with an amazing prize. Wear your most festive face covering for when you're not eating and drinking, and bring your dancing shoes!

Details:

Event starts at 5:30 p.m.
Cocktail hour with passed hors d'oeuvres
Seated dinner
Dynamic and lively programming including a live band TBA
Awards presentation
Event ends at 8:30 p.m.
This event will follow public health protocol and guidelines.
The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Is located at 695 Harbor St. in Morro Bay.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE BY THE NUMBERS

MORRO BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2021

WHO WE ARE

12 Board Members	6 Ambassador's Committee Members	288 Total Members Representing 3,036 Employees
14 Governmental Affairs Committee Members	2 Full Time Employees 1 Part Time Employee	58 NEW 48 Members are New Chamber Nonprofits Members
We completed 70 hours of professional training in Chamber and Economic development		39 Members Featured on Facebook Live
42 Business Spotlight Awards Delivered		74 Businesses Highlighted in the Shop local Campaign

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The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce was busy in 2021. Thank you to everyone who invested and supported us in the last year. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish. We hope you are too.

If you are interested in supporting or joining the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, contact lynsey@morrochamber.org or call (805) 772-4467
The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Is located at 695 Harbor St. in Morro Bay.

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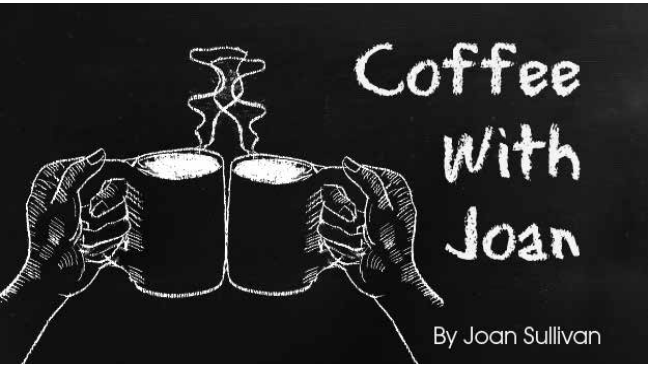
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While house prices continue to soar a reminder of the good old days when buying a house was within reach of the average citizen began in this area with Walter Redfield, a California land developer of the early 1920s. There are several versions of how Redfield obtained 3000 lots in the Town of El Moro.

Once he did secure the lots, he opened an office in Los Angeles and began selling the property. One of his customers was Richard Stuart Otto. Otto bought his first 10 lots from Redfield for \$165. Otto went on to buy other parts of the Town of El Moro. He changed the name to Baywood Park because the original name sounded too much like Morro Bay.

Redfield also subdivided the Sweet Springs area in which he advertised " \$1 Down ONE DOLLAR Per Month Buys THIS LOT!"

During the Depression, sales and payments practically stopped and Redfield lost much of his land including his farmhouse on Pecho Road. When everyone quit paying on their parcels, he ended up owning many of them again. The last of the lots were sold off around 1969 bringing in about \$1,000 a lot. No such price today for lots anywhere around here, that's for sure.

Reference: All About Baywood Park 2016 by Joan Sullivan



Richard Stuart Otto in a grove of trees in Baywood Park in the 1920s. Image from "All About Baywood Park"

Happy New Year 2022



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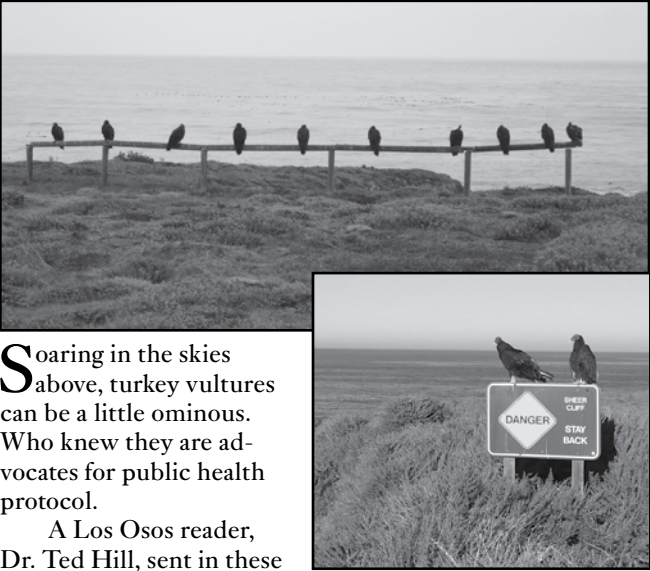
MorroBayMaritime.org



Community

Vultures Keeping Up With the Times

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Soaring in the skies above, turkey vultures can be a little ominous. Who knew they are advocates for public health protocol.

A Los Osos reader, Dr. Ted Hill, sent in these images of avian comedians out in nature. In the first photo, turkey vultures were spotted practicing social distancing at Montaña de Oro. As evident in the second photo, the raptors clearly know how to read and are rather law-abiding birds.

- Fun Facts About Turkey Vultures
- Turkey vultures are the only scavenger birds that can't kill their prey.
 - Their scientific name in Latin means "cleansing breeze." We're guessing it isn't likely that you will see a vulture as a logo for your favorite detergent or hair care product.
 - They feed by thrusting their heads into the body cavities of rotting animals. (Hope you weren't eating when you read that.)
 - The turkey vulture has the largest olfactory system of all birds and can smell carrion over a mile away.
 - Groups of perched vultures are called a wake and Groups spiraling upward to gain altitude are called kettles proving that they have the best marketing team ever.
 - If a turkey vulture is disturbed or harassed, it will throw up on whoever is bothering it, so leave them alone.

Knights of Columbus Donate to Kindness Coalition

Story and photo by Neil Farrell



A local community organization showered a little kindness on the Kindness Coalition, donating some \$500 to its humanitarian efforts to feed local children and their families.

The Knights of Columbus, an organization affiliated with local Catholic Churches — Morro Bay's St. Timothy's, Los Osos' St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Joseph's in Cayucos — handed over the check to Bobby deLancellotti, the founder and driving force for the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, a non-profit group that operates a food pantry supplying local elementary school kids and their families food stuffs.

The Coalition has a pantry located next to the Avocado Shack on North Main Street, which has granted use of an out building for their group's pantry.

One of the Knights, John Lally, said they raised the money selling hot dogs and bratwurst at the Lighted Boat Parade. They had hoped to clear \$1,500 he said, and they did so easily. He said he had read about the Kindness Coalition in Estero Bay News and his wife has been volunteering with them.

"We hadn't identified a charity to receive the money," Lally said. When he nominated the Coalition to receive the donation, "It took about 30 seconds for them to approve it," said Lally, who volunteers himself with Los Osos' food pantry run by People Helping People.

DeLancellotti was grateful for the donation, which will help his quickly growing efforts to assist needy families. His efforts started in 2017 when he asked the Principal at Del Mar Elementary what he could do to help needy kids at Christmas. She told him about 10 families that wouldn't get a visit from Santa that year and deLancellotti got to work, putting together two gifts for each child plus \$100 gift cards.

In January he received a thank you note from the Principal who noted that 64% of their kids are on the free lunch program and many often go hungry over the weekends.

In March 2018, he started "Got Your Back," a program that helps feed kids over the weekend, providing two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, healthy snacks, fruit, milk, and juice to each kid enrolled, according to the Coalition's website (see: esterobaykindnesscoalition.org).

That simple program started at Del Mar and has now spread to some 135 families at eight local schools. It's become a mission in life for deLancellotti, a pastor with the Vineyard churches, and his wife Denise, and the organization's now 60-70 volunteers. He describes their work as "Love without an agenda" and "Giving dignity and hope to our neighbors."

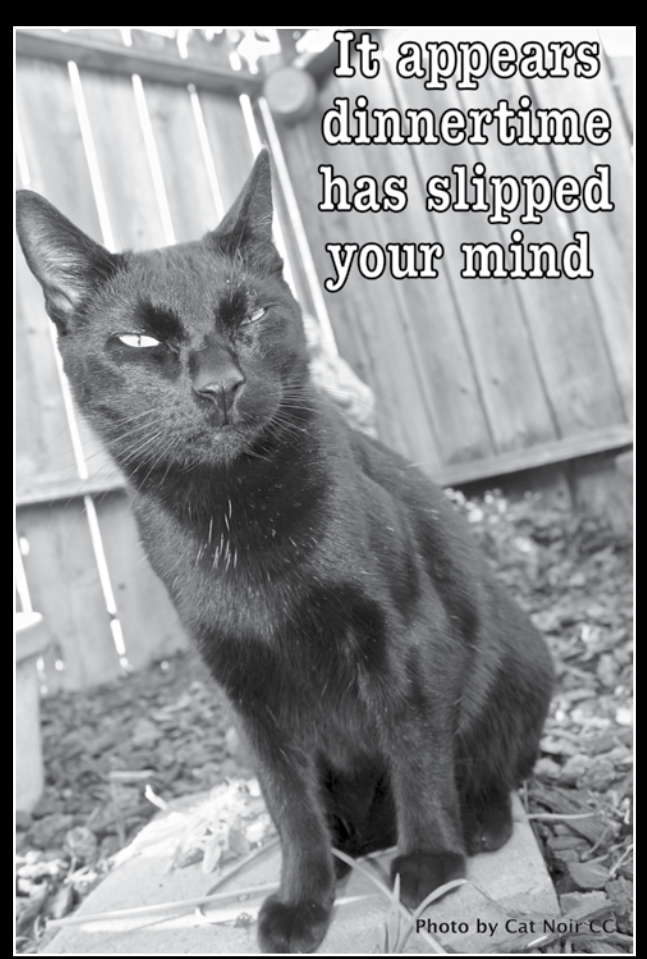
The local Grand Knight, Oscar Munoz was on hand to deliver the club's donation. He said this is the kind of charity that the Knights of Columbus is happy to support.

As for future needs, deLancellotti said they need some big freezers. "I have meat on the hoof right now," meaning the coalition has been donated some cattle but can't butcher them until he has freezers to store the meat. That meat is also destined to become a part of their weekly bags of food.

He is also looking for some folks in Los Osos that would like to volunteer to deliver the bags of food to children and families in the South Bay. They've been working with Monarch Grove Elementary for 3 years he said.

The Kindness Coalition is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Contact them through the website.

In the photo, Grand Knight Oscar Munoz (left) of the Knights of Columbus delivers a check for \$500 to Estero Bay Kindness Coalition founder, Bobby deLancellotti, at the group's food pantry in North Morro Bay.



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Letters To The Editor



Finish One Before Starting Another.

I can only imagine that managing a project like current roadwork in Morro Bay is daunting, to say the least, but it wasn't like we went through anything like that in Los Osos that could serve as a lesson.

I have to be a little harsh, finish one portion before starting another when it comes to traffic and safety of the public.

I had to make the trip down Quintana Rd. because Southbay Blvd. at the freeway was closed. What a mess it was. You would think they would want to finish Quintana Rd. before closing the other throughway. It was a mess of steel plates, trenches and, at one point, they were still doing construction and stopping traffic. You really couldn't wait to finish that one first? It would have made life better for all if you had.

J. Fillmore III
Los Osos

A Voice for the Oceans

The California Central Coast is a vast region made up of rolling hills, lush pacific terraces and rugged coastal canyons that all dramatically meet the majestic Pacific Ocean. It is a place of amazing diversity and ecosystems that are rich in marine and terrestrial wildlife. The unique geology along the coasts creates some of the most beautiful coastal vistas in the world and is a place that inspires its inhabitants to revel in its beauty and enjoy its bounty. This visceral and physical relationship to our home inspires locals to protect its uniqueness, preserve its abundance and assure that future generations can appreciate and thrive in this paradise we call home. This is "old California" pristine and reminiscent of decades past... a California that inspires a different way of life; one that encourages residents to invest their energy and focus into protecting the coastline and oceans through careful planning and regulation of environmentally sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, effective intergovernmental coordination, and the willingness to take a stand for our environment.

We, as a community, now have the opportunity to take a decisive step towards preserving our local marine environment, an environment that no matter where you live within this region is precious. It is our ethical imperative to preserve our marine resources as a legacy for our children and the generations to come. The ability to preserve this place, the home and sacred place to the Chumash and their ancestors for millennia, is within our imminent grasp... the creation of and designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary!

This sanctuary would effectively create a level of protection for our nearshore and offshore marine environments that would close the gap that now exists between the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Island Marine Sanctuary. For decades our locals have, with varying degrees of success, been fighting corporate attempts to implement destructive projects that would negatively affect our Marine ecosystems and impact our economies. It is time that we take the necessary steps to protect our Central Coast oceans, once and for all, from projects such as seismic testing, oil exploration and development, ocean mining and destructive new technologies that could indefinitely impact our native and migratory species by adding to the already powerful impact of anthropogenic noise.

Yes, this designation would be a federal appointment, but that's where day to day federal oversight ends. Each of

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Community

the marine sanctuaries throughout the country are run by a steering committee made up of local stakeholders, and all decisions are made by this balanced entity. There could not be a more democratic and fair way to protect our oceans! Our economies would thrive, our fishermen assured of a healthy place to continue to work (and no, the sanctuary does not have the right to regulate fishing... it never has, and never will!) and most of all the rich offshore ecosystems that are so precious and abundant, will continue to be so!

Now is the time to act for our marine legacy. Now you can make a difference in a world where sometimes we struggle to positively impact our Earth and our collective futures. Be part of the process to designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. You can make a formal statement to NOAA in support of this milestone designation: Submit all electronic public comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, www.regulations.gov, through Jan. 31, 2022. The docket number is NOAA-NOS-2021-0080. Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Mandy Davis, Coast Alliance
Los Osos

Say ‘No’ to Panorama SOI

I oppose a Sphere of Influence for the Northern Morro Bay Hillside for the following reasons:

- The Sphere of Influence is a halfway step to Annexation into the City. The City of Morro Bay has admitted this in City Council Meetings.
- The Green Belt has been a long standing trait of Morro Bay. Agricultural and wildlife usage fits in well with the City’s natural and quaint appearance.
- The hillside has a longstanding problem of landslides and slips. They are easily observed. This factor makes the City’s intended development inappropriate and dangerous usage.

- The City has been unable to financially maintain adequate levels of serve within present city limits; it would be even less likely to maintain a larger area. For example, the city admits it is unable to attract/maintain first responders, primarily police officers. Additionally, the slow responses of first responders due to responses originating from the center of town is unacceptable.

- The City lacks a water supply that would adequately supply a larger population. Currently, the city receives 5% of its allotted State Water. Notices alert water users we are on a Severely Restricted Mandatory Water Conservation.

- The City is consistently unable to adequately maintain and make improvements to the roadways. One example, is Panorama Drive, a one lane road that has mostly “potholes” which reach down into the dirt. There is no indication the City intends to patch these holes, let alone widen the street to make it passable for current traffic, new residents, and first responders going into the hills.

The City proposes this SOI in the name of land conservancy, however, there is a veiled intent to promote housing development of expensive homes with panoramic views of the coastline.

I encourage a “NO VOTE” by LAFCO based on the practical concerns presented above.

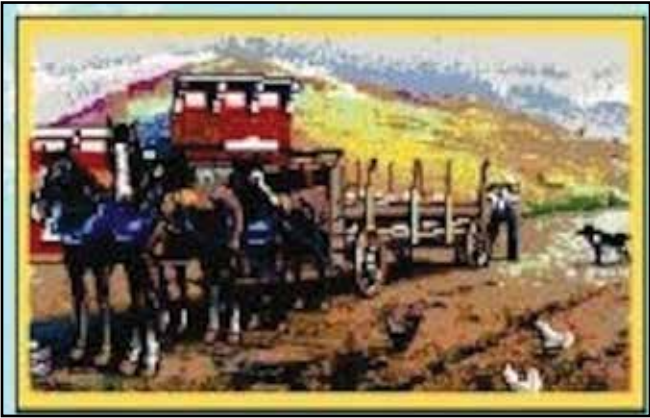
Dan Sedley,
Morro Bay

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



We Want
To Hear
From You!

Artist Sought to Restore Cayucos Mural



The Cayucos mural in its glory days.

A beloved mural in Cayucos was damaged in a recent storm when high winds blew off one of the plywood panels, dashing it to pieces in the creek below, but a project has been launched to restore it.

The 20-foot by 12-foot mural is entitled, “Delivery at the Cottage Hotel,” and depicts a historic scene of a horse drawn wagon making a delivery of dairy products to the old Cottage Hotel, which today is known as the Way Station, and located at 180 N. Ocean Ave., in Downtown Cayucos.

The mural was painted in 1993 by John Meng, and was one of a number of public art projects spearheaded by the Cayucos Mural Society. The mural consists of several sheets of plywood (8’ x 4’) and the missing panel contained the middle sections of the horses and part of the wagon (see photo).



Cayucos mural after the damage.

The owners would like to have that panel painted anew and it will be hung on the Way Station’s south wall overlooking the creek by a contractor crew.

Materials will be purchased by the property owners and are mainly available locally. Special mural paints will be ordered and any needed repairs to the remaining panels will also be made. The owners have the original artwork that Mr. Meng painted for a model, along with a list of the colors he used.

Now all that’s needed is an artist or group of artists — it is after all a whole sheet of plywood in size — to do the work.

Email to Neil Farrell at: neil@esterobaynews.com if you are an artist who would like to take on this challenge and restore one of Cayucos’ public art treasures.



Leash up

It's the law

MB MUNI CODE SECTION 7.08.020

It is the law in Morro Bay for all dogs to be on a leash. While walking in a park, around the city, or in your neighborhood, all dogs are required to be on a leash. Leashing your dog in public areas is a simple act that has many positive outcomes:

- Keeps your dog safe from traffic and wildlife
- Prevents bites and fights
- It’s courteous to your neighbors and people who do not know your dog’s level of obedience
- When used properly, most canines do not mind leashes or collars

Remember, leashing your dog protects the animals and people.



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Obituary

Ramona Lee DesErmia 1936 - 2021



Ramona Lee DesErmia died peacefully in her home on Saturday, December 18, 2021. Ramona is the mother of long time local resident Kelly Vandenheuvel of Cayucos. Ramona was sur-rounded by family and friends during the week preceding her death.

Ramona was loved by so many. “I knew my mom had many friends, but it was not until her passing that I realized just how many friends she had”, said Kelly. The words that were re-peated over and over again by so many different people, were how generous, kind and posi-tive Ramona always was.

Ramona loved traveling, spending time with her friends and family, going on mini adventures around Los Angeles and sitting by the fire with her cat Jingles reading a good book.

Ramona is survived by her three children Kelly Vandenheuvel, Kevin Des Ermia, and Kirk Des Ermia, as well as her grandchildren Adam, Robert, Makena, and Kirra Des Ermia, and extend-ed family in Germany.

Ramona will be missed dearly.

Raymond Easton 1923 - 2021



In the early morning hours of Friday December 10th in Morro Bay at the age of 98, Raymond Francis Easton, a long time Los Osos resident and naturalist volunteer, went to be with his Lord and Savior.

Ray was a constant companion to his love of many years, Yvonne Schaffer. Yvonne and Ray enjoyed cruises, Cambria Pines, picnics in Cayucos, taking drives, concerts at Cuesta, and watching old movies. They were inseparable.

Ray was a father to five adult children, two of whom preceded him in death (Colin / son, and Michelle / daughter). He is survived by son Jeff (Thousand Oaks, CA.) daughter Csara (Santa Fe, NM) and daughter Alyson (Oahu, HI). He is loved by seven grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. He had a special love for his daughter-in-law Lynn, with whom he spoke with often.

Ray was born in New York City on June 18th, 1923. At the age of 18, he joined the army and headed for the pacific theater following Pearl Harbor. He fought in the battle of Sai Pan, and was a staff sergeant at Iwo Jima. He was an “Honor Flight” Recipient in Washington, D.C., and was proud to participate in the Cayucos 4th of July Parade.

Ray raised his family with his wife Rosalia beginning in New York, and later in Southern California following a work transfer. He made his money in the textile industry selling raw fabric to clothing manufacturers. (He was fondly called the “Rag Man”).

He loved the ocean and all ocean life. He was the con-

summate “Snorkeler” (until his late eighties). He managed the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay for several years, was a docent / board of directors member for the Friends of the Elephant Seal. He gave many talks and informational walks from the seal rookeries of San Simeon, to the tide pools at Montana De Oro State Park.

He loved to camp, cook, travel, and talk about life. He did a lot. He saw a lot. He will be missed by his love Yvonne, his large extended family, his brother Don and sister-in-law Sue in Virginia, his best friend Scott Cooke of SLO, his “Friend of Bill’s” group in Morro Bay, and many other friends and neighbors.

R.I.P. Dad. See you soon!

Attack From page 1

ious reports, spotted a boogie board in the surf and when she investigated, discovered the unresponsive victim face down and still attached to the board by a leash.

She brought the victim to shore with assistance of others on the beach who called 9-1-1 but the man was already dead.

The victim, identified as Tomas Butterfield, 42 of Sacramento whose mother lives in Morro Bay, was visiting for Christmas and had gone boogie boarding alone that morning.

The shark is believed to have been a great white shark, but authorities have not ruled definitively that was what attacked Butterfield.

Great whites have been seen in area waters many times, causing warnings and beach closures lasting sometimes several days to give the shark a chance to move along. Harbor Director Eric Endersby said they had not had any shark sightings in the days leading up to the attack and while the white shark has not been officially named as the culprit, it’s the only shark big enough to inflict the damage suffered and is found in local waters.

He said that day there were about 25-30 people surfing further down the beach that morning. He said the woman who pulled the victim from the water was out surfing with her husband at the time and she was inside the main break

closer to shore when she discovered the body.

There was a strong northerly current at the time, Endersby said, when she noticed the boogie board in the surf. She gave the board a tug, “That’s when she realized it had someone on the other end,” Endersby told Estero Bay News. The leash was still attached to Butterfield’s arm.

They were in about waist-deep water, he said, and she hailed some bystanders on the beach.

Morro Bay police officers were first on scene, Endersby said, with harbor patrol soon to arrive, driving their truck down the beach. Butterfield was wearing a wetsuit and fins, which Endersby said is normal gear for boogie boarders.

Details of the attack will likely never be known and no witnesses to the attack have stepped forward to tell what they saw. For surfers on Morro Strand, he said, they would normally sit on their boards waiting for waves in 10-12-foot of water, so the shark was likely close to shore when it struck.

The woman who discovered Butterfield was in 6-8-feet of water at the time, Endersby said.

The boogie board “had very little damage” in the attack, Endersby said. Asked if they’d had any shark sightings in the days before, Endersby said they hadn’t. “There were no reported sightings,” he said. “It’s been a quiet summer,” in so far as shark sightings are concerned.

He said after the attack, they sent a harbor patrol boat out to try and locate the shark and contacted three guys surfing near Morro Rock. Nicodemus, who was also on board, shouted out a warning about the fatal shark attack and, “I’ve never seen anyone get out of the water so fast,” Endersby said.

He said they posted the beach and surfers took heed. Christmas Day (a Saturday) was bereft of wave riders. “From Morro Bay to the Cayucos Pier,” he said, “It was the day that nobody surfed.”

But by that Sunday, he said, people were starting to get back into the water and on New Year’s Day, nearly 3,000 people turned out for the Cayucos Polar Bear Dip.

Attack Continued on page 19

New offerings at Buttercup, starting Jan. 18th



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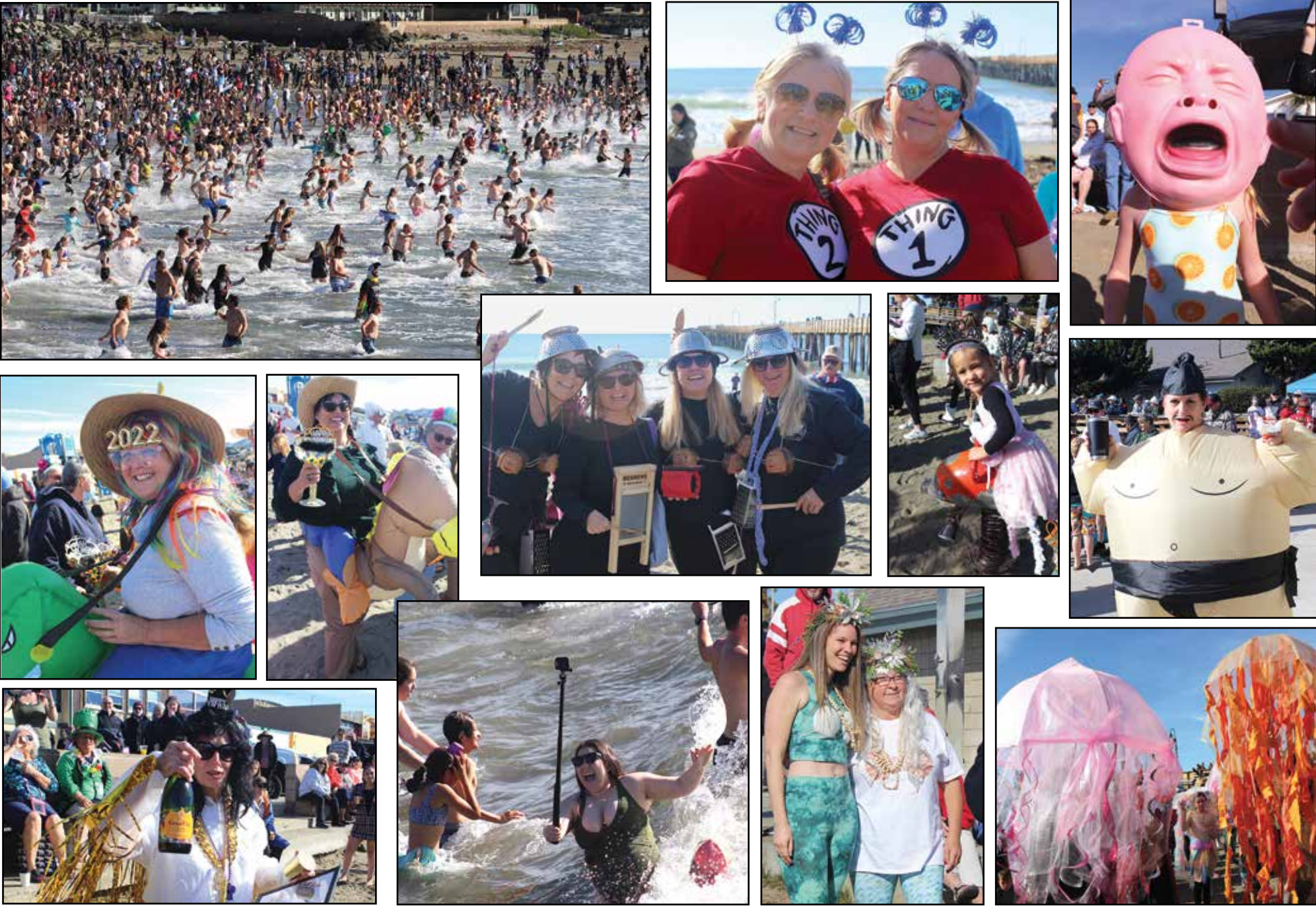
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Photos by Neil Farrell



Over 3,500 people turned out New Year's Day for the 42nd Annual Carlin Soule Cayucos Polar Bear Dip celebrating the thankful end of a difficult year and the hopes health and happiness in 2022. The day was sunny and warm, until a chill wind blew up just before the noon

start of the festivities. Earlier, the Annual Costume Contest was held on the beach with awards in several categories — oldest and youngest participants (4 and 76), farthest traveled to Cayucos (Dublin, Ireland). And the funniest costume was a giant mask of a crying baby worn by an

8-year-old girl, among other awards. When the clock struck 12, about 2,000 people made the dash through the surf to dive into the sea and embark on a new year that can't possibly be worse than 2021 (and 2020 too) and its pandemic of insanity.

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Gala Continued on page 1
guitar for Paul McCartney and Wings; Chris Hillman, who played with the Byrds; Utah Phillips, a master musical storyteller; Peter Ostroushko, a violinist and mandolinist, who performed regularly on A Prairie Home Companion, and always an annual favorite to sell out the house was Peppino D'Agostino, who played at Coalesce for almost 30 years and also performed at the Performing Arts Center.”

Besides supporting local musicians, Coalesce has always supported writers whether on book tour or kept in a special section for local writers in the shop. The store offers and promotes book signings to introduce authors to the public. Linna also hosted the Central Coast Writers’ Conference Presenters Social for several years bringing award-winning authors, agents and publishers to seek new talent, write, teach and visit Morro Bay, most likely for the first time.

Coalesce has also published several books, including poetry anthologies contributed to by local poets. “Second Sunday at Seven was an open-mike poetry group that we sponsored in the Chapel for many years,” explained Linna. “First it was hosted by Carne Lowgren, later by SLO Poet Laureate Jerry Douglas Smith and mystery author Sue McGinty.” She anticipates Misty Wycoff will soon revive it. “We’ve also welcomed hundreds of classes and workshops over the decades, limited only by people’s interests and imagination. Shoosh Crotzer offers a weekly yoga class; we offer a monthly Buddhist meditation; and SLO Hospice has a free grief group that meets once a month.”

Linna said, “In 2020, we closed for three months, March 19-June 1. It was a shocker for a business that had never closed more than four days a year. As we canceled all chapel activities – a full springtime, summer and fall for wedding bookings, we also had to scramble around madly and, overnight, turn ourselves into an on-line/phone order business. We delivered books locally for free and immediately instigated curbside pickup. We heard from people near and far, Florida, Oregon, Washington, Nebraska, all over California. The huge groundswell of support was amazing and heartwarming. Being involved in our community is what all of us at Coalesce love best, that and selling books that we believe can help change lives.”

Linna has been active in the daily operations for 47 years. Manager Sher Hereford has worked at Coalesce 45 years, Joanne Hand for 37 years, Roxanne Styles for eight years and new “organizational wizard” Thuy Trang Nguyen joined Linna’s bookstore sidekicks a year ago.

**Morro Bay Lions Club, 2022
Nonprofit of the Year**

Happy 75th Anniversary to the Morro Bay Lions Club! It is the oldest service organization in Morro Bay and the members value their club’s net worth by the number of services they can offer locally and internationally.

For years membership has remained steady at 30 and yet the Lions most recent free Community Thanksgiving Dinner event attracted 60 volunteer helpers. It has been a tradition for the MB Lions to collaborate with other local volunteers to produce a variety of community needed activities such as feeding the hungry, providing laundry



Some of the members of the Morro Bay Lions Club pictured during one of their car giveaway events. The service organization was awarded the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce’s Non-Profit of the Year

service for those in need, collecting recyclables in order to expand food distribution, paying for eye exams and glasses for those without insurance, and even cover needed eye surgery available through the Lions Eye Foundation.

Although challenged, Lions’ ability to serve was not interrupted even by recent pandemic events. Lions continued to partner with Todd’s Garage to service and give away 35 vehicles over the past eight years, which is so critical for families and individuals to seek and maintain work. A recycling program was started in 2016, and in 2021, Lions collected and redeemed more than 16,000 pounds of glass and hundreds of pounds of plastic and aluminum. All proceeds went to charities.

The Monday night dinners at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall are sponsored by Morro Bay Lions. Over the past nine years, more than 30,000 meals were served to the city’s hungry without fail every week.

Morro Bay Lions also financially supported local charities and organizations including eye screenings for all the local elementary schools, scholarships for high school seniors, Morro Bay in Bloom, Estero Bay Alliance for Care (EBAC), Morro Bay Open Space Alliance (MBOSA), Morro Bay Maritime Museum (MBMM), Scouts, Noor Foundation, Natural History Museum, Cayucos Lost at Sea Memorial, and Morro Bay Recreation Programs.

Although the City of Hope is not a local organization, people from Morro Bay take advantage of their many services, which Lions support.

Members of the Morro Bay Lions are honored to be introduced in their 75th year as Morro Bay’s Non-profit of the Year and look forward to seeing everyone at the Gala event on March 4.

Waterfront Camping Continued on page 1

Coleman Drive, up to and including Morro Rock parking lots, This shall not affect any current private business.”

Project Went Largely Unnoticed

When the City Council first reviewed the pilot program proposed by the harbor department, it got some pushback from a few citizens, especially with a plan that would have put camping sites at the base of Morro Rock and by Target Rock. But it passed with relative ease and little opposition after those areas were taken out.

But when residents first saw the campsites actually being used, especially at Coleman Park, many were very upset. It was the nearness of the Coleman Park spaces, adjacent to the bay and the Harborwalk public bike and pedestrian paths that seemed to shock them most.

The lot by Morro Creek had been used mainly for storage, and was also leased to a local business, the Master Baiters, a company that prepared fishing long lines with hooks and bait for local commercial fishermen. They cleared out when the City decided to turn the area into camping spaces.

Department Looks for Revenues

The Harbor Department was hoping to clear some much-needed cash with its pilot program and it sure did. Harbor Director Eric Endersby said the first year they grossed some \$244,000 (since September 2020), which he said would be higher with bookings that were already sold through an online booking service. The City’s system

requires payment at the time of booking. They had expenses to cover, which included \$30,000 “in one-time hard costs to get the program running,” Endersby said. “So it’s safe to say we’ve netted about \$160,000” in the first year.

The department had sold the Council on the idea predicting about \$150,000 a year in new revenues. That was music to their ears, as the City Council has struggled for several years to come up with creative ways to increase the Harbor budget after the power plant closed in 2014 and Dynegy (now Vistra Energy), cancelled its outfall canal lease (for the heated discharge waters) that paid \$250,000 a year to the Harbor Department.

TOT Collected Too

Endersby said the camping program also collected \$17,000 in transient occupancy taxes that was sent to City Hall, and also paid some \$2,500 in the County tourism taxes (1% of a night’s fee), and \$3,000 in credit card fees.

So the true gross profits for the program’s pilot year-plus a couple of months were closer to \$194,000, a sizable amount considering the highest grossing lease sites pay about \$100,000 a year to the Harbor Department.

Endersby said that was enough to fund a full time person.

Permit In The Works

The City is in somewhat of an awkward situation, as the department has already applied for a coastal development permit from the Coastal Commission to make the camping program permanent, an application that has yet to go before the Commission.

Endersby said their CDP application asks for 19 total spaces — nine at Morro Creek, seven at the Triangle lot, and three down at Tideland’s Park.

The citizen’s initiative, which must still have the signatures verified by the City Clerk’s Offices working in tandem with the County Elections Office, would seem to eliminate the Tidelands Park and Morro Creek camping areas, as they are located on The Embarcadero, but not the Triangle lot, which is actually on Front Street.

Even if the Commission grants the CDP, the citizen’s initiative would trump it and what could be a healthy revenue source for the Harbor Department, would be reduced greatly.

High Demand for Triangle Lot

And even the Triangle lot’s spaces are a bit rocky, as the Maritime Museum Association, which has a museum and displays at the entrance to the lot, hopes to be able to install an exhibit building (a donated Quonset hut) in that camping area and greatly expand the footprint of the museum.

The Harbor Department has already taken over nearly half the 1-acre lot for a boat storage yard, one of the other things it’s done to increase revenues. Along that line, the department also initiated a day use paid parking program at the public boat launch several years ago for trucks and boat trailers of sport fishermen. That parking program has to bring in some \$20,000 a year when first proposed. But it too had some upgrades to the kiosk, which had become obsolete and the paid parking permits are done online now.

Pandemic Lays Bare Money Woes

The pandemic laid bare the money woes the Harbor Department has been having for years, as maintenance monies for upkeep of its public facilities has been hard to come by.

As it stands now, the department needs about \$800,000 a year to maintain the public facilities it has now, with a total unmet maintenance need estimated at over \$10 million.

In the initial days of the coronavirus response in Spring 2020, the State shut down motels, restaurants and all “non-essential” businesses, ostensibly to “flatten the curve” of infections and stop hospitals from being overwhelmed with patients.

That State order was coupled by a citywide order that sought to shut down tourism for several months, and restricted the commerce that waterfront businesses could conduct.

Since the Harbor Department’s revenues come from lease site payments, as well as slips and dockage fees, the

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Kevin says,

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KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

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harbor’s budget stagnated. The Council also initiated a deferral program that let leaseholders defer lease payments for several months, though all or nearly all have since caught back up.

The City also embarked on a PR campaign in Summer 2020 discouraging people in the Central Valley from coming to Morro Bay for vacation.

Nevertheless, the Summer of 2020 was by most accounts very busy even though the motels and restaurants were limited in how they could conduct business.

Parcel Tax Petitions

Ironically, the anti-RV camping petition comes as another group of citizens has begun a petition drive to enact an annual \$120-per year “parcel tax” (\$10 a month) on all private property in town — residential as well as commercial — that proponents claim would raise some \$680,000 a year to address the Harbor Department’s maintenance needs. The tax would appear on property tax bills.

The three men spearheading that effort — Bill Luffee, Homer Alexander and Ron Reisner — are currently gathering signatures for the parcel tax initiative and have until May 9 to gather the necessary voter signatures and get it on the ballot in November.

There are some 8,268 registered voters in Morro Bay, according to figures from the City Clerk. So the parcel tax petition drive will need some 827 valid signatures (10%) to qualify.

City Clerk Dana Swanson said, the signatures number is based on the County Clerk’s voter registration report to the Secretary of State in place at the time the “Notice of Intention” to circulate a petition was published.

“The [RV camping] notice was published on July 22,” Swanson said of the anti-RC camping measure, “and the voter registration report dated February 10, 2021 requires 820 valid signatures to qualify the petition. I mention that because a later report dated August 30, 2021 [and used for the parcel tax petition drive] established a slightly different number of signatures required for the Harbor Infrastructure Tax Initiative [827].”

When Will It Appear

The anti-RV camping measure proponents turned in 1,017, and those are being verified via the County Elections Office, so it might not be ready in time to make the June Primary Election.

Also, because it’s a new ordinance, the City Council will have a chance to simply adopt it and skip an election. If they don’t approve it, it would go to voters.

Normally, there wouldn’t be anyone from Morro Bay on a Primary Election Ballot, however, Councilwoman Jen Ford, who was appointed to replace the late Councilman Robert Davis, must stand election in June along with anyone who challenges her for the seat, assuming that she will run.

The winner of that race will face re-election in the November 2024 Presidential Election, when Davis’ term expires naturally.

The City was still sorting out the anti-waterfront camping initiative and had not decided when it might appear on the ballot, as signature verifications take some time.

So while it may not make the June vote it would surely be ready to appear on the ballot in November, potentially along with the parcel tax measure, provided that petition drive is successful.

Also up for election in November will be Mayor John Heading, Councilman Jeff Heller and Councilwoman Dawn Addis, though Addis has declared her intentions to run for State Assembly in June. Her situation could trigger another muni code issue.

M.C. 2.06.030 reads in part, “When a councilmember in the middle of their term moves to an alternate office it also denies the citizens of Morro Bay the right to vote for the person who will fill the vacancy created by that move. If a councilmember wishes to run for alternate office before his or her term has expired he or she should resign from their seat so that the voters may elect their replacement in an orderly manner.”

That would seem to count only for council people seeking higher office in mid term. City Clerk Swanson said she wasn’t sure if Addis could in essence seek election to

both a City office and a State one.

Swanson said that scenario “might require some legal analysis on whether those are conflicting offices — I’ve not looked into that, as it seems like an unlikely scenario.”

Those council races plus the possibility of two measures would make the November 2022 General Election a busy one indeed for Morro Bay voters.

Redistricting War Continued on page 1

County and gives the Republican Party majorities in three districts (Dist. 1, 4 and 5), which critics have charged would ensure Republican majority on the board until at least the next time the map gets redrawn — after the 2030 U. S. Census is completed.

County Counsel Rita Neal on Jan. 7 told Estero Bay News that the County has not yet been served with any lawsuits over redistricting.

The local political kerfuffle isn’t alone, as the State Redistricting Commission’s new Assembly, State Senate and Congressional District maps have come under fire too.

SLO County is now part of two Congressional Districts — the 19th and 24th. The 19th District is now a long thin stretch of Coastline from San Jose down to just above Cayucos and includes Carmel, Scotts Valley and a large swath of the North County — Templeton, San Miguel, Atascadero and Paso Robles as well as numerous tiny communities in between.

Morro Bay, Cayucos, SLO and Los Osos, are now in the 24th District which includes Santa Ynez, Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, stopping just above Oxnard.

The new Assembly Dist. 30 includes all of SLO County plus the coastal communities going northward and including Big Sur, Carmel, and Monterey, up to Capitola in Santa Cruz County.

The new 17th State Senate District now includes most of SLO County and Monterey County, as well, stretching northward in a line to the southern edge of Los Gatos in the Southwestern Bay Area.

Several groups have vowed to challenge these maps basically along the same lines as the challenge to SLO County’s new supervisorial map.

The new maps will be first used in the June 2022 Primary Election, though Dist. 3 Supervisor Ortiz-Legg, who was appointed last year to the seat by Gov. Newsom after the death of Adam Hill in 2020, will stand election using the old map for her district.

It remains to be seen if the new maps on any level can survive legal challenges, with a final decision expected in time for the June Primary Election. Readers can check out the approved State maps at: www.wedrawthelinesca.org.

Attack From page 16

He noted that they left the shark warnings signs up for 72 hours and the City’s electronic boards — flashing “Fatal Shark Attack” and “Enter Water at Own Risk” — were left out at Morro Rock and along Atascadero Road for a week.

One other factor that may have played a part were the pre-Christmas Eve storms, which carried a lot of silt with the runoff into the bay and ocean via storm drains. “The water was getting a little chocolatey,” Endersby said of the poor visibility.

Big great white sharks have been spotted numerous times over the years in Estero Bay waters, and some credible sightings have noted fish 18-feet long.

The last fatal shark attack in Morro Bay happened in 1957, according to an article from the time that The Tribune reprinted Jan. 3 in David Middlecamp’s history column.

That victim was Peter Savino, 25 of Brooklyn N.Y., who was a Korean War veteran and a freshman at Cal Poly at the time. He and some friends on April 28, 1957 decided to go swimming on Morro Strand at 35th Street (at what’s now the southern edge of The Cloisters neighborhood), which is coincidentally not far from where this latest attack occurred.

Savino and another friend were 300-400 yards offshore, after being caught in a rip that started pulling them



out to sea. His friend reportedly saw the great fish attack Savino.

The Tribune story said a Coast Guard launch spotted a 20-foot great white shark in the area after the attack. Savino’s body was never recovered.

And while being attacked by a shark is ever a possibility when you venture into the ocean, as a bit of perspective, over the past 30 years, at least three people have fallen to their deaths off Morro Rock, which is illegal to climb.

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