

## Hydroelectric Plant Proposed For Whale Rock Reservoir

By Neil Farrell

A Southern California energy company is applying for permission to study potentially building a hydroelectric plant at Whale Rock Reservoir in Cayucos.

Premium Energy Holdings, LLC, based in Walnut, Calif., on March 31 applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to build the so-called, “Whale Rock Pumped Storage Hydro Project.”

The project would build a small earthen dam in the hills about 6 miles northeast of Whale Rock and much higher in elevation than the reservoir.

“The project concept,” reads the application, “envision the construction of a pumped storage power facility with a minimum capacity of about 600 megawatts [MW] to a maximum of about 1500 MW, and a minimum storage duration of 8 hours to a maximum of about 48 hours duration.”

“The Whale Rock PSH would add storage resources to the state’s clean energy portfolio and would help in the goal of reducing carbon footprint, improving the grid’s reliability and flexibility, and meeting customer’s needs.”

It’s a concept that would store carbon-free energy from wind and solar while it’s plentiful, i.e. when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining, and release it back into the power grid when supply drops off at night.

The State’s efforts at sustainability and carbon-free energy involves lots of storage facilities — like the “Battery Energy Storage System” or BESS being proposed by Vistra Energy owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant, and an “Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage” plant being proposed by Canadian energy company, Hydrostor. Premium Energy’s Whale Rock project is one of several hydro projects it is pursuing at several water reservoirs.

## Commission Letter’s Not a de Facto Moratorium

By Neil Farrell

The Coastal Commission has laid down the law with regards to new growth in Los Osos and Cambria, discouraging the County and local services districts from processing any permits that would exacerbate the towns’ water supply issues.

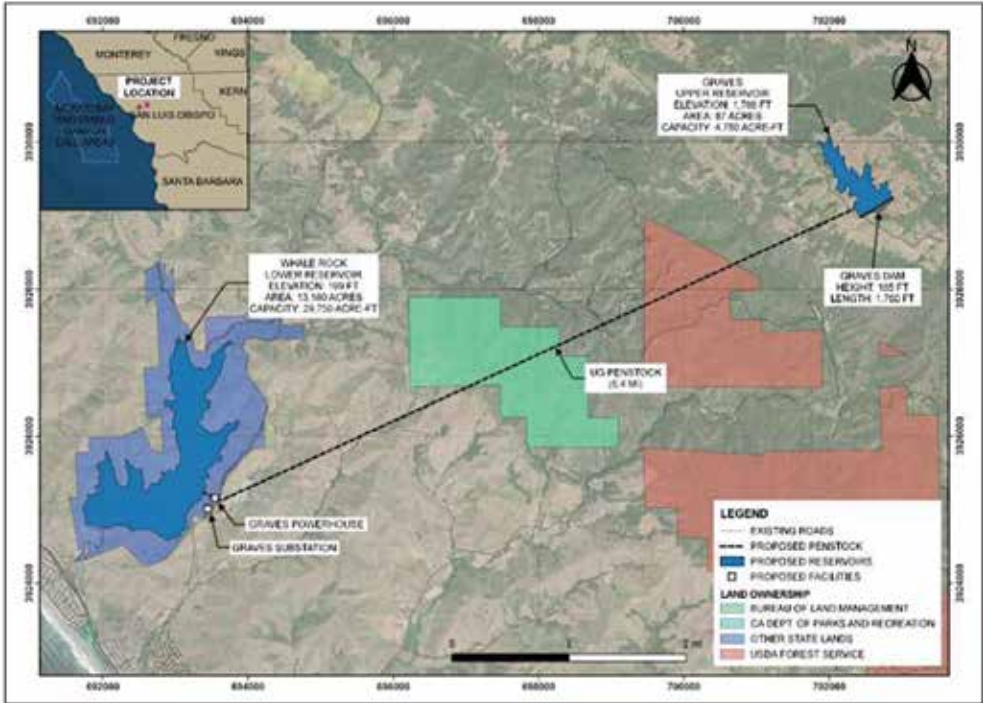
And while it appears on the surface that the State agency is setting down what is effectively a new building moratorium, its effects are not likely to change anything.

In a letter dated April 19 from Dan Carl, the Commission’s director of the Central Coast Office in Santa Cruz and addressed to County Planning Director, Trevor Keith, Carl points to the water supplies and calls for an end to certain Coastal Development Permits (CDPs).

“As the County is well aware,” Carl’s letter reads, “including from the County’s designation of an LCP Resource Management System Alert Level III for water supply [i.e., where demand exceeds existing supply, and still does] and from the 2015 designation by the California Department of Water Resources of the Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin as a high priority basin due to its ‘condition of critical overdraft,’ there is insufficient water supply to serve even existing development in Los Osos without coastal resource harm [including where an over-drafted groundwater basin can adversely impact sensitive natural resources such as wetlands and marshes, coastal streams and adjacent riparian areas, and marine habitats, as well as adversely impact coastal priority uses such as agriculture and lower-cost visitor- serving development], let alone adding to it new water using development.”

“In addition, much of Los Osos is considered environmentally sensitive habitat area [ESHA] by the LCP within which most development, including residential develop-

**Commission Letter’s** Continued on page 16



Map shows the layout of a hydroelectric power plant project utilizing Whale Rock Reservoir (lower left corner) that is being proposed by a Southern California energy company.

The BESS, which is being reviewed by the Morro Bay Planning Department, is a 600 MW lithium-ion battery facility and would be the largest battery plant in the world.

Hydrostor’s project proposes to use new technology the company invented to store up to 400 MW of pent up energy in the form of pressurized underground tanks that would release the energy back through turbines that convert it back to electricity to feed back into the power grid.

SLO County, which for decades has seen the closure of numerous energy facilities, is moving back towards industrialization, albeit switching from oil, gas and nuclear power, to new-fangled sustainable, so-called green energy facilities.

The County is home to several commercial sized solar farms and is a prime target for offshore wind energy, too. But the Whale Rock hydro proposal is a first and something that caught the people who run the reservoir and 18-mile Whale Rock pipeline by surprise.

When EBN first learned about the project, it sought

**Hydroelectric Plant** Continued on page 18

## By the Sea Productions: Back & Better Than Ever

By Judy Salamacha

What would you want to be remembered for? This is just one of the questions posed in a recent production of live theatre at By the Sea Productions based in Morro Bay. Throughout March and April, the managing troupe sparked by their active board of directors, including former mayor Janice Peters, had been out and about on the Embarcadero, at Chamber mixers, Shop-Sip & Stroll, and Saturday afternoon community markets — wherever gatherings happened — promoting that Morro Bay’s theatre season had finally launched.

Plays and staged readings are now scheduled for the 2022 season. Performances are in rehearsal for their first full play June 17- July 10, and in fact, three staged readings have already been performed to appreciative audiences Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 545 Shasta Avenue. The community continues to thank St. Peter’s by the Sea Episcopal Church for their generous sharing of their hall to stage their productions. Their history, schedule and even how to buy tickets



Cast of By the Sea’s production of “Now and Then” featuring Robert Vaca, Nayla Paschoa, Michelle Turner and Seth Blackburn.

are at [www.bytheseaproductions.org](http://www.bytheseaproductions.org).

So back to my story, along with other Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce members and guests, I witnessed a mini performance intended to demonstrate the concept of a “staged reading” at April’s monthly “Breakfast by the Bay.” Such readings are typically scheduled while prepping for larger productions such as the June “sophisticated

**Back Better** Continued on page 16



**Dragons  
Are Coming  
Page 6**

**Police  
Blotter  
Page 8**



**Vroom  
Vroom  
Pages  
13 & 15**





Protest Vote Set on Garbage Rate Hikes

By Neil Farrell



Seems the price of literally everything — from a gallon of gas to a gallon of milk — has increased greatly in price, as Putin’s price hike spreads throughout the economy. So it shouldn’t be a surprise that garbage rates also appear heading steeply upwards.

But the newest rate hike for customers of Morro Bay Garbage Co., i.e. homes and businesses inside the Morro Bay City Limits, can’t be blamed on a faraway dictator, this one’s home grown.

The City of Morro Bay has just sent out notices of an upcoming Proposition 218 protest vote against a nearly 14.5% increase in the monthly garbage rates.

Monthly bills are slated to jump 9.07% starting July 1, for the garbage, recycling and yard waste service, according to the City’s notice. That rate hike is being driven by new State mandates.

“Several factors contributed to this rate increase,” reads the City’s notice, “Including, increased costs associated with the purchase and operation of collection vehicles and increased costs associated with the organics digester facility.”

A digester facility is required to comply with State Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) which was passed purportedly to divert food wastes from the landfills, and curb the release of methane caused through the natural decomposition of organic matter.

“Methane,” the City said, “is a potent greenhouse gas, with more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide, and is a major component of decomposing organic waste.

“In response to the harmful effects of methane gas, CalRecycle [a branch of the California Environmental Protection Agency] adopted regulations implementing SB 1383 in the fall of 2020. Key components of SB 1383 include implementing organic waste collection programs [including food waste], monitoring organics carts for contamination, and reporting data.”

The law requires local jurisdictions to “develop a program to divert organic waste from landfills to an authorized composting facility like an anaerobic digester.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency website: “Anaerobic digestion is the natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials. In this instance, ‘organic’ means coming from or made of plants or animals.

“Anaerobic digestion happens in closed spaces where there is no air or oxygen.” (“AD” refers to the process of anaerobic digestion or the built system where anaerobic digestion takes place, also called a digester.)

Substances used in AD systems include animal manures; food scraps; fats, oils, and greases; industrial organic residuals; and, sewage sludge or biosolids.

Ironically, one of the main byproducts of anaerobic digesting is “biogas” composed mainly of carbon dioxide and methane, both of which are considered greenhouse gases.

“The carbon dioxide and other gases can be removed,” the EPA said, “leaving only the methane. Methane is the primary component of natural gas.” It’s also the element

that the State is trying to cut down on with SB 1383.

Of the 9.07% increase, 2.62% of it is going to “capital investment costs of new collection vehicles [garbage trucks], replacement containers and additional containers to meet the demands of SB 1383 compliance,” according to the notice.

Some 5.23% is “for increased capital equipment investments and escalating operating expenses related to the Anaerobic Digester.”

And, 1.12% of the 9.07% is “for increases in AB 939 and franchise fees.”

With the rates going up to cover the State’s mandates, a local mandate will add another 5.4% to the bills. The Integrated Waste Management Authority or IWMA, enacted that increase.

IWMA is a joint powers agreement agency consisting of every incorporated city in SLO County, plus community services districts, which came together as a regional agency to oversee garbage and hazardous waste disposal services and make sure the various laws are adhered to.

Ironically, the only agency not included in the county-wide IWMA is SLO County.

County Supervisors voted to pull out of the IWMA and handle solid waste responsibilities in house through the Engineering Department. That system would oversee garbage service in Cayucos and Los Osos.

Morro Bay was apparently targeted by the IWMA for a rate hike. “At the IWMA Board Meeting of March 9, 2022,” the City report said, “the IWMA adopted a 5.4 percent solid waste management fee upon Morro Bay Garbage’s gross receipts to account for IWMA’s operational and capital cost increases due largely to tasks associated with the implementation of SB 1383.”

So what will Morro Bay ratepayers get for that 5.4% hike? “Education and outreach monitoring,” the report said, “inspection, and record keeping programs; establishing, administering, and implementing the edible food recovery requirements; monitoring and education, including, but not limited to, monitoring compliance through route reviews and evaluations, determining the applicability of waivers, and issuing educational notices where necessary and/or appropriate; and required reporting to CalRecycle.

“The adopted fee will be effective on July 1, 2022. The City has authorized Morro Bay Garbage to bill this additional fee on behalf of the IWMA.”

It will be adopted unless the people successfully protest the rate hikes. The City has scheduled the protest hearing for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28 during the regular City Council meeting at the Ver’s Hall, 209 Surf St.

Each private parcel in town gets one vote in a Prop. 218 process. The voter can be either the property owner, or a renter if their name is on the garbage bill. Protests must be made in writing, as emails do not count, and neither do faxes.

You can also drop off protest votes at Morro Bay City Hall prior to the meeting, or at the Council hearing if you plan to attend in person now that the Council’s Coronavirus Zoom meetings have ended.

According to the City notice, “A valid written protest must contain: 1) a statement that you protest the Proposed Rate Increase; 2) the address or Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) of the parcel or parcels which receive solid waste, recycling, and green waste services; and, 3) a signature by either the owner or the tenant-customer of the parcel or parcels.”

Readers who support the rate hikes needn’t do anything. In the Prop. 218 process, not voting goes down as a “Yes” vote.

If over 50% of the ratepayers protest the rate hikes, the City Council can’t enact them but will still be on the hook for the increased costs to the garbage company, which has a contract guaranteeing a certain profit margin and mandated cost increases be covered.

Email Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek at: gkwolek@morrobayca.gov with any questions.

The notice is available online at: [www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/16637/Morro-Bay-Prop-218-Notice---Final-002](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/16637/Morro-Bay-Prop-218-Notice---Final-002).

Project Would Replace Part of Whale Rock Pipeline

By Neil Farrell



Bids are out now on a project to replace a length of the 60-year-old water line at Whale Rock Reservoir. Photo submitted

The group of agencies that own the Whale Rock Reservoir and pipeline system are out for bids now on a project to replace a length of the 60-year-old water line.

The Whale Rock Commission in April gave the green light to go out for bids on a project that would dig up and replace a 225-foot segment of the nearly 18-mile pipeline as it runs through the County’s Dairy Creek Golf Course on Hwy 1, according to a report from the Commission’s April 21 board meeting.

The Whale Rock Commission, which was formed in the 1950s and consists of Cal Poly, California Men’s Colony, and the City of San Luis Obispo, voted to authorize advertising the Pipeline Repair Project, setting a total budget of \$510,000.

The pipeline runs from the reservoir in Cayucos to the City of SLO’s water treatment plant off Hwy 1 at Stenner Creek Road. “The pipeline,” reads the report, “is pressurized via gravity from the Reservoir until the pressure is



Estero Bay News Staff

Dean Sullivan

Owner - Publisher

dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor

editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell

Reporter

neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan

Marketing Director

shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan

Jill Turnbow

Ruth Ann Angus

Judy Salamacha

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

Laurie Lackland

(805) 506-1649 TTY:711

Calling the number will direct you to a licensed agent.

Confused about Medicare?

Call Laurie today!

Absolutely no charge...ever.

LacklandHealthPartners.com

Laurie.Lackland@Hey.com

My focus: Education, Integrity, YOU.

California License #4051815



News

required to be boosted at two pump stations, one in the town of Cayucos, and another near the Morro Bay Water Resource Recovery Facility. Whale Rock pipeline failures are uncommon but increasing in frequency as the pipeline surpasses 60 years of service life.”

With a history of increasing concerns, the Commission in 2017 hired Pure Technologies, to inspect the pipeline. “The inspection was designed to use magnetic resonance technology to identify areas of the pipeline with metal loss which increases the likelihood of pipeline failure. Inspection results documented a small number of locations experiencing abnormal pipeline degradation that were recommended for replacement and further analysis.”

That initial study led to the need for more detailed study, but that requires digging up the pipeline for a sight inspection. “When these sections are removed,” the report said, “and physically analyzed, results will be utilized to update the pipeline assessment model, which will result in a more accurate assessment of points of potential failure in the pipeline.”

This fiscal year, the Commission set aside over \$363,000 for the project and another \$146,000 in FY 2022-23, for a total budget of \$510,000 to dig up and replace about 225-feet of the pipeline running along a 20-foot wide easement through Dairy Creek Golf Course.

Those figures are estimates from the staff engineers and the true cost won’t be known until a contract is awarded, and updated once the project is completed, as such projects are subject to potential cost overruns.

And with the replacement project, Pure Technologies will get a better handle on the condition of the rest of the pipeline.

The Whale Rock Reservoir is an earthen dam on Old Creek that was begun in October 1958 and completed in April 1961, according to a history posted on the Commission’s website. The dam was designed and constructed by the State Department of Water Resources “to provide water to the City of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly State University, and California Men’s Colony.” (Those three agencies make up the Whale Rock Commission under SLO City staff’s supervision.)

The dam captures water from a 20.3-square mile watershed, the history said, and raw water is delivered to the agencies via the 17.6-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline.

Whale Rock Reservoir’s capacity is some 38,967-acre feet and is some 218-feet deep. Currently, it is at about 75% full with some 29,600-acre feet of water.

Because it is a drinking water reservoir, human contact with the water and all boating are prohibited. Fishing from shore is allowed under State fishing regulations. Common fish species found in Whale Rock include steelhead, catfish, bluegill, bass and Sacramento suckers.

The Whale Rock Pipeline is a so-called “bar wrapped pipeline,” made of steel pipe with a 1” thick interior con-

crete coating. The pipe is wrapped in half-inch rebar, rather like a Slinky, and then coated on the outside with concrete, so it’s super tough.

Still, it sprang major leaks in both 2016 and 2017, which occurred in rural areas of the pipeline’s route and so did not make the news. That’s when the Commission hired Pure Technologies for \$475,000 to survey the aging line.

In 1995, the pipeline, as it runs along Panorama Drive on the eastern edge of North Morro Bay, sprang a major leak when the hillside moved. That hillside was identified as a major risk for movement during really wet winters, as 1994-95 was.

In response, the Whale Rock Commission rerouted the pipeline down Trinidad Street to Tide Avenue, and over to Nevis Street, where it was run back uphill to rejoin the pipeline as it runs southeasterly through the hills.

Of note, the Whale Rock Pipeline, which runs adjacent to Hwy 1 through Chorro Valley, crosses the entrance to the City of Morro Bay’s new sewer treatment plant at the terminus of South Bay Boulevard. So the City’s new sewer conveyance lines will run right under the Whale Rock Pipeline.

Busted Sewer Main Fixed, For Now

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay has completed a temporary fix of a leaking forced sewer main that serves all the homes on the west side of Hwy 1 in North Morro Bay, and could include a permanent replacement of the pipe, as part of a larger project being developed for North Main Street, the City announced.

The 6-inch, “Ductile Pipe,” sewer main runs from a lift station at the Cloisters, under Hwy 1, connecting with the City’s gravity-fed sewer main that runs down Main Street to the treatment plant on Atascadero Road.

The City discovered the leak on the morning of Monday, April 11, according to the City’s Public Works Department news release. The leaky pipe, which is sight-inspected a couple of times a week, was not evident on the Thursday before the 11th and City officials believe it started leaking sometime over that weekend.

The line is crossed by a highway storm drain that empties into a catch basin and runoff system in Cloisters. An estimated 10,000 gallons of raw sewage puddled at the mouth of the storm drain and the City was able to suction up most of it with its pumper truck. Some residual icky stuff remained in the soil.

The sewer pipe dates back to 1954, which predates the City’s incorporation in July 1964, and predates the construction of Hwy 1. A robot with a mounted camera was sent through the sewer pipe and the storm drain to scope out the extent of the leak.

After being discovered, the City Utilities Division crew immediately went to work to contain and clean up the spill. They also rented two 20,000-gallon bypass tanks from Pacific Petroleum of California, based in Santa Maria.

The storage tanks accepted the sewer flow from the lift station and then loaded it onto tanker trucks, which trucked the sewage back around Main Street and emptied it back into a sewer manhole. The bike lane has now reopened.

On April 27, the news release said, a contractor pushed a 4-inch “High Density Poly Ethylene” pipe inside the leaking 6-inch line, and returned the line to service.

The bypass system was costing the City some \$10,000 a day and while the City didn’t say how much it had cost them, having it in use from April 11-27 would be about 16 days, or some \$160,000, not counting the cost of the repair, which the City said was a temporary fix.

“This is a short-term fix that will prevent any further leakages until the Utilities and Engineering Divisions evaluate and implement a long-term option to replace the force main,” the news release said. “The OneWater Plan, the City’s master planning document for water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure, did not prioritize this force main for replacement and showed no indication it was at risk for imminent failure.

“As such, the City is considering including full replacement of the force main as part of the much larger Main Street Sewer Improvements project currently being designed.”

The sewer leak was the first big emergency test of the City’s new Public Works management team, including the Public Works Director, City Engineer and Utilities Division Manager, who have all been in their positions for less than a year.



COVID-19 Test to Treat Services Expand

COVID-19 treatment is now more widely available for people across San Luis Obispo County who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

The Test to Treat services launched last week at free COVID-19 Continued on page 4

**Bayside Cafe**

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

Just plain good food, generous portions




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

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

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

**10 WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY AND SAVE MONEY**

#4 #7



**SOLAR ELECTRIC + BATTERY BACKUP**  
Savings + security + 26% tax credit thru 2022.

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

**SOLARPONICS**

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



COVID-19 From page 3

community testing sites in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo, as well as at Med Plus Dignity Health Urgent Care Centers in Atascadero and Pismo Beach. With these additions, the services are available at 12 sites countywide.

Test to Treat was developed to address the need for quick, lifesaving treatment for those who are age 65 and older or have health conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19. With the Test to Treat model, these sites provide rapid testing, a medical consultation as appropriate, and Paxlovid anti-viral pills, if indicated. Patients who are at high risk for severe illness and test positive but cannot take Paxlovid may be referred for other treatment options such as monoclonal antibodies. Treatment is most effective when started within the first few days of illness, before symptoms become severe.

"If you are 65 or older, please get tested right away if you experience symptoms so that you can get treatment if you need it," said County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein. "With Paxlovid, treatment needs to be started within five days of the first symptoms."

Service Sites Countywide

- SLO County Community Testing Sites (888-634-1123): Grover Beach, Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo.
- BestCare Pharmacy in Arroyo Grande (805-481-1961, Option 1)
- Cambria Drug & Gift (805-927-7283)
- Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC) sites (866-614-4636):
- Med Plus Medical Center Pismo Beach / Dignity Health Urgent Care (805-474-8450)
- Med Plus Atascadero / Dignity Health Urgent Care (805-461-2131)
- Med-Stop Urgent Care in San Luis Obispo (805-549-8880)

Test to Treat hours vary by location. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm hours and ask any specific questions about cost. Pharmacy and urgent care sites generally charge a fee for testing and medical consultation, and most will bill insurance for this cost. The medication itself, if prescribed, is free of charge.

At community testing sites in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo, all services are provided free of charge for the patient. The sites will collect insurance information but will not bill those who do not have insurance. For Test to Treat services at these community sites, patients may schedule a regular appointment online or by calling 888-634-1123. Walk-ins will be accepted as supplies and staffing allow, generally with more availability in the mornings.

COVID-19 treatment is also available at other pharmacies and clinics in SLO County, by prescription or physician referral. Health officials encourage those who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 to test early and call their doctor if the test is positive. A new online Treatment Locator Tool helps locate treatment options nationwide.

When seeking Test to Treat services at any site, bring a list of any medications you currently take

Work Starts to Replace Toro Creek Bridge

By Neil Farrell

Work has finally begun on a project to replace the Hwy 1 northbound Toro Creek Bridge, with northbound traffic being squeezed onto the southbound side of the roadway.

The \$5.7 million bridge replacement project is being funded by Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the "Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017," reads a news release from Caltrans.

Work began Monday, May 9 with the erecting of barricades to protect workers, Caltrans said.

"Travelers headed northbound on Highway 1 [from Morro Bay towards Cayucos] will be diverted onto current southbound lanes, with two-way traffic divided by a center median. This traffic control measure will allow for the demolition of the bridge on northbound Highway 1. A bicycle detour will also be established with signage near the project area."

Souza Engineering Contracting of San Luis Obispo is the contractor for the project, which, weather permitting, should be completed by Spring 2023, according to Caltrans.

"This important infrastructure project," Caltrans Dist. 5 Director Tim Gubbins said, "is another illustration of how SB 1 funding is making a big, positive difference by advancing infrastructure improvements not only here on the Central Coast, but throughout the state."

The northbound Toro Creek Bridge was built in the 1930s and dates back to the earliest iteration of Hwy 1. The bridge deck is two lanes of traffic but has almost no room for bicycles. Hwy 1 is well-used by cyclists through the area.

The old bridge also doesn't meet modern earthquake standards.

The southbound bridge is newer and still meets modern standards and isn't being worked on at this time.

Caltrans also plans to work on the Hwy 1 bridge spanning Old Creek near the 24th Street Beach entrance. So travelers between Morro Bay and Cayucos will soon have two construction zones to be careful of.

SB 1, or the "Gas Tax" as it is known, was approved by the Legislature in 2017. It immediately raised gasoline fuel taxes 12-cents a gallon, with increases of 5.6¢ per gallon in 2019 and 3.2¢ in 2020. It is due for another 1.1% increase for inflation.

It also tagged on extra fees on vehicle registrations, including a minimum \$100 fee on vehicles built in 2020 and later, to make up for the lack of gas taxes paid by hybrid and electric vehicle owners.

The tax hike was to provide \$54 billion over 10 years, spending 10%, or \$5 billion per year, and is implicitly to be used to fix roads and split evenly between State projects (like Toro Creek Bridge) and local transportation projects.

Readers are advised to drive slowly and carefully through the construction zone, which is hard to avoid considering Hwy 1 is the only north-south route on the North Coast.

With this ready source of money available, the theory is that transportation projects will get done quicker if they don't have to wait around for funding. For more information about other transportation projects funded by SB 1, see: RebuildingCA.ca.gov.

Two Arrested in Cambria Jewelry Heist

The County Sheriff's Department has cracked a massive Cambria burglary case, wherein the scoundrels smashed open the front door and display cases, and stole valuable jewelry.

Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said two people had been arrested in the October 2021 burglary of Rich Man Poor Man Antiques store in Cambria. Cipolla said deputies responded to an audible burglar alarm at about 3:45 a.m. last Oct. 19.

"When Deputies arrived," Cipolla said, "they noticed the front glass door to the business was shattered. Surveillance video also revealed a male suspect smashing jewelry cases with a hammer."

The thief left behind a valuable piece of evidence. "That hammer was later found at the business and was collected as evidence," Cipolla said. "The video showed the suspect taking a large amount of jewelry from the smashed cases. The loss was estimated at more than \$250,000."

Detectives were able to identify two suspects from the evidence left at the scene, Cipolla said. They were: Kristin Miller, 39 and James McPherson, 46. Both are described as transients with no known addresses but believed to be from Santa Clara County.

During the investigation, Cipolla said, detectives discovered at least nine, jewelry stores and pawn shops in San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Clara where the suspects allegedly sold the stolen jewelry.

On April 18, Cipolla said, the San Jose Police Department caught up to Miller and arrested her. Then on April 25, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department arrested McPherson.

"Both were transported to the San Luis Obispo County Jail," Cipolla said, "where they are facing charges of commercial burglary, receiving stolen property, conspiracy to commit burglary and other theft related charges."



James McPherson



Kristin Miller



# THANK YOU, MORRO BAY

In 2022, RHM celebrates 10 Years of Business in Morro Bay! Thank YOU to the organizations, businesses, and individuals who trusted us to help you succeed. We're excited to see what the next decade has in store!

- Travis & Jen Ford



ROCKHARBORMARKETING.COM



News Briefs  
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Poly Plant Switcheroo

Cal Poly’s Horticulture and Crop Science Department has formally changed its name to the Plant Sciences Department. The agricultural and environmental plant sciences major will also be renamed to reflect predominant employment opportunities more accurately for graduates and prospective students.

“The name, ‘Plant Sciences,’ better reflects the interests of prospective students, predominant employment opportunities for graduates, aligns with programs at competitor institutions, and the department’s academic mission,” said Scott Steinmaus, head of the department.

The department, which was formed in 2002, offers curriculum that is designed to train plant scientists who are ready upon graduation to make informed decisions and recommendations regarding sustainable farming or horticultural practices that maximize plant production and protection while minimizing economic, environmental and social impacts. The name change enables the program to clearly convey its academic mission and broaden recruitment of applicants who may or may not have a background in agriculture and allow them to be successful in robust careers throughout California and beyond.

Within the plant sciences major, students can focus on three concentrations: environmental horticultural sciences, fruit and crop science and plant protection science.

Mental Health  
Awareness Month

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department is celebrating May National Mental Health Awareness Month by hosting community wide events to promote wellness, resiliency, and recovery.

One in five adults currently live with a mental illness, which totaled to more than 52.9 million Americans in 2020, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Mental health issues have been at the forefront nationwide for several years, as the rise in street crimes and unprovoked attacks by people suffering from mental illness, appear regularly in the headlines. The problem has

been exasperated by the coronavirus pandemic response that has affected Americans’ way of life for over two years now.

Many people have turned to at-home self-care tools, the County said, and grounding practices to cope with their negative mental health symptoms, the County wants to remind everyone that “knowing when to seek professional help for your symptoms is vital.”

County Behavioral Health Director, Anne Robin, said, “Reaching out for help remains one of the largest barriers for receiving care. In 2020, only 46.2% of American Adults with mental illness received direct services.

“Self-care at home is a great tool and has helped many through hard days, especially during the pandemic.

“However,” she continued, “if you are noticing your mental health has not improved since the pandemic, or you are experiencing prolonged symptoms like hopelessness, isolation, sleeplessness, or lack of motivation, it may be time to take further action and reach out for more support.”

Behavioral Health is spreading the word on mental health services in several ways, including putting together so-called “resource kits” in conjunction with the County Food Bank and local middle schools.

The kits “contain tools to help residents to maintain their mental wellness and information about local mental health services available.”

A list of Mental Health Awareness Month events is posted online at: [www.slocounty.ca.gov/MayMH](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/MayMH).

The website includes downloadable resources and activities aimed at helping people take care of their mental health. Behavioral Health is also on Facebook and Instagram. Readers can also access mental health services and treatment by calling Behavioral Health’s access line at: 1-800-838-1381.

More Affordable  
Housing Coming to SLO

People’s Self-Help Housing just got the green light to use up to \$30 million in tax-exempt bonds to finance a new affordable housing project in San Luis Obispo.

The SLO City Council held a mandated public hearing to give the public a chance to provide input on the use of tax-exempt bonds to finance the project. The three-story project at 3750 Bullock Lane will have 68 affordable residential units and was previously approved by the City’s Planning Commission.

The bonds are issued by the California Municipal Finance Authority and will be used to acquire, develop, build and equip the rental housing facility for low-income people.

National Public Works  
Week Concludes May 21

The theme this year for National Public Works Week, May 15- May 21, is “Ready & Resilient.”

The American Public Works Association said the theme was influenced by the “superheroes that lie within each and every public works professional. Always ready to serve their communities, and resilient as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up off the ground after encountering challenges.”

The Morro Bay City Council recognized the week with a proclamation. It read, in part, “the women and men comprising the Public Works Department in the City of Morro Bay are dedicated to building, maintaining, and beautifying our critical infrastructure in the service of improvements in quality of life for Morro Bay residents and visitors through projects such as the Water Reclamation Facility program, which will provide long-term water supply resiliency, and the Transit Hub Improvements project, which will upgrade the City’s transit hub with an aesthetically pleasing shelter design for riders and create enhanced accessibility.”

The A.P.W.A. was formed in 1937 and in 1960, the organization received an official endorsement from the United States Senate and organized the first Public Works Week.

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

Nipomo Man Held in  
Fatal Crash

A Nipomo man was arrested after he allegedly ran down and killed a bicyclist on a rural road in Nipomo, left the scene, and later turned himself in to the Highway Patrol.

According to a CHP accident report, at 11:20 p.m.

Thursday, May 12, Dylan Lammers, 41 of Nipomo, was driving at an unknown speed south on Los Berros Road south of El Campo Road in Nipomo, when he for an unknown reason swerved to the right side of the road and struck a bicycle being ridden by a 19-year-old Nipomo man.

The CHP report said after Lammers struck the bicycle, the rider flew off and came to rest on the right shoulder of the road. Lammers reportedly fled the scene, the report said, and later called the CHP to report the “possible collision.”

Sheriff deputies found the rider’s dead body on the side of the road. Lammers was arrested at his Nipomo home. The CHP report did not list charges but the accident was marked as “Fatal” and “Hit & Run.”

The name of the victim was not yet released by the County Coroner’s Office. Anyone with additional information about this tragic accident is asked to contact CHP Ofc. Carr at the CHP SLO Office, (805) 594-8700.



Services

- Crowns & Bridges
- Implant Crowns
- Implant & Conventional Dentures
- Laser Therapy
- Invisalign®
- Extractions
- Periodontal Surgery

Dentistry  
for the  
Whole  
Family



805-772-8585  
747 Bernardo Ave, Morro Bay  
[www.mbfdds.com](http://www.mbfdds.com)



# Community

## Dragons Returns to Water

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Two new dragon boats, Rosana's Ride and Dragon Dancer, that were purchased with funds raised in the community. Photo submitted.

Dragons will once again glide across the water in Morro Bay.

The Central Coast Dragon Boat Association (CCDBA) will welcome two new vessels during a "Dragon Awakening Ceremony" on May 28 at 10 a.m. at Tidelands Park in Morro Bay.

The sport combines athleticism, art and tradition dating back 2500 years ago in China. The 40-foot long, canoe-like vessels with brightly painted, ornately carved dragon's head and tail weigh about 500 pounds and are powered by a team of up to 20 paddlers working in synchronicity along with one steer person and one drummer.

"Dragon boating is a unique water sport because of the teamwork involved. There are no star players," said Sandy Mitchell, CCDBA community outreach chair. "Twenty people work together, doing the same thing at the same time, to move the boat. The stroke works the core and the legs. The rhythm and concentration on the stroke make the stresses of the day melt away. When everyone is paddling together in time, the boat glides along the water seemingly without effort. It's a tremendous feeling of power and unity. One beat, one boat."

Dragon boating is the reportedly fastest growing water sport in the world, with teams in 89 countries. Locally, the non-profit CCDBA officially formed in 2014. The founding team, the Central Coast SurviveOars, began as a group of cancer survivors and supporters in 2007. Now, CCDBA welcomes everyone to participate.

"The goal of CCDBA is to open up dragon boating opportunities to everyone in the community, and to support cancer survivors through the sport of dragon boating,"

Mitchell said.

The new boats came from a company in Florida that specializes in vessels used in International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) races. They cost \$10,000 each, plus an additional fee for the head, tail, and drum, and were purchased following a community fundraising effort led by the Central Coast SurviveOars during the pandemic.

"Due to the community's generosity, we raised more than enough money to buy one boat," said Mitchell. "One of our long-time paddlers, Rosana Ortiz, was fighting cancer during the last part of 2021; she and her family made a substantial donation so we could get two new boats. I am very sorry to say, Rosana passed away in March. One of the new boats will be named in her honor: Rosana's Ride."

Rosana's family will be present at the Dragon Awakening Ceremony. The second boat is named Dragon Dancer.

"This name reflects the nature of dragon boating — every one on the team moves in the same way, at the same time — like a dance," Mitchell said. "The name was chosen by paddler vote."

The 30 to 45 minute ceremony is based on a thousands of year old Chinese tradition that involves 'opening' the eyes of the dragon with paint, a little incense, a call to the water spirits, and the revealing of the names of the boats. The Cal Poly Lion Dancers will perform a traditional dance to bring good luck and fortune to all in attendance.

"After the dragon eyes are 'opened' and the boat names revealed, we will paddle the boats around the bay near Tidelands Park, so everyone can see what the sport involves," Mitchell said. "We will even stage a mini-race."

When the new dragon boats arrive later this week, CCDBA will have a total of three boats — the two new ones, plus Puff a smaller boat that holds 10 paddlers. The group recently retired Joanna's Joy, which was built in 2009 and has been here in Morro Bay since 2011. She had taken on water in the hull due to a defect and was donated to the Morro Bay Maritime Museum for display and education.

After being closed down for a year due to the pandemic, the nonprofit is recruiting new paddlers and new teams. Any group of 10 or more people can form a dragon boat team.

"We have volunteer coaches and steerspersons who can help get a new team started in Morro Bay," Mitchell said. "This is a great team-building sport; businesses can sponsor employee teams. There are racing opportunities throughout California; and, with our two new boats, local teams can race each other."

Almost anyone can participate in this sport; it does not require a particular body type or skill. Teams can be made of all ages and genders.

"You will step off the boat feeling stronger, better, and part of the team," Mitchell said.



Central Coast Dragon Boat Association paddlers at Marina Del Rey Dragon Boat Festival in March 2022.

Dragon boat races are held throughout California from March through October. There are one-day and two-day festivals, with competitions in several divisions: Men's, Women's, Mixed, Masters (seniors), Youth, College, and Cancer Survivors. Most races are either 250 or 500 meters. The latter is about 5 and a half football fields and takes about 2 minutes, 40 seconds to cover.



CCDBA paddler Patrice Sanchez celebrating under a paddle arch after Central Coast SurviveOars won the gold medal in the cancer survivor division at the Arizona Dragon Boat Festival, March 2022.

So far this year, local teams have competed in Marina Del Rey, CA and in Tempe, AZ. Paddlers are scheduled to compete in Castaic Lake and Long Beach this summer. In April 2023, a team of cancer survivors will travel to New Zealand for the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission (IBCP) Dragon Boat Festival.

For folks not sure if dragon boat racing is their fit, anyone can try the sport first as a guest paddler. Readers who want to give it a shot can go to CCDBA.org, pick a practice time from the schedule, and register for the practice 48 hours in advance. The first try is free and then \$10 after that up to three times.

They practice in Morro Bay, launching from the dock at Sub Sea Tours, 699 Embarcadero #9 at the intersection of Pacific and Embarcadero.

Anyone interested in forming a team should contact Sandy Mitchell, at director3@ccdba.org. For more information, check out ccdba.org.



CCDBA members dress the now retired Joann's Joy with the dragonhead.

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

Vietnam  
Veteran

Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

**PETER STARLINGS**  
BROKER/OWNER  
**805.235.8424**  
peterstarlings@yahoo.com

BRE# 00692586

A Staged Reading

# Church & State

Written by  
**Jason Odell Williams**

Tickets  
**\$15**

Directed by  
**Janice Peters**

Religion, guns and politics collide in a thought-provoking, non-judgmental drama.

By the Sea  
Productions

Friday & Saturday 7 pm  
Sunday 3 pm

545 Shasta Ave. Morro Bay  
bytheseaproductions.org  
805-776-3287

NOTE: Photo ID and proof of full COVID vaccination required.



# Community

## Poly Journalism Department Granted Full Accreditation

The Cal Poly Journalism Department recently received full accreditation, joining 117 other programs around the world. The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), the agency responsible for the evaluation of professional journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities, voted 18-0 in favor of the department receiving full accreditation.

“This accomplishment represents years of hard work by the faculty and staff to meet the rigorous demands of the accrediting process,” department chair Brady Teufel said. “In recognizing Cal Poly as one of the best universities to learn journalism and public relations, the council affirmed that we’re succeeding in our mission to provide students with an education that covers fundamental skills and concepts along with problem solving, critical thinking and innovation.”

The accrediting process involved an external site-review team visiting classes, interviewing faculty and staff, meeting with students and administrators, scrutinizing facilities and equipment and digging into data regarding admissions, class sizes, demographics, learning objectives and more.

The nine standards and competencies that were reviewed include:

- Mission, governance and administration
- Curriculum and instruction
- Diversity and inclusiveness
- Full-time and part-time faculty
- Scholarship (research, creative and professional activity)
- Student services
- Resources, facilities and equipment
- Professional and public service
- Assessment of learning outcomes

Cal Poly is now one of eight journalism programs in the California State University system to be fully accredited by ACEJMC. Accredited programs, which are reviewed on a six-year cycle, are eligible for external funding and are more attractive to both students and industry partners. Of the roughly 500 journalism and mass communications programs in the United States, less than one-fourth are fully accredited.

After nearly two decades together as a family, a Los Osos man would have lost his furry companion if not for help from a North Coast cat shelter.

The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) in Cambria is a no-kill animal rescue and adoption center with roots dating back to 1983. They also work to reduce feline overpopulation with an active spay/neuter program for HART’s felines and a trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) program for feral cats.

“We take cats in any way shape and form, and we rehab them if necessary, then we try to place them in forever loving homes,” said HART Medical Director Stacey Ballard, a registered vet technician. “We have cats that have come from dire depths of being neglected or abused or mistreated. Cats are different on so many levels, but they are highly adaptable. They have unconditional love. Once you can find that in a cat, you can find their true personality and if you foster that good behavior, that good attitude, you have cats that are adaptable to people.”

An example of that unconditional love is Michael Olson, of Los Osos, and his big orange tabby Tank. The two have been a family for nearly 16 years.

“He fit in the palm of my hand and knew no one else,” Michael wrote in letter to Estero Bay News.

Things took an unexpected turn about a year and a half when a new landlord took over the place where Olson lived and instated a “no pets allowed” rule.

“I could not bear to lose him, Michael said, but set out to find a new place to live for his companion. “I was calling everywhere for someone to take Tank and give him a good home,” Michael said. “We would find him homes and, for one reason or another, it did not work.”

HART had an opening and agreed to take Tank into the shelter with plans for him to live with Stacey after a few weeks.

## For the Love of Cats

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Tank, the cat, with his person Michael Olson and his roommate, Amy Orlauski.

“I drove to Cambria that day, and it was the hardest day of my life,” Michael said. “I could not stop crying for fear that I would never see him again.”

Michael and his roommate, Amy Orlauski, visited Tank a couple times a week while he stayed at HART.

“Michael and tank are very, very bonded,” Stacey said. “When Tank came into the shelter he was in fairly good shape, but as soon as Michael left you could actually see the sadness come over him. By the day he was getting weaker. He was losing weight. The human animal bond is undeniable, and it’s something that most people don’t understand, but it is very real. I try to facilitate that bond as much as I can.”

That led the HART team to step up again and offer to pay a “substantial” deposit to the landlord to allow Tank to return to his home.

“It was extenuating circumstances,” Stacey said. “That’s not to say that every cat that comes in, we’re going to try to cough up money. I don’t want to come across that way, but we recognize their bond, and it was undeniable.”

Love of Cats Continued on page 9

**Paid Advertisement**

**LEARN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DIABLO CANYON.**

**ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING ON SPENT FUEL STORAGE AT DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT HOSTED BY THE DECOMMISSIONING ENGAGEMENT PANEL**

**May 25 from 6-9:30pm.**

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel would like to invite you to its next public meeting being held virtually and at the County Government Center in San Luis Obispo May 25 from 6-9:30pm. An in-person visual display session will also be held from 5-6pm with subject matter experts available for questions.

PG&E will discuss the new system chosen to safely transfer and store on site, in the interim, all remaining spent fuel at Diablo Canyon Power Plant. Participants will also hear from the selected vendor, Orano USA. This is the second in a series of public venues where the Panel and PG&E will be discussing the new storage system.

The panel was created to foster open and transparent dialogue between members of the local community and PG&E on topics regarding the future decommissioning of Diablo Canyon Power Plant near Avila Beach, including the future use of DCPD lands and facilities.

These public meetings provide opportunities for two-way communication with community members and PG&E representatives as PG&E develops plans for decommissioning.

To find out more details about this meeting and all panel activities, visit [www.pge.com/engagementpanel](http://www.pge.com/engagementpanel).

Be part of the conversation by attending the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel’s hybrid meeting on May 25.

Learn more about the decommissioning planning for Diablo Canyon at [www.diablocanyonpanel.org](http://www.diablocanyonpanel.org) or [www.pge.com/diablocanyonpanel.org](http://www.pge.com/diablocanyonpanel.org).

**Silva's Detail Shop**

MORRO BAY CALIFORNIA

• Cars • Motorcycles • RV's

• Trucks • Trailers

Hand Car Wash

Interior Steam Cleaning

Wax/Sealant/Ceramic Coating

Polishing

Disinfectant & Protect

**Memorial Day Special**

**15% OFF**

**Car wash & detail**



Offer good through 5-30-22

**805-423-0235**

Call us today or Book Online • Appointments only

[www.silvasdetailshop.com](http://www.silvasdetailshop.com) • 1598 Main st Morro Bay

licensed and insured



Police Blotter



• **May 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:10 p.m. in the 1000 block of Monterey. The woman driver, 37, was arrested for suspicion of cruising a bit tight.

• **May 8:** A citizen in the 200 block of Capri St., said his or her catalytic converter had been swiped by some unknown mamaluke.

• **May 8:** Police located a suspicious fellow, 29, at 12:11 a.m. in the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd., and arrested the little lizard for suspicion of getting slizzard on drugs.

• **May 7:** Police responded to a disturbance at 10 p.m. in the 100 block of Bayshore Dr. Logs indicated a 65-year-old apparently crankypated woman was arrested for resisting arrest.

• **May 7:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:07 p.m. in the 400 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the 78-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of driving zosted.

• **May 7:** Police responded at 6:52 p.m. to the 1100 block of Scott where some apparent would-be thief had vandalized the front door of the Bear Metal Kustoms Inc., hot rod shop.

• **May 6:** police responded at 9:12 p.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Carmel. Logs indicated an apparently upset subject was placed on a 72-hour timeout, determined to be a danger to themselves. It was the second call out for the same subject, who the previous day was reportedly suicidal, but apparently not enough so to take in at that time.

• **May 6:** Police responded at 6:18 p.m. to a report of an 83-year-old woman who left paradise for Heaven.

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

License #832059

OPEN FOR BUSINESS!  
Curbside service available.

Morro Bay  
510 Quintana Road  
805-772-1265

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

San Luis Obispo  
1336 Madonna Road  
805-544-5400

805-528-5353  
www.pacificcapital.biz

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

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

• **May 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:08 p.m. in the 1100 block of Main. Logs indicated the fellow driving, 26, was “knowingly driving on a suspended license,” so the scofflaw was cited and released, presumably on foot.

• **May 5:** Police responded at 1:40 p.m. to the 1000 block of Front St., for a car crash. No report on the extent of the carnage or lack of.

• **May 3:** Police responded to the 2800 block of Juniper for a fraud report. Logs indicated the loss was a painful \$15,000 and police have no leads outside no doubt the usual suspects.

• **May 4:** Police responded at 3:10 p.m. to a car crash in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. No injuries reported.

• **May 4:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 26, at 2:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Main. The nefarious she Devil, 26, was hauled to Hades for a felony warrant.

• **May 4:** At 8:55 a.m. police contacted a slippery fellow, 42, in the 900 block of Piney Way who had a bench warrant. The judge apparently really wanted to see him because he went to the hoosegow.

• **May 4:** Police contacted a suspicious trio of scruffy Philistines at 12:13 a.m. in the 300 block of Surf. A 34-year-old woman had a pair of little warrants and was issued another ticket and released. A 29-year-old man was allegedly in possession of illegal drugs and was also cited and released. And a 49-year-old fellow had out-of-county warrants but was also cited and released, none apparently worth the gas money to haul to County Jail.

• **May 3:** Police towed off an offensive car parked in the 1700 block of Embarcadero for expired tags, a hanging offense in Califreakornia.

• **May 2:** Another offensive parked car was towed from the Rite Aid parking lot in the 700 block of Quintana.

• **May 2:** Morro Bay High School reported vandalism. No word on the hooligan responsible, though the whole school probably knows.

• **May 2:** Police contacted another apparent slugabed at 8 a.m. at Main and Sicily, with a felony warrant. He was checked into the Parkinson Plaza to await the slings and arrows of Lady Justice.

• **May 1:** Police responded at 9:30 p.m. to the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a reported assault. Logs indicated a 27-year-old woman said she got hosed down with pepper spray by a 27-year-old apparent ruffian battleaxe. A crime report was sent to the District Attorney, so she’s in trouble now!

• **May 1:** Police responded at 6:44 p.m. to the 500 block of Kings where a 57-year-old man and his dog said they were attacked by his neighbor’s apparently disagreeable mutts.

• **May 1:** At 5 p.m. police contacted a familiar foe at Morro and Pacific. The scofflaw, 36, had two bench warrants and was arrested, but the little fish was later released to catch another day.

• **April 30:** Police contacted a wanted fellow, 53, at 8:18 p.m. at Dunes and Napa. The model citizen had two bench warrants and was handed a third and released to go forth and sin no more.

• **April 29:** Police contacted a pair of suspicious chaps at 11:30 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. One of the apparent swagmen, 38, had two bench warrants and was given another disappearance ticket and released. His ne’er-do-well partner in mischief, 51, didn’t fare so well, as he had a felony warrant and was outfitted with steel bracelets. And when he was frisked, they allegedly found illegal drugs and several credit cards in other people’s names, so Otis’ got some explainin’ to do.

• **April 29:** A good citizen gave police some items they’d found — a silver ring and lipstick — which whoever lost them no doubt thought they could kiss good-bye.

• **April 29:** Police responded at 2:50 p.m. to a car crash in the 600 block of Shasta. No juicy details were available.

• **April 29:** Police received a report at 1:50 a.m. of a reckless driver on Hwy 1. Officers reportedly stopped the suspected lead foot, 61, and slammed on his brakes.

• **April 29:** Police responded to Albertson’s at 12:23 p.m. where someone said their innocent car was vandalized.

• **April 28:** Police responded at 1:20 p.m. to Rose’s Landing in the 700 block of Embarcadero for a reported petty theft. No word on if it was a dine-n-dash or some other dastardly act.

• **April 28:** Police responded to the 300 block of Dunbar where someone stole body armor.

• **April 26:** Police noted that the San Luis Coastal School District had asked them to cite a high school student for truancy, as another name gets added to the Dean’s list.

• **April 26:** Police responded at 4:38 p.m. to Market and Harbor for a disturbing fellow. The hombre, 27, was nicked for suspicion of being butt-toasted in public.

• **April 26:** A citizen in the 800 block of Napa said some scoundrel stole items out of their parked car.

• **April 26:** Police contacted a 17-year-old boy at 3:48 p.m. in the 300 block of Dunbar and arrested the juvenile delinquent for suspicion of battery.

• **April 26:** A citizen in the 3100 block of Coral reported a home burglary. No word on what booty was pinched.

• **April 25:** Police responded at 10:17 p.m. to Southbound Hwy 1 and Hill Plant Road for a reported hit-n-split at Dog Beach. Earlier, at 10 p.m. there was a smash-n-dash on Marina Street.

• **April 25:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to the 800 block of Main for a disturbance at Legend’s Tavern. A 37-year-old stultified fellow was nicked for allegedly being schwasted in public, as even duct tape can’t fix stupid.

• **April 25:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10:35 a.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. The apparent squit, 35, was cited and released for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, his stash no doubt hidden where the sun don’t shine and the cops won’t search.

• **April 25:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to the 800 block of Shasta where someone found a suspicious, unknown substance. Police booked it for destruction, as it apparently wasn’t the cure for cancer.

Supervisors Show Coalition Kindness

County Supervisors have shown a little kindness to a local non-profit battling hunger in local schools.

Two Supervisors recently approved grants totaling \$2,500 out of their Community Projects Fund budgets to the Kindness Coalition, a non-profit dedicated to providing nutritious food for local school children and their families and based in Morro Bay. The money was to support the Coalition’s “Bags of Love” Food Program.

Dist. 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson put up \$2,000 of his Community funds, and Dist. 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg gave another \$500 to the Coalition.

“The primary mission of the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition,” reads a staff report, “is to partner with for-profits, nonprofits, churches, and schools so that they can benefit the greater good for those who find themselves living on the margins in the greater Estero Bay Area. The purpose of the organization is to provide basic needs to under-resourced school aged kids and their families such as healthy, protein rich foods and new and/or gently used kids clothing. The EBKC provides 3 bags of groceries per family, (to an average of 135 families) per week.”

Though begun in 2018 by just two people — Bobby and Denise de Lancelotti of Cayucos — as a way to help out needy kids at Del Mar Elementary School, the Coalition has grown tremendously in both volunteer participation and the number of schools and families it serves.

The Coalition has a distribution warehouse adjacent to the Avocado Shack produce stand on North Main Street, Morro Bay.

They work with numerous other charitable organizations — the Food Bank of San Luis Obispo, Estero Bay Alliance for Care, Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, Morro Bay Lions, Morro Bay Rotary, Los Osos Rotary, Cayucos Rotary, Cambria Rotary, Del Mar Elementary, Cayucos Elementary, Cambria Grammar School, Monarch Grove Elementary, Baywood Park Elementary, Family Partnership Morro Bay, Los Osos Middle School, Santa Lucia Middle School, Sunshine Health Food, and the Grocery Outlet Los Osos.

For more information on the Kindness Coalition, see: [esterobaykindnesscoalition.org](http://esterobaykindnesscoalition.org).

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Stamped Concrete
- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations

State Lic# 816944

[burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com](mailto:burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com)  
[www.burchconcretesolutions.com](http://www.burchconcretesolutions.com)



Community

Love of Cats From page 6



HART Medical Director Stacey Ballard with shelter cat Danielle. Photo Submitted

Tank is just a big, orange puddle of love.” The landlord declined the offer and Tank remained in the shelter. After five weeks things took a turn for the better. Through group efforts between Amy and HART, Tank was designated an emotional support animal, and he was able to return home where he no doubt once again took over Michael’s lap. “There are no words to say how much I appreciate Stacey and the crew at HART,” Michael said. For everything they were willing to do to help me get Tank back, they will always be in my heart and are now a part of my family.” HART will hold a free open house for a day of “felines, food and fun” on May 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the shelter at 2638 Main Street in Cambria. The event will feature



A mother kitten and her babies at HART in Cambria. Photo Submitted

cats and kittens, shelter tours, kids activities, food and wine, demonstrations, foster information and music by the Kitty Ditty HART Band. Adoptions will also be 20% off. Don’t miss the chance to “High-5” Phil, the cat taken in from Arroyo Grande that brought home \$2,000 to the organization via third place honors in a contest by celebrity cat behaviorist Jackson Galaxy. HART entered two videos, but the “blooper reel” one the honors. “Phil was a little pistol,” Stacey said. “He actually took over somebody’s house and ran their cats off. He was not really friendly with all the other cats, so we put him in the Cat Pawsitive program and he has excelled. He’s a much more manageable kitty cat. He gets along with others for the most part. He still has his moments.” Watch the video that made Phil the big winner at https://bit.ly/3LdZNDY. The HART Cat Pawsitive Training Team will hold demonstrations and discuss how Cat Pawsitive Training, using a clicker and rewards, helps shelter cats become more socialized and adoptable. The furry, four-legged star student Midnight and others will show off his feline skills at obstacle courses. “What you guys will see is going to amaze you trust me,” Stacey said. What I see the team doing is just outstanding.”

For both cat and art lovers, the event will also showcase cat sculptures originally hand carved in a small village in Indonesia that were “fostered” here by local artists and brought back to life in colorful designs full of individual character. “I’m really excited about these sculptures,” said Stacey. “They’re just amazing. I have my eye on a few.” The sculptures are being auctioned online right now with a starting bid of \$100. All proceeds go to HART. To check them out or make a bid, go to https://bit.ly/3N-bHMHI or visit them in person at Art with Judy Ann Studio within the Garden Shed at 2024 Main Street in Cambria. Festivities aside, Stacey said the important takeaway from the event is that, “We’re just a big family of people who love cats, and we want to have a bigger family of people who love cats. The more cats we can help then the more people we can help and the richer we all are for it.” For more information, to volunteer or to donate, go to hartcambria.org. They can be reached at 805-927-7377. Checks or money orders can be mailed to HART at 2638 Main St., Cambria, CA 93428.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The American Legion will hold a memorial at the Cambria American Legion Flag Memorial at 11am on Memorial Day May 30. The public is invited. The Post 432 Sons of the Legion squadron will hold a BBQ open to the public following the memorial service.



Enjoy a day of live music, food, drinks and fun while supporting the SLO Food Bank during Hunger Awareness Day. The 2nd Annual Good Fruit: A SLO Food Bank Benefit Concert takes place May 29 from 1p.m. – 8 p.m. on the SLO Brew Rock Main Stage and will feature a headlining set of music with the Damon Castillo Band with support sets from Carbon City Lights, Resination and the Shawn Clark Family Band.

All ticket revenue goes directly to the SLO Food Bank to help provide nutritious and wholesome meals to neighbors in need. The prices are as \$30 for general admission and does not include food and drinks and \$75 for VIP ticket including food, drinks and a special viewing area.

...

By the Sea Productions, Morro Bay’s live theater company, presents “Church & State” by Jason Odell Williams, the last of a series of four staged readings. After a school shooting, a senator, in the middle of his re-election campaign, begins to question his stance on guns and God, upsetting his wife and his campaign manager. Sometimes funny, sometimes shocking, this play is non-judgmental but definitely thought provoking. “Church & State” is directed by Janice Peters and features Daniel Freeman, Kristen Saunders, Nicolette Tempesta, Sam Gottlieb, Jatzibe Sandoval, and Sonya Jackson. It runs one weekend only, May 27-29, at 545 Shasta Ave. Tickets are \$15 at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287. A photo ID and proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required.

Events Activities Continued on page 10

nhc NATURAL HEALING CENTER

SLO COUNTY'S PREMIERE Cannabis Dispensary

THE BEST DEALS ON THE CENTRAL COAST JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

BEST OF 2021 WEEDMAPS

NEW PERMANENT PRICE DROPS

BLAZE YOUR WAVE!

Exclusive brands & products

VISIT US IN STORE & ONLINE FOR DETAILS!

HELIOS™ OG 27.37% - 30% | THC INDICA

HELIOS™ XJ 13™ 26.17% | THC SATIVA

Receive (1) Helios™ 3.5g for \$1 on your first purchase!

First time customers only | \$75+ purchase | Restrictions apply

FREE DELIVERY FROM GROVER BEACH STORE \$50+ PURCHASE

Credit cards \$100+ purchase Grover Beach only

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW DEALS!

ORDER ONLINE NOW!

15% OFF FIRST PURCHASE PROMO CODE: NHCT

20% OFF FIRST PURCHASE PROMO CODE: NHCT2

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

Shop in-store & online for express pickup and delivery!

GROVER BEACH 998 Huston St. (805) 201-1498

MORRO BAY 495 Morro Bay Blvd. NHCDISPENSARIES.COM

LEMOORE 338 West D St. OPEN DAILY 7AM-9PM

Grover Beach License #: C10-0000388-LIC | Morro Bay License #: C10-0000797-LIC | Lemoore License #: C10-0000734-LIC

FLOORING DISCOUNT CENTER

Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring

For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.

787 HARBOR ST. MORRO BAY, CA 93442 PHONE 772-2211 FAX 772-7747

Monday 9-4 • Thurs - Fri 9-5 • Saturday 10-3

2450 Main St Suite A, Cambria, CA 93428 (805) 203-5544

Monday - Friday 10-4

www.fdcmb.com



Community

Events and Activities From page 9



Join the first ever weekend-long SLO Pride Festival Laguna Lake Park May 20 – 22. This event is a fundraiser for Gala Pride & Diversity Center. Their mission is supporting and empowering people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions in order to strengthen and unite our Central Coast Community.

The weekend starts Friday night with an all ages drag show, Hosts of the Coast Queens and rolls right into Saturday and Sunday with a full music line up on the main stage and a new DJ Sound stage. Activities happen all weekend in the Kids Area, Teen Lounge and Family Game Zone. Also included are interactive art, selfie stations, photo booths, food trucks, Central Coast Brewery, wine, vendors, community resource outreach and an art show.

Pets are not allowed. All events excluding the Friday Night Drag Show, are free. For more details, a schedule of activities and to purchase tickets to the drag show, go to SLOPride.com

...

The Cal Poly Wind Bands' Spring Concert, "Sounds of Color," is 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 27, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center. It is the season finale of the Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra.

The title "Sounds of Color" is inspired by composer Robert Russell Bennett's "Suite of Old American Dances," which will be performed by the Wind Orchestra. Bennett's

inspiration was attending an amusement park as a child and hearing the sounds around him.

The Wind Orchestra will also perform William Grant Still's "Fanfare for American Heroes," Katahji Copley's "Wildheart," and Nicole Pinnun's "Image of Truth."

The Wind Ensemble will perform Dmitri Shostakovich's "Festive Overture" and a suite of five selections from John Williams' film scores from the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

Tickets are \$15 and 20 for the public and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are sold 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).

...

Clark Center for the Performing Arts presents Perondi's Stunt Dog Experience Sat., May 21, 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Chris Perondi and his incredibly talented and well-trained troupe of dogs bring the ultimate stunt dog experience to the Clark Center featuring amazing tricks, high jumps, sensational stunts, cute comedy, and dancing doggies. Tickets are \$20-\$35 and are available at clarkcenter.org.

...

Join free Qi Gong Classes at the Cayucos Library. Learn slow, flowing qi gong movements and meditations with certified qi gong instructor Devin Wallace at the Cayucos Library at 310 B St. in Cayucos. The free drop-in classes begin at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in June.

Wallace, teaches basics of qi gong particularly beneficial for older adults. He has also trained with leading masters Mantak Chia, Mingtong Gu, Ken Cohen and Michael Winn.

Call the Cayucos Library at 805-995-3312 for more information.

...

Cal Poly's Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble presents the Spring Jazz Concert at 7:30 Saturday, May 28, in Spanos Theatre.

The concert celebrates the digital release of the Vocal Jazz Ensemble's new single, "Sunlight," which is an arrangement by Cal Poly Director of Jazz Studies Arthur White of a tune by Esperanza Spalding. Music major and vocalist Danna Dumandan and Grammy award-winning drummer Gregg Bissonette are featured on the recording, and White performs the other instruments. The single will be available from streaming music services the week of May 23 and is part of a full album that is scheduled to be released in the fall.

New, original music by Jazz Ensemble members Bryce Yuen and Wyatt Willard will be premiered. Yuen, a materials engineering major, composed "Stay at Home," and Willard, a music major, composed "Big Fish." The big band also features music major and vocalist Mady Frei.

The groups will also perform music by Bob Mintzer, Stephen Sondheim, John Clayton, Charles Mingus and others.

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



There is still a chance to see Cuesta College's nationally renowned Theatre Arts Department's presentation of the Tony Award-winning musical The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at the Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC) through May 22. The heartfelt musical comedy celebrates the triumphs and tragedies of adolescence as a group of six ragtag pre-teens (all played by adults) compete in a spelling bee. Pandemonium ensues as they vie for the top spot and spell their way to nationals. The high-stakes competition puts each contestant at the mic and in the spotlight as we learn about their hilarious and touching stories.

Remaining shows are May 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and May 21 and 22 at 2 and 8 p.m. The show has a run time of 90 minutes with no intermission and contains some PG-13 humor. General admission tickets are \$20 plus processing fees and \$15 for students. Tickets may be purchased online at tickets.cuesta.edu or the box office one hour before the performance.

The SLOFunny Comedy Show is a monthly comedy show held on the last Saturday of the month. Starting May 28, the SLO-Funny Comedy Show takes place at the Veterans Memorial Building in Morro Bay with shows at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more information and Show lineups, go to facebook.com/slofunny.

The May 28 show is hosted by Jay Washington



### LIVING TRUST

**WILLS = PROBATE**

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

**PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS!**

- In-home Appointments!
- A complete Living Trust

**For only \$800**

Call Edward at: 805-772-2655

Call now for your peace of mind • ELH Trust

Lic# 095935-03

Since 1971

# HOFBRAU

Hand Carved Roast Beef

It just doesn't get any better than this!

Celebrating In Business

**50** YEARS

1971 - 2021

**805-772-2411**

**901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay**

**Open 7 days a week.**

Local Knowledge - Experienced - Reliable - Honest

"Experience is the teacher of all things"

Julius Caesar

## Realtor Rick Johnson

40 years as a Realtor serving San Luis Obispo County

Cal Poly Alumnus

**805-235-8423 • Rick@slosale.com**

License #00757689

West Coast Properties • 710 Morro Bay Blvd. • Morro Bay, Ca. 93442

**NEED HELP AFFORDING GROCERIES?**

Get the help you need with CalFresh!

With CalFresh, a family of four can get up to \$835 a month to spend on healthy groceries!\*

APPLY ONLINE NOW AT [GETCALFRESH.ORG](https://getcalfresh.org)

OR CALL 1-877-847-3663

\*Benefit amounts may vary based on eligibility requirements like income and household size







# Community

**Takin' Care of Business** From page 11

able for adoption, making up nearly 40% of its currently available dog population. To help find permanent homes for them, and to make room to help even more in need of transport from overcrowded shelters around the state, Woods share fun facts and pointers for adopters considering adopting a “pointy-eared” dog on its social media channels and website throughout May.

For more information, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org) or call (805) 543-9316.

## Save Money, Save Energy and Help the Grid This Summer

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers can save money with the launch of the new Power Saver Rewards Program.

The program is free, voluntary and 1.8 million customers are being enrolled this month. Others are encouraged to join. The purpose is simple: Saving energy on hot days reduces the strain on California’s grid.

“The Power Saver Rewards Program is truly a win-win as customers will be rewarded financially for saving energy on hot days and, at the same time, the demand on the grid will be lessened to ensure continued reliability and cleaner air,” said Aaron August, PG&E vice president of business development & customer engagement. “There’s no cost or penalty for not reducing energy, just opportunities to be rewarded for reducing usage. That means customers can only save money and will never pay more by participating in the program.”

Between May 1 and October 31, Power Saver Rewards

event days will be triggered when the state’s grid operator, the California Independent System Operator, issues an Energy Emergency Alert Watch and/or a Flex Alert. PG&E will send an email or text the day before an event day to remind customers of the hours to reduce energy use.

Customers who reduce energy use between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on select hot days will receive a credit on their bill after the program season ends. The credit amount is determined by how much the customer saves. The customer will receive \$2 per kilowatt hour (kWh) for reducing electricity use during events with a yearly bill credit.

Customers can temporarily reduce usage by turning their thermostat to 78 degrees or higher (health permitting), turning off lights not in use, unplugging EVs and waiting to use big appliances such as washers, dryers, and electric ovens until the peak of grid demand passes.

PG&E electric customers with a SmartMeter not enrolled in a conflicting peak hour program are eligible to participate. Most customers enrolled in a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) can also join. Customers can disenroll from the program at any time through the program website.

Some PG&E customers have been automatically enrolled in the program this month including those on the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs.

To sign up, go to [powersaver.pge.com](http://powersaver.pge.com).

*Are you or a neighbor Taking Care of Business? Submit your awesome local efforts for publication here. Is your business supporting our community? Maybe you’re launching a new business, or you’re making updates to your current business model, or re-opening. Or perhaps you have a job opportunity, or have been doing some volunteer work, or are collaborating with another business or a non-profit. Or maybe you know someone who is. Fill out our online form at [EsteroBayNews.com](http://EsteroBayNews.com).*

## ‘Lost at Sea’ Ceremony Returns, May 30

This year will mark the return of a special Memorial Day ceremony and tribute to everyone who’s been lost at sea, organizers announced.

The Annual Lost at Sea Memorial will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, May 30 in Cayucos and the public is invited to attend the solemn ceremony.

Former military servicemen and women of all branches of the armed forces, turn out in dress uniform for the ceremony, dedicated to anyone who was lost at sea — military, merchant marines, pleasure boaters, commercial fishers and surfers and wave riders of all kinds.

The ceremony is also a tribute and remembrance of prisoners of war and the missing in action whom never returned home.

The idea is that these people, for the most part, have no gravesites where family and loved ones can go to pay their respects, or mourn their deaths.

The ceremony is sponsored by the Cayucos Rotary Club and organized by the Lost at Sea Committee.

According to the event’s website, “Each year, there are devotional and ceremonial tributes following the national anthem and welcome remarks. Military veterans come dressed in their uniforms and are honored. Music follows the tolling of the bell, and the meaning of the “Missing Man” and the symbolism of the wreath are explained to the audience.

“Benediction continues and everyone marches out to the pier for blessings of the wreath. The wreath is then tossed into the ocean, and the rifle salute follows.”

Normally, the Estrella Warbirds Museum’s military aircraft do a missing man formation flyover of the pier, weather permitting. The ceremony this year is expected to be brief, with the warplane flyover scheduled for 4 p.m.

The ceremony has been cancelled each of the past 2 years due to the coronavirus pandemic response.

The event is held outdoors at the Cayucos Pier Plaza. Admission is free, and seating is limited.



**805-528-SOIL (7645)**

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

**FREE Delivery with most orders**

Since 1981 and Still Farming

**MED SYNC**  
The FASTEST, EASIEST way to get your medications each month

Los Osos Rexall's  
**MED SYNC SERVICE**  
is FREE, easy, and convenient!

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



**SPEAK TO THE PHARMACIST TODAY**  
to sign up for this service  
**IT'S FREE!**

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

Two more Central Coast home listed by Tim and already pending.



**Call Tim Cowan today to see what your house is worth in today's market**



461 Piney Way  
Ocean views in Morro Bay  
Sellers Agent  
Under contract 11 days



12145 Cenegal Rd  
5 Acres in Atascadero  
Sellers Agent  
Under contract 11 days



Tera Dube  
(805).797.4638  
Lic# 02132432

**TIM COWAN**  
REALTOR® LIC# 02021716  
**805.459.3818**  
[Tim@BHGREHaven.com](mailto:Tim@BHGREHaven.com)



**Better Homes**  
REAL ESTATE  
HAVEN PROPERTIES



Cruise Night Revs Up 2022 Car Show

Photos by Neil Farrell



The Morro Bay Car Show's Friday Cruise Night took over the Downtown streets May 6, revving up a triumphant comeback after missing two years because of the coronavirus pandemic response. Organizers were a little worried that the return of the car show might not draw a lot of people. But those concerns evaporated quicker than smoke from burning rubber down Main Street, as some 500 car owners signed up to attend the 25th (not-so) annual event. Special thanks to Mike and Annette Mlnarik of Morro Bay Appliance who chauffeured an EBN reporter and his wife in the parade in their beautiful 1961 Rolls Royce, which drew astonished looks and whistles from parade watchers.



**FOR SALE**  
**Prime located plots in Los Osos Memorial Park**  
Asking \$2,500/each -For Sale two burial plots in Sunrise Garden section ( # 212, spaces C and D) of Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park 2260 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos, CA. Their Website is losososvalleymortuary.com. Los Osos Valley Memorial Park offers a beautiful, serene setting surrounded by hills and overlooked by Hollister Peak. Since they are an endowment care cemetery, you can be confident that the cemetery grounds and memorial spaces will be meticulously maintained into the future. Again, priced at \$2500. per plot, at Garden of Sunrise # 212, spaces C and D. If you like this location, the memorial park office will take care of the transfer paperwork for us. Please call Antoinette Payne for more information at **415-948-4629**


**Estero Bay Handy Man**  
  
*Ryan Hilton-Sullivan*  
**(805)235-9639**  
**Servicing**  
Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos & Cambria

**Visit The Morro Bay Maritime Museum**  
Thursday - Monday  
10 am - 2 pm *Free Admission!*  
Visit our shop with unique gifts!  
*Your local nonprofit preserving the history of the Central Coast*  
1210 Embarcadero  
Morro Bay, CA  
805.255.5044  
[MorroBayMaritime.org](http://MorroBayMaritime.org)



# OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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


## Walking to Familiar New Places

Story and Photos by Susan Vasquez

If life is a story, the walk around Morro Bay State Park’s Museum of Natural History would be several chapters of mine.

Many years ago, maybe when I was not even a teenager, I traveled to this area with my parents. I remember being surprised at the golf course adjacent to the park, only to turn around and see there was something more to explore up the hill towards the bay. The stone pathways, the eucalyptus grove, the muddy beach seemed to mix into a jumble of memories about a place where so many things that shouldn’t be together existed side-by-side.

Then there were the visiting years, when I would escape the heat of the valley with my own young family. On long walks from the town of Morro Bay, through the nesting heron rookery, and up the stone walks, we would spend time in the museum itself. Reading the history and looking at the photos gave us some good information and a rest stop. After all, we had a long walk back into town.



A trail near the Morro Bay State Park’s Museum of Natural History.

Today’s walk, though, is longer and more solitary. As a woman approaching seventy, I climb up past the museum onto the crumble of sandstone paths with only an occasional step-worn stone to steady me. The routine of walking to the back of the museum, around to the side on the path that winds nicely above and along White Point, then down to the estuary marina, is now a part of my life. I sit often on the wooden bench looking over the stone border wall to the tides coming in and then leaving the bay. I see people putting their kayaks into the water at the end of the public launch and watch pelicans hunting above the schools of fish. But I have not ever walked up to the crest of the hill. I think I remember knowing that you can walk it. I just never thought that I would.



Today, I turn left onto the uphill path instead of following the worn path I had always followed before. I will treat myself to a new version of this walk and a new view at the end of the pathway. It’s not as safe a trail as the other, having less traffic and more rubble. I reach several places where the route ahead is unsure. It’s certainly less marked. But eventually, the path reveals itself and I find that there’s a wide marked area to welcome me at the top, and one last treat that out-surprises that first impression I had of this area so long ago. The view.

What can I say about a view that extends farther than I ever would have guessed? How do I write about the fresh-

ness of the air? I am really not able to describe the vitality of this perch from the top of a hill I knew about, but had never visited. I think it’s better that you go there yourself.

*Susan Vasquez has taken walks in many of the world’s most interesting spots, but especially enjoys her strolls around Estero Bay. She is the author of four books and blogs at One Small Walk and is a member of the Bookshelf Writers, four Estero Bay women whose writing can be found at <http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com>*

## 4th of July Fundraiser

A fundraiser benefitting the only local public 4th of July Fireworks show is set for the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend.

Cayucos Elementary School is the site for the “May Madness” Fireworks fundraiser, with dinner for two with a \$200 donation, plus there will be live music, and live and silent auctions for fabulous prizes.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 28 at the school’s all-purpose gymnasium. Tickets are available at the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce, Schooner’s Wharf, the Sea Shanty, Nelson’s Garage and Beach Bums.

The Annual 4th of July Fireworks show off the Cayucos Pier is the only public display of fireworks on the 4th of July in the entire Estero Bay Area and one of just a handful held in SLO County.

Coupled with the Annual Sandcastle Contest, Lion’s Club Independence Day doo-dah parade, and fireworks show, sets Cayucos apart from all other SLO County cities with its Independence Day celebrations.

## Literacy for Life Volunteers Needed

Literacy For Life has a San Luis Obispo countywide need for tutors. Work one-on-one with non-literate adults learning to read, write, and speak English. This tutor training is virtual. As the organizations slowly transition to

in-person tutoring, this training will focus on hybrid models, including how to tutor both virtually and in-person. All tutors and learners are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

A Tutor Training Workshop takes place via Zoom on Saturday, June 4 and Saturday, June 11. Folks who are interested in attending the training but need help with using zoom, can email [assistant@literacyforlifeslo.org](mailto:assistant@literacyforlifeslo.org).

Tutors must attend both Zoom training sessions. Training sessions are free of charge. Both sessions will be from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a 10-minute break and the last half hour for questions. Additional training components are required and will be available as webinars to accommodate attendee’s independent participation.

For more information or to sign up, call 805-541-4219, email [assistant@literacyforlifeslo.org](mailto:assistant@literacyforlifeslo.org), or visit our website at [www.literacyforlifeslo.org](http://www.literacyforlifeslo.org).

I don't snore, I'm making cat breath.  
You're welcome!



Photo by Cat Noir CC

Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at [CatNoirCC.com](http://CatNoirCC.com).  
Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

# CAYUCOS

## Opening event & exhibit

The Cayucos Surf Company and the Cayucos Historical Society have relocated!

146 North Ocean Avenue

EVENT time—4:30pm – 6pm  
**Friday May 20th**

Also featuring work from local artists

THE Cayucos Historical Society

Preserving our cultural heritage



Car Show Shines in Morro Bay

Photos by Neil Farrell



Thousands of people turned out May 7-8 for the Annual Show 'n Shine Morro Bay Car Show, making its triumphant return since the Coronavirus Pandemic response cancelled the show in 2020 and 2021. Some 500 cars were signed up to attend, and though at least one hot rod owner found out the hard way not to park under the Downtown street trees during bird nesting season, it was otherwise a great event. Highlights included a stock, 1981 De Lorean that wasn't tricked out to look like the Back to the Future time machine, and custom, 3-wheel motorcycles owned by the local chief of police and a retired MBPD sergeant. The event mixed the regular car show in with an emergency vehicle show, as vintage cop cars and fire trucks joined the hot rodders in the cruise on Friday and the show Saturday and Sunday.



# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE

May 13, 2022

CONTACT: Paul Provence, Battalion Chief (805) 528-1053

## LOS OSOS PUBLIC CHIPPING EVENT

**CAL FIRE/Station 15 – South Bay** San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council, in partnership with the Los Osos Community Services District and San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, will be hosting a public chipping event in Los Osos. Events like this are important steps to reduce hazardous fuel in Los Osos.

The event will be May 28th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM, and June 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Material to be chipped may be brought to Fairchild Way and Los Olivos Ave, where crews will direct vehicles on off-loading procedure. Personnel at the event will facilitate off-loading of material. Branches must be no larger than 8" in diameter. Soil, rock, yucca, palm, grass, and weeds will not be accepted. No construction material (treated or untreated lumber) will be accepted.

Check out the links below for more information.

Los Osos Fire and Emergency Preparedness on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LosOsosFireAwarenessGroup/>

San Luis Obispo Fire Safe Council  
[www.fscslo.org](http://www.fscslo.org)

Los Osos Community Services District  
[www.locsd.org](http://www.locsd.org)

CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department  
[www.calfireslo.org](http://www.calfireslo.org)

# DUTCHMAN'S

SEAFOOD HOUSE

Happy Hour is Back!

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

HAPPY HOUR MON-THURS 3-5

BEAUTIFUL MORRO BAY

FRESH SEAFOOD

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

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

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



Back Better From page 1

hoot” of comedy “Social Security” directed by Lisa Woske and August’s drama “Murder on the Orient Express.”

Three cast members of “Now and Then” authored by Sean Grennan and directed by Nicolette Tempesta, teased us with unanswered questions due to be answered during their performance the following weekend. Literally, Robert Vaca, Seth Washburn and Nayla Paschoa performed the staged reading and left us wanting. The buzz around the room was, “More, more!” and “I need to go to find out what happens.”

I was one of the “need to know” folks in the room! I was not only curious about the twists anticipated in the script, but I was mesmerized by the talent of the players. Peters indicated a benefit of COVID-19 might be the new talent that has surfaced and found their way to auditions at By the Sea Productions while the rest of us anticipated live theatre would continue to be included in our Morro Bay new-normal lives.

However, I admit my impression of a staged reading—pardon my novice experiences, Janice—was a couple of actors sitting on stools, holding the script, and reading it as if in rehearsal. These players knew the script and action so well that I forgot they were holding the script since they rarely referred to it. After the breakfast, I called my family-friend, Mandy Sahota-Flood, and suggested instead of going to lunch for her birthday, she might prefer attending this staged reading. We had a new plan – and a reminder local community theatre was an entertainment option.

Once Mandy and I were seated at the playhouse – don’t forget your proof of vaccination - I realized the two-act reading had a fully staged set and, yes, scripts were in hand, but the professional acting performed was so much more than any dramatized reading that I had experienced before. I laughed. I cried – (I always do in happy outcomes). Mandy

and I talked at intermission how relevant the questions posed in the reading were to anyone’s/everyone’s life experiences – would we want to go back and change anything in our lives? We thought our husbands would have equally enjoyed the production. We tried to anticipate the second act’s resolution. Where would the actors and action would take us? And yet I was again surprised by another new talent, Michelle Turner, and yet another twist for the ending.

Yes, I’m being cryptic because I’m hoping “Now and Then” might return for another performance weekend so others might enjoy and ponder the same “what ifs” Mandy and I were able to discuss. And isn’t that what live theatre is all about? Seeing life unfold on stage and recognizing the relevance of our own experiences — sparking conversations among friends and family or at the very least provoking ideas to think about in our alone quiet times?

Of course, live theatre can also be just a lot of fun, a time to get beyond our daily duties and smile at the absurd or even belly laugh at the ridiculous, recognizing much of life’s silliness around us could easily prompt an appropriate move-forward action like “just-get-over-and-beyond-it.”



Janice Peters talks about By the Sea Productions during a Breakfast by the Bay put on by the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce.

I’m thinking this weekend’s May 27-29 staged reading might fulfill either of the above stated purposes of live theatre. The billing is “Church & State” by Jason Odell Williams and directed by Janice Peters. The promotion states, “Religion, guns, and politics collide in a thought provoking, non-judgmental drama.” And it’s only \$15! Tickets are at [bytheseaproductions.org](http://bytheseaproductions.org) or call 805-776-3287.

By the Sea Productions has teased and intrigued me again. See you there?

Commission Letter’s From page 1

ment, is prohibited.”

Back in the mid-1990s, County Engineering studied the groundwater situation in Los Osos and concluded that it was in “Severity Level III” with regards to over drafting, i.e. pumping out more water than rainfall can replenish. Groundwater is the sole source of drinking water for Los Osos.

Since then, the County has built the community sewer system, which was supposed to recycle the wastewater and firm up the overall water supply, though it did take another 20 years or so to accomplish.

But even that expensive improvement didn’t mean a change in the water supply’s status, as the County’s various planning documents still have the Level III designation and provisions within the CDP for the sewer project were cited by Carl as well.

“The County’s wastewater treatment plant,” Carl said, “is prohibited from providing wastewater service to anything but existing development [and not to new development on existing lots], unless and until the Estero Area Plan is amended to ‘identify appropriate and sustainable build out limits, and any appropriate mechanisms to stay within such limits, based on conclusive evidence indicating that adequate water is available to support development of such properties without adverse impacts to ground and surface waters, including wetlands and all related habitats.’”

The Commission has found that the CDP’s prohibition on new wastewater service, Carl said, “does not only apply to new development on completely vacant parcels, but also to projects that include significant intensifications of use and significant expansions on already-developed properties.”

That would also presumably apply to property owners who paid into the sewer project’s assessment district with the understanding that sewer service would eventually be provided, allowing them to build.

SLO County has over the past year or so approved projects that the Commission feels fall within these parameters, and every one of them has been appealed and those appeals upheld.

Also, a group of citizen activists, the Los Osos Sus-

tainability Group (see: [thelosg.com](http://thelosg.com)) has been opposing projects at the County level and then appealing them to the Coastal Commission, as well.

The LOSG’s website describes the group as: “A group of homeowners in Los Osos who are dedicated to supporting and pursuing sustainability goals and initiatives for the community.”

Its mission is: “To help protect the resources within the Los Osos community and present guidelines and recommendations for the use of those resources in a sustainable manner. To advocate for policies and decision making that ensures the long-term sustainability of the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, the sole source of water for the Los Osos Community, area farms, and groundwater dependent environmentally sensitive habitat.”

The Commission’s cases have ranged from new homes to secondary unit projects. “In short,” Carl’s letter said, “the County is prohibited by the CDP from providing wastewater services to such development, including intensifications of use, and if the County were to provide such services, the County would be in violation of that CDP and subject to potential Commission enforcement action.”

And the letter also extended that principle to even accepting applications, making a number of observations and suggestions.

“First,” Carl said, “please do not accept any CDP applications for filing that cannot demonstrate that they have legal access to both a sustainable water source and wastewater treatment services.

“To be clear, such applications should not be accepted for review unless and until such water and wastewater is available for use, as availability of these public services reflects a fundamental prerequisite for considering proposed development and must be considered at the filing stage.”

The letter also dismisses the issuance of “will serve” letters by water and sewer providers. “We do not believe that a will serve from a local water purveyor satisfies LCP and CDP requirements, including as the LCP finding that is required on this point is not for water purveyors to make, rather it is the County’s independent responsibility.

“To this point, recent Commission’s adopted findings on this issue state: ‘The County, as the initial CDP decision-making body for CDP applications that include new water use in Cambria [same as Los Osos], needs to consider



# QUICKTECH


## Installation DONE RIGHT.

Professional Installation Service For:

- Workstations and servers
- Commercial Networks
- Security Systems
- Home Theater systems
- Commercial/Residential Audio Systems
- Commercial/Residential Camera Systems
- Phone systems
- IoT (Smart Home) Devices
- Access Control Systems
- Cable Running
- Digital Signage
- Point Of Sale Systems
- And More!

Call Now!

# (805)-806-0165



edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

### Compare our CD Rates


Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

<b>6-month</b>	<b>1-year</b>	<b>2-year</b>
<b>1.10 %</b>	<b>1.95 %</b>	<b>2.80 %</b>
APY*	APY*	APY*
Minimum deposit \$1,000	Minimum deposit \$1,000	Minimum deposit \$1,000

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 05/09/2022. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).  
FDI-96276-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


#### Los Osos



**Deanna Richards, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor


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

#### Morro Bay



**Nelson Pamplona**  
Financial Advisor


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



**Jennifer L. Redman**  
Financial Advisor


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

#### Cayucos



**Alex Schams**  
Financial Advisor

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



MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



News

these perhaps inconvenient facts, and stop approving or even considering such projects unless and until measurable steps are taken that improve water supply issues in Cambria [same as Los Osos].

“The County should not be even accepting applications for development in Cambria [same as Los Osos] that cannot show evidence of an adequate water supply.”

In a written response, the County Planning Director, Keith said, “While we continue to review and desire to further coordinate with Coastal Commission staff regarding your concerns, based on our preliminary review, the Department does not believe there is sufficient authority or justification to alter existing County practices regarding submittal and processing of land use permit applications in Los Osos at the staff level at this time.”

He defends the County’s actions. “Staff believes current Department practices are consistent with both the spirit and letter of the LCP and any new limited new development that is allowed in Los Osos will have a neutral to positive effect on the groundwater basin consistent with the current Estero Area Plan.”

That Estero Area Plan, which the County has been working on for nearly 30 years, was approved last year and is currently being reviewed by the Coastal Commission staff.

The Plan will be incorporated into the County’s Local Coastal Program (LCP) and eventually become part of he General Plan. Until that process is finally finished, the town’s water situation will not have changed, so far as the Commission is concerned.

Keith also refutes the Commission’s claim that the sewer project’s permit prohibits all new development.

“As to Special Condition 6 of the LOWRF’s coastal development permit,” Keith wrote, “the County’s understanding that it limits wastewater service to undeveloped properties, but does not prohibit development on already developed properties, such as residential additions, is consistent with the language of the condition and subsequent guidance provided to the County by Coastal Commission staff as recently as 2020.”

Estero Bay News asked Keith if the Commission’s letter sets down a de facto building moratorium based on water supply (Los Osos was under a moratorium against new septic systems handed down by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1988)?

“The only moratoriums in Los Osos,” Keith said, “are the water board moratorium for septic discharges in the prohibition zone and the Coastal Commission moratorium by way of a condition of approval of the LOWRF that prohibits undeveloped properties from connecting to sewer system until a community plan update is certified.”

Keith tells Carl that the County will not change anything it’s doing at this time but they will start giving their customers a heads up. “While the Department doesn’t intend to make any interim changes to application submittal and processing at this time, we will try to provide clear eyed warnings to Department customers regarding Coastal Commission staff concerns and will encourage applicants to provide more information regarding water use along the lines requested,” he said.

So the County’s position is that it doesn’t grant CDPs

to projects that would increase the load on the sewer system or increase water usage anyway, which makes the Commission’s concerns seem to be a moot point.

But did the Commission’s letter dismiss “will serve” letter granted to a property owner? Los Osos Community Services District General Manager Ron Munds echoed the County’s position that it doesn’t hand out will serve letters to “new” developments.

Munds said he was “A little shocked at their position. If an existing customer is doing a remodeling job and they don’t need an additional water meter or an upgrade to their meter we issue ‘Continue to Serve’ letters. We’ve been doing that since 2017.”

He noted that they adhere to the sewer projects requirements on no new hookups but, “their letter takes it a step further. It’s a de facto moratorium.”

He added that he intends to take the issue to the LOCSD Board at a future date and the Basin Management Committee, a group of water purveyors plus the County, will be discussing it too. The Basin Management Committee was charged under a court order, to first write a plan to better manage the groundwater basin, and then to implement new infrastructure — wells, storage tanks etc. — being called for to battle seawater intrusion into the basin caused by over pumping.

He criticized the Commission for not giving them credit for what they’ve already accomplished under the management plan, nor did they speak with the CSD about the water situation before writing the letter.

“They gave no data or explanations,” at how they reached their conclusions Munds said. He noted that the same letter was sent to the Cambria CSD but, “Our basins are nothing alike.”

Indeed, in Cambria the CSD pumps wells located adjacent to Santa Rosa Creek, and the Commission claims that the extractions are destroying the wildlife habitat value of the creek.

Because the CSD’s had no input nor were they even consulted by the Commission, it brings up potential ethical questions and questions over due process, Munds said.

The Commission also didn’t take into account water retrofit programs designed to offset new water usage. He added that if the County approves a development project, CSDs are obligated by law to provide water.

He also disagrees that remodel jobs by existing customers, even if they add a bathroom, necessarily increase water use in and of themselves.

As an example, if a family of four living in a two-bedroom house adds a new master bedroom and bath, it doesn’t automatically translate into increased water usage, if there are still only four people in the house.

Whereas, if that family of four added a new baby, that would add to the water use, but without adding new bathrooms.

“This blanket action,” Munds said, “penalizes people who are not increasing water use.”

In closing, Keith’s letter to Carl said, “Please know we share the common goal of continuing to increase the sustainability of Los Osos and any future development to the long-term benefit of County residents, visitors, and important coastal resources.”



Los Osos Schoolhouse



“Los Osos Schoolhouse” Pencil drawing by Joan Sullivan -1972

The one room Los Osos Schoolhouse adorns the Los Osos Community Park located at 2180 Palisades Ave. I was privileged to be involved in that history, when it was moved from the original site on the south side of Los Osos Valley Road at Turri Road.

More than 40 former students and friends attended a final reunion of Los Osos Schoolhouse despite the cold rain that whipped through the area, October 7, 1973. Elston ‘Buz’ Kidwell, District 2 San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, was the master of ceremonies. Several local residents exchanged stories of their early experiences as students attending the school. Jim Bagley, remembered a tree planting in 1893. Floride Frost spoke of riding her white horse to school from her home in Clark Valley. Louie Mello recalled hearing William Randolph Hearst’s trucks coming up Los Osos Valley Road headed for Hearst Castle, which was under construction in the early 1920s. Students were permitted to leave the classroom to watch the wooden wheeled trucks with cartons of antiques and huge wrapped statuary turn up Turri Road from the dirt road along Los Osos Valley - the only road open to Morro Bay.

When the decision was made to move the schoolhouse, San Luis Obispo County Parks and Recreation Department Ranger Rocky Thiel, said, “I was there before the school was moved. I looked at the site and possibility of moving it. The building was dilapidated. There was barely anything that could be saved. The bell tower is original and you can see where some of the kids over the years crawled or actually climbed up to the tower and carved their initials and wrote notes on it. The slate board is original and some of the doors are the original ones, but most of the building had to be rebuilt.”

To prepare for transporting the schoolhouse, the sides were removed so workmen could destroy two colonies of honeybees found in the walls. The roof and rafters were dismantled to allow the building to clear utility wires along Los Osos Valley Road. Supervisor Kidwell said the termite damage was so extensive that the frame had to be reconstructed. The sides and ends were stored while the building was reconstructed at the South Bay Park in Los Osos. John Curci Jr. donated the five-acre parcel to the community that included the Los Osos Library on Palisades Avenue and Los Osos Valley Road.

Many items of interest were found in the school’s decaying walls including hickory switches, slates, love notes, pieces of slate and early readers. The San Luis Obispo County Parks and Recreation Department removed for safekeeping.

Reference: One Room Rural Schools in the Valley of the Bears by Joan Sullivan 1993

Sea Shanty

RESTAURANT & CATERING

Always in Perfect Taste!

805-995-3272

296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

Just Listed

61 8th St, Cayucos  
3 Beds, 2 Baths  
2,475 sq. ft.  
Offered @ \$2,200,000

Coming Soon

71 7th St, Cayucos  
3 Beds, 2 1/2 Baths  
2,115 sq. ft.  
Offered @ \$1,895,000

SIM  
Real Estate  
Serving the Central Coast  
(805) 234-4315  
www.SherrySim.com

SHERRY SIM  
805-234-4315

@cayucos.realestate



Obituary

George William Leage  
October 1937 - April 2022



Morro Bay, California - George William Leage was born on October 14, 1937, in Ilwaco, Washington. George entered eternity on April 27, 2022, to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

George is preceded in death by sister Marie, brothers Orval and Ted, sons Jimmy and Lance. George is survived by his sister Violet, four sons Brad, Troy, Brandon, and Travis, fourteen grandchildren, one great grandchild, multiple nieces and nephews and the love of his life, Meridee Bell.

George was a pillar in the community of Morro Bay for several years, owning several successful businesses and employing many residents to serving as a councilman and friend to many. George attended Washington University and Southern California Christian College and was a drill sergeant in the Army.

The Leage family wishes to thank Meridee and all the medical professionals for their care for George during these past several months of his life as he fought vigorously with his disease.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship on May 20 at 1p.m. with a reception immediately following at the Harbor Hut in Morro Bay.

**Hydroelectric Plant** From page 11  
comment from the Whale Rock Commission, whose staff is from the City of SLO's Utilities Department. But they hadn't heard anything about it.

Mychal Boerman, City of SLO/Whale Rock Commission Utilities Deputy Director, said after being made aware of the proposal, they were going to study the application and present it to the commission with their analysis and so declined to comment at this time.

Trevor Keith, the SLO County Planning Director hadn't heard anything about it either. The location of both Whale Rock Reservoir and the proposed new dam and reservoir are within the County's jurisdiction.

"The Department of Planning and Building," he said in an email, "has not received an agency referral or initial inquiry from the applicant for the proposed project. Local land use permit requirements for energy storage or generation projects will depend on the project scope and location, and whether there are any exemptions from local permitting requirements under state or federal law applicable to the proposed project.

"Preliminary determinations of local permitting requirements for energy storage or generation projects are generally made after receipt of agency referrals and/or pre-application meetings with applicants and consultation with other regulatory agencies as applicable."

The County is also being cut out of the approval process for Hydrostor's Pecho Energy Center off Hwy 1.

The California Energy Commission isn't involved either. "The CEC does not license hydropower projects," Sandy Louey, the CEC's Media Relations Manager said in response to a request for information sent by EBN. She recommended the newspaper speak with the California Department of Water Resources, which also knew nothing of the Whale Rock project and directed questions to FERC. The CEC is however, involved in Vistra's and Hydrostor's projects.

Under the FERC's process, a preliminary permit, which is what Premium Energy applied for, doesn't authorize construction or any land-disturbing activities; is good for 3 years with possible extension for two more years; reserves the site for the permit holder; requires progress reports; and no dam or land ownership is required.

Should the company be granted a preliminary permit, it would then have to do all the necessary environmental, hydrogeological, archeological, and engineering studies and more before a license would be considered.

So the application Premium Energy Holdings filed is the first of many steps and doesn't necessarily mean there will ever be a hydro-electric plant built at Whale Rock.

"This is a preliminary permit application," said Celeste Miller, a media rep for FERC. "A preliminary permit application, if awarded, provides the holder of the permit up to four years to study the feasibility of developing a proposed project. A preliminary permit does not authorize construction of any kind.

"Should a permit holder choose to move forward with a project, they must file a license application. The licens-

News

ing process is separate and includes a variety of steps, including a complete environmental review process with public comments."

Premium Energy's project would build a new upper reservoir, named "Graves Reservoir," realigning an existing road in the process. Graves Reservoir would be located on private property, the application said, and the penstock (underground feed water pipes) would pass through several other private lands.

The project's powerhouse, where the turbines and generators would be housed, would be built on land owned by the State of California, the application reads. The lands surrounding Whale Rock Reservoir are owned by the State and managed by the Whale Rock Commission, which started building the dam in the late 1950s. It was completed in 1961.

The Graves Reservoir would store some 4,700-acre feet of water, and be at an elevation of 1,788 feet. It would feed a flow of water down to the powerhouse with four sets of 150 MW turbines.

The project would then pump the feed water back uphill to the new reservoir, where it would sit, essentially as "potential energy."

The first trick will be filling the Graves Reservoir, with a surface area of 84 acres, with water, which is proposed to come out of Whale Rock, which has a capacity of over 38,000 a.f., but is currently at 75% capacity.

However, "Once the proposed upper reservoir is filled with enough stored water for project operation, water will not be taken from Whale Rock Reservoir, except for small amounts to make up for losses due to evaporation. Percolation losses will be controlled using geomembranes covering the bottom of the upper reservoir."

There would be over 1,500 feet of elevation difference between Whale Rock and Graves reservoirs.

And, "Aside from the construction of the new embankment for the new upper reservoir, a hydro power penstock or pressurized tunnel will be required to connect the reservoir to the powerhouse. The pumped storage powerhouse, generating/pumping units, electrical switchyards, interconnecting transmission lines, and other appurtenant facilities would complete the project."

The project will need some 7 miles of new high-voltage transmission lines but plans are to make use of existing towers and rights of way owned by PG&E, with upgrades to the existing transmission lines and substations as needed.

The project will operate in a "closed loop" system, and reuse the water "in a cyclic manner and no more significant

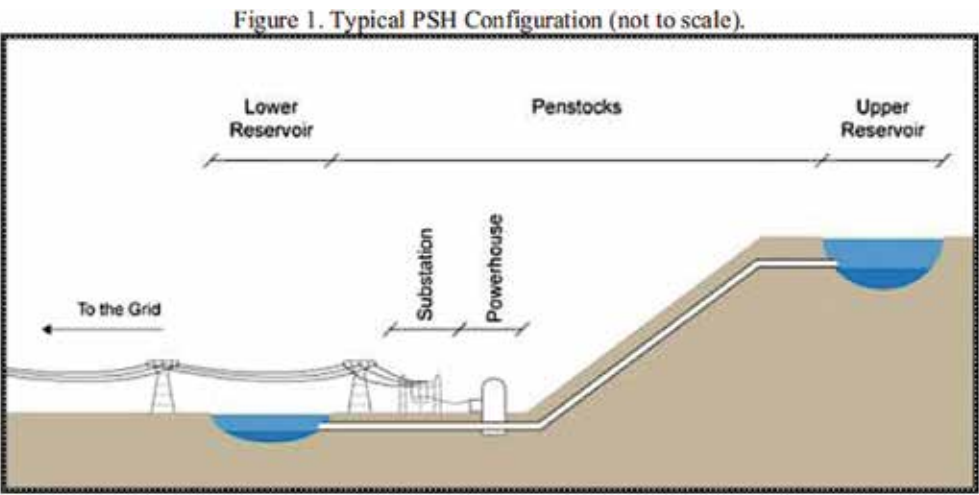


Diagram shows the basic layout of a proposed hydroelectric power plant including a new upper reservoir, pipes leading down to a turbine station and electric substation and lower reservoir (Whale Rock) and new high voltage wires that would carry the energy to the power grid.

amount of water will be diverted from Whale Rock Reservoir once the upper reservoir filling is completed.

"The project's proposed reservoirs will provide enough water storage capacity for the minimum capacity of 600 MW continuous output for a minimum of 8 hours." But the application said the project could be expanded to 1,500 MW or larger, with a storage duration of 48 hours, "to support grid power restoration after a major grid black out."

Expanding the plant's energy capacity would mean adding more tunnels and turbines.

The project proposes using energy from a proposed offshore wind farm being reviewed now by FERC, and slated for a nearly 400-square mile patch of ocean some 30 miles offshore from San Simeon. That energy is slated to come ashore at the Morro Bay Power Plant for connection to the energy grid.

The FERC has actually gotten several proposals from Premium and other companies, that would do similar hydro-electric plants at other California reservoirs, including Huntington Lake in the Sierras.

"Premium Energy Holdings, LLC," reads an item on the company's website, "is an energy development company that recognizes the future needs and interests for cleaner, sustainable, and more efficient energy sources.

"Premium provides experienced technical services and develops projects that achieve the long term goals of communities, local utilities, and large regions in their efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels, produce and store energy, deliver power, and meet regulatory and reliability requirements.

"In the development and delivery of these projects, Premium incorporates community interests, aesthetic value, financial accountability, safety, and environmental stewardship [with a desire to develop long term and lasting relationships and a model for future projects]."

See: [premiumenergyholdings.com](http://premiumenergyholdings.com) for more information on the company.

# Host an Exchange Student Today!

(for 5 or 10 months)

**Hanna from Germany, 17 yrs.**  
Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Hanna plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

**Make a lifelong friend from abroad.**  
Enrich your family with another culture. Now you can host a high school exchange student (girl or boy) from Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Scandinavia, Spain, Japan, Italy or other countries. Single parents, as well as couples with or without children, may host. Monthly stipend offered to cover expenses.

**Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs.**  
Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

**Amy at 1-888-578-2170** (Toll Free)  
**www.phs.asse.com or email amy@asse.com**

**asse USA**  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS  
Founded in 1976

ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization.

For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students

**Get Started!**

18 May 19, 2022 - June 1, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



News

New Reefs From page 1

1800s, until the early 1960s when quarrying was halted forever. Morro Rock is now part of Morro Bay State Park and protected.

As part of the quarrying operation, the ACOE built the causeway out to the Rock (now Coleman Drive) and the rock revetment that created the Morro Bay Harbor and Embarcadero business district. The spoils of Morro Rock also built breakwaters up and down the Coast, including at Port San Luis.

The change to the project got the Native American groups involved. “Morro Rock is a recognized sacred site for the Chumash and Salinan Tribes,” the Commission’s report said. “The tribes consider the existing breakwater stone as sacred, despite its removal from Lisamu’ [the Chumash name for Morro Rock]. To prevent further adverse effects to cultural resources, the consulting tribes requested that the displaced rock be relocated to an area near the PSL Breakwater or near Lisamu’, so as to retain the unity of the sacred stone as much as possible.”

So the ACOE and the tribes got together and they decided to dump the rocks offshore here, about 1,500 feet due west of Morro Rock, in Estero Bay.

In a letter from the ACOE to the Commission, the agency said, “The footprint of stone placement will encompass up to approximately 3-acres of the sandy ocean bottom at a depth ranging from approximately -50 to -65 feet Mean Lower Low Water.

“The crest height will be variable from 1-13 feet above the sea floor with an allowable upward tolerance of +5 feet and a maximum crest elevation of approximately -40 feet MLLW, so that the structures exhibit a random low to high vertical relief. Contiguous connected modules will be added based on the volume of stone relocated with additional modules being added in succession.”

The ACOE is modeling the Estero Bay rock piles after it’s “Palos Verde Reef Project,” the agency said.

The ACOE has meticulously planned out the whole rock placement, and isn’t going to just dump rocks overboard. “To maintain the unity of the sacred stone and attempt to provide higher value habitat for marine species,” the ACOE letter said, “the displaced breakwater stone would be placed in an array of up to five contiguous modules interspersed with sandy bottom habitat. Stone relocation would occur concurrently with the PSL breakwater repair, which is expected to extend from April to October 2022.

“Similar to the PSL breakwater repair, stone relocation would be sea-based, conducted by barges carrying rock/stone, tugboats, small craft support vessels, a track loader, and a crane equipped barge.”

The rock barge can carry about 1,000 tons of stone per trip, the ACOE said. They will use GPS positioning to anchor the barge in an exact spot and then push the rocks off into the water.

“The stone would then sink through the water column and settle on the sea floor in the designated module locations,” the ACOE said. “Stone would be placed in sets of individual modules to maintain cohesion between all stone

placed.”

Other agencies have weighed in on the project, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which is concerned with the endangered southern sea otter. Estero Bay and Morro Bay Harbor are densely populated areas for the sea weasels, which dive on rocky reefs to hunt for shellfish and abalone.

Needless to say, the F&WS determined the new reefs would not adversely affect the sea otters. Ideally, they would become offshore living reefs and support a myriad of sea life, and potential food for otters.

Morro Bay Harbor Director Eric Endersby was aware of the project and, after the ACOE rebuilt Morro Bay’s south breakwater in the early 2000s, understands the process.

“Morro Rock stone is actually not the right stone for building breakwaters,” Endersby said. “It’s too light. So in the process of rebuilding PSL’s breakwater they are removing a good amount of stone because much of it is Morro Rock stone.”

Breakwater construction is an exacting science, with engineers carefully studying the layout of the stones and determining precisely where each new stone has to be placed to form the sort of impenetrable wall breakwaters must become.

“Breakwaters are more than just a pile of stone dumped randomly,” Endersby said, “there is actually an engineering science to placing the stone together so they ‘lock’ properly to resist the forces of nature. And if your stone is too light, it gets blown out and the system can fail over time, which is what is happening at PSL.”

He noted that the same thing is happening to Morro Bay’s North Breakwater, which extends from the base of the Rock and breaks the prevailing swell coming out of the northwest. In stormy weather, that breakwater takes a powerful battering.

The South Breakwater breaks waves coming from the south and together they form the harbor entrance, which itself shoals so badly, that the ACOE dredge ship, Yaquina, comes here every summer to dig it down to about 40 feet deep, and tame the waves across the entrance.

“Go out to the south side of the Rock on a low tide and look on the inside of the north breakwater and you’ll see great masses of stone scattered on the ‘inside’ of the breakwater,” Endersby said. “That is from when it was blown apart by high surf in 1952/53 because it was made from



This chart shows the location of where the Army Corps of Engineers plans to dump some 10,000 tons of unusable rocks and boulders from the Port San Luis Breakwater Repair Project. The new reefs will be some 1,500 feet west of Morro Rock in 50-65 foot deep water. Photo courtesy ACOE

Morro Rock, which is too light. Morro Bay’s Yesterdays has some good photos of it on pages 124-127.”

According to a PSL Harbor District Board agenda item from February, ACOE hired, Connolly Pacific, to rebuild the breakwater. “The proposed repairs,” reads PSL Harbor Director Suzy Watkins’ report, “will entail removal and re-setting of existing armor stone and placement of new 15-20 ton armor stone.”

In February, the ACOE was about a third of the way done with the quarrying of the stones for the repairs, according to Watkins’ report.

According to an April 2021 notice seeking comments on the project’s environmental review, the ACOE said, “The breakwater was originally constructed between 1889 and 1913 to protect the inner bay, harbor, and small craft marine facilities from heavy surf and wave action approaching from the west. The proposed breakwater repair is required to protect Port San Luis Harbor and maintain safe navigability within the port.”

The repair project would be using “approximately 60,000 tons of new rock and resetting of approximately 29,000 tons of existing rock. Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of uncontaminated, sandy material would be excavated adjacent to the breakwater to provide access for construction equipment.

“The Proposed Action also includes measures to offset impacts to eelgrass beds that would be affected by excavation and breakwater repair activities, by restoring habitat within the work limits and other surrounding areas.”



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

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

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

**Kevin says,**  
"Look for the **ANT** on the Door"  
  
KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

**WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!**  


**Morro Bay Appliance**  
**805-772-2755**

**Sales - New & Reconditioned**  
**Service & Repairs On All Major Brands**  
**Freezers • Refridgerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves**  
**Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods**  
Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971  
935 Main Street, Morro Bay

**Relax Massage**  
Treat Yourself  
Appointments or Walk-Ins Welcome

**Relax Massage & Therapy**

BODY	
30 min	\$40
60 min	\$60
90 min	\$90

FOOT	
30 min	\$30
45 min	\$40
60 min	\$50

COMBO	
30 min foot & 30 min body	\$60
20 min foot & 50 min body	\$70
30 min foot & 60 min body	\$90

**805.534.1238**  
Open Monday - Saturday 10 am to 9 pm  
2060 9th St. Los Osos





# Kern County Supt of Schools hiring for:

## Camp KEEP

[www.campkeep.org](http://www.campkeep.org)

### Naturalists & Lead Naturalists

**\$18.17 - \$25.78/hr; DOE**

40 hrs/wk flex schedule M-F; 22-23 school year

Health/Vision/Dental/Life, PERS Retirement, Paid Sick Leave, Vacations, & Holidays

Apply by June 6th

**Lead Naturalist:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1432252>

**Naturalist:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1590005>

Safely teach 5th -8th grade science hikes in local ecosystems. Behavior management. Group announcements. Campfire programs. Dispense meds & 1st aid. Create positive memorable experiences. Flexible, self-motivated, team players with great student rapport needed.



### School Cooks & Lead Cooks

**\$16.57 - \$22.92/hr; DOE**

40 hrs/wk; 8 hrs/day; M-F; 22-23 school year

Health/Vision/Dental/Life, PERS Retirement, Paid Sick Leave, Vacations, & Holidays

Apply by June 6th

**Lead Cook:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1590233>

**Cook:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1590018>

Follow set menu, up to 200 meals/shift. Monitor diet restrictions. Use safe cooking practices in industrial kitchen. Keep workspace clean. Order & inventory. Positive customer service skills. Dependable, environmentally conscious, flexible, solution-based problem solvers needed.



### School Bus Driver

**\$18.55 - \$23.49/hr; DOE**

40 hrs/wk; 8 hrs/day; M-F; 22-23 school year

Health/Vision/Dental/Life, PERS Retirement, Paid Sick Leave, Vacations, & Holidays

Apply by June 6th

**Bus Driver:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1590267>

Safely transport students on field trips to local destinations. Clean and fuel all camp vehicles. Keep clear records and schedules. Other camp duties assigned. Flexible, responsible, team players needed.



### Camp Caretaker

**\$20.83 - \$26.43/hr; DOE**

40 hrs/wk; 8 hrs/day; M-F; all year

Health/Vision/Dental/Life, PERS Retirement, Paid Sick Leave, Vacations, & Holidays

Apply by June 6th

**Caretaker:** <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1590586>

Maintain all aspects of campus grounds, buildings, vehicles, & equipment. Create a welcoming and safe environment for student visitors. Diagnose and problem solve maintenance issues. Able to adapt to the unexpected. Proactive, self-starter handyperson with a wide skillset needed.



For questions contact Tammy Garcia ([tagarcia@kern.org](mailto:tagarcia@kern.org); 661-636-4391)

For more information: [www.campkeep.org](http://www.campkeep.org)