**Your Community** Your News

# ESTERO BAY NEWS, Arts & Entertainment, Schools, Business, Environment

Local News,

Vol #4 - Issue #11

Cambria · Cayucos · Los Osos · Morro Bay

June 16, 2022 - June 29, 2022

#### **New Dragons in Morro Bay**



Story and Photos by Neil Farrell

orro Bay has two new dragons plying its harbor

The Central Coast Dragon Boat Association on May 28 christened their new dragon boat canoes with a ceremony honoring a tradition over 2,000-years old.

The Dragon Boat Association, and its competition paddle team, the SurviveOars, gathered at Tidelands Park for the ceremony, inviting the Cal Poly Chinese Lion Dancers to perform in the ceremony.

The colorful costumed dancers traipsed down the gangplank to the floating dock and blessed the two racing boats, as ritual offerings were made and blessings made.

A highlight was members of the team painting in the eyes of the fierce-looking dragon, figureheads that mount to the bows of the canoes.

According to the Association, Dragon boats are 40-foot-long canoes powered by a team of up to 20 paddlers, with a steersperson manning the tiller, and a drummer pounding out a cadence for the paddlers.

CCDBA purchased the two boats after an impressive community fundraising effort led by the SurviveOars complicated by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

#### A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Morro Bay



In the funny business. Pictured are Brian Anthony, the founder of the SLOFunny Comedy Show, Eric Shantz, SLO Comedy Festival director, and show producers Manny Zamudio, Mark Fry and Kris Rubio.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Tt is said that laughter is the best medicine, and the SLO-■Funny Comedy Show could be the feel-good dose we all need these days.

Los Osos resident Brian Anthony started the once a month, live stand-up show at the Veterans Memorial Building in Morro Bay after about 10 years learning the ropes with the SLO Comedy Festival.

"Most of the surrounding towns have regular comedy events, but my home town of Morro Bay hasn't really had a steady show," Anthony said. "I thought it was time to start something, and I wanted to do it right. I love comedy. While the SLO Comedy Festival has birthed the Central

A Funny Thing Continued on page 18

The new boats are Dragon Dancer, which paddlers named, and Rosana's Ride, named in honor of beloved paddler Rosana Ortiz. The boats arrived In Morro Bay on

We are excited to introduce these colorful, festive new dragon boats to the community," said CCDBA president Miki Gilman. "We invite everyone to come and see what the sport of dragon boating is all about!"

Dragon boating originated in China and is now the fastest-growing water sport in the world, with teams in 89 countries, the Association said.

According to a history posted on the group's website (see: CCDBA.org), "In October 2007, team SurviveOars started with a war canoe instead of a dragon boat. By June of 2008, Dr. Spillane donated the money to buy a brandnew Champion Dragon Boat."

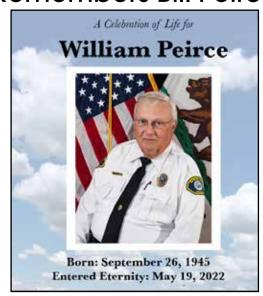
That boat, "Champion," was used until May 2022 when it was sold to Dragon Max out of Berkeley.

One of the paddlers, Joanna Frawley in 2011, "donated the funds for a second boat. Another team in California was selling their boat, built by Swift in 2009, which became our 'Joanna's Joy."

But that boat had issues with leaking that couldn't be fixed and was retired this year. Joanna's Joy is being placed

New Dragons Continued on page 16

#### A Community Remembers Bill Peirce



The funeral program from the service for Bill Pierce.

By Judy Salamacha & His Friends

Indulge me with Remembering Bill Peirce Part 2. Journal-List Neil Farrell summed up his life best in EBN's (www. esterobaynews.com) June 02 issue. It stated, "In retrospect, a biography ... would be almost too fantastic to believe and could rival a mid-sized encyclopedia in length. Unsurprisingly, it's difficult to write so little about a man who did so much."

Bill's life was all about community involvement. People he touched from a myriad of sectors attended, smiled, and mourned his loss Saturday, June 4 at Morro Bay's Tidelands Park. The following is but a smattering from the memorial's presentations plus additional Bill Peirce memories offered.

Rock Harbor Cristian Fellowship's Pastor Randy Ponder officiated. He got to know Bill serving as the Morro Bay Police Department's chaplain. Bill was a longtime valued volunteer. "At first, Bill was a bit scary. I wasn't sure how to take his humor, his wit, his fun sarcasm ... Three years ago, his favorite Chaplain Jim Berg moved to Virginia. Out loud Bill wondered who would do his funeral. He pointed to me and said, 'Put it on your calendar!' Today, I'm so

Remembering Bill Continued on page 18

#### County Awards Grant for Los Osos Groundwater Study



By Neil Farrell

ounty Supervisors recently awarded a grant to the help pay for a new study on Los Osos' water basin, in an attempt to further management of the town's sole source of drinking water.

The County awarded \$150,000 to the Los Osos Community Services District, "for the purposes of developing a Los Osos Basin groundwater transient model," reads the item's staff report by Blaine Reely with

the County Public Works Department.

The computer modeling exercise is intended to better understand the movement of the water in the underground aquifer, answering such questions as how quickly water moves through the aquifer and how quickly it gets recharged with rainfall.

The town's water purveyors — the CSD, Golden State Water and S&T Mutual — along with County Engineering, which runs the sewer system and it's recharge of the aquifer system are also a part of the

**Groundwater** Continued on page 17

#### More Money Dumped Into Closed Landfill



By Neil Farrell

Tt's the trash heap that just keeps on Lgiving.

County Supervisors will dump another \$414,000 buying equipment in the continuing monitoring of the long closed Los Osos Landfill.

County Utilities Division Manager, Francesca Devlin, asked Supervisors to approve a purchase order "not to exceed" \$414,000 with Water Techtonics, Inc., to

purchase an ion exchange water treatment unit. She also asked Supervisors to expand the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., to "provide management, administration, engineering, and regulatory compliance services for the Los Osos Landfill."

Devlin also asked Supervisors to transfer some \$572,000 from its Professional Services budget for "Waste Management" to the capital outlay budget to allow the equipment purchase. HDR's contract is for some \$200,000 a year.

Landfill Continued on page 19

**Police Blotter** Page 8





Survivor Summit June 18 - Page 11

Class of 2022 Page 20



#### **Supervisor Majority** to Flip

By Neil Farrell

political flip appears to be coming on the County Board of Supervisors, but there'll be no changes to the Morro Bay City Council, according to unofficial election results from the SLO County Clerk-Recorder's Election's

Dist. 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson appears to have won a fifth, 4-year term, despite having his district radically redrawn earlier this year.

Gibson had garnered 3,956 votes for 52.98% of the vote out of four candidates. It should be noted that as of 1 a.m. on Election Night, just 7,900 of over 32,000 votes (21.48%) had been counted. However, all of the 23 precincts in Dist. 2 had reported.

The Primary Election saw ballots mailed out to every registered voter, so at this point it's unknown how many of the ballots were actually cast and left to be counted, until the Clerk's Office certifies the election, likely not to happen for a few weeks. Indeed, in all the results posted by the County, mail in votes far out number those cast the traditional way — in person at polling places.

Second place is held by Bruce Jones (1,252 votes, 16.77%); Geoff Auslen (1,250, 16.74%) is third; and John Whitworth (1,009, 12.51%) fourth. If Gibson's lead holds, he will win the seat at the Primary and avoid a November General Election runoff.

The same goes for Dists. 3 and 4, as appointed incumbent Dawn Ortiz-Legg is heading towards victory over two opponents in the Dist. 3 race.

In what has to be a first, Dist. 3 was contested using the old district map instead of the new one, which covers drastically different areas. State Law requires appointed officials to run at the first available election, using the same district boundaries as the person they replaced. This ensures that the same people whose supervisor left office get to elect the replacement.

Those new maps, which are being contested in court, are also why Morro Bay, which will move into the new Dist. 3, this year didn't vote for supervisor, along with Los Osos, which will be in the new Dist. 5, held now by Debbie Arnold. She is up for re-election in 2024, and Ortiz-Legg will also have to run in 2024 under the new Dist. 3 map (unless it's all changed by court order).

Ortiz-Legg, who was appointed by the Governor in 2020 to fill the seat of the late Supervisor Adam Hill, had 5,138 votes (64.88%); ahead of runner-up Stacy Korsgaden (2,519, 31.81%); and third place Arnold Ruiz (262, 3.31%). Twenty-five of 25 precincts had been counted, however, 8,395 of 38,543 ballots had been tabulated.

In Dist. 4, long-time Supervisor Lynn Compton appears to have lost her rematch with Arroyo Grande City Councilman Jimmy Paulding, as the challenger had a sizable lead. Paulding had 5,599 votes (58.3%) to Compton's 4,005 (41.7%). It would have been Compton's third term. All of the 29 precincts had reported but 9,880 of 40,057 ballots counted

In Countywide Offices, Sheriff Ian Parkinson and District Attorney Dan Dow ran unopposed, as did County Assessor, Tom Bordonaro. County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator (ACTTCPA) James Hamilton, and County Superintendent of Schools Jim Brescia also ran unopposed. And Erin Childs was unopposed for Superior Court Judge No. 10.

In contested Countywide races, appointed County Clerk Elaina Cano is far ahead with 23,270 votes (66.79%); to second place James Baugh's 6,272 (18%); and third place Stew Jenkins with 5,298 votes (15.21%). All 117 county precincts had reported and 38,548 of 181,894 ballots. Cano was appointed last year to fill the seat vacated by former Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong, who resigned his office.

In the race to fill the Judge No. 12 seat, Mike Frye has 22,370 votes (67.66%) to Paul Phillips' 10,681 (32.32%). So far 38,548 of 181,894 registered voters had been counted.

In Morro Bay, appointed Councilwoman Jen Ford ap-

pears to be easily winning her race to continue serving out the term of the late Councilman Red Davis.

Ford had 1,212 votes (60.45%) to challenger James Costanzo's 793 (39.55%). All four of Morro Bay's precincts had been counted with 2,131 votes out of 8,131 registered

The council race was the only issue on the ballot for Morro Bay and Ford will serve until 2024, when she'll be up for re-election.

And Councilwoman Dawn Addis is leading the race for the 30th District State Assembly seat in SLO County, with 14,528 votes (44.59%); to second place Vicki Nohrden with 12,723 votes (39.05%). Third was Zoe Carter (2,321. 7.12%); Jon Wizard was fourth (1,845, 5.66%) and John Drake (1.162, 3.57%).

She's doing well in Monterey County as well, getting another 8,243 votes (42.2%) to Nohdren's 5,688 votes (29.12%). They are followed by Wizard (3,192,16.34%; Carter (1,736, 8.89%); and Drake (674,3.45%).

In Monterey, 20,882 of 87,948 possible ballots had been counted.

In Santa Cruz County, which is also part of the 30th District, the same tune is being played, as Addis has 4,308 votes (no percentages given), to Nohdren's 2,407; Wizard's 1,500; Carter's 1,290; and Drake's 737.

In California's Primaries, with statewide and congressional offices, the top two vote getters must face off at the November General Election, so if these numbers hold, Democrat Addis and Republican Nohrden will go head-to-

With Addis headed to the runoff, her council seat will be vacant, unless for some reason she changes her mind and bows out of the Assembly race before the end of the Morro Bay filing period, which is unlikely.

In Congress, incumbent Salud Carbajal won big in SLO County, taking 16,248 votes (63.85%); to second place Brad Allen with 7,557 (29.69%). Also-rans were Michelle Weslander-Quaid (1,382, 5.43%) and Jeff Frankenfield (262, 1.03%).

Those numbers hold up in Santa Barbara County too, as Carbajal leads there with 59,055 votes (62.6%) according to results posted by the SB County Election's Office. Allen had 27,712 (29.4%); Weslander-Quaid had 6,273 (6.5%); and Frankenfield (1,340, 1.4%). Carbajal and Allen will face off in November.

These figures are all preliminary, with thousands of ballots left to count. They won't be official until the Clerk-Recorder declares the count done and Supervisors certify the results. In Morro Bay, the race isn't over until the City Clerk certifies it and the City Council votes to make it official.

This process normally takes a few weeks.

#### CHP is Hiring



With college graduations in progress across the state, the Highway Patrol is opening up a campaign to try and boost its ranks with young, adult men and women.

The CHP has launched a multi-year recruitment campaign — "Join the CHP 1,000" — to fill some 1,000 vacant positions. According to a press release, the campaign is "the Department's attempt to appeal to a wide array of prospective applicants who may not be aware ot the lite-changing opportunity that awaits with a career with the CHP."

CHP officers have statewide jurisdiction and, while concentrating on California's roadways and freeways, have the authority to investigate crimes and make arrests anywhere, just like a Sheriff's deputy or municipal police officer. It's also a profession that doesn't require a college

CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said, "To meet the increasing demand for our services throughout the state, over the next few years our law enforcement family will be growing exponentially. We are excited to welcome new members to the team so that the CHP can continue to provide the level of service the public has come to expect."

CHP officers attend a special academy for training and to qualify as a cadet you must be "a United States citizen or a permanent resident who has applied for citizenship; be between the ages of 20 and 35; possess a high school diploma or equivalent; be able to pass a physical abilities test and written exam; and complete a thorough background check with no felony convictions on record."

A career with the CHP includes paid training, as cadets earn \$5,563 each month throughout the 26-weeks at the CHP Academy, located in West Sacramento.

After graduation, new officers can be assigned anywhere in California and can expect to earn more than \$100,000 in their first year. The job also comes with a generous benefits package and retirement plan, with lots of opportunities to move up the ranks over a career.

Commissioner Ray added, "If you are compassionate, driven to serve, and have a desire to learn, the CHP provides some of the best law enforcement training in the world and we will do all we can to ensure your success."

For more information about Join the CHP 1,000, or to apply, see: www.chpcareers.com or call the statewide Recruitment Unit at (916) 843-4300.

#### Correction

In the last issue of the Estero Bay News, Vol-4 Issue **▲**#10, the images for Morro Bay High School were taken by Charlotte "Ginger" DiNunzio of Sandprints

Unfortunately we did not print this information in the last issue.



#### 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 Judy Salamacha

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC. Copyright 2019 all rights reserved. We are a bi-weekly publication with 10,000 copies distributed throughout



Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com. You can reach us through emails listed above, by phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at: P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.



Laurie Lackland (805) 506-1649 TTY:711

Calling the number will direct





#### **Confused about Medicare?** Call Laurie today!

Absolutely no charge...ever.

LacklandHealthPartners.com Laurie.Lackland@Hey.com

My focus: Education, Integrity, YOU. California License #4051815



Motorists will soon have some roadwork to drive carefully through as the County begins a project to replace and upgrade guardrails, with Cambria and Los Osos receiving most of the work.

County Supervisors recently approved the "Metal Beam Guardrail Upgrade Project," awarding R., Burke Const., of SLO a \$792,000 contract to do the work.

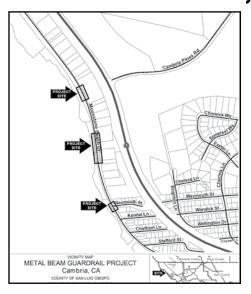
Burke was the lowest of two bidders, as C & W Const., came in at \$939,000. The engineer's estimate was \$622,000, so Burke's low bid was actually \$172,000 over what the County thought it should cost.

That meant Supervisors had to inflate the project budget by an additional \$95,000. Add in another \$79,000 in contingency monies and the new budget comes to \$872,000.

"The purpose of the proposed project," reads a report from Project Manager Genaro Diaz, "is to upgrade existing deficient guardrails to current State and Federal safety standards. The standards require a consistent height of the guardrail face to deflect vehicle impacts and energy dissipating end treatments to reduce injuries from a direct collision to the end of a guardrail system."

The project has three basic goals:

#### **Guardrail Project Awarded**



install new railings to meet federal standards; install the energy dissipating ends; and, replace rotted wooden posts with new wooden or steel posts.

Money for the project is coming from the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Safety Improvement Program, essentially gas taxes.

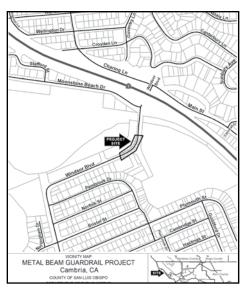
As with the street lighting project recently approved, this guardrail work is part of a multi-year process that is currently budgeted at \$1.25 million. Diaz said the bids came in higher than estimated, "due to unanticipated increases in material costs."

He noted that the County saved money with the Geneseo Low Water Crossing Project and asked that those savings be transferred to the guardrail project.

In Cambria guardrails will be replaced on Charing Lane between Windsor Boulevard and Croyden Lane; at three spots along Moonstone Beach Drive; and on Windsor Boulevard just west of Hwy 1.

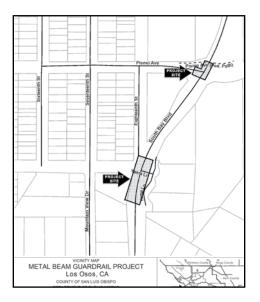
Guardrails will be replaced on Los Osos Valley Road east of Los Osos and starting at the intersection with Turri Road. There's another site down LOVR about half way to Foothill Boulevard and another at Foothill and LOVR.

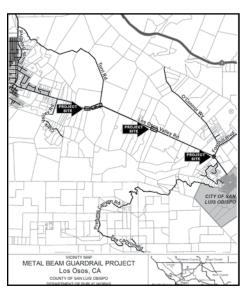
Another Los Osos site is on Pecho

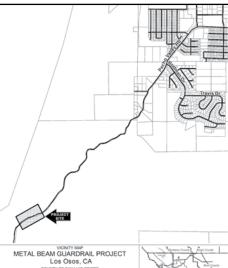


Valley Road just outside the entrance to Montaña de Oro State Park. The railing at South Bay Boulevard and Pismo Avenue will be replaced, as will the railing at South Bay and Yama Lane. The final jobsite in Los Osos is at the tricky, sweeping turn at Ninth Street and Ramona Avenue.

Readers are advised to slow down and be cautious when driving through these job sites and expect delays or closures as directed.





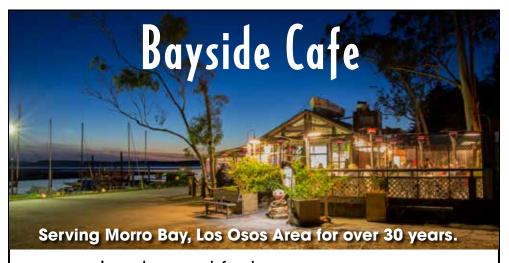


A map of the County's guardrail project.

Left to right:

Cambria - Charing Ln

Cambria: Moonstone Beach dr. Cambria: Windsor Blvd. Los Osos: Los Osos Valley Rd. Los Osos: Southbay Blvd Los Osos Pecho Valley Rd.



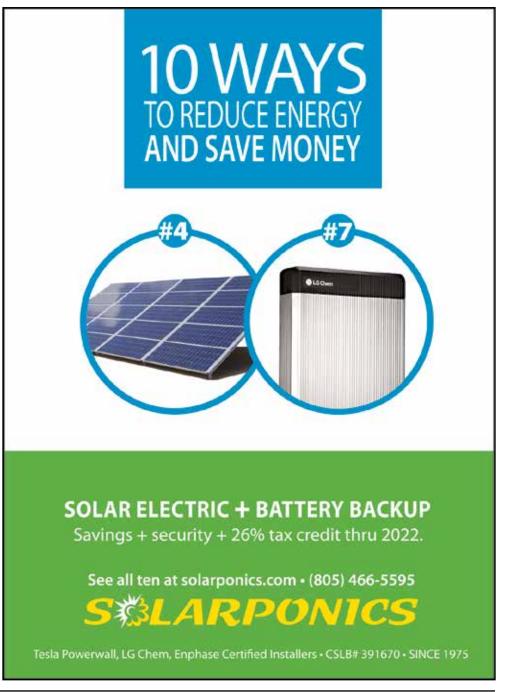
Just plain good food, generous portions



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



#### **News Briefs**

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Hearst Donation to French



A\$500,000 donation from Steve and Barbara Hearst could save lives throughout the county.

French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) received the donation for their Beyond Health campaign. The funds will support the hospital's current \$150 million expansion project for "Your New French Hospital," which includes the addition of a new Patient Care Tower featuring single patient rooms, as well as a new heliport.

Hearst, the great grandson of William Randolph Hearst, made the initial contributions that enabled French Hospital to establish the Hearst Cancer Resource Center (HCRC) in 2008. Since that time, Hearst has continued to provide significant support for the HCRC, including hosting the FHMC Foundation's annual Share the Hope fundraiser and providing leadership on the Foundation's HCRC Advisory Committee.

In addition to the Hearst Heliport, the expansion project for "Your New French Hospital" will include:

- 56 new private patient rooms, bringing the total licensed bed count to 180 making it the largest hospital in San Luis Obispo County
- The new Stan and Barbara Clark Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – a 16-bed unit with state-of-the-art private family oriented rooms
- An additional 10 Intensive Care Unit beds, bringing the total to 21- all private rooms
  - · New front entrance, lobby and dining area
  - · Swanson Family Chapel a new interfaith chapel
- Healing spaces including Harold Miossi Garden Terrace and the Mary Lou Couch Mediation Room and Serenity Garden
- Expanded space for imaging, labs, pharmacy, food preparation, and more
- Enhanced and advanced technology and services A four-story 85,000-square-foot Patient Care Tower will be built to accommodate the growth, with construction on the parking area to start in early 2023. The expan-

sion is planned for completion in 2025.

The FHMC Foundation also received a \$250,000 grant from the Hearst Foundations to support the Beyond Health campaign.

### Parking Fees to Double in SLO

Expect to pay more to park in SLO next year. The San Luis Obispo City Council recently approved public parking rate increases in order to build a fourth parking structure. Those rates are slated for the books in July of 2023.

#### **Parking Rates:**

- 2-hour street parking in the main downtown core will be \$4 per hour (up from about \$2)
- 10-hour street parking in the outer downtown area will be \$3 per hour (up from \$1.50)
- Structure parking will be \$3 per hour or a maximum daily rate of \$12 (up from \$1.50 per hour or \$6 maximum daily)

Additionally, some parking fines will increase this summer to deter parking after a session has expired, parking within an intersection, and parking on the roadside of a vehicle parked at a curb. Programs for people who work downtown will continue unchanged (e.g., 10-hour meter permits and free bus passes).

City officials say the adopted public parking rate increases are attributed to unprecedented cost increases in the construction industry, increased costs for borrowing money, lost revenues during the pandemic and the need to demonstrate to funding entities the City's plans for maintenance and preservation of existing assets.

For years, the City has collected parking fees in the Parking Fund, saving up \$13.9 million for this project, and expected to save even more until the pandemic hit. With the March 2020 shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parking Fund did not collect an expected \$4 million

For more information on parking rates and increases, visit www.slocity.org/parking.

#### SLO Judge On His Way to State Appellate Court

Judge Hernaldo J. Baltodano, 45, of San Luis Obispo, was nominated for a state appellate court by

California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Baltodano has served as a Judge at the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court since 2017, where he was the Supervising Criminal Judge from December 2020 to September 2021.

The next step is confirmation of the appointment by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, which consists of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Attorney General Rob Bonta and senior Presiding Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal Arthur Gilbert. He will serve as an Associate Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Six in Ventura.

Baltodano earned his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He and his wife, Erica Flores Baltodano, founded Baltodano & Baltodano LLP. Together they handled complex civil cases on behalf or hotel, restaurant and agricultural workers as well as nurses and mid-level executives, his bio says,

On June 30, Baltodano is expected to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Martin J. Tangeman. He will earn \$257,562 annually.

#### New Events Replace SLO Triathlon

New events and expanded recreational activities will replace the SLO Triathlon, which was canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We can't thank the SLO Triathlon community enough for supporting 40 years of this event," said SLO Parks and Recreation Director Greg Avakian. "After careful analysis of declining SLO Triathlon participation and consideration of our new 20-year blueprint for Parks and Recreation services, we made the difficult decision to replace this single event with several new low-cost and no-cost public events and we're expanding recreational activities and opportunities that focus on stewardship and help build community."

#### New activities and programs include:

- New Super Rec Saturdays at the SLO Swim Center, which includes a full day of recreational swim with superhero themes over the summer season.
- Fit 'N' Fun Camp at the new outdoor Fitness Court at Emerson Park
- Monday Meet Ups and other recreation in the parks events this summer
- · Expanding sports and fitness clinics for youth
- New five-week summer sports camp at Laguna Middle School
- An expanded Spring Concert Series at the Historic Jack House

For new or expanded activities and events planned for this summer, download the Summer Activity Guide at www.slorecactivities.org.

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.



#### City Hires New Maintenance Super

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay has completed filling its Public Works management team with the hiring of a new maintenance chief.

Public Woks Director Greg Kwolek announced the hiring of Travis "Dale" Simpson as the new maintenance superintendent. Simpson's hiring follows the naming of a new City Engineer, Eric Riddiough last March and the promotion of Damaris Hanson as the new Utilities Division Manager in April.

Hanson had over 14-years as an Engineering Technician III with the

City, most recently acting as the City's Environmental Programs Manager before getting promoted. Kwolek was hired last year to replace the retiring Rob Livick.

Travis "Dale" Simpson is the

new maintenance superin-

Bay. He started work June 6

and will be in charge of the

City's 12-man maintenance

crew. Submitted photo

tendent with the City of Morro

Simpson started work with the City June 6. He's apparently got a lot of work stacked up waiting for him.

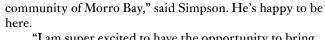
"Dale," Kwolek said in a news release, "brings strong leadership experience to an already outstanding maintenance team. With this, I expect he will lead the Division to close out the many backlogged maintenance projects currently in the City's service request system, but he will also bring greater focus on the upkeep and beautification of the Embarcadero and Downtown Morro Bay.

"Dale's understanding of team dynamics, as well as his listening skills and entrepreneurial style will allow him to jump right in to understand our community's needs and the best, most efficient ways to respond to them. I can't wait to see what he and the maintenance team will achieve."

Simpson has over 30 years in the service and hospitality industry. He studied at Texas Tech University for his Bachelor's Degree in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management, Kwolek said. He also earned an Associate's Degree in Golf Course Operations from Western Texas College.

Simpson will oversee the Public Works Department's Maintenance Division, which has 10 full-time employees, and two part-timers. He will manage all day-to-day maintenance of the City's parks, open space areas, streets, sidewalks, street trees, City facilities, and most aspects of the City's fleet of vehicles.

"Consistency, accountability and teamwork will be the key to our success and that is my commitment to the



"I am super excited to have the opportunity to bring my passion for serving people to the beautiful community of Morro Bay," Simpson said. "The scope of needed repairs and improvements to our parks, streets, and the Embarcadero and Downtown Morro Bay are large, and my first step is to prioritize those needs by listening to the residents and business owners of Morro Bay."

Simpson has a full plate awaiting him perhaps most-noticeably at Tideland's Park. The bayside park, Morro Bay's most scenic and often-used, has what appears to be serious problems with the expanse of grass. It appears to have died off in large patchy areas and also has a gopher infestation in one of the little grassy knolls by the playground.

#### PG&E Releases Climate Strategy Report

Pacific Gas and Electric Company recently unveiled its commitments to help reduce carbon emissions, reverse the impacts of climate change and heal the planet as part of its comprehensive Climate Strategy Report.

The report, which is available at www.pge.com/climate, outlines the company's path to become "climate positive," or going beyond net zero emissions and actively removing more greenhouse gases from the environment than it emits, by 2050.

Along the way, PG&E plans to reach net zero green-house gas emissions by 2040, five years ahead of California's current carbon neutrality target, and has detailed clear milestones it plans to meet by 2030 in reducing emissions, adopting renewable energy, investing in clean transportation infrastructure and transitioning its natural gas system.

### City-PG&E Agree to Blackout Plan

By Neil Farrell

What should you do; where should you go for needed services this summer when the power goes off in an effort to try and prevent wildfires?

Now you can try the Community Center in Morro Bay.
The City and Pacific Gas & Electric have entered
into an agreement to allow the utility company to set up

into an agreement to allow the utility company to set up a "Community Resource Center or CRC in the event of a "Public Safety Power Shut-off" or PSPS.

That's when the weather conditions — namely hot, dry and windy — are ripe for the company's infrastructure to malfunction and start a fire, something that happened in 2018, when the Camp Fire, stoked by fierce winds, destroyed the town of Paradise in Northern California killing some 84 people. PG&E's high voltage equipment was the cause.

The company filed for bankruptcy in 2019 and plead-

ed guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter and as a result of the fire, they came up with the PSPS or "rolling blackouts," as they are also known.

"When these PSPS events are identified," reads a report from City Manager Scott Collins, "PG&E will turn off power distribution to specific areas to prevent electrical distribution equipment from igniting a fire."

Along with that decision came the realization that electric power means life and death to some people.

"To lessen the impacts of these events on community members," Collins said, "PG&E created a program to set up Community Resource Centers in affected areas. These CRCs provide an area that community members have access to for ADA-accessible restrooms and hand washing stations, medical equipment, charging stations, device charging, Wi-Fi, access to drinking water and snacks."

So when a PSPS hits here, the company will set up equipment to serve people's needs. The company is supposed to give the City eight hours advanced warning if a PSPS is about to hit, and the City must respond within four hours if the Community Center is unavailable.

"PG&E," Collins said, "requests use of the facility for 1-2 days before initiation of the PSPS to set up and 1 day after restoration of electrical service to demobilize, with potential length of use anticipated to be two to seven days."

That final tidbit should give readers pause, as they consider the prospects of not having power at their homes for perhaps a week. The Company will do everything needed to set up and run the CRC.

"PG&E would supply on-site security guards," Collins said, "all required supplies and equipment, and proof of self-insurance. Notification of a PSPS initiating event by PG&E will include:

- Estimated start time of a potential event;
- Forecasted weather duration;
- Estimated time range to full restoration;
- Number of medical baseline customers in the affected rea; and,
- Maps that include boundaries of the area subject to de-energization and affected circuits will be posted at: www.pge.com/pspsportal."

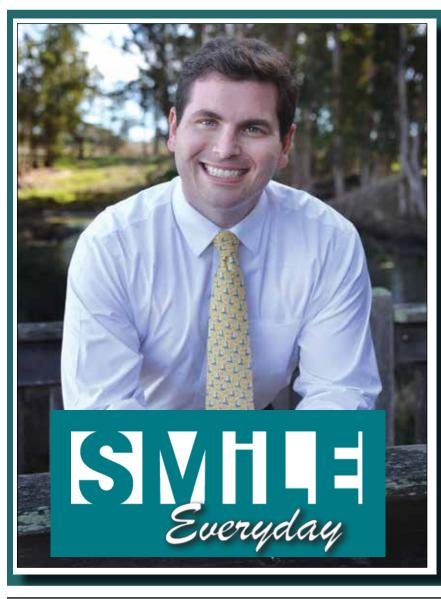
The agreement is also in keeping with the City's own emergency plans.

"The City of Morro Bay Emergency Management Plan Annex K," Collins said, "outlines the City's response to electrical PSPS events for continuity of operations.

"Within this plan," he continued, it says, "If needed due to weather or longevity of power shut-off, ensure that Resource Centers are identified and can be supported."

The agreement with PG&E apparently fills that requirement nicely and identifies a location for a CRC, "ensuring liability concerns are mitigated, and the process for implementation is outlined."

And when the City is hit with a different type of disaster — storms, floods, earthquake or tsunami — it has an emergency plan including establishing a communications center at the Harbor Street Firehouse.





#### County Awards \$245,000 **Light Bulb Contract**



Tow much money does it cost to change light bulbs? A SLO County contract to change out street lighting at various areas in the county might be an indication.

Called the "Intersection LED Streetlights Project" County Supervisors awarded a \$243,000 contract to Lee Wilson Electric Co., of Arroyo Grande. The project will change out streetlights at a total of five intersections in Templeton, Los Osos, Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach, according to a staff report from Project Manager Aaron

Wilson Electric was actually the only bidder for the job, yet its bid was 14.5% lower than the engineering department's estimate of \$284,000. The County added in a \$25,000 contingency to the overall budget bringing it up to

Money for the project is coming out of a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program grant. Caltrans will manage the project and act as the State contribution needed to receive the federal monies, which derive from fuel taxes paid at the pump.

Los Osos will see two of the replacements, at the intersections of South Bay Boulevard and Los Olivos Avenue and at SBB and Pismo Avenue.

The project in Arroyo Grande will be at Printz and Noyes Roads; in Pismo Beach at Ormonde and Price Canyon Roads; and in Templeton at Bethel Road and Vineyard

While the overall project was deemed to have no environmental impacts under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) as analyzed by Caltrans, it's not that easy in Los Osos.

"A qualified biologist will conduct presence/absence surveys for Morro Shoulderband Snail prior to work in the Los Osos construction area," Yonker said. "Also, nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to construction for any work between February 1, 2022 and September 1,

This contract is part of a greater effort to change light bulbs to the more energy efficient type. Yonker said it's a multi-year project that Supervisors originally budgeted at \$705,000.

#### **Drain Project** Winding Down

otorists in Morro Bay have been dealing with a con-Motorists in Morio Bay Inc. 222 struction project on Atascadero Road, as Caltrans fixes a storm drain along Hwy 41.

Seamair Construction of San Luis Obispo is the contractor for the project to replace 250-feet of storm drain that runs parallel to the roadway on Atascadero Road/Hwy 41 from Sunset Avenue to Rockview Street.

The job started on Monday, June 13, and was slated to be finished this Friday, June 17, according to Caltrans.

The roadway was to remain open during the work with minimal delays expected.

The storm drain replacement is in the area of a major construction project at Atascadero Road and Sunset. Some 35 low-income apartments, one, two and 3-bedroom, are being built at the corner.

#### **Dredge Makes Annual Visit**



Filler up! The Yaquina, an Army Corps of Engineers dredge ship out of Portland, Ore., takes on fuel at the Morro Bay fuel dock. The 200-foot ship towers over the fishing boats in the foreground docked at the City's Beach Street Docks. Photo by

#### By Neil Farrell

She came to town from her homeport in Portland, Ore., to help keep Morro Bay's harbor entrance passable and safe.

The Army Corps of Engineers' dredge ship, Yaquina, was here in late May to early June doing her annual clean out job at the harbor mouth, part of a continuing project to tame big breakers that can roll across the bar and be treach-

Yaquina was here for a 22.5-day job, according to Harbor Master Eric Endersby, work that is secured annually through the city's lobbying at the annual C-MANC conference in Washington D.C. That conference is attended by representatives from all the major California ports, of which Morro Bay is among the smallest.

Every year the extent of the job is determined first by the available budget and second by soundings taken by an advance crew of the harbor mouth. The project design calls for keeping the mouth about 40-feet deep, a depth arrived at by an ACOE modeling study.

Endersby said this year the budget was \$2.8 million and while most of the work was at the entrance, the ship did dig out some of the area at the small groin at the end of the Sandspit, where shoaling takes place and threatens to pinch off the entrance channel.

Part of the reason for the annual maintenance dredging is to be sure the Coast Guard is able to enter and exit the harbor for its missions of search & rescue, and patrolling the offshore, security zone off Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

It's a duty Coast Guard Station Morro Bay picked up with its move into the Department of Homeland Security after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the formation of the DHS.

#### County Seeks Bids on \$34M Probation Office

By Neil Farrell

Younty Supervisors gave a green light to seek bids to Ubuild a new headquarters for the Probation Department and replace a building that was new when FDR was president.

County Public Works asked Supervisors to let them go ahead with a request for proposals or RFP to build a new probation HQ on the County's Bishop Street campus. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$34.84 million, and the County has already pre-qualified three companies to bid the job.

The County chose to use the so-called "design-build"

(D-BE) method to deliver the project, meaning that the company whose proposal is chosen will both design the building and construct it.

After receiving so-called "Statements of Qualifications" last October, the list of companies was narrowed to three — Harris Construction of Paso Robles, F & H Construction of Lodi, Calif., and Specialty Construction of SLO. Those three will be asked to conjure up a design and after a selection process, will have to come back to the Supervisors for approval of a final project.

"The RFP requires that D-BEs submit a conceptual design of the project they intend to construct with their proposal," reads the staff report from project manager Margaret Mayfield, "and the RFP scoring criteria requires that greater points be awarded to the design that provides the best value to the County. The D-BE delivery method assigns design and construction responsibility to the D-BE, so selection of a D-BE is an important step towards managing the risks associated with project delivery.'

That method has only been used a couple of times by the County, including the Women's Jail and a major upgrading of the Probation Department's Juvenile Hall, but is supposed to cut down on things like change orders, as the same company that designed it is building it, which logic dictates should be error free or at least cut down on flubs.

Called "Casa Loma" Probation's current office building was built in 1940 and is "outdated, in need of constant repair, short on space and ill-suited for the needs of the Probation Department," Mayfield said. The County did a feasibility and site study in 2017 of the Bishop Street campus (the site of the old General Hospital) and chose a spot behind County Mental Health, which occupies much of the old hospital, along with Drug & Alcohol Services.

Moving the new probation building means the Child Development Resource Center won't have to move out, something Supervisors specifically ordered back in January

As for budget, the County has already allocated \$2.75 million to get to the point of selecting a contractor. The overall project includes some \$342,000 for "debt issuance" costs for a total project budget of \$37.6 million. The County plans to issue 25-year bonds to finance the job, as called for under a "Facilities Financing Plan."

Financing with bonds would peg the County's annual debt service at about \$2.3 million a year (over 25 years), for a payoff of some \$57.5 million. With no dedicated revenue source, the debt payments will have to come out of the County's general fund.

#### Santa Maria Man Held in Murder of Oceano Man

ounty Sheriff's detectives quickly arrested a Santa Maria man or suspicion of murder after he allegedly stabbed a man in Oceano and fled the scene.

According to a news release from Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla, deputies responded at 1:45 a.m. Saturday, June 4 to a report of assault with a deadly weapon in the 2000 block of Ocean St., Oceano.

"When Deputies arrived," Cipolla said, "they discovered a male subject had been stabbed. Medics respond-

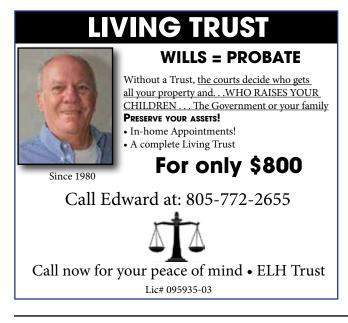


Angel Eduardo Ramos-Ramirez

ed but the victim later died at the scene.'

The alleged assailant was identified as Angel Eduardo Ramos-Ramirez, 27 of Santa Maria. He was tracked to his home in Santa Maria but they missed him. Suspect information was sent out to area law enforcement, and the manhunt was short-lived.

At about 9 a.m. on the 4th, "Ramos-Ramirez was detained by the CHP during a traffic stop," Cipolla said,





"on Highway 101 south of Los Alamos in Santa Barbara County." The CHP turned the suspect over to Sheriff's Detectives when they arrived on scene.

The victim was identified as Daniel Diaz, 20 of Oceano. Investigators think they've pieced together what happened.

"Sheriff's Detectives," Cipolla said, "believe the suspect and victim got into an altercation in the street outside a residence in the 2000 block of Ocean Street in Oceano. Ramos-Ramirez then stabbed Diaz several times and fled the area in a vehicle. Witnesses at the scene identified the suspect as well as his vehicle."

Ramos-Ramirez was booked into County Jail and charged with suspicion of murder. The Sheriff's Department said there are no other suspects sought in the case.

### Paso Man Busted with Drugs, Guns



Items found during an arrest of a Paso Robles man in a home where he head been staying.

A Paso Robles man suspected of dealing drugs and being heavily armed was arrested by the Sheriff's Department on a slew of charges including cruelty to a child.

According to Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla, on May 10, "the Sheriff's Gang Task Force began an investigation into 49-year-old Todd Iliff of Paso Robles regarding the sale of controlled substances while armed with a firearm."

Ten days later, investigators obtained search warrants for his residence and car and set out looking for their man. That day, deputies tried to stop Iliff's car on Appaloosa Drive in Paso Robles, but he reportedly sped off with investigators giving chase.

"Iliff refused to stop until he was parked outside a residence where he had been staying," Cipolla said, "located in the 500 block of Sacagawea Court in Paso Robles. A woman and her three young children, ages 11, 2 and 10 months, exited the residence."

Deputies searched that residence and another in the 2900 block of Ardmore Rd., and discovered a trove of drugs and weapons.

Cipolla said that approximately 1.8 pounds of psilocybin mushrooms (magic mushrooms), was allegedly discovered "in an unsecured cabinet in the kitchen." They reportedly also found suspected drug paraphernalia associated with dealing.

They also found guns — a loaded handgun discovered on the floor of a bedroom, an AK-47, more handguns and rifles, and ammunition. It was all confiscated.

Iliff was arrested for suspicion of willful cruelty to a child with possible injury or death; possession of a controlled substance for sale; committing a felony while armed; and possession of a controlled substance for sale while armed, according to Cipolla.

#### Man Busted for Drugs; Quickly Released

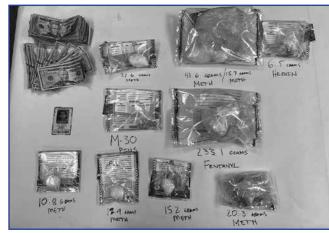


Photo shows the suspected drugs and cash seized by Sheriff's detectives from a man in Paso Robles who was on probation for a 2019 conviction for dealing drugs.

#### By Neil Farrell

The arrest of a probationer on drug possession charges took thousands of dollars worth of dangerous drugs off the street, but the alleged dealer didn't stay in jail for long.

Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release that on May 17, "Detectives with the Sheriff's Special Operations Narcotics Unit, Gang Task Force and Probation Department made contact with the driver of a vehicle which had just pulled into the parking lot of a shopping center in the 100 block of Niblick Rd. [Paso Robles]. The driver, identified as 40-year-old Edgar Monge, was known to be in violation of his probation."

Monge, who Cipolla said has no known address, had been on "Post Release Community Supervision" (probation), for a 2019 conviction for sales of a controlled substance, according to Cipolla. Under the law, such pro-

bationers are subject to search anytime and anywhere by police and when they searched his car, they found a cache of suspected drugs and money.

"During the search of Monge's vehicle," Cipolla said, "Detectives discovered a backpack in the back seat of the car, which contained a large amount of methamphetamine. Detectives discovered a hidden compartment between the back seat and the frame of the car. Inside that compartment they found a locked pouch, which contained a large amount of fentanyl."

They also found a bunch of fake pills. "Investigators also found counterfeit Oxycodone M-30 pills," Cipolla said, "as well as heroin and drug paraphernalia indicating the sale of narcotics. The estimated worth of the narcotics is approximately \$11,000." He also had some \$2,000 in cash, Cipolla added.

Monge was arrested and charged with suspicion of possession of a controlled substance for sale, transporting/selling a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance for sale. He soon walked out of jail, however.

Cipolla said, Monge posted bail on the probation violation, and "was released on his fresh narcotic charges pursuant to the Statewide Emergency Bail Schedule."

### Juvenile Bear Captured in Morro Bay Drain

A young 80-pound bear was caught playing tourist in Morro Bay.

Reports of a wondering juvenile bear started coming in Wednesday, June 8. The cub was found the following day, thankfully before Morro Bay High School graduation ceremonies, at San Jacinto and Atascadero streets in a culvert next to Highway 1.

Morro Bay police, city staff and California Fish & Wildlife joined forces to tran-

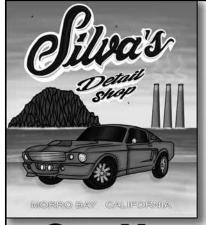


quilize the animal then extract it from a storm drain.

The bear was transported to a safe place in the wild

after it's ordeal, according to city officials.

Photo by Eric Riddiough, City of Morro Bay engineer.



• Cars • Motorcycles • RV's

Trucks
 Trailers

Hand Car Wash
Interior Steam Cleaning
Wax/Sealant/Ceramic
Coating
Polishing
Disinfectant & Protect

# Get Your Dad or Grad Something Special 15% OFF



805-423-0235

Call us today or Book Online • Appointments only www.silvasdetailshop.com • 1598 Main st Morro Bay

licensed and insured



Ryan Hilton-Sullivan (805)235-9639

#### Servicing

Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos & Cambria

#### Police Blotter



- **June 5:** Police responded at 2:10 p.m. to a car crash at Main and Pacific, the scene of much carnage over the years. No injuries were reported and no arrests made.
- June 4: Police were called at 6:15 p.m. to the Embarcadero at Harbor Street after someone found an apparently unaccompanied child. The candidates for parents of the year were apparently reunited with their wayward son.
- **June :** A citizen in the 2200 block of Main found an unspent 30.06-caliber bullet and wanted police to respond and pick it up, as apparently throwing it in the garbage was out of the question.
- June 4: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 4:26 a.m. in the 2600 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 22, and passenger, 49, were both nicked. The driver got it for suspicion of driving zig-zagged. The passenger reportedly gave police a phonus balonus name and when they discovered the mamaluke's true identity, found that he had two bench warrants, which of course led to a search and the alleged discovery of illegal drugs, paraphernalia and his being allegedly pie-eyed in public. The pair was checked into the County B&B.
- **June 3:** Police were contacted by a woman at 10 p.m. on Quintana Road who said she'd gotten a phone call from her boyfriend, who she has a restraining order against. An argument ensued and police determined she was possibly suicidal after some remarks she made and so placed a 72-hour hold on her.
- **June 3:** A citizen came to the stationhouse on Morro Bay Boulevard and said some larcenous swamp donkey stole his bike.



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

License #832059



#### The Morro Bay Maritime Museum

Thursday - Monday 10 am - 2 pm

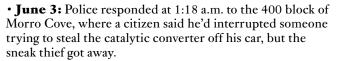
Free Admission!

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



- June 2: Police responded at 11:20 p.m. to a watering hole in the 900 block of Main where some apparently bent fellow, 38, reportedly committed a serious party foul and punched the bartender. The ruffian was apparently not done as police wound up charging him with suspicion of disorderly conduct, battery and resisting arrest.
- **June 2:** Police at the high school arrested an apparently choleric juvenile for allegedly making threats against a classmate.
- **June 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:50 p.m. in the 1100 block of Monterey because it'd been more than six months since the owner last fed the DMV money monster.
- **June 2:** Police at 11:15 p.m. contacted a familiar scofflaw in the 600 block of Quintana who had six bench warrants. He was taken to the stationhouse but then cited and released, apparently not worth the gas to haul to Jail.
- **June 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:53 a.m. in the 1100 block of Main. The driver, 31, was cited for "knowingly driving on a suspended license," a hanging offense in California.
- **June 2:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow out at 2 a.m. on Quintana Road. Logs indicated the 33-year-old night owl was cited for a warrant and alleged possession of suspected illegal drugs.
- June 1: Police responded at 8:48 a.m. to a disturbance in City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated they contacted a raucous fellow, 37, who had a bench warrant and was allegedly deep in his cups, for as Confucius never said, "Stoned man with bench warrant, best to keep big mouth shut."
- **June 1:** A citizen in the 2400 block of Greenwood said his or her mail was stolen and the thief had already committed check fraud.
- June 1: Police contacted a familiar foe, 37, at 2:49 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana. The apparent squit had two bench warrants and was issued another disappearance ticket and released to nab another day. A few hours earlier and 2 blocks away on Quintana, officers contacted a familiar woman, 57, who also had two bench warrants and was given her third and let go.
- **May 31:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana at Rite Aid where a woman said some nefarious scalawag vandalized her car.
- **May 31:** Someone found suspected illegal drugs and gave them to police to destroy.
- May 31: Yet another catalytic converter was stolen, this time in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd., at the Buoy & Gull Trailer Park.
- **May 31:** Police responded at 1 p.m. to the 2600 block of Greenwood where a local resident had passed away.
- **May 31:** At 10:47 a.m. police caught up to a hoodlum with a warrant. The scofflaw, 40, was cited and released.
- **May 30:** A citizen in the 500 block of Piney reported theft by fraud, with the loss a whopping \$3,009.
- May 30: Police responded at 12:30 p.m. to Bradley Avenue where another citizen reportedly passed away.
- **May 30:** At 10:13 a.m. police contacted a 52-year-old woman in the 400 block of Las Vegas who'd apparently gambled that police wouldn't find out about her warrant. But craps, she earned another useless slip of nincompoopery.
- May 30: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:34 a.m. at Main and Morro Bay Boulevard, in the heart of the danger zone. The 24-year-old tomato was arrested for suspicion of driving stewed. She was released to a sober friend who picked her up and spared her the Hwy 1 walk of shame
- May 29: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9 a.m. at Morro Bay Boulevard and Morro Avenue for some code violation. Logs indicated the driver, 21, had a warrant, which apparently broke the camel's back and he was hauled to the boosegow.
- May 28: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:07 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, a 46-year-old inebriated fellow was nicked for suspicion of driving full as a tick.
- May 28: Police responded at 8:30 p.m. to a report of

someone having a bit of a breakdown on Quintana Road. Logs indicated a 36-year-old woman was given a 72-hour timeout "after cutting herself."

- **May 28:** Police responded at 4:30 a.m. to the 500 block of South where they towed off an offending vehicle because the driver hadn't given the DMV its pound of flesh.
- May 28: Police responded to the 400 block of Monterey at 1 a.m. after another local resident passed.
- May 27: Police responded at 11:53 p.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Main. An apparently bent young fellow, 24, was hauled to the gaol for suspicion of being drunk in public, for like they almost never say, "Just 'cause it kills your liver, don't mean it ain't medicine."
- May 27: Police at the high school reported that a student said he was choked into unconsciousness and suffered lacerations to his face, no doubt the work of some delinquent ruffian, sure to make the dean's list.
- **May 27:** Police responded to the 200 block of Atascadero Road for a report of a runaway juvenile. Logs indicated they found the child who told police that he or she was the victim of abuse, which could probably explains a lot.
- May 27: A citizen on Tide turned over to police firearms that he or she was shooting to be rid of. Police will destroy the gurs
- May 27: Some unknown misbegotten knave vandalized a home in the 800 block of Shasta.
- **May 26:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:49 p.m. on Atascadero Road. Logs indicated the 25-year-old lass was nicked for driving honked.
- **May 26:** Police responded at 8:45 p.m. to a reported family feud in the 500 block of Monterey. Logs indicated an incident report was written because "Survey Says!" what's a little assault and battery between relatives, right?
- May 26: Someone turned in some ammunition they were aiming to be rid of.
- **May 25:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5 p.m. at Beach and Front. A 52-year-old fellow was tossed into the dungeon for suspicion of driving honkey-tonked.
- May 25: Police stopped yet another suspicious vehicle at 4 p.m. in the 900 block of Quintana. A woman driver, 27, got hauled away for suspicion of driving juiced.
- May 25: A business in the 800 block of Embarcadero reported getting a counterfeit \$100, as the sure signs of tourist season arrive like the fog.
- May 25: And from the lost-found department... Someone in the 2600 block of Elm reported a missing person. On the other hand, someone in the 200 block of Main found something and gave it to police.
- May 24: At 11:38 p.m. police stopped to check a car parked on the shoulder of Hwy 1 at San Jacinto. Logs indicated they contacted a 72-year-old fellow who was just sitting in his car. He was of course arrested for suspicion of public intoxication, a case of being about six fries short of a Happy Meal.
- May 24: Police responded at 8:30 a.m. to the 1800 block of Sunset where some nodcock stole a catalytic converter off a vehicle, which earns the rather dubious title of "Crime of the Year" for its growing popularity.
- **May 23:** Police responded at 4:40 p.m. to the 2400 block of Main. Logs indicated they arrested a 27-year-old dingus on three felony warrants and suspicion of possessing fentanyl.
- May 23: Police contacted a suspicious woman, 28, at 2:20 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated she was cited and released for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, and violation of Health & Safety Code No. 11350(a), which says, "Except as otherwise provided in this division, every person who possesses (1) any controlled substance specified in subdivision (b), (c), (e), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), or (20) of subdivision (d) of Section 11054, or specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 11055, or specified in subdivision (h) of Section 11056..." whatever the hell that means.
- May 23: Police responded at noon to the area of Kings and Pacific where they towed off a vehicle for being parked in one place too long, a hanging offense in these parts.
- May 23: Someone stole something somewhere in the 500 block of Estero. An officer made note of the theft, which apparently wasn't worth an actual crime report. Some other scoundrel stole something in the 3000 block of Ironwood. No word on what booty was pinched.





#### **Botanical Garden Celebrates Donor Honor Wall**

Photos by Neil Farrell

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden recently celebrated a major accomplishment and took the chance to honor the many volunteers and donors who've made the garden's over 30-year journey.

Botanical Garden Executive Director, Chenda Lor welcomed guests to the mixer and dinner that included representatives from several county Chambers of Commerce cutting ribbons and celebrating the dedication of the Garden's new, Donor Wall of Honor.

"It's been almost 33 years in the making," Lor said, "but we have done it!

Thanks to the dedication and persistence of so many community members, we find ourselves today standing on solid ground. The concrete is in and the garden is more accessible to more people as a result of all the hard work, love, and support the community has given to this project."

By concrete, Lor was addressing the Garden's latest major improvement, a paved walkway and patio area behind the Garden's education center building. The concrete replaced gravel paths and improved access for those in wheelchairs.

The donor wall honors the many SLO County residents who have generously supported the Botanical Garden since inception.

"To acknowledge the original major contributors to the construction of the Education Center," Lor said, "we dedicate the lovely original mosaic donor wall to them. Thank you to the artists — Ben and Robbin Trogdon for donating their time, studio, materials, patience, and a few cocktails toward the making of the tiles; Maggie Wagner who assisted them with building, glazing, and installation; Janine Stillman for the glass flowers [yet to be installed] and to all of them for making my vision of the Donor Wall even





better than I had imagined."

She specially thanked the Harold J. Niossi Trust, which paid for the concrete to be installed.

In the photo, members of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce and Garden volunteers cut the grand opening ribbon for the Donor Wall.

The Garden is now opened again, after being closed m,uch of the past 2 years due to the Coronavirus Pandemic response. See: www.slobg.org for information on the Garden's hours and upcoming events.

#### White Caps Appoints New Conductor, Show June 25



Brenda and Brian Hascall have joined the White Caps Community Band.

The Morro Bay White Caps Community Band appointed Brenda Hascall as their new conductor and gained another new member, her husband.

In October of 2021, Brenda Hascall, and Brian Hascall joined the White Caps Community Band. Brenda plays the alto saxophone and Brian plays the trumpet.

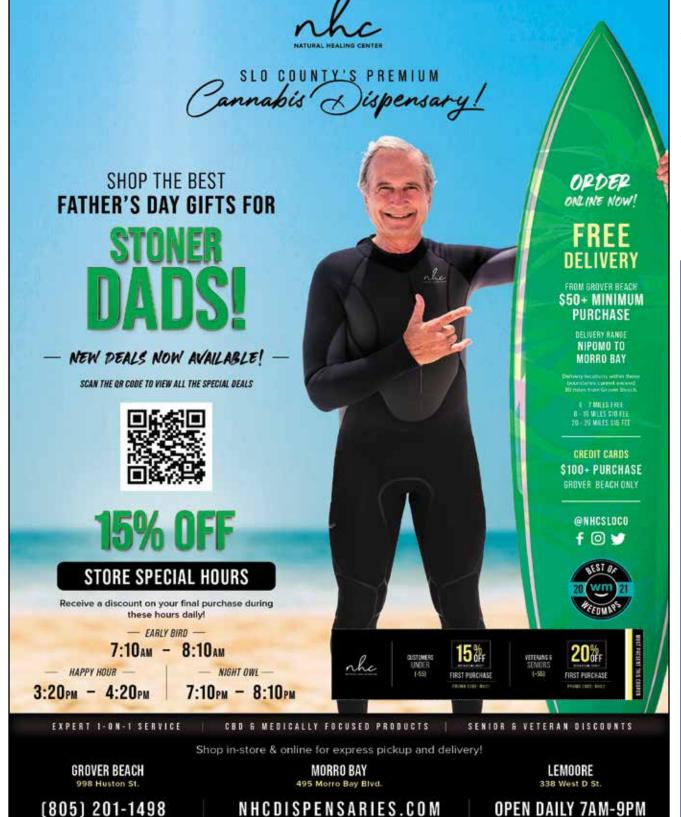
Brenda has been a public-school band and orchestra teacher on the central coast for 26 years, currently employed with the Lompoc Unified School District. She helped fill in as assistant director for the White Caps Community Band during the holiday season and when the position opened, the board unanimously voted her in as the new conductor. Her background in community music goes as far back as the 1990s when she was the conductor for the Cambria Instrumental Ensemble. From 2004 to 2016, she and her husband Brian also played in the Alan Hancock College Community Band.

In 2019 Brenda started the Cuesta College South County Community Band with plans to reassemble this August after taking a break due to the pandemic. Brenda's educational background includes a B.A. in music performance from California State University Northridge, and a Master of Arts degree in band conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University.

Brenda is sought after as a guest conductor and will conduct two concerts for the Atascadero Community Band this July. In her spare time, she enjoys composing original music for the bands she is a member of. Recently, the White Caps premiered two of her original works, "The Moon Over Nipomo," which included a vocal solo, and a march entitled, "Rocket Launch March."

The next performance of the White Caps Community Band with Brenda on the podium is Saturday, June 25 at the south T pier (near the Great American Fish Company) in Morro Bay from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Readers can find more information on the Morro Bay White Caps Community band at morrobaywhitecaps.com.



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



### Events Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

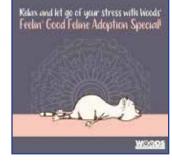


Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay, presents "Broken Nature" through June 27. The exhibition addresses the critical state of the environment due to the impact of human presence, by thinking locally and globally, and confronting global warming, drought, wildfires, climate change, extinction of species, pollution, ocean plastic garbage patch, polluted air, etc.

Organizers say the exhibit is a challenge to dare. To pose raw questions, expose current states of matter and to envision the solutions. Let us address the consequences of our choices and urgent need to live sustainably within Earth's resources and within our own psyche.

This event is free and open to the public. Art Center Morro Bay is open daily from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, go to artcentermorrobay.org. Image: All is Lost by Jay Bonestall

In celebration of National Adopt a Shelter Cat
Month, Woods Humane
Society is offering a monthlong Feelin' Good Feline
Adoption Special of half-off
of all adult cat adoption fees
in June. The promotion
comes in response to the
current height of kitten season on the Central Coast.



Woods provided foster care for 147 kittens just in the month of May and a total of 201 kittens received foster, shelter, veterinary and/or adoption services last month. The nonprofit shelter is actively

recruiting more foster volunteers to meet the growing need.

Regular adoption fees for adult cats (between 5 months and 7 years) are \$80 and adoption fees for senior cats (more than 7 years of age) are \$65; this month, those fees will be reduced to \$40 and \$32.50, respectively. Kitten adoption fees will remain unchanged, at \$150.

All animals available for adoption at Woods Humane Society have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, licensed, and treated for fleas and other parasites prior to adoption. Adoptions also include a free veterinary exam and 30 days of pet health insurance (if adopters choose to enroll). To view the cats currently available for adoption, visit www.WoodsHumane.org/Adoptions or visit either of the shelter's locations, San Luis Obispo and Atascadero, open daily with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. and closing at 5 p.m. For information about the foster program, go to woodshumanesociety.org/get-involved.

Mark your calendars for the SLO Public Market season kick off with a Summer Celebration on June 18 from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. Entry to the event is free to the public and the first 50 people to check-in will get a tote bag filled with goodies.

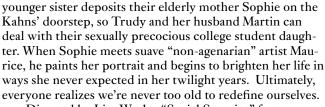
The Market is teaming up with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) of San Luis Obispo. A percentage of sales from most SLO Public Market Vendors will go to CASA of SLO. The event kicks off the Summer Music Series featuring music every Friday and Saturday.

#### **Schedule:**

- The Vibe Setters 2 p.m. 5 p.m.
- Riff Tide 5 p.m. 8 p.m.
- · SLO Bounce Co 2 p.m. 7 p.m.
- SLO Axe Co pay-to-play 4 p.m. 7 p.m.
- Group Pic Booth 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
- · Balloon Animals & Glitter Tattoos 3 p.m. 6 p.m.

By the Sea Productions' first full show for 2022 is "Social Security," a fast-paced, light-hearted comedy, the New York Post called this play "a sophisticated hoot!" It is performed weekends from June 17 through July 10 in Morro Bay.

Trendy art gallery owners Barbara and David Kahn have their lives upended when Barbara's



Directed by Lisa Woske, "Social Security" features Sholly Von Stein, David Rousseve, Greg DeMartini, Debora Schwartz, Janice Peters and Larry Bolef. Tickets are available at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287.

If you are looking for a way to help others, consider volunteering at French Hospital. Volunteers, 130 strong, share a common spirit, a desire to use their life experiences, education and concern for others to support our patients, visitors and staff. There are a variety of opportunities ranging from greeting visitors at the front desk and working in the gift shop to helping in various areas of the hospital. For more information and a list of ways to volunteer, go to supportfrenchhospital.org click on "Ways to Give" and select "Volunteer" in the dropdown menu.



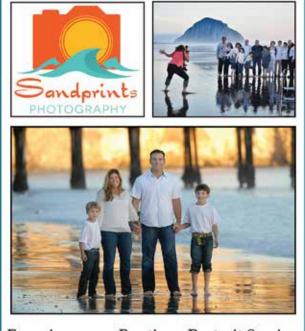
et your fingers snapping and your toes tapping at the 26th Annual Concerts in the Plaza this summer in Mission Plaza every Friday evening for ten weeks from June 24, – August 26. This year features the brand-new Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Each concert is opened by a different local solo act. Singer-songwriters were chosen from the 2020 lineup, which was canceled due to COVID-19. The opening solo singer-songwriter act begins at 4:30 p.m., and the main act runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All concerts are free to the public and family-friendly.

#### 2022 Concerts in the Plaza Lineup:

• June 24 • Brass Mash | pop and rock | plus Chris Beland

- $\cdot$  July 1  $\cdot$  RESINATION | roots, rock, reggae | plus Graybill
- July 8 The Mother Corn Shuckers | bluegrass, country, jam band | plus Dulcie Taylor
- · July 15 · Damon Castillo Band | rock n' soul | plus Noach Tangeras
- July 22 Dante Marsh & the VibeSetters | island soul, funk | plus Jineanne Coderre
- July 29 · The Molly Ringwald Project | 80s pop and rock | plus Ynana Rose
   ·August 5 · Moonshiner Collective | Americana (Cali-
- fornicana) | plus Miss Leo
   August 12 Carbon City Lights | alternative rock |
- August 19 The Tipsy Gypsies | jazz, blues, soul | plus Devin Welsh
- · August 26 · Truth About Seafood | rock | plus Steve Kev

Food and drink will be available; outside alcohol is not allowed. Downtown SLO is eliminating single-use plastics at Concerts in the Plaza; all beverages are sold in reusable cups or aluminum cans. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own reusable cups (no glass, please!). 12oz



Experience our Boutique Portrait Session on location all across SLO County

> Let us create 'WOW' artwork for your home



sandprintsphotos@gmail.com || 805 550-9386 www.SandprintsPhotos.com

Seniors 2023 & Family Reunions The Time is Now!

# Grandma's Mercantile On Main

Come by and say hi to

## Sugar

And find something fun for Dad! Father's Day, June 19









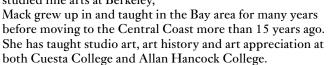
805-225-1295 863 Main Street • Morro Bay

souvenir cups will be available for purchase.

Free bike valet off of Chorro Street will be provided by Bike SLO County. Pets are not allowed at Concerts in the Plaza.

The Central Coast Watercolor Society has resumed its monthly meetings. The June program meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 28, in the Wesley Building of the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church (1515 Fredericks St, SLO). Social time (6:30 p.m.) will be followed by a demonstration at 7 p.m.

The demo artist is watercolorist Virginia Mack. A native Californian who studied fine arts at Berkeley,



Her passion is kayaking in the bay, and she has developed many pieces based on studies done while kayaking. She works primarily in watercolor and is a colorist at heart. Her series of bird studies, each done within two minutes before the bird flies, swims, or walks away, are based on her kayak work and have been her primary subjects. During the pandemic, Mack also found inspiration in the visual journals of birds and other life in her yard that she has been keeping since 2020, completing a page each day. She uses these preliminary sketches both to clarify concepts and to resolve basic image making.

Her demonstration will focus on preliminary sketches that could lead to finished pieces. How do we work from our initial inspiration to sketches on the page that can lead to a final realization of the piece?

CCWS requires all attendees for all CCWS activities to be fully vaccinated and boosted at least two weeks prior to the event. Masks are optional, but social distancing is required.

Prospective members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Publicity Chair Mari O'Brien (805-439-0295) or arttrekfineart@gmail.com). Image by Virgina Mack

Turn Cambria Purple for Alzheimer's as part of the The Longest Day in SLO County and the Central Coast. This is the day we can fight back against Alzheimer's dis-

Robin's Restaurant will donate sales of purple Ube Flan from June 22-24 to the Alzheimer's Association. The Ube flan is made with love by one of their passionate team members ,and it's gluten and dairy free made with condensed coconut milk and unrefined brown sugar. It has eggs. It's served with a raspberry coulis and fresh raspber-

ries.

Cambria Electric Bike Co is offering 10% discount on bike rentals in the month of June to anyone who donations to the Alzheimer's Association. They have a link at the counter for online donations.

Ball and Skein Yarn Shop invited their customers to knit or crochet

squares and dozens were sent in. These will be bound together to make lap blankets for memory care residents! They have more than eight-dozen squares already. Customers are also encouraged to donate to the association.

The Scarecrow Festival donated a purple trio of characters to reside outside the Chamber of Commerce in June to raise awareness!

Many businesses will have informational table tents out during June to encourage donations and support of the cause.

A listing of public events in the tri-county area for The Longest day can be found at bit.ly/3MF81Wj. Pictured is Purple Ube Flan from Robin's.

Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay, presents the glass and multi-media sculptures of Ted Lee Emrick through June 27 in the .

Unique to his aquatic connection to the Central Coast, and having been a surfer for more than 50 years, Emrick's appreciation and respect of his ocean environment has created a powerful artistic style, conscious of light, motion, time and life.

Emrick's contemporary style combined with inspiration from cave paintings and rock expeditions, offer a

dynamic blend of visual storytelling within each unique sculpture.

The current exhibit was inspired by the struggles in Ukraine, the bravery of its people and their efforts to be free. Art Center Morro Bay is open daily, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information about Ted Emrick and this body of artwork, go to visit tedleeemrick.com/shards-of-ukraine. Image: "Out of Putin's Grasp."

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

#### Women's Cancer Survivor Summit June 18



In recognition of National Cancer Survivor Month in June, Surfing for Hope, a local non-profit foundation, will hold its biannual Women's Cancer Survivor Summit at the SeaCrest Oceanfront Hotel in Pismo Beach on Saturday, June 18. The free event kicks off at 9 a.m. and includes yoga and stretching sessions, an introductory surfing lesson, gourmet lunch, and a motivational talk by guest speaker and local oncologist, Dr. Tom Spillane, M.D.

All equipment including wetsuits will be provided during this "therapy" session on the beach. The summit is open to all women currently undergoing treatment and those that have completed cancer treatment, as well as oncology health care providers.

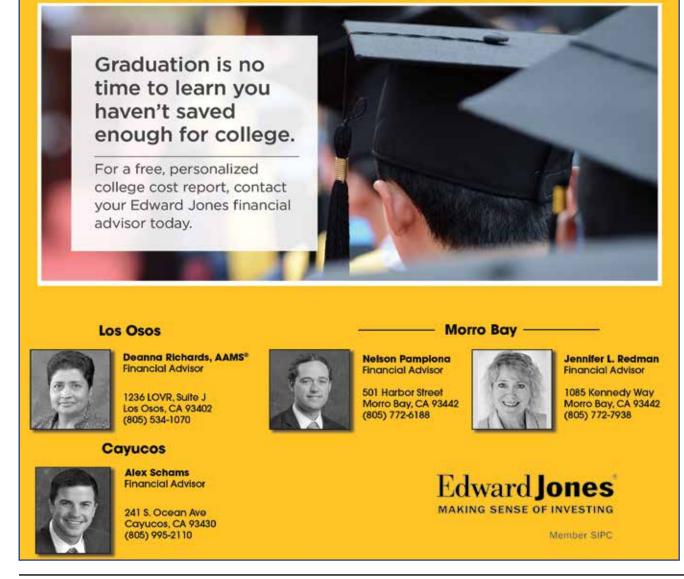
"This special day of yoga, friendship, and beginner surf lessons is similar to our Pure Stoke children's program that many in the area have participated in over the years," said Dr. Karen Allen, co-director of SFH. "The friendships, healing, and connection with the ocean are just a few of the benefits we aim to provide for women that are undergoing cancer treatment or have completed treatment. Dr. Spillane will lead participants in a brief discussion on survivorship and what that means to the individual and their family. He will also share updates on the latest cancer treatments and resources."

Spots for the June 18 Women's Cancer Survivor Summit are limited. Register today at surfingforhope.org/survivor-camps. Participants are encouraged to sign up for the event with a girlfriend for support and camaraderie; guests do not have to be a survivor themselves to attend.

Established in 2012, the Surfing for Hope Foundation is a local 501c3 non-profit organization created to help ease the difficulties associated with cancer through the healing powers of surfing and the ocean life. Under the direction of Board Members "Helmet" Bob Voglin, Nancy Voglin, Tom Spillane, Karen Allen, and Andy McKay, the foundation's mission is to support and raise awareness for all local cancer resource groups.

Surfing for Hope will hold another event for all cancer survivors in September.

For more information on the Women's Cancer Survivor Summit, Pure Stoke Children's Camps, and other events from Surfing for Hope, go to surfingforhope.org.

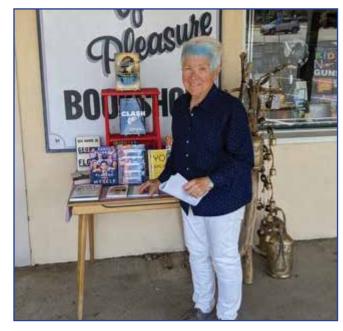




# Takin' Care \*\*BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

#### **Happy Birthday Carroll**



Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe is celebrating owner Carroll, who is gracefully rolling into her 80s, with an open house birthday party on Thursday, June 30 at the store, 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos. They will have refreshments, a bit of local entertainment, including a hula performance and a big card for all to sign. Come on by with your good wishes and good spirits. All are welcome.

# Is Your Business a Family-Friendly Workplace?

SLO County Family-Friendly Workplaces unveiled a new awards program for public, private and nonprofit employers of any size on the Central Coast to recognize and support organizations that adopt key practices for their employees.

The award structure is designed to uplift employers working towards more family-friendly practices at any level of implementation. There are five award levels: 1) Employer-Sponsored Child Care Benefits, 2) Flexible Work and Scheduling, 3) Paid and Unpaid Leave, 4) Health Care Benefits and Flexible Spending, and 5) New Parent Accommodation and Support.

Employers throughout the county are encouraged to take the Family-Friendly Workplace assessment at surveymonkey.com/r/slofamilyfriendly. It serves as a tool to gauge current policies, celebrate what they already have in place, and connect them directly with personalized assistance to learn more about practical and tangible next steps.

The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce launched the program in October 2021 with the belief that improving culture and creating more human centric policies is essential to support business success, grow the economy, and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce. It will help businesses attract and sustain a strong, local workforce through the implementation of family-friendly policies, getting more parents back to work.

Any business that completes the assessment will receive an invitation to meet with the SLO Chamber



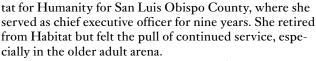
Workforce Development Manager and be given tools and resources to further their efforts.

Employers who complete the assessment and meet the recognition criteria will receive a certificate of recognition, a SLO County Family-Friendly Workplace seal for use on the organization's website, promotion and recruiting materials, media recognition, inclusion of the employer on the SLO Family-Friendly Workplace website and invitations to networking opportunities and special events. Additionally, a Family-Friendly Workplace toolkit is available as a resource for all businesses.

#### SLO Village Announces New Executive Director

SLO Village, the membership organization that connects seniors living independently in their own homes, named Julia Ogden as its new executive director. Ogden succeeds Kerry Sheets, who retired recently after holding the position for two years.

Ogden spent 35 years as a nonprofit executive, most recently with Habi-



Ogden said she was drawn to the SLO Village organization for its unique approach to aging that helps members age in place while enjoying vibrant, connected lives.

"I understand the struggles many older adults manage," said Ogden, "and I love knowing I can be a part of making later years fun and fulfilling, rather than lonely and isolating."

Dave Kuykendall, SLO Village Board President and one of the local Village founders, said the group is "delighted" to add Ogden to the team. "We have had an increase in membership in the last two years, especially as we supported members through the difficult challenges of COVID," he said. "With Julie's help, we will keep growing our programs and services. It's an exciting time for SLO Village.

SLO Village is a nonprofit organization founded in 2016. It currently serves members in San Luis Obispo County.

For more information, go to www.slovillage.org or call the office at (805) 242-6440.

### French Hospital Earns Top Grade, Again

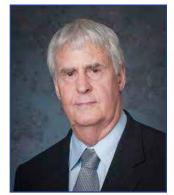
Dignity Health Central Coast hospitals, which include Arroyo Grande Community Hospital and French Hospital Medical Center, once again, received "A" grades on the rating report from The Leapfrog Group, which focuses on patient safety. Additionally, FHMC has received straight "A" grades since 2012.

The Leapfrog Group, one of the nation's leading hospital ratings organizations, awards hospitals based on safety, quality of care, and value metrics using a set of 28 national measures. The Leapfrog Group provides consumers ranked statistics and informative data for selecting a medical center. The premise of the group is to provide accessibility to the public while allowing medical facilities the opportunity to measure improvements. Dignity Health Central Coast actively participates in the program, and the process offers a calculable opportunity for standardized advancements in the care, safety, and quality of our patients.

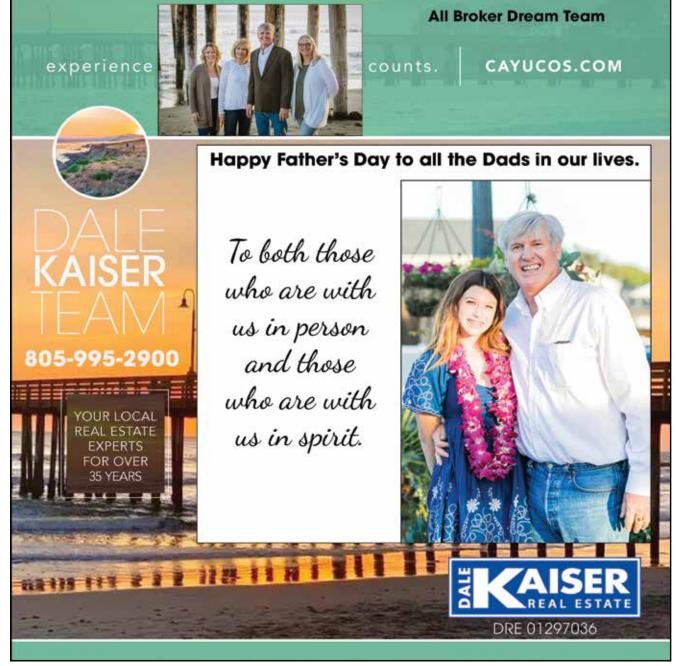
# Copeland Receives Posthumous Honorary Degree

During commencement last week, Cal Poly awarded an honorary degree to the late Jim Copeland, a longtime San Luis Obispo County business leader who was instrumental in revitalizing downtown San Luis Obispo.

Copeland, who died April 25 at age 80, received a posthumous honorary doctorate of humane letters June 12 during the Orfalea



College of Business ceremony. He graduated from San Luis Obispo High in 1959, attended the College of the Sequoias in Visalia and later Cal Poly, before joining the U.S. Army. He and his brother, Tom, co-founded Copeland Sports, growing a single sporting goods store in San Luis Obispo to more than 50 locations in four states. They sold the retail chain along with other sporting goods manufacturing companies in 2001.



The Copelands were instrumental in revitalizing downtown San Luis Obispo by preserving historic buildings and creating new developments, including Hotel San Luis Obispo, Downtown Center and Court Street. They also own premier office buildings and retail centers throughout the nation as partners in Jamestown, an Atlanta-based real estate investment and management company.

Jim Copeland and his wife, Sandy, are philanthropists supporting health care, the arts, academia and athletics. They are founding sponsors of French Hospital Medical Center's Copeland, Forbes & Rossi Cardiac Care Center, Hearst Cancer Resource Center and Copeland Health and Education Pavilion, as well as significant donors to the Christopher Cohen Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, Old Mission School retrofit, and the new San Luis Obispo County Jail Behavioral Health Unit that benefits inmates with mental health issues

#### Mixing it Up



Poghorn Brewhouse, 2940 Main St. in Morro Bay, hosted a Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce's Mixer. Folks got a chance to try some Foghorn food, wine from Tooth and Nail Winery and beer from Santa Maria Brewing.

Check them out at facebook.com/foghornbrewhousemorrobay Photos by Dean Sullivan



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.

### A Dose of Good Dogma



### I'm Over 250 Years Old in Dog Years

By Lisa Ellman

How old is old for a dog? Does one human year actually equal seven dog years? This article is intended to discuss how to make life easier and more comfortable for your senior dog; but if you don't know when your dog is a senior, here are some tips. The new science on human to dog years has been modified. So one dog year is no longer seven human years. The age range is now larger, and variable, between smaller and larger breeds.

The new science suggests that at one (human) year, your dog is between 15-24 years old. By age 5-10 (human) the dog is somewhere between 36-66 years old. At 16 (human) the dog is between 80-123 years old. Wow! All of this will significantly depend on the size, lifestyle and breed of the dog. We know that large/giant breeds tend to live much shorter lives than small or miniature dogs. This is in large part due to a dog's faster metabolism and their hearts having to work harder.

Physical maturity is usually complete by two years of age for any dog. Their emotional/brain maturity, or outright puppyhood, especially with labs and golden retrievers, can come as late as 4 or 5 years (LOL). The average age (in human years) for a dog to reach seniorhood begins at around 11 for small dogs, 10 for medium sized, 8 for large dogs and 7 years for giant dogs.

When you have a senior dog, basic needs begin to change. What kind of provisions or modifications in their environment need to be considered?

Let's start with beds. If the dog is arthritic, perhaps a larger, softer, possibly slightly raised, bed. Your dog may want to sleep longer and more often. If the dog bed is on the floor/ground a heating pad would provide additional warmth (since muscle tissue is now waning and providing less heat), the heat may also ease joint stiffness. A raised feeding/water station would help the dog by being at head level as opposed to the dog reaching for the floor.

Activity needs to be modified. Slower walks, gentle play, swim therapy. Since hearing is often the first sense to deteriorate, teaching hand signals can be crucial to the dog's safety

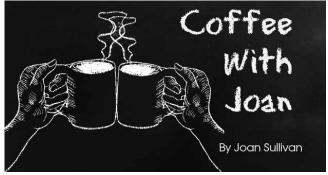
Pay attention to any changes in your dog's behavior and or attitude; eating, sleeping, cognition. Dogs can develop dementia or other cognitive disorders. Be aware of changes in stools, urine(flow/color) weight (gain/loss), water/food intake. Sometimes a change in eating habits can relate to a tooth issue, be aware that bacteria from dental issues sometimes cause systemic illness.

Examine your dog's body continually; a few times a week. Check for lumps, bumps, broken teeth, nasal discharge and cloudy eyes.

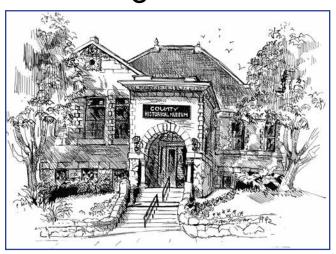
A complete geriatric panel from your vet is a really good idea, starting in the early senior years to determine a baseline of health, and help catch any early indications of serious health issues. There may be a preventive treatment to inhibit or stall further illness.

Common ailments for senior dogs include, but are not limited to, diabetes, liver disease, cognitive disorders, stroke, kidney disease and arthritis. Most of these, if detected early enough, may give you extra time with your faithful canine friend.

Good Dogma has been training humans and their dogs since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@ hotmail.com. Contact information and all services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net



#### Carnegie Libraries



County Historical Museum, formerly Carnegie Library Pen and ink drawing by Joan Sullivan 1979

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County is home to a Carnegie library.

Carnegie libraries were built with money donated by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. A total of 2,509 Carnegie libraries were built between 1883 and 1929, including some belonging to public and university library systems — 1,689 libraries were built in the United States, 660 in the United Kingdom and Ireland, 125 in Canada, and others in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Serbia, Belgium, France, the Caribbean, Mauritius, Malaysia, and Fiji.

At first, Carnegie libraries were exclusively in places that Carnegie had a personal connection with, namely his birthplace in Scotland and the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, Carnegie's adopted hometown.

Beginning in the middle of 1899, Carnegie substantially increased funding to libraries outside these areas. As Carnegie's library funding progressed, very few of the towns that requested a grant and committed to his terms for operation and maintenance, were refused. By the time the last grant was made in 1919, there were 3,500 libraries in the United States, nearly half of them known as Carnegie Libraries, since they were built with construction grants paid by the philanthropist.

The History Center Museum is open Wednesday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reference: Discovering San Luis Obispo County by Carleton M. Winslow 1972



## 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



Get Started!

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

# Letters to The Editor

### Question for City Council Good day MB Council

Will someone on the council please answer this question for our Morro Bay community members?

Why was Cayucos able to complete their sewer on time for \$31,741,725 (https://www.cayucossd.org/files/6e48ee359/Connection+and+Inspection+Fee+Rate+Increase.pdf) during COVID, supply chain issues and inflation with no protests or complaints from citizens, no delays, no locational problems, no significant overages that weren't covered by contingency reserves, and even add environmentally sound solar built in to reduce ongoing operating costs?

Your community eagerly awaits your reply. Hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Judi Brown Morro Bay

#### Out of Facebook Jail

**B**ack at the end of the summer of 2020, into most of September 2020, I was put in "Facebook Jail" not violating the terms of the agreement or for political or religious reasons to only have my First Amendment free speech limited by their conduct.

My weather station office and service in Morro Bay, California vs. Facebook prevented me from posting and commenting on my Cheshire Weather Bureau Weather Station Office and Service, including long-range forecasts from the Climate Prediction Center and my own "The Meteorological Dispatch" and "Future Weather Trends" newsletters. In closing, I felt violated as a Christian and human being with Asperger's Autism that came into that period, and I don't know why Facebook did that to me, to begin with. I am glad that is over with me, to tell anyone the truth honestly.

Scott C. Presnal Morro Bay

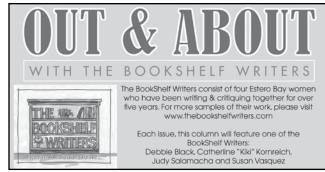
Please include your full name and town you live in on all letters sent. Although we do welcome longer opinion pieces, publishing is as space permits. Estero Bay News reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Email letters to

editor@esterobaynews.com



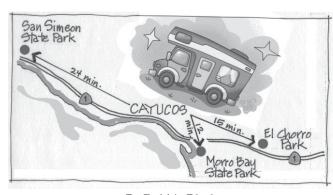


#### **Community**



### RV Camping in Your Own 'Backyard'

11 Good Reasons for Sticking Close to Home



By Debbie Black

Merriam-Webster defines 'vacation' as "A period spent away from home...in recreation." Nowhere does it say you have to go far.

Over the last fifteen years, husband Garth and I have traveled thousands of miles in our little 24' motorhome—along with our golden retrievers (first Mia, now Chase). We've even taken our cat, Jack Black the Cemetery Cat. But that's a story for another day. Long before the pandemic kept everyone close to home, we discovered that some of the most relaxing, enjoyable camping trips were within minutes of our home in Cayucos. We soon learned to ignore the scoffers and instead patted ourselves on the backs for taking the stress out of traveling. We simply didn't have to travel. And neither do you.

This article (and subsequent RVCYOB articles) will be about the simple pleasures of grabbing your RV, driving a few miles, and setting up camp. We'll share our experiences of camping within half an hour of home, then a little bit farther afield as we work our way out from Estero Bay. We'll give you our opinions on the best campsites to reserve, clever camping gear and gizmos, tried-and-true hacks, secret hikes, camp recipes, camping with pets, things to avoid, and things you won't want to miss. I hope you'll enjoy traveling with us.

To get you started, consider these 11 good reasons for sticking close to home:

- 1. You already live in Vacationland. People travel great distances to come here to camp. Take advantage of what our visitors are already enjoying.
- 2. In less than 15 minutes you can be in camp, all set up, with a good book and a cold drink. Save your precious vacation time. Don't spend it driving for hours.
- 3. As of this printing, gas costs \$6.39 and diesel is even more. Save your money.
- 4. Forgot to feed the cat? Need to pick up that delivery on your doorstep? No problem. Just run home if you have to.
- 5. Local friends and family can easily join you for a night or two, or just come out for a meal. Enjoy casual entertaining or holiday festivities—camping style.
- 6. Need a night off from camp food? You know the local restaurants well. So just call for a delivery to the campground.
- 7. Within a few miles of Estero Bay, you can pick from dozens of beautiful campgrounds. Beaches, oak woodlands, meadows, lakes, creeks, golf, hikes, bikes...enjoy the variety.
- 8. More camping—more often. If all you have is a weekend, that's plenty of time for an impromptu campout. Getting to a campground quickly means more time for fun.

And maybe you can do it more often!

- 9. Dry camping? You can easily fill your freshwater tank at home beforehand, without concern for your gas mileage. Load up with firewood. You don't have far to go.
- 10. Get to know your county. No better way than to spend a few days exploring—discovering new plants, critters and birds, or watching the moon rise over different hills.
- 11. Kids have a soccer game? Bring their uniforms to camp. Go to the game, then back to camp.

The campgrounds I'll review are only a few of the myriad choices you have on the Central Coast — not a comprehensive list. I only review campgrounds where we've stayed. In the next RVCYOB article, I'll give you the scoop on RV camping at San Simeon State Park. After that, is Morro Bay State Park, then El Chorro Park. If you can't wait, please check my website (debbienobleblack.com) where I'll post my reviews, my personal ratings of individual campsites, and so much more to make your local camping experiences as fun as ours. We'll see you in camp! Just look for the little 24' motorhome with the hyper-friendly golden retriever, Chase.

Debbie Black is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit thebookshelfwriters. com or debbienobleblack.com

#### **Technically Speaking**



#### DRM: Digital Rights Management

In an increasingly digital world, DRM, or Digital Rights Management, is a very important concept that isn't well-known. At its core, DRM is simply copyright protection for digital media. This could be a song you purchased in the iTunes store or a movie you downloaded from Amazon.

But what does that mean for the average consumer? Basically, it means that you don't technically own your digital purchases. Because those purchases live online and are accessible through a service, in actuality you are paying for the right to access the content rather than to own the content itself. Compare this to purchasing a DVD or a CD. With that physical disc in your hands, you are the sole owner of that particular piece of media, no larger company or service holds onto it for you until you are ready to use it.

In the event that an online service which holds all of your digital media were to become unavailable or if access to the account for that software was lost, that content becomes inaccessible, sometimes forever.

Besides being part of most digital storefronts, DRM is used in hardware as well. Companies like Keurig, Philips, and John Deere have implemented anti-consumer DRM practices with their coffeemakers, light bulbs, and tractors. This ranges from preventing use of third party products in conjunction with theirs to disallowing DIY repair, something that is obviously important to us here at Quick Tech, which we will be talking about in an upcoming article.

Chad Crawford is the owner of QuickTech in Los Osos located at 212110th Suite #A. They can be reached at quicktech-computers.com/ or (805) 806-0165.

 $Send \ your \ questions \ to \ chad @quick tech computers. com.$ 

#### BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS · (805) 748-4289

#### Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Patios
- Sidewalks

• Stamped Concrete

- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations

State Lic# 816944

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com www.burchconcretesolutions.com



#### **Sports**

#### MBHS Boys Golf Wins First Mountain League Title

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's Varsity Boys Golf Team had a "Tiger" of a season, winning the fist Mountain League Championship of any MBHS sports team, and sending one player into the CIF Div. 1 Regionals where he scored among the top players in the state.

Coach Sean Allstot said the boys "are incredible on and off the course. They love the game of golf, love practicing, love playing, and love challenging themselves and each other."

The Pirates pulled off the impossible and finished the season undefeated in both preseason matches and league matches, quite an accomplish-

ment considering the other teams in Mountain League boys golf include Atascadero, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Saint Joseph's, Righetti, and Nipomo, all larger schools with much larger enrollments that the school by the beach.

After blanking the league the team got to choose which division they played in the CIF Central Section. "The Boys elected to play up in Division 1, rather than Division 2, which is what they were assigned," Coach Allstot said. "They placed sixth in the Central Section, but only missed qualifying [top two teams play on] by six total strokes as a team."

That heartbreak was eased somewhat, when one of the Pirates qualified to play on.

Senior Johnathan Riley qualified for the individual Southern Regional competition, Coach Allstot said, and shot an impressive 76 over 18 holes. That earned him 50th place out of 126 golfers and made him one of the top prep golfers in California.

Coach Allstot praised his team — senior Riley, who averaged 36 on the year; sophomore, Noah Kimbrell, who averaged 38; freshman, Jonas Smith, average score 39; senior, Ben Reid, who averaged 40; senior Nicholas Londono, average score 42; and sophomore, Talon Hawk, who averaged 42. Seniors Nathan Hyman and Carter Good averaged 47 and 44 respectively.

Normal match play is nine holes and at most golf courses par for nine holes is 36.

Coach Allstot had some "Thank Yous" that he wanted to relay.

"We would like to thank Morro Bay Golf Course and the community there," he said. "The course, the men's and women's clubs, and the patrons all treat our team wonderfully. The kids are there all the time and the community embraces them. It's a thing of beauty.



Morro Bay High's Varsity Boys' Golf Team went undefeated in preseason and Mountain League play, winning the first ever Mountain League Championship for Morro Bay High in any sport. The team is from left: Nicholas Londono. Johnathan Riley, Jonas Smith, Nathan Hyman, Noah Kimbrell, Ben Reid and Talon Hawk. Submitted photo



MBHS senior golfer, Johnathan Riley, qualified for the CIF Central Section Regionals where he shot a 76 over 18 holes and placed 50th out of 126 golfers, one of the top prep golfers in California. Submitted photo

"I'd also like to thank all the boys who are seniors. They spent the last four years working and playing hard. They will be missed!"

Estero Bay News congratulates the Boys' Varsity Golf Team on its history-making season and wish them straight tee shots and many birdie putts in the future.

### Circus Vargas Returns to SLO



Circus Vargas Returns to the Madonna Inn Meadows for a two-week stint. All Aboard for the "Circus Vargas Express" June 24 – July 11.

Bring the family for two hours of acrobatics, juggling, high-flying feats and more.

Tickets are \$65-\$75 for VIP, \$49-\$59 for reserved ringside and arena tickets range from \$19-\$49 depending on the area. They can be purchased at Circusvargas.com.

### 'Cambria the Musical' Premiers

**66** Cambria the Musical," presented by Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre runs June 24 through July 10 at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings 2 p.m. on Sundays.

With catchy tunes and clever humor, "Cambria the Musical" is based on the true story of how Cambria came to be. And how George Lull, one of the town's founders, took a gamble on the love of his life and built her the finest house in Cambria — attendees might recognize it as well as, perhaps, finally find out how Cambria is pronounced!

Cambria the Musical was written by locals Ed and Linda Hughes and directed by Jill Turnbow. Ed is the current leader of the Cambria Chorale and Jill serves as artistic director for CCAT. The talented cast features Cambria native Sarah Smith, Anthony Toohey, Dan Cowan, Linda Hughes, Edie Irving, Ed Hughes, and Ryan C. Loyd.

Tickets are \$30 and available online at CambriaArts. org/tickets

Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre is located at 1350 Main St. in Cambria.





Resting on a corner lot in the desirable Redfield Woods neighborhood, you'll find this charming single level home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, two fenced yards with potential for RV parking and a partially finished two car garage with storage. 4th bedroom/bonus room or guest quarters has a vintage mid-century modern fireplace, separate entrance and plumbed for further options. Lots of potential here in the open kitchen and living area with a 2nd fireplace, primary ensuite with a walk-in closet, and 2 additional bedrooms. Step out your front door and see the back bay, less than a mile for Kayaking, horseback riding and free summer concerts at Sea Pines Golf Resort or Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a bird lover's paradise. Miles of dog friendly trails to Montana De Oro State Park only 3 blocks up. Grocery stores and other conveniences nearby along with the highly sought after Monarch Grove Elementary School. Easy commute to Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. **Price \$779.900** 

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

Estate is here to help you every step of the way!

Broker's CalBRE# 01157101

Sophia McDonald-Laugharn 805-234-5828 Christine McDonald-Weiss 805-441-5018

REALTOR ASSOCIATE® CalBRE# 01487058

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

REALTOR ASSOCIATE®
2 CalBRE# 01193039



New Dragons From page 1

on display at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

"In 2018, CCDBA received a very generous donation from one of our paddlers, which allowed us to purchase a 10-person boat named 'Puff.' Having Puff allows paddlers to practice with less than 10 people, and allows teams to better prepare for 10-person races."

After the big fundraising effort, last February they ordered the two new boats from Pan American Dragon Boats







out of Tampa Bay, Fla.

The SurviveOars, which started out as a group of cancer survivors, has competed at Dragon Boat races, winning titles and representing well the local dragon boat commu-



nity. It is open to both men and women paddlers.

For more information on the association and maybe to join the fun, see: CCDBA.org.

### Welcome New Cambria Chamber Member



Debra Lynn Henno of Debra Lynn Henno Design joined the Cambria Chamber of Commerce with a recent ribbon cutting. An award-winning, full-service boutique interior design firm, Debra Lynn Henno Design serves the entire central and south coast of California as well as Hawaii. With over 20 years of experience, the design team looks forward to serving the beautiful and cherished Central Coast!

More information at www.debralynnhennodesign.com.

#### Morro Bay Lions Club Awards Scholarship Winners

The Morro Bay Lions Club announced their scholarship recipients during the Morro Bay High School Senior Tribute and Awards Night on June 7.

"It certainly was not easy to have your high school years occur during the most difficult months of the COVID-19 pandemic and yet these high school seniors persevered," said Donna Stoll, Lions Club representative.

Scholarship recipients include: Riley Apra, Alyssa Ellis, Jackson Howell, Riley Logan, Alexis Martinez, Christian Merrill, and Hana Yoneyama.

#### Their accomplishments reflected

- academic excellence
- athletic pursuits like football, baseball, swimming, water polo, tennis, cross country,
  - · musical jazz, band and wind ensemble
  - · Leadership roles
  - · After school work & jobs
  - Assisting their families and contributions to our ommunity

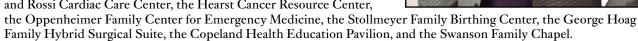
"We wish them luck in the future and are confident they will succeed," Stoll said.

#### President and CEO of French to Retire

After nearly 22 years of dedicated service, Alan Iftiniuk, president and CEO of Dignity Health - French Hospital Medical Center will conclude his tenure later this year. Alan was instrumental in bringing technological and clinical advancements to San Luis Obispo County, and his pursuit as a community health care advocate leaves a legacy that will benefit the hospital's staff, physicians, volunteers, and most importantly, its patients for years to come, Dignity Health officials said in a news release.

Alan began his career with Dignity Health as a leader in San Francisco in 2001, before being appointed president and CEO of French Hospital in 2004. Under Alan's leadership, the hospital experienced tremendous growth with significant physician recruitment, the expansion of clinical services, and successful alliances, acquisitions, and partnerships. Additionally, Alan was influential in the philanthropic efforts of the hospital, raising \$58 million since the inception of the French Hospital Medical Foundation in 2005.

During Alan's tenure, French Hospital become an award-winning, nationally recognized medical center, including: The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center, the Hearst Cancer Resource Center, the Oppenheimer Family Center for Emergency Medicine, the Stollmer



Over the past 20 years and under Alan's leadership, French Hospital consistently received national recognition for many clinical and safety benchmarks including: Top 100 Hospital in the Nation by Truven Health Analytics, Straight A Ratings for hospital safety by Leapfrog Group, a Top Maternity Hospital in the Nation by Newsweek, and Top 10% in the Nation for Patient Safety by Healthgrades, to name a few.



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



805-995-3272

296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

**Groundwater** From page 1

project

The four entered into a court settlement in 2015 that led to the Los Osos Basin Management Committee or BMC, and charged them with writing a management plan for the basin.

The management of the basin is paramount as it has been intruded deep inland by seawater and threatens to become brackish. The management plan lays out numerous steps to take and the water companies have done much to invest in new infrastructure, with a major CSD project to add a new well located far away from the seawater intrusion being the latest.

"To better understand the threats to the basin and opportunities to increase the sustainable yield," Reely said, "the BMC is working on an initiative to update the existing steady state groundwater model to a transient model. The current steady state groundwater model has a limited ability to run predictive modeling scenarios that account for variable hydrology, climate change impacts, phased project implementation and other time dependent variables."

According to the U.S. Geologic Survey agency (see: ca.water.usgs.gov), "A groundwater flow model is a mathematical representation of groundwater flow through an aquifer, which is composed of saturated sediment and rock. In order to solve the equations that constitute the flow model, it is necessary to make simplifying assumptions about the aquifer and the physical processes governing groundwater flow.

"The most important of these assumptions are embodied in the conceptual model of the aquifer. Although groundwater flow models can't be as detailed or as complex as the real system, models are useful in at least four ways:

- Models integrate and assure consistency among aquifer properties, recharge, discharge, and groundwater levels;
- Models can be used to estimate flows and aquifer characteristics for which direct measurements are not available;
- Models can be used to simulate response of the aquifer under hypothetical conditions; and,
- Models can identify sensitive areas where additional hydrologic information could improve understanding."

What's this technical study going to do for Los Osos, which is now under a de-facto moratorium on any new development that might increase water demand, as per the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Development Permit for the community sewer project?

Reely said, "The transient model for the Los Osos Basin would provide significant insight into how to manage the basin most efficiently and best operate the County's Los Osos Water Recycling Facility to provide a sustainable water supply for the current and future community of Los Osos. " "The model," he continued, "will provide the County with information needed to address California Coastal Commission conditions of approval for the Los Osos Community Plan, which require the County 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 rejected all CDP projects in Los Osos and Cambria for some time now, and in a letter to the County Planning Department, Dan Carl, who heads the regional office in Santa Cruz, all but demanded the County cease even accepting applications for all projects that increase water demand — even if they are issued "will-serve" letters from the water companies, which Carl said were "inadequate" to prove water availability — until all this management work is done and the County reduces the "Level III" severity it placed on the Los Osos basin back in the mid-1990s.

The designation means the groundwater basin is being over-pumped and under threat of seawater intrusion — a decision made over 25-years ago that's proven prophetic given the current state of the aquifer.

And the Commission wrote that into the CDP for the County's sewer project, with it's recent posturing on the CDP issue an attempt to enforce those permit terms.

But the grant isn't enough money for the study and the management committee has suggested it be used to leverage more grant monies, possibly from a State Water Resources Control Board planning program.

"Obtaining the [SWRCB] grant," Reely said, "will double the amount of funding available and allow for not just the development of the model, but also utilization of the model to evaluate recycled water and other supplemental yield improvement opportunities through completion of a Water Facilities Planning Study."

According to the report, the CSD general manager was designated in February to be the BMC's lead on the water board's grant, which has been filed already and is under review.

The County is also working up an agreement on how this process will work and who will pay what.

The CSD would be responsible for environmental reviews; hiring the consultants for a Water Facilities Planning Study; fund and contract with a "peer review consultant" presumably to check the model's methodology and conclusions; and help develop the transient model and the WRFP.

Reely's report includes a cost breakdown and totals some \$330,000. Costs include: \$150,000 for the model work; \$20,000 for project management; \$50,000 for a "scenario analysis" on whether recharging projects would actually work; \$30,000 for model development review by

a third party hydrologist; \$50,000 to update cost estimates for implementing the BMC's Basin Management Plan; and, \$30,000 to develop the report for the water board's grant program.

Funding is listed as: \$150,000 from the water board grant; \$150,000 from the County's grant; and \$30,000 to be paid by the BMC agencies.

So where is all this now? It's in Limbo, according to the CSD G.M. Ron Munds who told Estero Bay News, "The State is still considering our grant application. I've had a couple of conversations with the staff in Sacramento and they've indicated that the application should be approved but they are backlogged and things are moving slowly."

When the money gets approved, they are ready to go.

"We have an RFP ready to go out once we get the go ahead," Munds said, "but we're pretty much stuck in limbo until then. The other half of the funding from the County is available but we need the State grant to do the project."

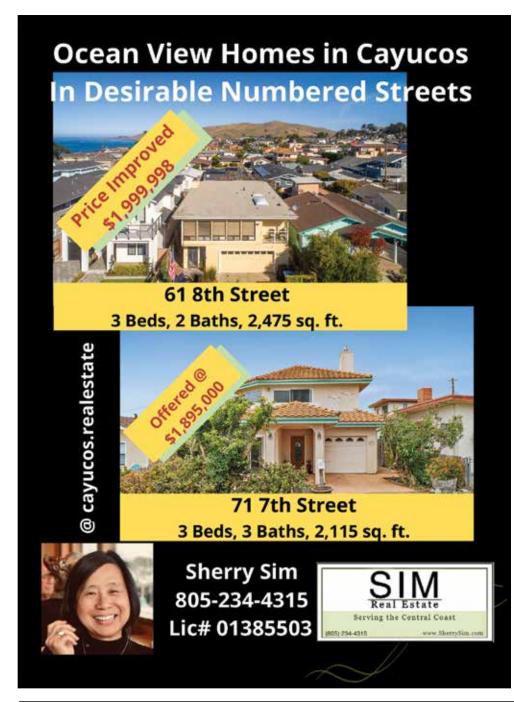
Readers can expect to hear about this again, as it moves forward and Munds is eager for the updated and more thorough data.

"When the transient model is complete, which will take about two years once the project is started," he explained, "we will have a much better groundwater modeling tool to help us understand the inputs and outputs and how the basin responds to multiple factors."

He added that they hope to secure the water board grant and move forward within the next month or so.



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





Remembering Bill From page 1

very privileged and honored to officiate at such a fine man's memorial."

After Bill closed his retail photo shop, Coast Electronics owner John Weiss became his boss. "I've known Bill for 30 years. He encouraged me to apply for Rotary District Governor, which became a BIG deal for me ... Bill was the first volunteer the PD called so we knew he wouldn't be at work until the scene was cleared. He was always gone the first day of school to be at Del Mar School acting as their crossing guard to make sure the kids got to school safely. He and Woody created the original sound system for Caroling Cops. He participated every year plus at every festival – every 4th of July - he was always on duty. We both battled different cancers together. He was my employee, trusted advisor, and friend."

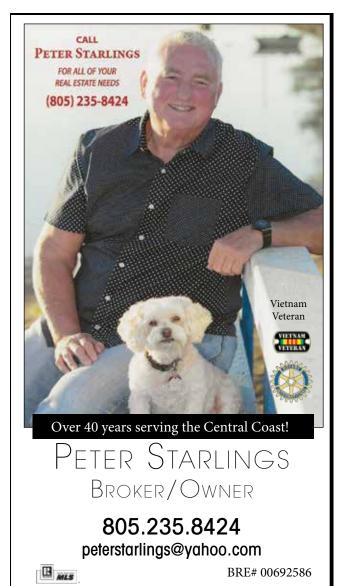
John admired Bill for many things, especially, "If Bill thought something needing fixing, his complaint would always come with his suggested solution. Bill made everyone better."

Former Mayor Janice Peters loves to share her Bill story. "I was serving on the Planning Commission when I was appointed to the Morro Bay City Council to fill a vacant seat. Councilman Bill Peirce became my patient mentor and friend. We sat side-by-side for several terms. Councilmembers periodically travel out-of-county to meetings, and while at the League of California Cities in Lake Tahoe, Bill and I were mistakenly booked into the same room to the amusement of other attendees. Of course by evening we were given our separate rooms, but for one afternoon we were roomies and posed as such together in our doorway. That was 20 years ago, but ever since Bill and I addressed each other as "Roomie." We enjoyed the confused reactions of "friends," who hadn't heard the story. My Roomie Bill was an outstanding citizen and an admired friend."

Hotelier, entrepreneur, and current president-elect for Morro Bay Rotary Club, John Solu wrote, "Bill always yelled at me and called me when I forgot to return my badge at the Rotary meetings." Bill was treasurer then. "I used to deliver it back to him at Radio Shack so he wouldn't keep calling me. LOL. Seriously, he helped me organize 456 (formerly Embarcadero Inn) – our hotel's short wave radios and re-doing my cameras. He knew the business inside and out."

Hal Abrams, founder and president of Estero Bay Radio 97.3 The Rock Community Radio called in to say, "Bill was my "partner in crime." He taught me the technical and political mechanisms to create a community radio station in Morro Bay."

In 2011 Hal pitched his concept to Bill. "He immediately jumped on board, found the location for the transmitter, explained to the council how valuable it was for Morro Bay, and for years handled the technical issues with only a phone call from me for help. He was my mentor and guide as I worked through city management and police, and fire



communications."

Chief Jody Cox could not hold back the tears that welled up as he began to speak to the large gathering for Bill at Tidelands. "This is a very difficult time for us ... Bill was an integral part of the Morro Bay Police Department and the City of Morro Bay for many years. Bill joined the volunteer program in 2012, but his connection and affiliation with law enforcement goes way back to the 1960's writing parking tickets part-time at Cuesta College before graduating from Cal Poly in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. When Bill decided he wanted to be a police volunteer, he had to fill out an application, go through a background check and write a purpose statement. When he was asked why he wanted to be a Morro Bay Police Volunteer, he responded: 'I have spent most of my adult life volunteering for something. I spent 12 years on the Morro Bay City Council and volunteered for a myriad of other activities. I have worked with first responders for years, I love Morro Bay and want to give back to my community. One of the ways I can do that is by supporting our police department." With a smile, Chief Cox closed with, "I will miss Bill showing up unannounced wanting to discuss all the things we needed related to bringing our communications system up to speed. Bill's presence, his commitment, and his historical knowledge will be greatly missed by all of us."

When Morro Bay Rotary's current president, Tim Olivas was the commander at Morro Bay Police Department, Bill was already a seasoned volunteer. Chief John DeRohan wanted Tim to take over when he retired, but he strongly requested Tim train at Command School. The bar was high to qualify to get in. Tim asked City Councilmember Bill Peirce to do something he did not like to do, write a recommendation especially for an upcoming staff position, but Bill did. Tim learned more life lessons at Command School that literally changed his life in all sectors and "made me a better man." He also got the job, that is, until Sheriff Parkinson recognized his talents and stole him to be his trusted undersheriff.

Former MB Fire Chief Jeff Jones worked with Bill at Coast Electronics to upgrade the department's communications system. "Top of the line was Motorola, but Bill advised Kenwood was just as good and cheaper. However, the Kenwood radios had a defect. They didn't work when they got wet. Our firemen verified the defect with spray from their showers, so Bill battled with the company all the way in Australia to make it right." Still involved with Morro Bay as past president of Rotary, Jeff was amazed "little ole Morro Bay had made an impact on the corporate communication world based in Australia through Bill Peirce's persistent customer service.

Former Morro Bay City Manager and recently retired Avila Harbor Director Andrea Leuker wore suspenders to the service in tribute because she couldn't remember an instance where Bill wasn't wearing suspenders to match the season. She met Bill in the late 80s when she was with the recreation department, and he operated his photo store. He would later become her boss as Councilmember Peirce, one of the members to hire her as City Manager.

Bill's straightforward way of life was simply to share his time and talents." She listed a significantly long list of organizations he had volunteered his support. "Bill was a master at checking in with me, seeing how I was doing, and how work was going. Finally, Bill was a mentor to me (I never told him that, but I think he knew – I wish I would have told him!). He provided so many good examples and lessons, which I have and will endeavor to replicate in my life."

This columnist believes a life well lived is what we all hope we will be remembered for. What better remembrance than testimony that we had a positive impact on at least one person's life. Bill Peirce made a difference in many lives and his chosen community. He also provided multiple examples of the benefits reaped by sharing our time and talents with others to make our community a better place — even after we are gone. Thank you, Bill.

A Funny Thing From page 1



Coast into a great place for comedy, there still isn't a real showcase comedy venue in the area, certainly not in Los Osos, Morro Bay or Cayucos."

On June 25, the SLOFunny Comedy Show returns with it third show featuring. Adam Yenser, from the Ellen DeGeneres Show, is the host and the lineup features Brett Riley, the former face of the Golden State Warriors, along with Sina Amedson and Nick Cobb. Suli McCullough is the headliner. Suli is a veteran writer and comedian who has written for the Emmy Awards, "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "George Lopez Tonight." Readers might know him as Crazy Legs from the 90s Comedy: "Don't Be A Menace to South Central Without Drinking Your Juice in the Hood."

Shows are R-rated, so 18 years or older. Tickets are \$25 cash at the door, but are slightly discounted when purchased online at Eventbrite or My805Tix. There are two shows — 6:30 and 9 p.m.

Estero Bay News did a Q&A with the 45-year-old who grew up in Los Osos helping with the family business, the now-shuttered, iconic Owens Music Company, which had a 50-year run in San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria renting, selling and repairing instruments.

**Estero Bay News:** Why did you choose comedy as a local promoter over music, art or theater?

**Brian:** Art and theater have their place but require even larger venues to be done correctly. As for music, the Siren does an amazing job with concerts already and the smaller venues are offering plenty of opportunity for performers. Places like Three Stacks and a Rock, Libertine, Staxx Wine Bar and Sweet Springs are already doing a great job.

**EBN:** What do you think is the importance of comedy, and has that "need" changed over the past few years?

**Brian:** Comedy is probably the most important art form, in my opinion. Once we have lost our ability to laugh, we lose our ability to hope. Over the past few years, we've slowly lost our ability to hope, to dialogue or even tolerate anyone who thinks a little different. But, thanks to the humor of Monty Python, we know that when some things in life are bad, but always look on the bright side of life. I'm paraphrasing.

**EBN:** Are you a comedian or have you tried stand-up? **Brian:** Truthfully, I would love to be a standup comedian, and I enjoy making people laugh. Unfortunately, I prefer working behind the curtain and not on stage. Thankfully, that is exactly what the area needs in a show runner. Nearly every other show on the Central Coast is run by someone who wants to be a comedian or a bar just trying to bring in patrons to drink. We need an outlet that focuses on comedy and entertainment value first.

**EBN:** What do you consider funny?

**Brian:** That seems like a loaded question. My tastes are widely eclectic. I enjoy all types of comedy.

**EBN:** What should people expect from one of your shows?



Landfill From page 1



The Los Osos Landfill, which is off Turri Road, operated from 1958-78 receiving some 500,000 tons of garbage, according to Devlin's report. When it closed, the County took responsibility for maintaining the old dump "to meet all federal state, and local requirements once disposal operations ceased," reads her report.

Years after it closed, in the 1990s, testing discovered the dump was leaking so-called "volatile organic compounds" (VOCs) mostly methane gas emitted through the natural process of decomposition of organic matter.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1995, ordered the County to clean up the groundwater down gradient of the landfill, which sits high atop a mesa overlooking Los Osos Valley.

The County has done a number of things to try and comply with the water board's edict, including "a cap enhancement project to minimize rainwater infiltration and construction of a landfill gas control system to remove VOC-containing landfill gas," Devlin said. "These existing corrective action measures are effective at stabilizing and controlling VOC migration."

The county started monitoring the groundwater in 1991 and VOCs detected in monitoring wells have not shown it moving downhill towards Los Osos Creek and eventually the National Estuary.

In 2005, the water board wanted an updated plan of correction for the landfill and the County hired a consultant to conduct that study. The study concluded that "bioremediation" or simply letting nature solve the issue, was the best thing to do. The RWQCB disagreed and wanted more aggressive actions. From that, the County decided that pumping the groundwater and treating it was the best thing to do.

"The County designed a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GETS)," Devlin said, "which includes 10 extraction wells and a granulated activated carbon treatment system to remove VOCs from groundwater. Pursuant to the design, treated water would be discharged to Warden Creek through an onsite storm water detention basin under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NP-DES) General Permit for Highly Treated Groundwater. The County reviewed other options for disposal, however, none were determined to be feasible."

In December 2020 the County finished installing the GETS gear and "No VOCs were detected in effluent samples from startup testing," Devlin said, "demonstrating that the GETS is removing the VOCs as intended."

But before they could break out the champagne, something else popped up.

"However," Devlin said, "trace amounts of heavy metals were detected."

She said that while the metals were below the limits for drinking water, they did not meet the NPDES limits.

The metals are "slightly above the stringent detection limits of the NPDES General Permit for Highly Treated Groundwater," Devlin said. "As a result, the GETS is not currently permitted to operate. The delay has led to the RWQCB's issuance of a 'Notice of Violation' that could subject the County to potential civil liability of \$1,000, or more, per day until the GETS becomes operational."

The County looked at various methods to remove the heavy metals, and decided the ion exchangers was best, and Water Techtonics, Inc., specializes in water treatment technologies, according to Devlin. The company tested its equipment on samples form the County's treatment plant and they successfully removed the heavy metals.

**Brian:** First and foremost a diverse range of comedy. Hopefully, something that will fit everyone's tastes. Every SLOFunny Comedy Show has five comics with differing styles of comedy; though I do try select comedians that, while diverse, do compliment each other. They are also professionally- touring features and headliners.

The shows are rated "R' because I don't want to censor the comedians. I can't guarantee nobody will get offended, but the comedians I work with are not overly crass or

**EBN:** After the Chris Rock and Dave Chappelle incidents, some comedians have said that being attacked physically or threatened has become more frequent. What are your thoughts on that?

Brian: We live in a very different world today. It's sad to think someone would come to a show just to cause a scene or create turmoil. Unfortunately it happens, even

**EBN:** What would be your dream show? **Brian:** Firstly, I'm fortunate to have met some amazing talent over the last 12 years. I've dreamed up each one of these lineups, with a few changes that always seem to improve upon the show. But, my dream is already happening on a small scale — 50% of the audience at our second show was at the first show, and 10% of them have already bought tickets to this month. My dream is to have everyone on the Central Coast experience the joy and laughter these comedians have brought to me. I said before, I don't want to be on stage, but I do want to make people laugh.

**EBN:** Are food and drink for sale at the shows? **Brian:** There is always some form of concessions. Last month, the Morro Bay Lions Club provided nonalcoholic concessions. This month's they will be adding beer and wine. I'm hoping to find a local brewery that can sponsor their involvement in the event. While it adds to the show, I like offering the opportunity to a local civic organization to help them raise money for all the important things they do for the community. As for food, there may be candy or snacks, but the show is designed as a theater show and not

conducive to dining.





#### 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

With familiar threats of heavy fines from the RWQCB hanging over their heads, the County was ready to fasttrack installation of the ion exchangers and hoped to be up and running by November.

The project at the closed landfill is among the first duties of the newly founded Solid Waste Division under County Engineering. It was formed last year after the County Supervisors voted to remove the County from the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA).

Once all the new ion exchanger equipment is installed, up and running, the full transfer of solid waste duties will be made from the Utilities Division to the new Solid Waste Division, Devlin said, but this unit won't be staffed by

"The Solid Waste Division is proposed to be supported by a professional landfill engineering consultant, rather than adding permanent staff to the Division," she said.

HDR's contract for the old landfill was for three years initially, with options for two more years, at a cost "not to exceed" \$200,000 a year. Rather than a steady contract, HDR is on call and task-oriented, meaning if things are going smoothly, they are not on the clock, however, whenever issues arise — either mechanical, operational or regulatory - they go to work.

#### Morro Bay Mobil

NOW HIRING ASSISTANT MANAGER & CASHIER POSITIONS

#### Starting at \$17.50 - \$19 / hour

depending on experience and benefits offered

#### **Responsibilities Include:**

- Friendly customer service
  - Sales
  - Labor Control Scheduling
- Daily In-Store Operations

Previous Convenience Store / Retail experience required.

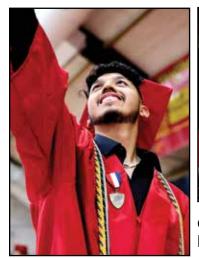
Please submit your resume in person at 911 Morro Bay Blvd Morro Bay, CA or email to mobilmorrobay@gmail.com



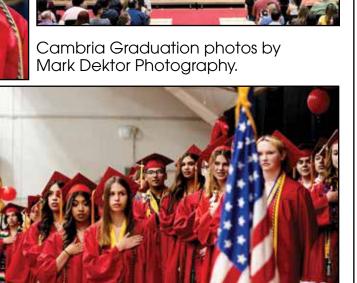


#### Morro Bay & Cambria

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022











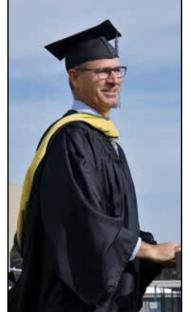


Morro Bay Graduation photos by Sandprints Photography.

















To see all the images from Morro Bay High School graduation, Go to www.esterobaynews. Grad Day pictures are online here: www.sandprintsphotos.com/SeniorPic-

