

## WRF Cost Estimates Jump \$16M

By Neil Farrell



One of latest photo of the City of Morro Bay's WRF treatment plant, located above the terminus of South Bay Boulevard at Hwy 1. Photo courtesy City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility project has taken another flush down the proverbial cost overrun toilet, as new estimates on the total costs at completion have jumped about \$16 million.

The City's WRF Project Team in May unveiled its Third Quarter 2022 status report informing the Public Works Advisory Board and later the City Council of its progress and updating cost estimates.

As of March 31, 2022 the City has spent to date \$136.87 million on both the new treatment plant and the pipeline conveyance project.

It requests the Council budget another \$12.34M for the next fiscal year (2022-23); and estimates it will need \$6.37M in 2024; and \$4.2M in 2025 for a total of just under \$160M.

When ratepayers approved rate hikes in July 2018 to pay for the project, it was sold to the public at \$126M. In recent months, after several rounds of contract amendments caused by everything from landslides, to Notices of Violations, to getting a massive boring tool stuck under the roundabout, to having Gas Co., representatives be late or

being no-shows at trenching job sites, the overall costs had been revised up to \$144M.

These new figures take the project into another level of concern, and prompted one Councilman into writing a letter to the Estero Bay News criticizing the project's leadership.

"It's been said," reads a letter from Councilman Jeff Heller, who has been an outspoken critic of the project, "when things go wrong there is plenty of blame to go around." That is certainly true in this case.

Heller continued, "We struggle continually with housing affordability. The newly announced \$160M is not good news. Many residents have lost confidence in their elected officials as a result."

He calls on his 30-years experience managing large infrastructure projects in California. "Large capital projects include many stakeholders," Heller wrote, "from citizens, elected officials, staff, attorneys, contractors, regulatory agencies and many more. Most often the critical mistakes in capital projects are made by 'the owner.'"

"The owner in this case are the residents of Morro Bay

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## DA Selling Ill-Gotten Gains in Online Auction

By Neil Farrell

An Atascadero woman's spoils in a major embezzlement case are being sold through a Morro Bay online auction house, in a first for the local District Attorney's Office.

The auction, entitled "San Luis Obispo County, Office of the District Attorney Property Seizure Auction," is being handled by SLO Cal Estate Auctions (see: sloalestauctions.com), run by Doug and Jennifer Little of Morro Bay.

The auction goes until 7 p.m. June 9, when the bidding will start to shutdown. The auction closes completely at 8:15 p.m. on June 9.

And it's a doozy of an auction too, with some impressive and expensive, jewelry, watches, sports and rock 'n' roll memorabilia, and shoes, lots of fancy shoes. Joy Wilde, 44 of Atascadero apparently laundered her stolen cash buying expensive baubles.

"The theft scheme involved Ms. Wilde passing 64 fraudulent checks and attempting to pass three others," a D.A.'s news release from the time said. She pled "No Contest" on all 18 counts she faced and received a 10-year prison sentence.

Speaking to what is considered a long prison sentence for what is essentially a theft case, Judge Jesse Marino commented on the "outrageously large amount of money" taken by Ms. Wilde, according to the news release, and concluded that the decade-long prison sentence was warranted, "due to its sheer volume."

Deputy D.A. Eric Dobroth said they seized the items that ended up in the auction, and whatever amount they sell for, will be given to the victim and credited against Wilde's considerable restitution order. The victim was allowed to go through the items and keep anything he wanted.

Potential bidders can even see how much she paid

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## Moving Forward: Remembering Bohemian Candle

By Judy Salamacha



A Xeroxed copy of the late Amber Renee Kent-Ziegler's hand became the logo for Bohemian Candle, formerly was located at Main and Harbor in Morro Bay.

Flashback! Did you live or visit Morro Bay during 2007-09? Might you have met "candle man" Kevin Ziegler at Morro Bay's Saturday Market? His day-job was Executive Petty Officer (XPO) at our Coast Guard station. Maybe you shopped Bohemian Candle with Monica Zeigler, the candlemaker, at Harbor & Main?

My husband and I reconnected with the Zieglers in Newport, Oregon while on vacation recently. We prefer familiar and historic attractions when we travel. Newport has

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## Are We Scared Enough?

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The number of deaths in the United States from mass shootings as of May 25 was 214, according to the Gun Violence Archive. A staggering 658 children under 17 were killed, 1625 were physically injured and the lasting emotional impacts are not quantifiable. Those statistics were collected from more than 7,500 law enforcement, media, government, and commercial sources. Gun Violence Archive defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot or killed, excluding the shooter.

Last month, over a period of nine days, 31 people were killed in two mass shootings in the United States. Acting alone, gunmen murdered 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas; and 10 people were murdered in a racist attack at a Black neighborhood grocery store in Buffalo, New York.

"The normalcy of violence everywhere is concerning," said Shawn Ison, family services program manager for Transitions-Mental Health Association. "So much of it, unfortunately, is making kids not fearful enough. I hate to say that."

Although she said she has many theories as to why that is, one factor that should be considered is the prevalence of violent behavior we are exposed to.

"I think all of our video games, the movies, and everything we're watching just kind of glorify violence. Violence is just not scary like it used to be."

The tragedy in Texas marks the 27th shooting at a K-12 school in 2022, according to the publication Education Week. It is the deadliest elementary school shooting since the one at Sandy Hook in December 2012, when a gunman killed 26 people, including 20 children.

These tragic events require that adults have difficult conversations with children to help them cope.

"Children really take their parents lead as to how to react to things," Ison said. "It's important that parents really try to be calm and concise with things; be as honest as appropriate with the age and listen to and give validity to their feelings. Keep the stories as simple as possible, especially for the younger kids. Try to give some focus to the heroes of the story."

That honesty and attention to an individual child's reaction and processing abilities should extend past recent tragedies and cover safety plans and precautions as well.

Following a school shooting, your child might express fear of returning to classes.

"We have to acknowledge that it's a scary world," Ison



This 18K white gold, with 2.37-carats of diamonds and 48-carat 'Tanzanite Crown of Light' necklace cost \$85,000 when purchased with embezzled money.

for some of the more expensive items, as Wilde actually kept sales receipts. Those coupled with the new appraisals should give bidders a good sense of what an item is worth. Among the items that are for sale are:

• A HUBLOT 90 facet cushion cut, .5 carat Crown of Light Diamond 'Big Bang' Aero Watch, which a purchase receipt accompanying the item's listing priced at \$43,450 when Wilde purchased it new;

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PG&E Fires Up New BESS in Moss

By Neil Farrell

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., has completed another giant battery plant and, after successful testing, was powered up and slated to go online in April.

Named the “Elkhorn Battery” the 182.5-megawatt facility is located on the property of the Moss Landing Power Plant. It uses Tesla’s Megapack technology of lithium ion batteries, according to a news release from PG&E.

Elkhorn was fully energized and the California Independent System Operator or Cal-ISO, the State agency that operates the power grid, was expecting to put it into service by April 7.

“We are ushering in a new era of electric system reliability,” PG&E’s Corporation Chief Executive Officer Patti Poppe said in a news release, “and delivering a vision into the future for our customers with the commissioning of the Tesla Megapack system in Moss Landing.

“We are committed to safely delivering reliable and clean energy in a way that achieves the greatest value for our customers, but we can’t go it alone into this clean energy future. Projects like this require innovative partners, such as Tesla, and PG&E will continue to seek out and work with the best and brightest to provide breakthrough clean energy solutions for our customers.”

Battery energy storage, the company said, helps integrate renewable energy sources, like solar, and also enhances the overall reliability of California’s ever-changing energy supply. Batteries are charged when energy demand is low or when solar production is high, and then provide additional capacity by sending that reserved power to the grid when demand grows.

The Elkhorn project seems to have gotten a green light for fast-tracking, which might be a hint at how much the State of California wants to push sustainable, carbon-free, non-fossil fuel energy sources, a huge component of which is energy storage facilities like PG&E’s Elkhorn plant.

The Elkhorn BESS “was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in November 2018 and by the Monterey County Planning commission in February 2020, the news release said. “Site construction began in July 2020.”

The Elkhorn Battery system is named for the Elkhorn Slough in Moss Landing, a major estuary of Monterey Bay. It was designed, constructed, and is maintained by both PG&E and Tesla, but owned and operated by PG&E, the company said.

The facility boasts 256 Tesla Megapack battery units on 33 concrete slabs. Each unit houses batteries and power conversion equipment in a single cabinet. Transformers and switchgears were also installed along to connect energy stored in the batteries with 115-kilovolt transmission wires.

The BESS has the capacity to store and dispatch up to 730-megawatt hours of energy to the power grid at a maximum rate of 182.5 MW for up to 4 hours during periods of high demand.

It’s a key piece to the State’s transforming energy puzzle. “The Elkhorn Battery,” PG&E said, “enhances reliability by addressing capacity deficiencies that have resulted from increased local energy demand. It participates in the CAISO wholesale electric markets, providing energy and ancillary service such as serving as an operating reserve that can quickly be dispatched to ensure there is sufficient energy to meet demand to the CAISO-controlled grid.”

The new facility is one of the largest lithium-ion battery storage facilities in the world. Currently, the largest in the world is a 300 MW BESS owned by Vistra Energy and also located at Moss Landing. It’s one of two the Texas-based energy company has at Moss, including a 100 MW BESS. Vistra also owns the Moss Landing plant and property, which was originally built by PG&E in the 1960s and sold to Duke Energy, along with three others plants including Morro Bay, in 1998 during California’s flirtation with deregulation of the energy industry.

Vistra also filed in January to build another BESS at Moss Landing, a 350-MW facility that will bring the

company’s total storage capacity at the site to 750 MW, according to a January article on Powermag.com, an online industry publication.

It would be the third phase of the company’s plans for the old power plant, which was a sister plant to the closed Morro Bay Power Plant. Duke Energy was able to build a combined cycle, natural gas fueled, 1,200 MW power plant at Moss Landing in the early 2000s, even as it failed to get permits to build the exact same type and make and model of plant to replace the Morro Bay plant, which dates back to the late 1950s and early ‘60s. Vistra closed the Morro Bay plant in 2014.

Vistra has said it plans to grow its zero-carbon ‘Vistra Zero’ portfolio to 7,300 MW by 2026, the article reported. “That total includes 5,000 MW of renewables and energy storage, along with the company’s 2,300-MW Comanche Peak nuclear power plant in Glen Rose, Texas.

“Vistra currently has six solar power installations and 11 other energy storage and solar-plus-storage projects in various stages of development and operation in Texas and Illinois, in addition to its California holdings.”

Those pending projects include a 600 MW BESS proposed for a 22-acre site on the Morro Bay Power Plant property. That project is still being evaluated by the Morro Bay Planning Department and has yet to go to the planning commission for what’s anticipated to be the first of several hearings on the project.

PG&E’s new BESS in Moss Landing is one of several the utility company has under contract in its efforts to green up its energy portfolio.

“PG&E,” the company said, “now has contracts for battery energy storage systems totaling more than 3,330 MW of capacity being deployed throughout California through 2024.

“To date, 955.5 MW of new battery storage capacity has been connected to California’s electric grid including:

- 182.5 MW PG&E Elkhorn Battery in Monterey County (commissioned 2022);
- 200 MW Diablo Storage System in Contra Costa County (2022);
- 60 MW Coso Battery Storage in Inyo County (2022);
- 400 MW Vistra Moss Landing Battery Energy Storage Facility (2021);
- 63 MW NextEra Blythe system in Riverside County (2021); and,
- 50 MW Gateway system in San Diego County (2021).”

PG&E predicts that another 1,400-plus MW of storage capacity out of the 3,330 MW under contract will come online in 2022 and 2023, the company said.

Anti-Smoking Town Putting Out Butt Receptacles

By Neil Farrell

A town that passed a law prohibiting smoking outdoors in public places, is passing another law to put out ashtrays and collect cigarette butts.

The Morro Bay City Council recently amended its anti-smoking ordinance to allow placement of cigarette butt receptacles in high traffic areas where the City has received complaints about cigarette butt litter from residents.

City Engineering Technician, Derek Hanson’s staff report proposed adding Ordinance No. 652 to the muni codes, that would be “Allowing Smoking Receptacles within the City Right-of-Way.”

“Chapter 9.24 of the Morro Bay Municipal Code generally prohibits smoking in public places,” Hanson’s report said, “Nevertheless, staff has received feedback from residents about smoking-related litter and cigarette



butts left behind in high pedestrian traffic areas, such as the Embarcadero, Harborwalk, and Morro Rock Parking Lot. Of particular concern are cigarette butts, which create environmental issues.”

The City was approached by the County Tobacco Control Program about putting out receptacles in a pilot program “to measure their use on the Embarcadero and Harborwalk.”

The County would provide the receptacles and the City is responsible for emptying them and inventorying and documenting the contents for the study. It would then dispose of the butts (and other trash) in a safe manner.

Hanson said if they prove to reduce the number of cigarette butts thrown on the ground — due to a lack of proper receptacles — then they would be left out permanently, which will add to the City maintenance crew’s workload.

“Staff believes participation in this program,” Hanson said, “would reduce cigarette butt litter in high traffic areas and would result in fewer cigarette butts in waterways and the ocean by directing the waste into receptacles.”

It should be noted that there are several “butt buckets” — metal pails filled with sand — that were put out by Morro Bay Beautiful, a local beautification non-profit organization, at strategic spots along the Embarcadero, and to great effectiveness.

In what can only be described as irony — the City’s new ordinance might help clean up litter, but it doesn’t excuse smoking itself, which will remain illegal in public places, including the Harborwalk, Embarcadero and the beach.

“The proposed ordinance,” Hanson said, “would permit the placement of smoking waste receptacles by the City with authorization of the Public Works Director within the City right-of-way. However, the alterations would not permit smoking in any location where these public receptacles are installed.”

As a side note, volunteers with Morro Bay Beautiful have for decades conducted Monday morning cleanups of the Rock parking lot areas, picking up litter left by weekend visitors. That haul often includes piles of cigarette butts.



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# News

## Cayucos Infrastructure Boon

Photos and story by Neil Farrell



Workers with Papich Const., place K-rail blocks to divert traffic through the job site at the Old Creek Bridge on Hwy 1.

Cayucos is in the midst of an infrastructure boon, as the Town that Time Forgot is getting a lot of attention from big projects all at once.

Caltrans contractors have been busy over the past few weeks installing K-railing to merge traffic down from two lanes to one, and move the northbound lanes across the median strip onto the bridge on the southbound side at both Toro Creek and Old Creek on Hwy 1.

In addition, for several months now, nearly every street in town has been getting a slurry seal coating in a job that is now headed into the Downtown area of Ocean Avenue.

Cal Fire is still building a new fire station at the south end of town, and the Sanitary District has completed a 1-mega-watt solar energy farm to power its new treatment plant on Toro Creek Road. And some time soon (we hope) the long-closed Cayucos Vet's Hall will be rebuilt and finally reopened.

The \$5.7 million Toro Creek Bridge Replacement Project contract went to Souza Engineering Contracting of San Luis Obispo and entails demolition of the north-

bound, concrete bridge that dates back to the 1930s and the original Hwy 1.

The bridge, which was traveled over by historic figures like William Randolph Hearst and his squeeze, Marion Davies, doesn't meet modern standards including adequate space for bike lanes and earthquake strength.

The project will build a new, modern design bridge and is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2023, according to Caltrans.

The Old Creek Hwy 1 northbound bridge is also not up to modern snuff and is being replaced, though at a much-steeper price tag.

That project, which is near the 24th Street Beach access points, is a \$17.7 million project with the contract going to Papich Construction of Arroyo Grande.

It too, is slated to be completed sometime in the spring of 2023, according to Caltrans. Both schedules will depend on the weather being cooperative.

A bicycle detour is also being established, Caltrans said, with signage near Old Creek Road and Studio Drive, as it will be very tricky — if not outright dangerous —

Some thoughtless people dump their ashtrays out on the ground before heading home, leaving a pile of butts that are then snatched up and carried away by seagulls. It's long been an issue that may have

been exacerbated after the City removed all the trashcans from the Rock parking lot, in favor of dumpsters located at the public restroom.

for riders to go through the construction zone at Old Creek.

Both jobs are being funded at least in part through Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), a 2017 State gas tax hike that was to provide \$54 billion over 10 years (\$5.4B per year), and earmarked for transportation projects in California.

SB 1, "has allowed us to advance important projects on the Central Coast," Caltrans Dist. 5 Director Tim Gubbins said, "and around the state, that enhance safety and mobility for all travelers."

The access to Dog Beach might get a little tricky and readers who frequent the only off-leash dog-friendly beach just about anywhere should take extra caution entering and exiting the roadside parking areas. (It might be prudent to access the



Traffic snakes its way through K-rails at the Hwy 1 traffic diversion at Toro Creek.

beach from North Point Natural Area on Toro Lane.)

Readers are advised to slow down through the job sites and be forewarned, traffic fines are doubled for violations in construction zones. Electronic road signs approaching the construction zones also warn of "radar enforcement."

## City Returns to Virtual Meetings

By Neil Farrell

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to a public meeting, the City of Morro Bay has shut them down once again.

According to a news release dated May 19, the City announced that it was returning to online, Zoom meetings full time, after it had just resumed to holding in-person meetings at the start of April. It had been holding virtual meetings since March 2020 at the start of California's coronavirus pandemic response.

The City's reversal came a day after the Federal CDC released new data, "showing a substantial jump in both the spread of COVID-19, as well as COVID-19-related hospitalizations over the past week," reads the City's news release. "California has experienced in the last two weeks a 57% increase in reported COVID-19 cases, with hospitalizations up 29% during the same time period."

San Luis Obispo County has also reportedly seen a jump in COVID-19 cases but not in increased hospitalizations. The latest uptick apparently hit close to City Hall.

"City staff has also experienced a recent COVID-19 outbreak that has been traced back to in-person public meetings," the City said.

Estero Bay News asked City Manager Scott Collins about this and he replied, "We

**Virtual Meeting** Continued on page 4



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News

**Virtual Meeting** From page 3

have had several public meetings [Council meetings and advisory board meetings in April and May]. In regard to your other question, medical privacy laws require the City to not disclose confidential medical information for City employees, however the City believes that based on confidential contact tracing a source for the recent outbreak was reasonably in-person meetings.”

State labor laws dictate what the City’s next step will be.

“The City is required by Cal-OSHA,” Collins told EBN, “to conduct contract tracing, provide notification to employees who may have had a close contact, take reasonable steps to protect employee health and prevent further spread of COVID-19.

“As a result of the recent outbreak and the uptick in COVID-19 cases in our region, the City will conduct both Brown Act and non-Brown Act meetings virtually until the number of active cases decline.”

The Brown Act is the State’s open meetings law, which the City and all other California government agencies have been allowed to fudge after the Governor issued a health emergency proclamation and lock-down orders near the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

But the Governor and State health officials have been easing COVID restrictions in the past several months, after the Omicron Variant of the coronavirus spread like wildfire at the start of 2022 but didn’t wreak the havoc and death of the earlier variants like the deadly Delta strain of the virus that is suspected to have escaped a virology lab in Wuhan, China suspected sometime in fall of 2019.

The coronavirus pandemic has hit some places hard, especially densely packed, big cities, but SLO County, while having a sizable number of cases, has been spared that level of devastation.

Still, SLO County Health Department officials announced recently that four more residents, ages 70 to 90-plus had died, and they were the 500th and 501st SLO County residents to die of COVID-19.

“This milestone,” SLO County said, “comes as the California Department of Public Health reports the loss of more than 90,000 Californians to COVID-19 and the United States reports more than 1 million COVID-19 deaths.”

“I urge all of us in SLO County to honor these lives by protecting yourself,” Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer said, “your family and our community from more pain caused by this disease.”

“Public Health teams are actively responding to 17 outbreaks in congregate settings,” she continued, “and continue to closely monitor the steady rise in COVID-19 metrics.”

According to the County’s COVID statistics, as of May 1 there were 398 active cases countywide. There were seven people in the hospital with COVID-19 but just two in intensive care units, which isn’t even close to being a problem in so far as available hospital beds are concerned. The County said there were over 60% of beds available (including all those hospitalized for non-COVID issues).

According to County Health’s data there have been 1,611 COVID cases in Morro Bay since the start of the

pandemic in March 2020. Los Osos has seen 1,735 and Cayucos 330. Cambria has had 562 cases and 73 in San Simeon.

SLO City leads the county with 10,679 cases with Paso Robles second with 10,207. Atascadero is a distant third at 5,811.

People aged 85-older have seen 198 people hospitalized and an alarming 192 deaths; and, those 65-84 has seen 618 hospitalizations with 207 deaths.

People ages 50-64 has seen 399 hospitalizations and 80 deaths; ages 30-49, 258 hospitalizations and 21 deaths; and 18-29 has seen 78 hospitalizations with one death. And ages newborn to 17 has seen 29 hospitalizations and zero deaths.

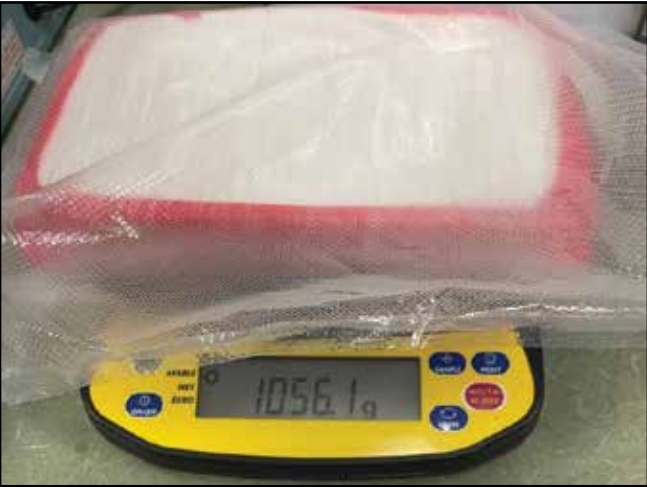
With Morro Bay’s politically active citizens — i.e. those who like to attend the meetings at the Vet’s Hall — up in age, it is perhaps prudent to go back to virtual meetings, even though the meetings have seemed to be as effective as virtual learning was in schools.

“Given this recent news,” Collins said, “to protect the health of community members, council members, advisory body members, and staff, the City of Morro Bay will resume full remote teleconferencing of Brown Act meetings beginning May 24. This decision is made consistent with Assembly Bill 361 (2021-22), Government Code § 54953, the Brown Act and City Council Resolution 40-22.”

For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, see: [slopublichealth.org/COVID19](https://slopublichealth.org/COVID19) or call the Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903. Real person phone assistance is available at (805) 781-5500 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

Vaccinations are for the most part still free at County clinics, pharmacies, and doctor’s offices. The County website has information on scheduling an appointment for vaccinations.

### Fentanyl Bust in Nipomo



The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department recently busted a pair of suspected drug traffickers and confiscated enough fentanyl to kill every resident of SLO County twice over.

The case began in April, according to a news release by

Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla.

“Members of the Sheriff’s Gang Task Force were tracking a wanted felon,” Cipolla said, “31-year-old Julian Ackerman of Coalinga, who was suspected of driving into San Luis Obispo County with a large amount of narcotics.”

On April 22, he said, deputies spotted the suspect’s car on Hwy 101 with two people inside — Ackerman in the passenger seat and a young woman driving.

“Deputies attempted to pull the vehicle over on north-bound Highway 101 just north of Highway 166,” Cipolla said. “The car came to a complete stop on the shoulder of the highway just south of the Tefft Street off ramp in Nipomo.”

Deputies were questioning the occupants when the driver sped away. A chase ensued that left the highway at Tefft Street. They didn’t get very far.

“Deputies located and stopped the vehicle at E. Tefft Street and Beechnut Street in Nipomo,” Cipolla said. “The female driver, identified as 20-year-old Zoe Rutledge of Nipomo, was detained. Ackerman fled the vehicle.”

The Sheriff’s Special Operations Unit arrived and began searching for Ackerman, who was spotted in the front yard of a nearby house. He reportedly took off running again into a field near East Branch Street, Nipomo. He was caught and placed under arrest.

Cipolla said deputies found a backpack in that field that Ackerman allegedly tried to ditch.

“That same backpack had been spotted in the vehicle that Ackerman had fled,” Cipolla said. Inside, they reportedly found a kilo — about 2.2 pounds — of fentanyl worth an estimated \$25,000.

“Or if sold by the gram at \$125 a gram,” Cipolla said, “that would be worth \$125,000.”

Ackerman was charged with suspicion of possession of a controlled substance for sale, transporting a controlled substance for sale, and resisting a peace officer.

Rutledge was charged with suspicion of attempting to evade a peace officer in a reckless manner, Cipolla said. The amount of drugs might not sound like much weight, but fentanyl is a horse of another color.

“According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, a lethal dose of fentanyl is two milligrams,” Cipolla said. “So one kilo of pure fentanyl contains approximately 500,000 lethal doses.”

There are roughly 235,000 total residents in SLO County.

Fentanyl originates in China where the basic chemicals are manufactured by criminal organizations that smuggle it into Mexico, where drug cartels press it into pills or package it for smuggling into the U.S. over the Southern Border.

In 2021, over 107,000 people in the U.S. died of drug overdoses, according to government statistics. The poison was mainly fentanyl, with heroin and methamphetamine also taking a toll.

And heroin and meth are being laced with fentanyl, which is highly addictive and deadly.

The overdose stats do not include the roughly 20,000-plus people who overdose but are saved with Narcan, a nasal spray that immediately counteracts opioid toxicity and can save a person’s life if administered in time.



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Man Arrested for Threats

An Atascadero man was arrested Saturday after he allegedly threatened to shoot up a local hospital when they refused to fill his prescription. According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, at about 10:50 a.m. Saturday, May 14, Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton reported getting a threat. “According to hospital staff,” Cipolla said in a news release, “a man had called the hospital wanting a refill of a medication. When his request was declined, the man had threatened to come to the hospital and ‘shoot up the

place.” Deputies responded and the hospital was locked down at 11:02 a.m. Cipolla said the man showed up a few minutes later and was arrested by deputies. The suspect was identified as Bryce Vincent Blue, 33 of Atascadero. He was booked into County Jail and charged with suspicion of making terrorist threats, Cipolla said. No weapons were found and the hospital lifted the lockdown at 11:12 a.m.



News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Marine Swap Meet, June 25

Looking for some interesting, marine-oriented decorating items, or some useful gear for your boat and fishing exploits? An upcoming swap meet just might be the place to look. Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department is hosting another “Marine Swap Meet” set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 25 in the Triangle Lot next to the Maritime Museum (look for the big submarine). Or maybe readers have some marine related stuff they’d like to sell? For vendor information, see: friend-softhembhd.org. The swap meet is a fundraiser for the Friends group, a non-profit that raises money to support the Harbor Department, supplying safety gear and other needs of the Harbor Patrol and helping with maintenance projects.

Cannabis Lounges Approved in Grover

The Grover Beach City Council approved onsite cannabis consumption lounges at the city’s four cannabis retail businesses and temporary cannabis special events. The locations are places to “consume medical and recreational cannabis for customers and are anticipated to provide additional sales opportunities for the retailers, which in turn would increase the City’s tax revenues that fund capital projects and citywide services,” a news release stated. To address concerns related to the potential impact of outdoor smoke on surrounding areas, City staff updated the proposed ordinance for outdoor consumption areas to require odor absorbing ventilation and exhaust systems to prevent any odor vapor or smoke from being detected outside the property boundaries, and to prohibit consumption areas from being visible from any public place or non-age restricted area.

“The City Council took great care in making this decision as the City continues to lead the way in creating a safe, thriving local commercial cannabis industry,” stated City Manager Matthew Bronson. “Enabling our businesses to provide safe consumption spaces for both local residents and visitors expands economic opportunities in Grover Beach and strengthens our revenue sources to better serve our community.”

Californians For All College Corp Kicks Off


Low-income students could graduate from college debt free. The Californians For All College Corps program is a new opportunity for thousands of college students to serve their communities in critical issue areas such as climate action, education, and food insecurity. Over the next two years, College Corps will engage 6,500 California undergraduates in service — roughly the size of the entire Peace Corps. This service and career development program will help build a diverse class of leaders set to transform California for the better. Students will receive \$10,000 for completing a year of service performing valuable work in their communities. “As an institution that builds the workforce of tomorrow, Cuesta College understands that students are seeking employment that aligns with their attitudes and beliefs,” said Cuesta College Superintendent/President Jill Stearns. “The College Corps provides an early experience in the educational journey for students to explore positions with purpose and meaning. We are excited for students to have this opportunity to apply what they are studying and impart a significant positive impact on sustainability and our community.” This groundbreaking program intends to unite Californians of all backgrounds in service and will create opportunities for AB 540 CA Dream Act students to serve their communities. “Students are graduating with crippling debt,” said Fryday. “This service and career development program helps create a debt-free college pathway while promoting service. If you are willing to serve your community and give

back in a meaningful way, we are going to help you pay for college. This is a win-win-win: Helping to pay for college, gaining valuable work experience, and having a meaningful impact on your community.” Cal Poly, Cuesta College and Hancock Community College are among the schools in the program. Applications opened April 1, 2022. Students can learn more and apply by visiting [www.cacollegecorps.com](http://www.cacollegecorps.com).

Trees Could Delay traffic in SLO

Commuters take a few deep breaths and prepare to practice patience in San Luis Obispo this month. A month-long tree-trimming project on streets north of downtown San Luis Obispo will cause temporary traffic impacts. Commuters can expect delays and are encouraged to use alternative routes. Work zones will be delineated with traffic control devices and signboards. The following streets will be impacted: • Chorro Street (between Lincoln Avenue and Rougeot Place), north of downtown • Murray Avenue (between Santa Rosa Street and Broad Street): Commuters are asked to avoid Murray Avenue, from Santa Rosa to Broad Street, from June 6 through June 10 during this time. Murray Avenue residents and businesses will be directly notified in advance. • Foothill Boulevard (between Ferrini Road and Los Cerros Drive) The work is part of the City’s Urban Forest Services Program, which manages and maintains about 14,000 trees. To complete this work, the City partnered with West Coast Arborists, Inc.

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



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# Santa Maria Man Arrested for Hate Crime

A Santa Maria man has been arrested and suspected of a hate crime, after he allegedly left a racially charged threatening note at a Nipomo business.

According to Sheriff's spokeswoman Grace Norris, "On May 27 at approximately 6 a.m. the Sheriff's Office received a report of a note left at a business in the 500 block of West Tefft Street in Nipomo containing racially driven hate speech. The note was directed at the business owner, and contained threats of violence."

Norris said witnesses saw a man post the note and deputies were able to identify the man through their descriptions. One witness even followed him, alerting deputies to where he was. He was identified as Ricardo Salazar, 47 of Santa Maria.

"Sheriff's Deputies made contact with Salazar," Norris said, "and he was arrested and booked at the County Jail on charges of criminal threats [PC 422] along with a hate crime penalty enhancement [PC 422.75]."

Detectives "sought a bail enhancement for Salazar, and the reviewing judge set bail at \$100,000," Norris said. Sheriff's Detectives are continuing to gather information in the case and "address any potential additional threat."

It apparently wasn't the first time the business, which was not identified, may have been targeted. "Sheriff's Deputies responded to the same location one time previously for a report of a suspicious subject in a vehicle, which left prior to their arrival," Norris said. "There was no allegation of a hate crime in that incident."

"The Sheriff's Office," Norris said, "takes reports of hate crimes very seriously. If you have any information on this case please contact our Detective Division at (805) 781-4500."



Ricardo Salazar

# Man Convicted in Traffic Cases

A San Luis Obispo man has been found guilty on multiple felony counts stemming from two separate incidents wherein the apparent vehicular menace fled the police during traffic stops.

According to the County District Attorney's Office, 42-year old Lario Garcia Tugas' issues with the law started at 2:30 a.m. Feb. 11, 2020, when a Pismo Beach Police Officer stopped Tugas for "speeding and weaving. Tugas provided the officer a false birthdate and was driving on a suspended license," the news release said. "When it became clear he was not going to be allowed to continue driving and his vehicle would be towed, Tugas stated, 'No, I'm gonna go,' and sped away from the traffic stop with his headlights off."

Naturally, a high-speed pursuit ensued leaving Hwy 101 and going onto surface streets in Pismo Beach. He was eventually arrested and charged with felony evading a police officer with "willful disregard for the safety of others."

The man just couldn't stay out of trouble. "In a second incident, on July 12, 2021," the D.A. release said, "Tugas was stopped by a San Luis Obispo Police Officer for driving a motorcycle without a helmet. When the officer ran the license plate it did not match the motorcycle, a trick known as 'cold plating' a stolen vehicle."

Again, he thought he could run from police. "Tugas attempted to drive away, when the officer pulled him from the motorcycle and ordered him to get on the ground. Tugas pulled the officer's hands off him and fled on foot. The motorcycle had been reported stolen earlier in 2021."

The D.A. said the bike's ignition was hot wired so it could be started and driven without a key, but the criminal mastermind apparently forgot to steal a helmet, which caused police to pull him over. All motorcycle riders and passengers must wear approved safety helmets under State law.



Lario Garcia Tugas

For his troubles, Tugas was convicted of felony driving a stolen motorcycle, and driving on a suspended license, which is a misdemeanor. They also got him on another count for driving a stolen vehicle on a suspended license, while he was out on bail for the earlier incident in Pismo Beach, for which he was also convicted.

Normally, committing any crime while out on bail accused of committing a crime, automatically becomes a felony.

The jury however could not convict him "of resisting a peace officer by force, voting 10 to two in favor of guilt." Criminal convictions must be unanimous. The news release did not report how much time in prison Tugas is facing.

"Individuals," District Attorney Dan Dow said, "who engage in reckless conduct while driving and flee from peace officers endanger the safety of our law enforcement and the public generally. This verdict sends a message that our community will not tolerate this."

Tugas is slated to be sentenced on July 11 before Judge Jacquelyn Duffy. The case was prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Crystal Seiler and investigated by the Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo Police Departments.




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# Community

## Bill Peirce — An Extraordinary Man of Service

By Neil Farrell

A Vietnam Veteran, awarding winning newsman, longtime Morro Bay resident, business owner, community volunteer, and city councilman, has died after a courageous battle with cancer.

A native of Glendale, Calif., William “Bill” Peirce, 66, lived in Morro Bay since 1968, his son, Billy told Estero Bay News. His dad served two tours in the Navy in Vietnam in the late-1960s, serving aboard the U.S.S. Brush and U.S.S. Berkeley. He also served as a Naval Reservist.

After the war, he moved to Morro Bay and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism at Cal Poly. Peirce worked in TV news at KEYT as a reporter and news director. He also took his talents to KCOY TV and during his journalism career, won two Golden Mic Awards from the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California, Billy said.

He owned and operated the One Hour Photo Store in Morro Bay in the 1980s and ‘90s, giving up the business as digital cameras were taking over the industry.

He went to work at Coast Electronics/Radio Shack specializing in the sales and service of emergency radios. His former boss and friend, John Weiss, said, “Bill Peirce was a model employee for over 22 years. He excelled in managing our Communications Division, which consisted primarily in providing 2-way radio solutions for public safety, government, and businesses such as hotels and convalescent homes.”

He took that strong work ethic with him when he was elected to the City Council in 1996 along with Dave Elliott



and Cathy Novak as Mayor. (Novak gave up her Council seat mid-term to run for Mayor and when she was elected by voters the City Council appointed Janice Peters to fill her seat.)

Peirce was re-elected in 2000 and won a third term in 2004. He lost re-election to a fourth term in 2008, when he came in third place behind Carla Borchard (now Wixom) and Noah Smukler.

At 12 years, he was the second-longest serving Morro Bay City Council member behind Peters. His “partner in crime,” Elliott (the two twice ran as a team) died a few years ago.

One of his many contributions on council came near the end of the last century, as the infamous Y2K concerns were building. Peirce along with the fire and police departments led the City in setting up an emergency operations command center and helped organize “table top” training sessions that brought all of the City’s

governmental leaders together in one room to better manage communications during emergencies.

He was a long-time member of the Police Department’s Community Volunteers, responding to emergencies, and pitching in at special events like the Harbor Festival, Car Show and for many years, the Annual Morro Bay Merchant’s Association Street Fairs.

If there was something big happening in Morro Bay — from special events to fires and traffic accidents — Bill Peirce was always there helping in whatever way needed.

He was also active with Morro Bay’s Neighborhood Watch Program and was especially fond of and helped organize the Annual Caroling Cops Parade for nearly 30 years. He even played Santa Claus a few times at the City’s Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

He was a leader of the Merchant’s Association and for nearly 20 years, he helped plan and put on the Annual 4th of July Family Picnic and Fireworks Shows at Tidelands Park.

The Chamber of Commerce honored Peirce with the “2008 Citizen of the Year” award.

He joined the Rotary Club of Morro Bay in 2009 and was Club President in 2011.

“Bill was a big part of Morro Bay and a big part of our Club,” said current Rotary President Tim Olivas. “Bill is now at peace and may be gone from this world but he will never be forgotten. He will be missed



dearly.”

Weiss said Peirce, “was a friend and trusted advisor. Bill came with a constant smile, and for good reason, he made others happy and was himself happy without complaint.

“Recently when Bill was sick, he never complained, but just kept an incredibly positive outlook on life in general. Finally, Bill was a great father and while his parents were alive, a very giving son.”

Bill Peirce is survived by son Billy, wife Randy, and his beloved cat.

A celebration of Bill Peirce’s extraordinary life is set for 9 a.m., Saturday, June 4 at Tidelands Park in Morro Bay.

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Police Blotter



• **May 22:** Police responded at 5:12 p.m. to Albertson’s Market on Quintana to deal with some annoying flesh monkey. A 35-year-old fellow was cited for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia and trespassing.

• **May 22:** At 11:24 a.m. police responded to the 1600 block of Preston Ln., for someone who’d slipped the bonds of earth to be with the angels.

• **May 21:** Police responded at 11:24 p.m. to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Main. Logs indicated a 44-year-old louse allegedly hit his long-time girlfriend in the face with a ceramic bowl cutting her. He was booked into County Jail.

• **May 21:** Police responded to a disturbance at 10 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. A 33-year-old man was arrested for allegedly being high on stimulants and no doubt drunk on the fumes of victory.

• **May 21:** At 8:18 p.m. police noted that a local pirate, 67, “used a radio to speak on an emergency services designated frequency.” A report was sent to the D.A. for this Morro Bay felony.

• **May 20:** Police responded at 10:26 p.m. to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of La Loma. Logs indicated a 60-year-old man was arrested for allegedly injuring his roommate after an argument, which he was no doubt losing.

• **May 20:** Police responded at 6:19 p.m. to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Dunbar. Logs indicated a juvenile sinner assaulted his or her mother.

• **May 20:** A citizen apparently walked to the police station at 4:45 p.m. to report a stolen vehicle.

• **May 20:** Police responded at 3:51 p.m. to Rite Aid on Quintana after someone reported a guy behind the store was “throwing knives.” Logs indicated they contacted the guy and of course arrested him after allegedly finding illegal drugs. He was cited and released, as even duct tape can’t fix stupid.

• **May 20:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 11:40 a.m. in the 2600 block of Main. Logs indicated the 72-year-old fellow had a felony warrant and was arrested. Police took him to the hospital for a medical evaluation before he was carted off to the gaol.

• **May 20:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11 a.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. They encountered a familiar, 37-year-old man whose recent downhill slide continued, as he was allegedly tanked and had a warrant too.

• **May 20:** Someone found a key fob and gave it to police to unlock the mystery.

• **May 20:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 12:11 a.m. at Monterey and the Boulevard, the

last place you want to be at that time, especially if like this 24-year-old bonehead, you’re also liquored up behind the wheel. He was cited and released for DUI.

• **May 19:** Police responded at 6 p.m. to a car crash in the 700 block of Main. A 43-year-old woman driver was busted for suspicion of driving smashed.

• **May 19:** Police responded to the 300 block of Arbutus where a woman said her ex-boyfriend took out a cash advance loan in her name without her knowledge, which might explain his “ex” status.

• **May 19:** A woman in the 1100 block of Monterey told police that a caller finagled her Door Dash account information and stole \$2,000 from her account, in this week’s example of why the Internet sucks.

• **May 19:** police responded at 1:23 p.m. to Bottle Liquor in the 900 block of Main and arrested a 27-year-old gent for suspicion of shoplifting and being fit-shaped in public, which explains a lot.

• **May 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3:57 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The 59-year-old driver’s goose was cooked for suspicion of driving fried.

• **May 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:43 a.m. at Marina and Morro. A 36-year-old tomato was nicked for suspicion of driving stewed.

• **May 18:** A citizen in the 2700 block of Indigo was no doubt blue after someone got into their car and stole things.

• **May 17:** Police contacted a familiar face at noon at the Community Center. The 38-year-old belle of the ball had four bench warrants and was given a fifth disappearance ticket and loosed back onto civil society.

• **May 17:** A citizen in the 300 block of Main reported the theft of a trailer tailgate with a license plate, proving once again that people will steal anything.

• **May 17:** Police responded at 3 a.m. to a disturbance in the 2100 block of Ironwood. A 34-year-old apparent hellcat was arrested for suspicion of being drunk in public and going all woolly-booger.

• **May 16:** Police responded at 12:13 p.m. to Bottle Liquor in the 900 block of Main where they cited an unwelcomed woman, 41, for suspicion of trespassing.

• **May 16:** Police responded to City Park on Harbor Street for a reported petty theft. No word on the pinched booty.

• **May 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:06 p.m., well past the honest folk’s curfew, in the 1500 block of Main. A 33-year-old little devil was nicked for suspicion of driving hellified.

• **May 15:** Police responded to a disturbing domestic disturbance at 4 p.m. in the 2800 block of Main. Logs indicated a woman told police that her boyfriend was hitting her with a “box cutter.” Officers spoke to both parties and then arrested the apparently sinister beau on suspicion of domestic violence, assault with a deadly weapon, possession of a firearm and damaging a wireless device. He was tossed into the dungeon.

• **May 15:** Police responded sirens blaring to the Siren in the 900 block of Main at 1:53 a.m. for a reported assault. Logs indicated some apparent ruffian elbowed another guy in the face, and then cried self-defense. No arrests were made and the fight was declared a draw. It was their second visit to the watering hole that night as at 12:30 a.m. they arrested a 65-year-old raucous fellow for suspicion of being bent in public and a 59-year-old woman for suspicion of battery on a police officer and being smashed in public, which explains a lot.

• **May 14:** Police noted an arrest by the Highway Patrol of a 39-year-old woman for suspicion of hit-n-split and being half cut behind the wheel after a traffic stop at Hwy 1 and Kansas Avenue.

• **May 14:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:15 p.m. on Hwy 1 at San Jacinto. Logs indicated the 67-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving deep in his cups.

• **May 14:** At 2 p.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow, 43, at Embarcadero and Pacific. Logs indicated the scofflaw had two bench warrants and was issued a third FTA and released.

• **May 14:** Police responded to Morro Rock at 12:20 p.m. for a disturbance. Logs indicated they arrested a 39-year-old apparently upset fellow for suspicion of being schwaasted in public.

• **May 14:** Someone at Albertson’s apparently feeling a little lighter in the back pocket reported that his wallet was stolen.

• **May 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:55 p.m. at Beach and Main. Logs indicated a 29-year-old chap got a town special — suspicion of driving toasted.

• **May 13:** Police responded at noon to the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a car crash, as the infamous roundabout claims another. No injuries were reported.

• **May 13:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 2900 block of Fir where someone had hitched a ride to Heaven.

• **May 13:** Police responded at 6:35 a.m. to a non-injury crash somewhere on South Bay Boulevard. Sorry, no juicy details were available.

• **May 12:** Police contacted an apparent millionaire at noon on Quintana Road. Logs indicated the squit was cited for suspicion of possessing a crack pipe, his stash apparently gone up in smoke.

• **May 12:** Police investigated a reported case of suspected child abuse on Las Tunas.

• **May 11:** A man in the 800 block of the Embarcadero pricey tourist area said he lost his wallet, as opposed to just his shirt.

• **May 11:** Police documented that James Michael Silva, 34, had been reported as missing by someone on Quintana Road. No word on whether he’s been found.

• **May 11:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to the 700 block of Embarcadero where they arrested a sticky-fingered woman, 21, for suspicion of shoplifting and possession of apparently ill-gotten, stolen loot.

• **May 11:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to the 100 block of Rennel to take a crash-n-dash report. No injuries involved.

• **May 11:** Police responded at 9:23 a.m. to the 2900 block of Alder for someone having a mental breakdown. The subject was taken in for a 72-hour timeout and police seized a firearm for safekeeping.

• **May 11:** Someone turned over some suspicious substances they’d found in the 800 block of Shasta. Logs indicated they were a white, crystal-like substance, and a white, powdery substance in plastic bags, and no doubt some junkie hates life right about now.

• **May 10:** Police responded at 6 p.m. to the 300 block of Dunbar where they arrested a 17-year-old apparent ruffian for suspicion of battery.

• **May 10:** A citizen in the 2800 block of Greenwood reported that their mail was stolen, and task force was no doubt formed.

• **May 10:** Police reportedly located a runaway juvenile at 1:44 p.m. at the high school, normally someplace you run away from. And at 10:44 a.m. police took a report of a domestic dispute between two juveniles at the high school, no doubt a sure sign of trouble in River City.

• **May 9:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:22 p.m., in the 600 block of Morro. Logs indicated they arrested a 33-year-old fellow for suspicion of being skulled in public after he caused an apparent kerfuffle while trying to get into a house that wasn’t his, and was no doubt befuddled by his nincompoopery.

• **May 9:** Police responded to Anchor Street for a report of a runaway girl, 16, who was later located safe by the caller.

• **May 9:** Police responded to a disturbance at 10:45 p.m. at Albertson’s Market on Quintana. Logs indicated they arrested a 29-year-old apparent zhlob for suspicion of being sauced in public.

• **May 9:** Police responded at 9:14 p.m. to the Chapala Mexican Grill in the 2800 block of Main for a report of a disorderly man. Police arrested a 37-year-old borracho for suspicion of being tore up from the floor up.

• **May 9:** Police responded to the 2000 block of Bayview for a reported grand larceny case. The loss was \$1,000.



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# Fund to Help Bean Family



The community can help three children who lost their father last month after their mother died two years prior.

Eric Paul Bean, 49, of Los Osos, passed away on May 18 and Kacie Lehua Bean, his wife, died in late 2019. The couple met at Morro Bay High, when Kacie was 14 and Eric was 16. They leave behind their three children, Shannon, Sydney, and Spencer.

According to a Go Fund Me account set up by Jill Brown ([gofundme.com/f/memorial-fund-for-eric-bean-and-kacie-bean](https://gofundme.com/f/memorial-fund-for-eric-bean-and-kacie-bean)), the children were left with “various expenses: a high mortgage, a memorial stone with a plot, cremation costs, a service, costs for groceries during this time, car payments, utilities, etc.

"I'm hoping that the community can help pitch in, so

that Eric's children can grieve properly without having to worry about financial stressors and foreclosure of their father's home. I want to emphasize, that any amount counts and it all adds up! All funds will go directly to the Bean children."

The Beans were described as being known for “spreading love, warmth, and fun where ever they went. They were always happy to help those in need whether that was loaning money, offering jobs, and providing people with a home to stay in.”

The children want to have a service for both Eric and Kacie, since they were unable to have one for their mom previously.

The funding goal is \$30,000. As of May 27, a little over \$26,000 in donations had been made.



## Cattle Roundups



Photo of corralled cattle. By Joan Sullivan

The dictionary defines roundup as the “driving together of cattle, horses or other animals for the purpose of inspecting, branding or shipping to market.”

When my family moved to this area in 1971, as an artist I visited several ranches in order to bring my class to paint on their ranch. On various occasions I was invited to attend a roundup to be given by the rancher. To the best of my ability, I will describe the event hoping I will pique the interest of any city slickers that have not had the opportunity to attend a cattle roundup.

Several people are required to complete the day's jobs. Separating the calves from their mothers is the first order of the day. This is done to prepare the cattle to be given shots. Tagging the ears for information about the animal and ownership is next. Then the horns are cut. Castrating bulls is last on the list. I learned from a rancher that one bull could take care of a good size herd. Care is taken to keep that one bull.

After the animals are readied, they are herded into a fenced area where cowboys can separate cows from their calves. This is a sad time. The cows are very unhappy when their calves are taken away from them. The rancher that invited me to the roundup said cows cry real tears when they are separated from their calves.

The preparation for roundups is organized by the ranchers' wives weeks before the event takes place. Plans for serving food to the workers and the visitors is well planned and cooked in advance. Cleaning up after the roundup up is left to the wife and family of the rancher. A good day's work is celebrated by all in the chow line.



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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Apply for Funds for Pandemic Relief

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is taking applications to fund projects that address public health impacts or worsening metrics brought about by the COVID-19 public health emergency in the county.

A total of up to \$5.9 million is available for up to 12 projects. This one-time funding is provided by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Non-profits, government agencies, businesses, or coalitions are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply is June 30 at 11:59 p.m.

Projects must address one or more of the following areas in project proposals:

• Access to Care: SLO County has long faced healthcare workforce challenges and disparities in access to care. The pandemic has made these challenges even more extreme. Building a robust healthcare workforce and ensuring equitable access to care will be key to a healthy future for our community.

• Mental Health & Substance Abuse: The pandemic and related social isolation exacerbated mental health and substance abuse problems that were already on the rise for many populations in the years prior to the pandemic. Addressing these complex challenges will be key to building individual and communitywide foundations for long-term health.

• Food Access: Many households struggled to meet their basic needs during the pandemic, including access to healthy food. Addressing this need will be key to a robust and complete recovery as a community.

• Healthy Aging: Seniors worldwide, including in SLO County, have faced a disproportionate burden of both the physical and emotional impacts of the pandemic and the related grief and social isolation. Alleviating those physical and emotional burdens can increase the quality and length of seniors' lives.

For more information and to apply, go to [SLOCounty.ca.gov/PublicHealthARPA](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PublicHealthARPA).

Poly Dining Wins Award



College foodservices often get a bad rap, but Cal Poly recently took honors for appealing to all.

The National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) has recognized Cal Poly Campus Dining's Vista Grande Dining Complex as a silver tier recipient of the 2021 Loyal E. Horton Dining Award for Retail Sales – Single Concept/Multiple Concepts/Marketplace. Now, that's a mouthful.

"Vista Grande was designed to create an environment of community with menus that appeal to all tastes and dietary needs, and it's an honor to be recognized for that," said Andrea Burns, Cal Poly Corporation's associate executive director, commercial services. "It's great to be acknowledged for the uniqueness of Vista Grande, with its focus on sustainability, nutrition and amazing food, as well as its success and impact on campus."

The Retail Sales category recognizes outstanding retail locations on campus that have innovative features and techniques. Vista Grande was designed to be flexible to the ever-changing palate of guests who visit the complex multiple times a day. Each restaurant features a rotating menu of seasonal dishes reflecting the latest culinary concepts, including international street food, global noodle dishes and fresh, locally sourced desserts.

This is the first NACUFS award Cal Poly Campus Dining has earned outside the Catering and Nutrition categories. Campus Dining earned the Grand Prize for its Online Catering Menu in 2020.

The NACUFS awards celebrate exemplary retail spaces, menus, presentations, special event planning and new dining concepts, and provides an avenue for sharing ideas and creative presentations in campus dining services.

All winners are listed online at: <https://www.nacufs.org/Awards/LoyalEHortonDiningAwards>.

Expo at the Expo



The Expo at the Expo San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce event was a huge success.

People streamed into the Alex Madonna Expo Center to mingle with business owners, network, find out about new services in the area and simply have fun with tasty treats, drinks, and games.



Matt Corning and his son Taylor working the Expo with SLO Axe Co.

The theme this year was "Big Top Expo," and the Chamber says more than 2,000 people attended the show, the first since 2019. Photo 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](https://www.esterobaynews.com).

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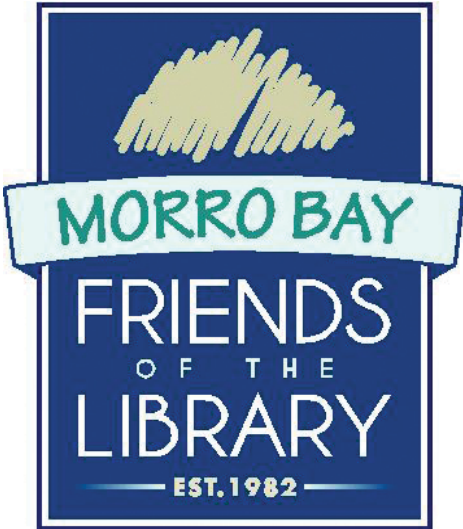
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Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



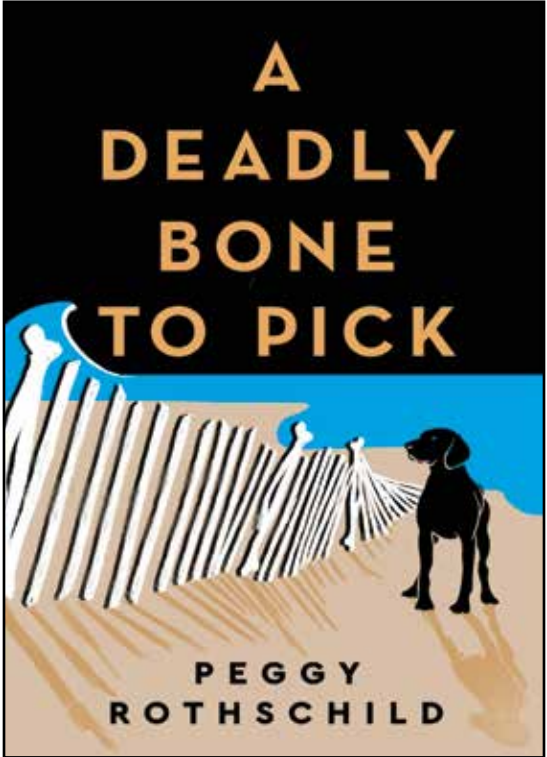
Morro Bay Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, June 11 at the library located at 625 Harbor St. The sale is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Expect to find a variety of quality, new-looking books in every subject along with DVDs, CDs, and magazines all at very low prices. Hot picks include novels, non-fiction on all subjects, children's books, cookbooks, and best sellers. The Friends Book Store also operates inside the Library during all regular library hours and welcomes donations of gently-used books, magazines and media. All proceeds go to support the Morro Bay Library and their projects and programs. Most recently the Friends helped to finance the new automated doors for the Library Program Room. Ask the librarians about Summer Reading Programs that are starting up again. More information at 805-772-6394.



Don't miss Brass Mash at Concerts in the Plaza plus Chris Beland at Concerts in the Plaza on June 24 from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Mission Plaza in SLO. Returning for a second year at Concerts in the Plaza, Brass Mash performs all your favorite tunes mashed into an energetic and infectious groove. Known to bring any crowd to its feet, the Brass Mash style blends or “mashes” two or more songs at a time. These compositions cross both genres and decades, creating a live guessing game for audiences to ‘name that tune’. Britney Spears and Black Sabbath? Check. Lorde and Dr. Dre? Got that too. Daft Punk and ZZ Top? Wildest dreams are manifested through a unique vocal and saxophone talk box duet. The band consists entirely of horns, winds, and percussion, and plays a variety of music styles, making them everyone’s favorite party rock band. All concerts are free to the public!

...

Folks interested in Qi Gong, they have free classes at the Los Osos Library on Fridays from 9 – 10 a.m. Just show up! No reservations needed! Devon Wallace leads the class. Questions? Call the library @ 805-528-1862. Qi Gong practice typically involves moving meditation, coordinating slow-flowing movement, deep rhythmic breathing, and a calm meditative state of mind. People practice qigong throughout China and worldwide for recreation, exercise, relaxation, preventive medicine, self-healing, alternative medicine, meditation, self-cultivation, and training for martial arts.



Los Osos author Peggy Rothschild will sign her new book, “A Deadly Bone to Pick” at Coalesce Bookstore on Saturday, June 4 from 1 p.m. to 3.m. The book tells the story of Molly Madison, dog-wrangler extraordinaire, who stumbles upon a murder in her new hometown, she must track down a killer to save the day. Ex-police officer and former P.I. Molly Madison is starting over. After the death of her husband, she and her golden retriever, Harlow, move cross-country to California. But as charming and peaceful as the beachside town seems, she soon learns its tranquil tides hold dark secrets. On her first day in the new house, a large, slobbering Saint Berdoodle wanders in. Molly winds up taking on the responsibility of training Noodle since his owner is too busy to do the job. On one of their daily beachside walks, Noodle digs up a severed hand. Once Molly alerts the police and they run a background check on her, an incident from her past makes her an immediate suspect — after all, Noddle’s testimony to clear her name won’t hold much water in court. To prove her innocence, Molly must rely on instincts keener than a canine’s to sniff out the real killer. But when Molly’s life is put in danger, will her two very loyal pups be able to rescue her? Rothschild ‘s YA adventure, “Punishment Summer,” was published by Evernight Teen in 2015 and her short stories have been included in “The Best Laid Plans, Heartbreaks and Half-Truths” and “Avenging Angelenos” anthologies. She also illustrated the children’s book “Angie’s Great Big Beautiful Life: Tales of a Rescue Cat.”

Events Continued on page 12

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Community

Events From page 11



The San Luis Obispo Greek Festival returns to San Luis Obispo with its 13th annual event on June 4 and 5, at the Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd. The festival hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission and parking are free! The parishioners of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in San Luis Obispo host the festival. The family-friendly weekend features authentic Greek cuisine, homemade pastries, live traditional music, and dancing, as well as shopping and cultural exhibits. The Greek Festival is a fundraiser for Saint Andrew's. However, organizers say, an important aspect is that a portion of the funds raised goes back into the community to the outreach programs that Saint Andrew's supports. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the SLO Noor Foundation and the SLO Food Bank. Saint Andrew's also works to support 40 Prado Homeless Services Center, Kids 'n Cancer and Prison Fellowship Ministry. The SLO Greek Festival is looking for energetic and reliable volunteers to help out with the festival. Readers who would like to get involved, should send an email to [greekfestslo@gmail.com](mailto:greekfestslo@gmail.com).

• • •

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for adults, will hold its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 1. Meetings are free and yearly membership is \$50. Social and sports activities occur year round.



Join SLO County Libraries and take the Summer Reading Challenge May 28 – July 30. The goal is a collective 1 million reading minutes. Participants can win camping gear, hammocks, camp-themed LEGOs, walkie-talkies, and more—just for reading. Sign up as an individual or as a family at [SLOLibrary.org](http://SLOLibrary.org), or use the Beanstack Tracker app to do the challenge on your mobile device.



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The Cal Poly Symphony and Cal Poly Choirs will perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" and William Grant Still's "Afro-American Symphony" at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center. Both momentous works were composed in the 1930s and addressed issues of that time that are equally relevant today. The groups will be joined by guest soloists Amy Goyermac, soprano; and John Buffett, baritone. The Cal Poly Chamber Choir opens the concert with Paul Hindemith's celebrated "Six Chansons," which was composed in the same era. They will then perform Grant Still's "Afro-American Symphony," a celebration of Black culture and the blues that rose from the Harlem Renaissance of the early 20th century. Each movement uses a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar as an epigraph. Completed in 1930, this was the first symphony to be written by an African-American composer and premiered by a major orchestra. After intermission, the symphony will perform Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk's "Melody," and the combined Cal Poly Choirs and symphony will perform Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace"). Composed in 1936, "Dona Nobis Pacem" was written at the dawn of World War II. The text of the work is primarily derived from Walt Whitman's poetry written at the time of the American Civil War. The combination of Williams' brilliant orchestration and the raw and emotional Whitman text creates a combination that has stood the test of time and remained one of the most celebrated masterworks of the 20th century. The program will be dedicated to Cal Poly student Zach Blanchard who passed away in April. He had been a member of PolyPhonics. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).

• • •

Join Sea Pines Golf Resort and Spa, 1945 Solano St., Los Osos, for the 2022 Spring Barefoot Concerts on the Green every Saturday through June 25. Music festivities start at 2 p.m. outside and move inside The Clubhouse Grill from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.



The California Preservation Foundation launched the first statewide Doors Open event in the country. Doors Open California (<https://californiapreservation.org/doca/>) is a two day celebration of architecture and culture featuring more than 70 on site tours and access to historic places across the state on Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12. Bring your friends and family to as many of the independently operated sites as you can visit in one weekend, for a flat fee of \$20 per person. Through an exclusive partnership with Doors Open, some participating area museums are opening their doors free for the public (no ticket needed). Participating sites near San Luis Obispo include:

- 6/11 from 11 a.m. 4 p.m. a behind the scenes tour of the Women's Press Building in Atascadero
- 6/11 and 6/12 from 11 a.m. 4 p.m. the Monday Club – Julia Morgan lecture and tour in San Luis Obispo.

Users who post to the #DOCA22 hashtag will be randomly selected to receive Doors Open merch from the California Preservation Foundation. You can also support DOCA through their online shop. Go to "DoorsOpenCA" on Red-Bubble to order your hats, water bottles, and t shirts. The theme of the conference for 2022 is "Opening Doors," signifying CPF's effort to generate widespread and inclusive interest in historic preservation and heritage conservation throughout the state. The educational conference sessions, including the California State Parks Climate Change Task Force meeting, will be held online from June 7-10. In more than 40 sessions and other special events, CPF and a host of professionals will examine the innovative methods and strategies that architects, designers, planners, local advocates, and the public need to save historic places in their community.

• • •

People Helping People Spring Rummage Sale takes place June 3 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave. in Los Osos. There will be lots of tools, electronics, small furniture, household items, collectables, and something for everyone. One third of the proceeds will go to the Community Center, 1/3 to the annual Need's and Wishes Holiday Fundraiser for The SLO Noor Clinic and 40 Prado Homeless Services Center, and 1/3 to People Helping People of Los Osos. For more information, call 805 528 2626.

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# Letters to The Editor



## Voting ‘No Confidence’ Over WRF Costs

The City of Morro Bay provided an “estimate at completion” of the new sewer plant at the May Public Works Advisory meeting: \$160 million.

Wasn’t the contract for a “not to exceed” \$126 million? That’s an additional \$34 million, before they figure in operational costs.

As a voter, my vote will reflect a “no confidence” in any incumbent that’s up for election this year — either in the June Primary or Fall General Election.

The lack of financial accountability by this City Council is staring us in the face. Their hands-off approach lacks respect for the pocketbooks of the people they serve.

Please keep the pressure on City Council to review these contacts, say no to change orders, and stand by their promise to the ratepayers. They can be contacted through their emails posted on the City website or at public meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Vet’s Hall.

Barry Branin  
Morro Bay

*Editor’s note: As of May 20, the City Council returned all its public meetings to online, virtual meetings due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases.*

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## New WRF Costs ‘Is not Good News’

When Morro Bay decided to move forward with a new sewer project in 2018 the program budget was \$126 million. That budget has been growing ever since.

Last week the City announced the current budget: \$160M. That’s a \$34M or a 27-percent increase due to change orders. By way of reference, our sister city Cayucos spent \$26M for their entire project.

If we were Carmel or Pacific Grove or Del Mar, our residents could probably absorb any potential rate increases. Morro Bay is none of the above.

We struggle continually with housing affordability. The newly announced \$160M is not good news. Many residents have lost confidence in their elected officials as a result.

How did Morro Bay’s project get so out of control? It’s been said “When things go wrong there is plenty of blame to go around.” That is certainly true in this case.

Large capital projects include many stakeholders — from citizens, elected officials, staff, attorneys, contractors, regulatory agencies and many more.

I know this since I have managed large capital projects in California for over 30 years. Most often the critical mistakes in capital projects are made by “the owner.”

The owner in this case are the residents of Morro Bay and the officials they elected to office (I am one) to represent their interests. As a group — the elected officials are accountable for the \$34M in cost overruns.

What can possibly be done now to stop the bleeding? The Mayor and council need to acknowledge the project is not going as planned. That is an important first step if public trust is to be restored.

Secondly, the mayor and council need to meet in closed session with our City Attorney and staff and review our contractual and staffing options. Until that step is taken your elected officials may just keep hoping that the \$160M current budget will grow no further.

If you agree, email the Mayor and City Council at: council@morrobayca.gov. Demand that we take action. It’s not too late.

Jeff Heller  
Morro Bay City Councilman

## Kudos to Neil

Thank you for the excellent article by Neil Farrell regarding the proposed hydroelectric plant for Whale Rock Reservoir (Vol. 4, Issue 9). After getting wind of the proposal Neil expertly tracked down who was responsible (FERC) for permitting and oversight. Neil did a great job of breaking down project components, location, acreage, capacity, energy needs, connectivity with existing infrastructure and the prooosed off shore wind farm.

We have a lot going on in this County-its almost enough to make your head swim. Thank you Neil and Estero Bay News for providing a clear and concise summary of the proposed hydroelectric plant.

I was also grateful for articles regarding the Coastal Commission letter and the building moratorium, as well as new reef construction. Again, both articles are clearly stated, well organized and full of information.

Neil is able to present complex issues, proposals or situations in a way that is informative and accessible to a wide audience. He certainly represents the spirit of “Your Community-Your News.”

Great issue. Thank you.

Valerie Levelett  
Morro Bay

## A Fatal Contradiction

Republicans are willing to fall on their sword to support the “sanctity of life” and outlaw a woman’s right to choose. Contrary they have vowed their fealty to the NRA and refuse to support gun-control measures, universal

background checks and an assault-weapons ban because they believe new laws would threaten a constitutional right to own and bear firearms. Meanwhile, public mass shootings have tripled since 2011.

How can they be “pro-life” on one side and pro-gun on the other? How many more children and teachers must die before voters defeat elected officials who value the support of the NRA over the real sanctity of the living?

Use your vote for change!

Pandora Nash-Karner  
Los Osos

## A Car Show Thank You

With the best little Car Show in Morro Bay being cancelled for 2020 and 2021, this year’s Cruisin’ Morro Bay Car Show was a big hit. Bringing over 520 classics into town, some from as far north as Canada, the streets were filled with beautiful cars and smiles.

This Car Show continues to have a large impact on Morro Bay, becoming an anticipated event for many of the locals and businesses each year. Volunteers from organizations such as the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, Morro Bay’s police explorers, police volunteers, Central Coast SurviveOars, Morro Bay in Bloom and the Knights of Columbus all pitch in to help the show run smoothly.

Without the help of the volunteers, dedicated sponsors, local business and help from my fellow car show committee members, this show would not be possible. Thank you all for your assistance in making this year’s show another success.

Chris Parker  
President – Cruisin’ Morro Bay Car Show, Inc.

## The Age of Hypocrisy

We have fully entered the Age of Hypocrisy, not the eagerly anticipated Age of Aquarius, not a new Age of Reason, not a new science-based Age of Technology; but a new Dark Age, one punctuated by extreme polarity and divisiveness.

Look at the last three years; absolute and unequivocal indicators of this sad fact. What has prompted me to claim this? The most recent bruhaha over abortion rights and women’s right to exercise the ultimate and undeniable freedom of body sovereignty. Both sides of the issue claim the other to be unreasonable and hypocritical, and both sides are right without a doubt! Neither side interested in seeing their own lack of consistency in drawing intellectual and reasonable conclusions.

One side; let’s call them the anti-choice groupies, loudly proclaiming that women do not have the right to decide for themselves whether or not to have an abortion, yet bullying folks who choose to mask up and vaccinate. On the other hand, the pro-choice activists vehemently insisting on women’s right to choose what is ultimately best for their own wellbeing in the form of abortion rights, yet many of these same folks adamantly and obtrusively (at times quite cruelly) insisting that all people, against their own choice, be vaccinated and wear masks in public or loose basic human rights.

Body sovereignty is the most basic of all human freedoms! You cannot advocate for it on one hand and deny it on the other!! Neither side is right. Neither side understands what is truly at stake. If we lose this basic freedom, all else will crumble in its wake. There is no logical excuse for this kind of hypocrisy. Please don’t let the Age of Hypocrisy usher in the Totalitarian Dream. We will all suffer from this kind of close-minded, divisive behavior. Live and let Live!

Mandy Davis  
Los Osos

*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*



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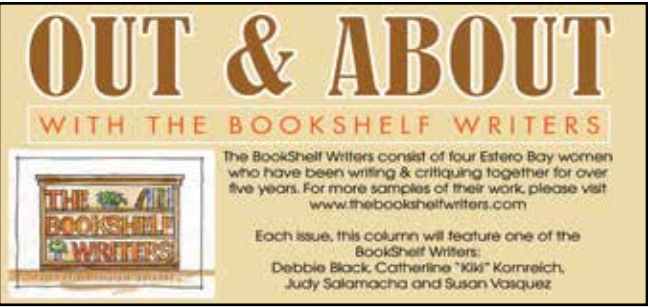
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‘Good Night San Luis Obispo’ by Jennifer Kirn

By Judy Salamacha



Jennifer Kirn is the author of ‘Goodnight San Luis Obispo.’

Author Jennifer Kirn and artist Gay Melody Sullivan were destined to team up. Both relocated from elsewhere to live in San Luis Obispo County. Jennifer was from New Jersey, graduated college in New Zealand, traveled worldwide, and now and forever calls San Luis Obispo home. Gay Melody lived in Orange County, discovered her life’s passion creating art in New Mexico, studied with master artists in Orange County, then relocated to Arroyo Grande in 2002.

Jennifer’s parents traveled and would send “Good Night” books from their latest destinations, a series modeled after Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, a familiar children’s bedtime read for many American parents.

At 40, Jennifer decided it was time to have a child. Once her son Declan was born four years ago, her reading material became children’s books replacing career-driven textbooks and research materials about transitional youth education and workforce development. Formerly employed by Cuesta College, Jennifer currently consults representing YouthBuild, USA.

“I wanted my son to explore wherever he wanted to go

but know San Luis Obispo was his home — forever,” the author said.

“Good Night San Luis Obispo’s” dedication page documents her purpose: “For Declan – ...As you grow, remember your home with love and never forget that if you are kind, everything else will fall into place.”

As a first-time author, she discovered creating and publishing a book was quite a process. It was one learning curve after another, but within a year she was published. She drafted and massaged the text in 2018. Next, she searched for the right illustrator. Jennifer preferred a local illustrator who appreciated the beauty of SLO County. A colleague and published author, Michele Gordon-Pace, recommended Gay Melody Sullivan.

Gay Melody’s art not only mirrored Jennifer’s text, both women intentionally documented unique sites in and around SLO. The book takes you on a lyrical and visual journey from Bubblegum Alley to Morro Rock; San Simeon Pier to the Hearst Castle zebras; Cuesta College to Madonna Inn; Santa’s House at SLO’s Mission to the Apple Farm; the Fremont Theater to the Avila Barn; Dinosaurs Caves to Oceano Dunes – and from the top of Bishop Peak, it shouts out “Good Night San Luis Obispo County.”

Gay Melody’s original art was already created. Jennifer said, “She was a wonderful woman who had first class prints. My draft mirrored her art. She embraced my concept and allowed me to feature her art.”

The artist’s self-written biography demonstrates how perfectly matched she and Jennifer are. Gay Melody’s stated goal is to capture the beauty of SLO County for posterity. She describes how quickly the beauty of nature and fragile historic buildings can be lost. She witnessed changes in Orange County in less than 20 years — cultivated and/or rangeland covered over by cement and asphalt. The artist understood, “... the urgency to capture the rapidly changing landscapes and small-town quaintness of SLO County before it disappeared.”

By May 2019, Jennifer had selected local Penciled IN publisher Ben Lawless, of Atascadero to format the book and guide her through the proofs and printing process, completed by Kindle Direct.

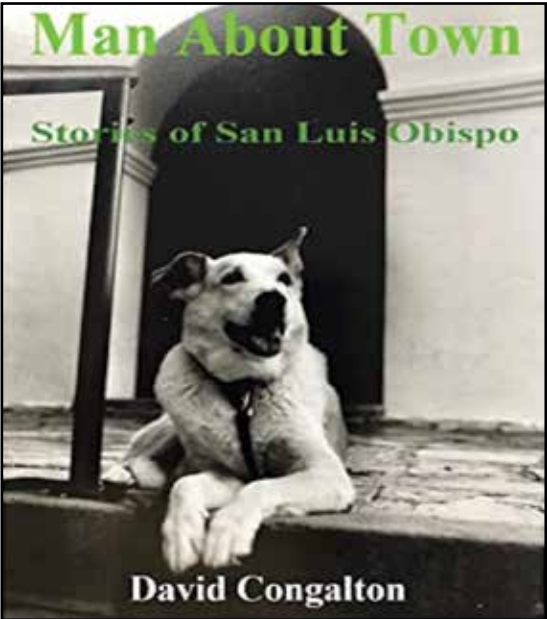
A recent comment from a reader confirmed what Jennifer hoped the book could do for other parents. “Thank you for writing this book. Sometimes I sit with my son not knowing what to do. You reminded me of places we can go together and that reminds me of the beauty of our area.”

Indeed, the book was written for her son. Recently it was helpful during Declan’s first sleepover. Jennifer explained, “They had my book and that made him feel at home.”

Currently, “Good Night San Luis Obispo” is available at [goodnightslo.com](http://goodnightslo.com), Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe in Los Osos, Coalesce Book Store and Smoobage, both in Morro Bay, in San Luis Obispo at WhizKids, EcoBambino, and the gift shop at French Hospital, where Declan was born, bringing new joy and inspiration into her life.

Judy Salamacha is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit [www.thebookshelf-writers.com](http://www.thebookshelf-writers.com)

Local Radio Host Revisits the Past in e-Book



Local radio host and writer David Congalton has published a collection of his newspaper columns in the new Amazon e-book “Man About Town: Stories of San Luis Obispo.” An audio version of the book, available on Audible, is voiced by actor Gary J. Chambers.

Congalton wrote a popular newspaper column in the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune from 1993 to 1998 and later created a second column for SLO City News from 2006 to 2008. The e-book collection features stories about local personalities, including Alex Madonna, Elsie Louis, Dr. Barbara George, Adam Hill, Jerry Lenthall, Rick Martel, and Steve Ford.

The e-book also touches on some of Congalton’s more personal experiences, including his 2007 trip to Antarctica and his decision to undergo eye surgery in 1994. Several of the stories are devoted to the dogs and cats that have entered the KVEC radio host’s life.

Congalton was inspired by a radio interview he did on e-publishing.

“This local author encouraged me to give it a try,” Congalton said. “I had a stack of old newspaper columns taking up space in my office. I realized that there was a whole wave of new people unfamiliar with my writing. Here was a chance to introduce them.”

Congalton, the former director of the Central Coast Writers’ Conference at Cuesta College, plans a second book to be released later in 2022.

Rotary BBQ June 15

Tickets are still available for the Morro Bay Rotary Club’s Drive Thru BBQ Fundraiser, set for Wednesday, June 15.

On the menu is a full sized, premium, tri-tip roast beef, with ranch-style beans, garden salad with ranch dressing, a sourdough garlic bread loaf and salsa — a complete meal that will feed six people.

Tickets are \$50 and available online at: <https://morrobayrotary.org>. Deadline for tickets is June 13. The BBQ will be held in the parking lot of Carla’s Country Kitchen, 213 Beach St., with pickup scheduled for 5-6 p.m. on the 15th.

All proceeds go toward Rotary’s “Help Us Help Others Campaign,” which supports various non-profit organizations and efforts in SLO County, like the SLO Food Bank, the Got Your Back (food challenged youth), Salvation Army, SLO Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Noor Foundation, which runs free health clinics in SLO County.

Morro Bay Rotary Club meets the first, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at noon at The Buoy, 850 Quintana Rd., in Morro Bay.

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# Sports

## Pirates Win Ocean League; First League Title Since 1974

By Neil Farrell



Senior, Phoenix Popp, competing here in the 300M hurdles at the Pirate Relays Meet, won the Ocean League Championship in the 110-meter high hurdles, the 300M intermediate hurdles, and triple jump to lead the Pirates to their first league title in nearly 50 years.

Morro Bay High's Boys' Track & Field Team won its first league title in nearly 50 years as senior standout, Phoenix Popp, led the Pirates to the Ocean League Championship, held May 6 at Atascadero High School.

Pirates' Coach Chuck Ogle said it was the first MBHS Boys' League Track Championship since 1974, when he was a Pirate. "It's the first boys league title since yours truly, Jack Smith, Larry Newland, Jeff French and other locals were on the team," said an enthusiastic Coach Ogle.

The Pirates jumped past their league foes on the strength of their hurdlers.

Popp scored 36 points for Morro Bay, said Coach Ogle, winning the 110-meter high hurdles in 16.53 seconds; winning the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 42.66; winning the triple jump at 39-feet 3-inches; and placing third in the long jump at 18'-5".

Junior Aiden Blackwood also helped carry the team, finishing second in the 110 hurdles at 18.45; third in the 300 hurdles at 43.59; second in the high jump at 5' 4"; and second in the triple jump at 38'-10".

Sophomore Heath Jones was third in the 110 hurdles (18.59), while junior Manny Diaz finished fourth (19.03) in the 110s and fifth in the 300 hurdles (45.96).

The versatile Diaz, coach Ogle said, added an eighth place finish in the triple jump at 36'-06". In the meet, the top-8 place finishers score points for the team in descending order, with first scoring 10 points and eighth one point.

Senior strongman, Jackson Reilly, who was a medalist in last year's CIF Central Sections Finals, heaved the iron ball 49' to win the Ocean League shot putt title. Jackson also place fifth in the discus at 111'-11".

Junior, Hunter Whitson, who Coach Ogle said "has been coming on strong," finished third in the discus at 121'-4" and seventh in the shot at 38'-3".

Senior sprinters, Mitch Carter, Mark Hutchinson, and Camden Steeb teamed up with sophomore Nathan Pech for third place in the 4 x 100 meter relay clocking 45.85. Hutchinson added a seventh place finish in the 100 in 11.69 and was seventh in the triple jump at 36'-07".

Carter also notched two individual event scores taking third in the 400 in 54.88 and seventh in the 200 in 24.36. Sophomore, Anthony Frere, scored in the 400 meters (6th in 55.71) and added a sixth place finish in the 800 at 2:11.75.

Distance runner Michael Carbajal scored in both of the meet's distance events finishing seventh in the 3200 at 11:03.51 and eighth in the 1600 at 4:49.78.

With its runners and throwers doing outstanding, Coach Ogle said the Pirates' strength rests in their vertical game.

The Pirates "sealed the deal with an overwhelming show of force in the vertical jumps — a traditional area of strength for the team," he said.

Freshman Liam Burton was fourth in the high jump at 5'; senior Camden Steeb tied for fourth at 5'; and Anthony Frere, who also cleared 5' but finished sixth on misses; and Nathan Pech was seventh at 4'-10", as the Pirates virtually owned the event on this day.

They also dominated the pole vault. Sophomore Nathaniel Ruddell led the way in the pole vault, taking second at 9'-06". Following were Burton (third at 9'-06"), Steeb (fourth at 9'-06"), Pech (fifth at 7'-06"), senior Nick Gray (sixth at 7'), freshman Eli Waldman (seventh at 6'-06") and Heath Jones (eighth at 6'-06").

The Pirates racked up 180.5 points to win the title. Runners up Mission Prep scored 146, followed by Templeton (94), Atascadero (77), Orcutt Academy (42), St. Joseph (38) and Santa Maria (34.5).

The Lady Pirates had a good meet as well, taking third place scoring 121 points. Atascadero High won the meet with Templeton taking second.

Senior star and Chico State bound, Ava Burton, led the way, winning the pole vault with a personal best of 10'-9"; finishing second in the triple jump (32'-09.5") and the long jump (15'-06"); and taking fifth in the 100-meter low hurdles (20.23).

Burton scored 30 points on the day, and was followed closely by sophomore, Annie Wieck's tally of 29. Wieck won the 400-meters in 63:01; finished second in the 300-hurdles at 52.35; third in the triple jump at 31'-4.5"; and was fourth in the high jump at 4'-9".

Coach Ogle said seniors, Shaylee Sargent and Leah St. Arnaud, each scored in three events. Sargent was third in the pole vault clearing 7'-6"; eighth in triple jump at 27'-7.5"; and was eighth in the long jump at 13'-9". St. Arnaud medaled in the 100 hurdles (20.36); the high jump (fifth at 4'-4"); and fourth in the pole vault at 7'-6".

Senior, hurdler Hana Yoneyama, finished second in the 100-lows at 18.61 and sixth in the 300s in 55.92, and event that was new to her this year, the coach said.

The Pirates also got great performances out of their freshmen athletes.

"Our enthusiastic and talented ninth grade class contributed across the board," Coach Ogle said.

Frosh Lilah Green, Fatima Martinez and Emily Giordano teamed with senior Jessica Chavez to take fifth in a fast 4 x 100 meter relay clocking 54.09. Green also placed eighth in the 100 (13.86) and sixth in the pole vault (6'-06").

Giordano took fifth in the 400 (68.03); was third in the 300 hurdles (52.96); and finished sixth in the pole vault at 6'.

Mia Bennett finished fifth in the 1600 (6:01.41) and sixth in the 800 (2:47.59). Rheanna Dunton wrapped up



Sophomore Annie Wieck helped the Lady Pirates to a Third Place finish in the Ocean League. Wieck is shown here competing in the 300M low hurdles at the recent Pirate Relays. She was second in the 300 lows at the Ocean League Championships.

the scoring with a seventh place finish in the 3200 breaking the tape at 14:07.14).

Doing a bit of reminiscing, Coach Ogle reflected back on the track teams and the glory days of the early 1970s.

"The 1974 Los Padres Athletic League title was the fourth championship in a row for the Pirates," he said. "Members of the '74 team included [per the collective memory of some community elders] Jack Smith, Larry Newland, and sprint legend Randy Reed, [whose 100-meter school record of 10.80 set in 1973 still stands]. The 1974, MBHS Athlete of the Year, Allen Peterson [who held the mile and 1-mile school records for years], myself, Ken Peters, Jeff French, Marin Patague."

Others included, "David McConaghay, David Legg, Chris Brown, Robin Brown, Ernie Sites, Sam Pentz, Rick Albrow, Sam Boyd, Max Dishen, Joe Baldwin, Mike Sweeney, Russ Caldwell, Roy Schellenger, Carl Meyers, Gary Reaney, Jeff Savage, John Moltzner, Allen Knowles and Tracy Dillon."

## Pirate Athletes to Play in College

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay High School's Dylan Turner, No. 27, dives into the line for one of his three, rushing touchdowns against Loara H.S., during the CIF Div. 7AA Regional Championship Game last December. Turner has signed to play football at Cal Lutheran University next year. Photo by Neil Farrell

The 2021-22 school year at Morro Bay High School has been filled with athletic successes and several Pirates athletes will be playing on in college.

According to a news report, eight MBHS athletes signed letters of intent to play sports in college at mainly smaller schools and mostly staying on the West Coast. However, one will be playing on a national stage at a top-level university in New York.

All State football player, Dylan Turner signed to play football at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Founded in 1959, Cal Lutheran was started by the Evangelical Lutheran Church but is now nonsectarian.

CLU is in the NCAA Div. III and the Kingsmen play in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC). CLU's enrollment is 4,383 undergrad and graduate students.

Football standout, Christian Merrill will strap on the pads for Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore. The Boxers play in the NCAA Div. III and also compete in the SCIAC.

Softball player, Peyton Schemmer will play at Syracuse, University in Syracuse N.Y. A private university founded in 1870 with an over 21,000-student population, the Orange compete in NCAA Div. I, and the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Baseball standout, Jackson Howell will play ball for the St. Mary's University Gaels. They compete in NCAA Div. I, and the West Coast Conference. St. Mary's U. is a liberal arts college founded in 1863 and is located in Moraga Calif., in the San Francisco Bay Area. It carries a student population of 3,600 spread across some 43 majors.

Morgan Codron will play baseball at the University of Pirates Continued on page 18



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# Obituaries

## William Hague Peirce

### 1945 - 2022

On May 19, at the age of 76, and after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer, William Hague Peirce passed away in San Luis Obispo.

Throughout the increasingly difficult trials of his ailment, Bill managed to maintain the determination and humor that typified him, doggedly telling any medical practitioner who asked that his primary goal was, "To last through one more Caroling Cops," the charitable activity he held most dear. That he came up short wasn't, by any measure, for lack of trying. He is ultimately survived by his cat, as well as his wife Randy and son Billy.

Although raised in Glendale, Bill spent the majority of his life in Morro Bay, a community he was, usually, immensely proud of and always endeavored to serve in one capacity or another. His 28ish year involvement with Caroling Cops was only one of the many activities, committees, advocacy actions and volunteer works he immersed himself in with the ultimate goal of making the city a better, more functional place for all. His work as a Morro Bay Police Volunteer, as a Rotarian, and as a City Councilman, as well as his involvement with Neighborhood Watch, the Morro Bay Merchants Association, emergency preparedness groups and emergency services agencies as a whole were all a means to help the community at large. He may have griped, on occasion, about bookkeeping chores or the number of meetings he was compelled to attend but, when pressed, he would grudgingly admit he loved doing his part in any way he could.

However, Bill's life was not all community service. As he admitted, he had done a lot through the years and had lived what could only be described as a "full life"; one which left him with stories full of sharks, shipwrecks, fires, Phos-chek, melting polyester suits, breaking national news stories, typhoons, counter battery, airsickness (courtesy of the Blue Angels), unfortunate Oldsmobiles, Hell's Angels and bootlegged copies of "The Empire Strikes Back." In the course of his life, Bill had been an avid scuba diver, accomplished photographer, small business owner, award winning newscaster, government official, supportive husband, exceptional father as well as a seemingly endless number of other occupations or hobbies that made him a well-spring of fascinating stories, technical know-how



and well-grounded insights. In retrospect, a biography, beginning with his parents, Gideon and Barbara, a former Warner Brothers prop hand and a classically trained pianist respectively, 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

Most importantly, though, Bill Peirce was a truly exceptional person who touched the lives of seemingly countless people and worked hard, in his way, to make the world around him a better place. Although the best way to honor Bill's memory is to make a positive impact in your community, for those who wish to pay their respects in person, a service will be held 9 a.m., June 4 at Tideland Park in Morro Bay.

## Cecile Diane Ley

### 1941 - 2022

Cecile (Cece) Diane Ley was born Nov. 16, 1941 in Covina, California. She was married to Charles Otto Ley and moved to Los Osos in 1972 following the death of her husband. Cece passed away May 25, 2022 in her home in Los Osos California surrounded by family at the age of 80 due to heart failure and natural causes.

Cece was known for her unique and contagious laugh. Cece is best described by those who knew her as sweet, loving, and kind. She touched many lives throughout her life and was very active; from her traveling group, her square-dancing group, and as a parent leader of Valley of the Bears 4H while all four of her children cycled through it. Cece was one of the founding members of a Bonco group which met monthly for nearly 50 years.

Family and friends were at the center of Cece's life. Cece had a love for her four children, Brian, Brad, Mari, and Kim that was unconditional. She is survived by her four children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

She had a great love for reading, traveling, sewing, and square dancing. Cece was an accomplished baker and known for her "blue ribbon" chocolate chip cookies. Cece was happy, generous, and was loved by all who knew her. Once you were her friend you were always her friend.

Cece was a living example of 1st Corinthians 13: 4-7 which says, Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when



it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Celebration of Cece's life will be on 9/4/22 at 11am in her home.

## Nona Lee Chaffin

### 1933-2022

Not many people who met Nona Lee Chaffin would forget her. She had a way of filling any room with exuberance, or chatting with strangers like friends in the grocery line. Her smile was big and bright, her charisma was abundant, and her English grammar was meticulously correct. Always! In fact, it was her crusade to correct the rest of us as well. But the immense depth of her character is still being revealed as her three daughters slowly sort through volumes of her correspondence, prose, poetry, journals, letters to the editor, and notes for characters of future fictional books she intended to write.

Nonie was the eldest of three daughters born to William DeFrance Morton and Helen Morton, July 25, 1933 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her family relocated to Oregon, and then ultimately to Los Angeles, California where she attended Washington High school and held the coveted position of head drummer of the Bugle Corp. She attended Moorpark College, Cal Lutheran College, and finished at Cal State Northridge with her degree in English.

Nona was best known, however, as an accomplished and professional accordionist. She performed both as a soloist and in groups with many fine musicians over the years. She also taught accordion privately.

As a mother of three daughters, she still found time to volunteer in a variety of capacities including: The Ford foundation, The L.A. Center for International Visitors, and The World Affairs Council where for many years, she hosted a myriad of foreign guests, including an entire Danish men's choir on tour in the U.S.A. She volunteered for the Ventura School for Girls; meeting one on one with trouble young women. She also spent time tutoring English for the Laubach TESL organization.

Nona is survived by sisters, Beverly Bodkin and Billie Dunstan, her three daughters: Adian Lenz, Elita Chaffin, and Glynis Tinglof, her Grandchildren: Nic Moss, Kait Di-



Obituaries Continued on page 20

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**WRF** From page 9

Despite jumping over \$34M in total estimated costs,

So when will all the construction activity that's disrupted the community going on 2 years now, end? Kwolek said, "The new WRF plant is expected to be brought online in late fall of this calendar year. Recycled Water is expected to be completed by Spring 2025."

The City said it would also post notices on the construction schedule at: [morrobaywrf.com](http://morrobaywrf.com). Readers can email questions about the WRF project to: [wrfinfo@morrobayca.gov](mailto:wrfinfo@morrobayca.gov) or call 877-MORROBAYH2O. They promise a team member will respond to voice-mail messages within one day.

**Pirates** From page 16

State medalist wrestler Wesley Wilson, who won the CIF Central Section Div. III title at 182 pounds, will grap

The Estero Bay News congratulates all the MBHS athletes, and wishes these young men and women good luck in college.



**Congratulations Class of 2022 - See pages 21 - 34**



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Kevin says,  
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KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



Scared Enough From page 1

GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE 2022		
Evidence Based Research - since 2013		
PUBLISHED DATE: May 27, 2022		
Total Number of GV Deaths - ALL Causes <sup>4</sup>		17,431
Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU <sup>1</sup>		7,729
Suicide <sup>3</sup>		9,702
Total Number of Injuries <sup>1</sup>		14,455
Mass Shootings <sup>2</sup>		214
Mass Murders <sup>2</sup>		10
Number of Children (age 0-11) <sup>1</sup>	Killed	142
	Injured	303
Number of Teens (age 12-17) <sup>1</sup>	Killed	516
	Injured	1,322
Officer Involved Incident <sup>1</sup>	Killed	23
Officer Killed or Injured	Injured	150
Officer Involved Incident <sup>1</sup>	Killed	561
Subject-Suspect Killed or Injured	Injured	353
Defensive Use <sup>2</sup>		456
Unintentional Shooting <sup>2</sup>		584
Murder/Suicides Incidents <sup>2</sup>		265

A chart from the Gun Violence Archive shows the number of mass shooting deaths in the United States From Jan. 1 of this year through May 25. Photo courtesy of gunviolencearchive.org

said. “This can happen at the grocery store, the bank or whatnot, so we really need to have those continued discussions. I encourage parents to get a hold of [active shooter] school plans and drills, read through those and work through them with the kids so they are prepared.”

Older kids have more access to the news, social media and peer conversations that can include miss-information. Discussing their feelings with a focus on listening rather than talking will help a parent or guardian better understand how the child is coping.

“Especially with teens, they want to be proactive when they hear this stuff and want to elicit some kind of change,” Ison said. “It’s so very important to really hear what their fears are and see what you can do to provide some kind of comfort.”

On top of the trauma that comes from mass shooting, even if not directly involved, kids are coming out of two years of the coronavirus pandemic and the isolation that came with school and group activity shutdowns.

“I think the climate of our country is really concerning right now,” Ison said. “I think depression and anxiety was just further compounded with COVID and being isolated. That sometimes will lead to more severe mental health issues that haven’t been addressed because they weren’t being seen in a social setting.”

With that in mind, Ison said that parents should always be aware of behavioral changes with an emphasis on anger, or signs of depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

“Our biggest sign is when our kids have really gone inward and are not interacting with peers or with family,” she said.

It should be noted that children are not the only people impacted by the mass shootings across our country. Ison recommends that adults also seek social support whether that means a therapist, other family members, a peer or church or online groups.

“I think we all need to just be honest and talk through our concerns, and listen to other people’s thoughts on how they develop a safety plan with their family, for all things,” Ison said.

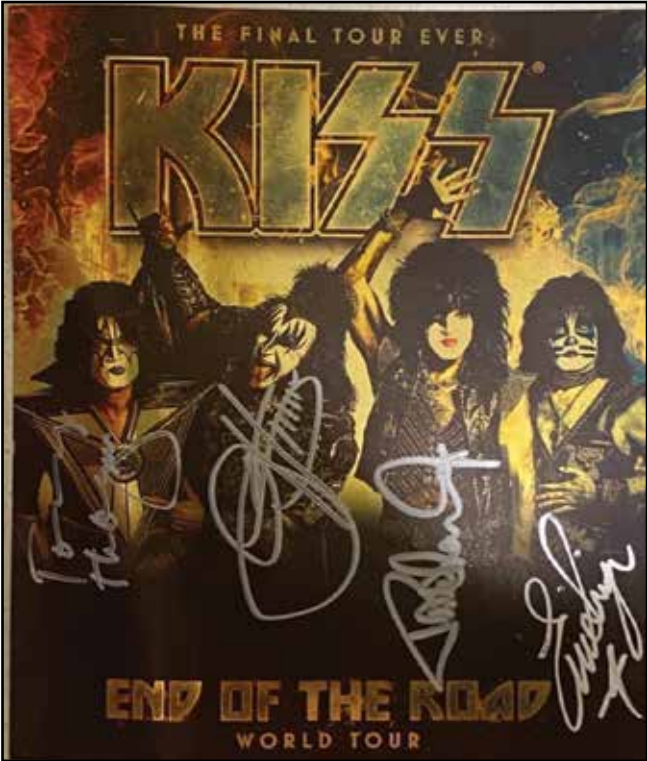
There have been 119 school shootings since 2018, when Education Week began tracking such incidents. The highest number of shootings, 34, occurred in 2021. There were 10 shootings in 2020, and 24 each in 2019 and 2018.

Readers, who feel like they need someone to talk to or

have questions about resources, should call the free and confidential Transitions-Mental Health Association any time of the day at 1-800-783-0607. For more information, go to [www.t-mha.org](http://www.t-mha.org).

*Editor’s Note: As of May 31, eight more people were killed and another 45 injured in the five days since the Robb Elementary School shooting.*

Auction From page 1



This signed poster from Kiss’ ‘The Final Tour’ is among the ill-gotten gains being sold at auction by the District Attorney’s Office.

- A custom designed and ordered platinum bracelet with 11.5 carats of cushion cut and emerald diamonds, with an original purchase price of \$104,000; and,
- An 18K white gold, 2.37 carat weight diamond and 48-carat Tanzanite “Crown of Light” necklace that Wilde purchased for \$85,067.

Among the sports memorabilia are mini footballs and helmets signed by Dallas Cowboys great, and future Hall of Famer, tight end Jason Whitten; and by 49ers wide receiver, Jerry Rice, already a Hall of Famer.

Among the music-related items, there is an acoustic guitar signed by Demi Lovato; an electric guitar signed by Country music’s, Keith Urban; two autographed tour posters signed by the members of Kiss from their “End of the Road” World Tour; and concert set lists signed by the members of Metallica.

There are also some extravagant custom shoes — high top sneakers covered in gold leaf, Christian Louboutin snakeskin stiletto heels, and several pairs of knee-high Louboutin sneakers, among others. There are also several high-price purses and clutches.

Dobroth said such auctions are rare but “one way to liquidate ill-gotten gains and to get the victim some money back.” Police have long been able to seize items proven to be purchased with dirty money — usually in drug dealing cases — that can include expensive cars.

Indeed, the County Sheriff’s Dodge Viper DARE car was seized in such a case.

Dobroth is hopeful the auction brings amounts near the true value of the items, to get as much as possible back to the victims. He noted that embezzlement cases — of which there have been several throughout the county in recent years — are especially tough on victims, who feel a sense of betrayal.

“For the most part,” he said, “a bookkeeper is like part of the family for these small companies. One of the toughest parts is the betrayal that they feel.”

See: [slocalestateauctions.com](http://slocalestateauctions.com) for more information, to set up an account and bid on items, or just to settle your curiosity.

If the D.A’s auction of Wilde’s stolen treasures proves successful, it could lead to the sale locally of more ill gotten gains.

Moving Forward From page 1



Bohemian Candle, a former Morro Bay business, opened in Newport, Oregon after the owners relocated.

it all. It is almost Morro Bay with a bigger bay, longer Embarcadero Harbor Walk, a maritime museum, unique shops and yummy restaurants. Morro Bay fisherman fish Oregon waters and dock in Newport Bay. Rogue Brewery created an IPA with all profits going to Ukraine. Their small aquarium has expanded. Their active arts community is thriving. They value their historic roots and waterfront enough to use as their brand to attract tourism. I could live there, but for their abundance of rain I wish they could share.

The Zieglers now have two shops on Newport’s Embarcadero. Instantly I was reminded of the cacophony of sweet scents welcoming me into her boutique at Morro Bay’s Main and Harbor. Kevin is now retired and an active partner in the business. I remember doing a story about Bohemian Candle, but I soon discovered I never knew their true Morro Bay story. Former Mayor Janice Peters made me realize years ago that viewing Morro Rock had inspirational powers. The Zeigler’s story re-enforced my thoughts that Morro Bay just might live in the presence of a mammoth-healing vortex.

Monica tells their story best. “We moved to Morro Bay in the summer of 2007 shortly after the passing of our daughter Amber Renee Kent-Ziegler. Kev was transferring from Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay, Newport. We knew about it prior to the curveball that was thrown our way on November 21, 2006. Our daughter was in a fatal car collision on her way to school for finals before heading home for Thanksgiving. The plan prior was to start a candle business as Amber was going to pursue her career in childhood development at Cuesta College and help me start a new business. This move was inevitable and very needed.

“We moved into a townhouse off Main Street. It felt so good to be somewhere new, to feel the sun on our faces and yet experience surroundings familiar to the home we had just left. Life moved forward as we learned to go through the motions. Our oldest daughter Amanda would attend Sac State and Kodi, our youngest, was starting middle school. Once everyone was settled, I then felt lost. One day while dabbling with wax in my kitchen, I found a Xeroxed print of Amber’s hand that we retrieved from her

Moving Forward Continued on page 20



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ringer, Chloe Tinglof, Ian Lenz, Molly Reeves, and Wynn Reeves, as well as three great grandchildren. Nona loved babies, Christmas, books, and toys! Lastly, and maybe most of all, she loved Pugs. The child in her remained alive and well through out her life.

Herbert King Judson  
1938 – 2022

Herbert King Judson, a Los Angeles native who resided in Los Osos for 50 years, passed away Monday, April 18 at his home. Herb was 83.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1959, serving in the Pacific aboard the USS Ticonderoga

Herb married his wife, Fetronele, known as “Faye,” in 1972. He was a lifelong fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In addition to his wife, Faye, Herb is survived by his son William Judson and his daughter-in-law Julie Judson both of Los Osos. He is survived by two grandsons, Zachary Cole Judson and Jacob William Judson.

Herb is also survived by his sister, Leona Judson, brother Charles Judson, and sister-in-law Christine Judson of Sebastopol, and nephews Tyler Judson and Lucas Judson of Santa Rosa. He is survived by his brother David Judson and sister-in-law Nermin Judson of Austin, Texas.

Services will be held June 11, 2022 at Saint Peters By The Sea Episcopal Church at 11 a.m. 545 Shasta Ave Morro Bay Ca.

Reception to follow at the church hall.



Remembering All Those Lost at Sea

Photos by Neil Farrell



Army Veteran Jim Murphy salutes.



Navy Veteran Ron Janney acted as master of ceremonies.



Members of the Navy's Sea Cadets stand at attention at the end of the Cayucos Pier.



From left, Air Force Veteran Donna Archer, the Rev. Mark Hall, Army Veteran Jim Murphy and Navy Veteran Ron Janney say a blessing over the wreath that was then cast into the sea.



Trudy O'Brien of the Commercial Fishermen's Organization and Red Davis' daughter, Catherine Davis, carry the laurel wreath and lead the procession down the pier.



Some patriotic ladies were among the crowd gathered for the Lost at Sea Memorial.

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Moving Forward From page 19

apartment the day we packed up her things. Staring at that picture I knew this was her message to me. ‘Mom, get up! I’m ok and I’m going to make sure you are ok!’

“Bohemian Candle was born from the free-spirited soul of my daughter Amber! I was excited that I had found something to pour my energy into again and a way to bring her with me on the journey.

Using Amber’s handprint as my logo and with full support of my entire family, I started manufacturing candles in my kitchen. I felt a huge adrenalin rush taking over. I applied to the Saturday Farmers Market in Morro Bay. I knew this is what my soul needed. Our product was instantly

successful, but more importantly were the connections we made! I had a purpose and I felt like I belonged. I found joy again!

“In October, 2007, we moved into our small space. Kevin became known as the “candle man” at the Market while I attended the shop! It was such a healing time for us as we were able to share the story of our daughter, her spirit and her love for life. I met so many others who were living with the same heartache of loss. The comfort we all found in each other was very healing to know we weren’t alone. I could always feel when the tug called kindred souls to enter the shop’s Dutch doors. Something told them they needed to step inside. In the end we understood that tug was our loved ones connecting us.”

After two years Kevin was transferred back up to Newport. “I was scared,” Monica said. They tried to manage the shop from afar. “It was not the same for me. I felt disconnected and missed the interaction with my customers. I lost my purpose and healing source.”

In 2010 Bohemian Candle opened in Newport. “I had to start over again, but it felt so good. Once we moved from a small 500 sq. ft. space into our larger Embarcadero location, the magic and love returned. Amber’s handprint graces the wall behind the counter and her picture and story is displayed for our customers.”

Again, they outgrew their space. Kevin and Monica were playing tourist one day when she saw a lease sign on a building that she knew was perfect for manufacturing.

“I was reluctant to move Bohemian Candle from its successful location. I recalled the antique and oddities expo I had attended in 2019. It had everything I loved - things that make you think and question everything - historical oddities that make you grateful for modern medical technology and even things that make you question your

mortality. We decided to open a second shop. Femme Fatale Curiosities & Apothecary would be where we could manufacture everything for both shops and yet continue honoring Amber’s original essence at Bohemian Candle.”

They signed the lease in January 2020 hoping to open by spring break, but COVID-19 intervened.


“We were depending on the revenue from Bohemian Candle to give us the jump start needed to open our new business. It has always been the “little engine that could. Fast thinking and a tremendous amount of support from our community and our customers kept us afloat during this closure. We survived by selling on-line (Etsy and Facebook) and shipping out on Fridays.”

Femme Fatale Curiosities & Apothecary opened in June of 2020. Monica described, “The shop is a step back in time filled with 1900’s apothecary cabinets, including Victorian Mourning attire displayed to time travel customers through the journey of life and death during the Victorian Era.” The Zieglers employ six “...beautiful, talented women — mothers, students, photographers, artists, creators, a local tarot reader, and seasonal henna artist. These women contribute hugely to our success. We are family. Both shops are thriving.”

The Zieglers’ children, Amanda and Kodi, have gifted them with three grandchildren: Kaydance Amber Gonzalez, Olivia Renee Gonzalez and Ruth Renee Ziegler. They live in Washington. “We are living our best lives.”

Morro Bay is on the Zieglers travel destination list — sooner than later. They still have lifelong friends here. Monica said she will never forget the kindness of Los Osos’s Robyn Kaplan, a fabric designer, who gifted her the book she still shares - Journey of Souls by Michael Newton. And she needs to see her Morro Bay friends, Cindy Leighton and Carrie Crocker Aguirre who helped run the Country Cottage on Main since she lost their sister, Kay.

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