

## Longtime Meteorologist John Lindsey Retires



PG&E marine meteorologist John Lindsey in the early days in the United States Navy. Photo submitted

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

After three decades of delivering weather forecasts to our homes via daily emails along with print and radio reports from the offices of the largest utility in the state, John Lindsey has retired. June 30 was his last day as the marine meteorologist for Pacific Gas and Electric Company at Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

Like so many good things in life, John's career began when unplanned experiences combined. After high school he joined the United States Navy and during Accession training, or A School, he was drawn to oceanography.

"I just completely fell in love with it," he said. "It just clicked with me."

It was financial circumstances that led John to his first paid weather related gig.

"I ran out of money," he said. "I was going to Cal Poly, and I needed additional financial resources. I went to the

career center, and there was an ad on the bulletin board for somebody who could forecast waves, and I had done that before in the Navy. I applied, and I got the job."

He was in the Navy for 24 years, four years active and 20 in the reserves. In 1991, he started his Diablo Canyon Power Plant career with Tenera Environmental Services, where he calibrated seawater temperature recorders from numerous monitoring stations along the Pecho Coast and maintained the Diablo Canyon Waverider Buoy among other facets of his job. He was later hired as an environmental specialist at the power plant.

He went on to provide tours of Diablo to more than 25,000 people throughout the United States and the world and was a sought after speaker at service clubs, schools, non-profits and military events.

Additionally, for the past 14 years, Lindsey wrote a column for the Tribune and broadcasted his forecasts on KVEC morning news radio.

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## A Fine, Feathered, Super Hero on Gull Patrol



An angry seagull swoops in to try and chase off Ranger, a Harris' hawk owned by Airstrike Bird Control of Atascadero. That's falconer Sammi Jackson holding the hawk.

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

What do you do about seagull problems in a town that's a self-proclaimed "Bird Sanctuary?"

In Morro Bay they've enlisted the help of a winged super hero, one instinctively feared and whose mere presence sends the winged scoundrels into a tizzy.

In May the City of Morro Bay contracted for the services of Airstrike Bird Control, a company that specializes in the use of birds of prey to chase away gulls and other avian pests.

Anita Wolf of Airstrike is one of the handlers of "Ranger," a Harris' hawk trained for gull patrol.

According to Wikipedia, "The Harris' hawk, formerly known as the bay-winged hawk, dusky hawk, and some-

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## Downtown Walkabout — Checking out Morro Bay's New Businesses

By Neil Farrell

After years of relative stability, Morro Bay's Downtown business district has seen big changes of late, bringing a slew of new businesses, owned and operated by a younger group of sole proprietors.

There is no doubt that at least some of this change has been caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the tremendous strain it put on small businesses, not just in Morro Bay but across the nation.

In the Downtown core, the city lost several long-time businesses — Kitty's Kitchen, Sabetta's Pizza, the Aloha Shirt Shop, Linna G's, Grandma's Yogurt, Founder's Bank, and the Rio Salon among them.

And while the business community mourned the loss of those businesses, an abundance of new and mostly young entrepreneurs from as far away as Australia have opened new stores offering a variety of items — from house plants and jewelry, to vintage clothing, artworks and unique gift items. There are even a few new eateries with the promise of at least two more on the way, expected to open sometime soon.

Estero Bay News recently took a "walk-about" around Downtown, meeting the new business folks and finding out about their backgrounds and the items they sell.

Here's a look at your new neighbors in the business community.

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## Surviving, Thriving & Moving Forward: Morro Bay Maritime Museum

Story by Judy Salamacha  
Photos by Scott Mather



Two-Person Abalone Submarine

"You've come a long way, baby!" Corny, yes, but true when we celebrate our Morro Bay Maritime Museum. If you haven't visited MBMM since March 2020, you'll be amazed at what the trustees have accomplished and excited to know more about their future plans in progress.

But first... Announcement! Announcement! Save these dates during October's

Morro Bay Maritime Month. The evening of October 6, indulge yourself at the 1st Annual Rock the Waterfront. Expect noshes to eat, adult beverages to drink, music by banjoist Gary Ryan and a silent auction of unusual items presented at the Morro Bay Yacht Club, a charter member of MBMM.

On October 8, the entire family is invited to the free 1st Annual Maritime Family Fun Day. It's an all-community-produced carnival at the museum site kicked off earlier that morning when the tides are

Surviving Continued on page 16

## Independence Day Celebrations on the Central Coast



Don't miss the fourth annual Cayucos Community Beach Concert at Montecito on July 3. Back Bay Betty plays from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m and The Charities play from 7 - 9 p.m. Enter the beach at the Studio Drive Beach Access (near Old Creek Rd) and walk to the casita on the rock. Bring chairs, food, drinks, and a donation for the town.

Waterfront Market takes place in Morro Bay on July 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. All products are hand-made locally in San Luis Obispo County. This family and pet friendly event is free to the public at Giovanni's Fish Market at 1001 Front St. in Morro Bay.

Join 4th of July celebrations early with a rooftop pool party on July 2 from 12 to

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## City Will Vet New Cannabis Store Owner

By Neil Farrell

With its founder floundering in jail, a Morro Bay cannabis store was sold. But the City, which by law has to investigate and approve the new owners doesn't seem concerned that one of just two cannabis stores is changing hands for the second time in the 15 months that it's been open.

Natural Healing Center or nhc opened in April 2021 on Morro Bay Boulevard at Napa Avenue. It was the second cannabis dispensary to open in the city.

The other, Perfect Union, opened the previous fall at 1000 Quintana Rd.

Nhc took over the former Mill's Stationary/ASAP Reprographics store, which had been a Downtown staple for decades. ASAP moved to a storefront on Quintana Road.

Nhc's founder, Helios Dayspring, who grew up in Morro Bay, was on hand to cut the Chamber of Commerce grand opening ribbon on April 12, 2021. His celebrations were short-lived however, because he was soon arrested on Federal bribery allegations, to which he pled no contest.

He was accused of bribing the late County Supervisor Adam Hill, who committed suicide in 2020, after the FBI served a search warrant at his office in the County Government Center and his Pismo Beach home.

Prior to the scandal making headlines, Dayspring transferred his cannabis license in Morro Bay to his girlfriend/business partner before his legal tsunami hit the fan.

The allegations were that Dayspring bribed Hill to get favorable votes on County permits for growing operations. He reportedly paid Hill off in cash, free food and pot — a total of some \$32,000.

Dayspring also was hit with tax evasion charges that accused him of failing to pay some \$3.4 million in taxes. Dayspring reported his taxable income was \$1.26 million, but in reality his income was more than \$6.5 million. Dayspring paid the IRS some \$3.46 million before he went to prison on a 2-year sentence.

Nhc kept its store licenses in Morro Bay and Grover Beach but the City of SLO stripped its license to open there, just as a multi-million dollar renovation was finishing up at a storefront on Broad Street. Nhc sued the City of SLO to get its license back but lost, and it will not be opening a store in that town.

In May nhc sold three dispensaries — in Morro Bay, Turlock and Lemoore — to Glass House Brands in a deal worth more than \$22.6 million, according to an article in MjBizDaily.com. It should be noted that at the time of the article's writing, the Turlock store had not yet opened. The Grover Beach store was not sold.

The Turlock store was highly prized by Glass House, MjBizDaily.com said, because it has Cal State Stanislaus. College towns are apparently good places for cannabis stores.

Gross sales for the Morro Bay and Lemoore stores were over \$15.3 million (from April 2021 to May 2022), according to the MjBizDaily.com article.

The deal was for \$5.7 million in cash (financed) and the remainder in Glass House stock, according to the article.

Glass House Chairman and CEO Kyle Kazan, said, "Given nhc's positioning in limited license markets and its strong consumer following, we are excited to be adding these three dispensaries. We are now poised to execute a dramatic transformation in the size of our retail dispensary business this summer.

"Along with the ongoing ramp up of Phase I production at our SoCal facility and the addition of PLUS [edibles company], this further reinforces our trajectory to becoming cash flow positive by early 2023."

The new stores brought Glass House's retail cannabis shops in California up to 10. Will all this 3-card Monty with licenses and ownership of Morro Bay's nhc store raise red flags for City officials? Apparently not.

Estero Bay News asked City Manager Scott Collins

about the sale of the pot store and he said, "The City's municipal code requires that any new owner must be vetted."

The first time ownership changed, when Dayspring signed everything over to his girlfriend, there wasn't really an ownership change per se. This sale to Glass House Brands is different.

"The municipal code outlines that City staff conduct the vetting [community development, fire, police and finance] and make recommendations to the City Manager for decision," Collins said.

Two of those three department heads — the fire chief and finance director — on that vetting committee were not working in Morro Bay when the cannabis review committee first vetted the half dozen firms that sought cannabis dispensary licenses.

In the end, the City was sued by one of the companies that scored high on the first part of the process but didn't impress the City committee. The City ultimately prevailed in that court case.

Asked if he was concerned the City might be sued if the committee decided not to grant transfer of the cannabis license to Glass House Brands, and snubbed out the sale, Collins said, "Sure. The City will make a determination of qualification based upon the elements established in the City's municipal code, and not out of fear of litigation."

And what about the sales figures mentioned above, namely \$15 million in sales in the first year for Morro Bay and Lemoore stores combined? The City has a 5% tax on sales of cannabis products, but just how much money is the City taking in with sales?

Collins said, "The City is projecting \$480,000 in cannabis revenue for Fiscal Year 2021/2022."

They predict the same revenues from taxes for the new fiscal year that starts July 1. "We are projecting the same amount for cannabis tax in FY 22/23 — \$480,000 — as FY 2021/22," Collins said.

## City Taking Comments on BESS Project EIR

By Neil Farrell

The first signs of life on a project to install the world's largest battery energy storage facility in Morro Bay have sprouted up, with residents still having a few days left to submit their opinions about the environmental review.

Vistra Energy's "Battery Energy Storage System" or BESS project seeks to build a 600-megawatt, lithium-ion battery facility, on 22 acres of the Morro Bay Power Plant property. It would be housed in a trio of 90,000 square foot buildings that would rise about 35-40 feet.

It's being sited where there used to be a fuel oil tank farm at the bayside property.

It's also the same location on the plant's 100 or so acres, where Duke Energy North America wanted to build a 1,200 MW combined cycle natural gas power plant but failed to get a permit after seven years of trying. Duke eventually dropped the project in about 2007, and soon sold all of its California power plants. Vistra now owns it, and the power station was closed in 2014.

On June 3 the City sent out a "Notice of Preparation" or NOP indicating that it intended to move forward with an environmental impact report (EIR) and was holding a scoping meeting on June 21 to discuss the project's EIR.

Essentially a NOP is a chance for the public to express the things they are concerned about and that should be addressed in the EIR, which is conducted in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA.

The scoping meeting was being held just a couple of months after the City Council awarded a contract to conduct the EIR to Rincon Consultants. The original EIR contract was approved in March, and has already been amended a couple of times.

The original amount was not to exceed \$158,500 but before the ink was dry, it was amended in April and jumped to \$281,700. A second amendment has also been approved, bringing the total for the EIR consultant to over \$304,900.

All of these costs will be paid by Vistra, which signed an agreement with the City to cover all costs in the review

of its project.

So while not exactly a blank check, taxpayers can be assured that they are not paying for this project's review.

That agreement passed last January had the company paid an initial \$197,400 up front and another \$175,000 has been paid since then.

Full details on how to submit public comments are available online see: <https://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16703/Morro-Bay-BESS-NOP> and also noted below.

Such scoping efforts are one of the first steps in the environmental review of a big project like the BESS. Rincon will compile the comments and they will be submitted for public review again, before the planning commission or city council or possibly both.

Once the scope of the EIR is established, the true evaluation of the environmental impacts begins.

A draft EIR would be next item on the list, which could take from a few months to a year or more to complete, though Rincon's contract lists Dec. 31, 2022 as the end date for the contract.

That draft EIR document will also be bantered about and must get approval from the City Council and the Coastal Commission, which has final say over anything the City decides on this project, including overriding a possible City Council denial.

Vistra has estimated the cost for the BESS at about \$490 million, which would add some \$490,000 a year to the City's coffers in just property taxes alone. (At \$490 million the BESS would pay \$4.9 million in property taxes annually with the City getting 10% of that.)

It is being proposed as the State's pushes for wind and solar energy to replace fossil fuel and nuclear power generating stations. It is also dependent at least in part on whether the federal government's proposed offshore floating wind energy farm gets built in federal waters about 30 miles off San Simeon.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM is permitting that project, and neither the City nor the State have much to say about it even though the proposal is to bring at least some of the 3 gigawatts the Biden Adminis-

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a Passion for Serving

# News

tration is eyeing for the 399-square mile, so-called "Morro Bay Call Area" ashore here. (The Coastal Commission recently decided the wind farm didn't violate the Coastal Act.)

Public comments on Vistra's BESS EIR can be submitted to Morro Bay Senior Planner Cindy Jacinth, via email at [jacinth@morrobayca.gov](mailto:jacinth@morrobayca.gov) or by mailing written comments to: City of Morro Bay, Community Development Department, 955 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442. The deadline is July 3.

## Dist. 2 Headed to November Runoff



Bruce Gibson



Bruce Jones

By Neil Farrell

As of June 28, the Elections Office said there were a total of 17,657 votes left to count — 17,343 mail-in ballots, 295 provisional ballots, and 19 election night ballots not yet processed.

And with the exception of one County Supervisor race, little has changed from the count on Election night.

Dist. 2 County Supervisor Bruce Gibson's big Election Night lead has shrunk and now he faces a runoff on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Gibson had been comfortably ahead with 52.98% of the vote out of four candidates. Second place was held by Bruce Jones (16.77%); Geoff Auslen (16.74%) was third; and John Whitworth (12.51%) fourth.

But how things have changed as the count has continued. As of June 22, Gibson's tally had shrunk to 49.28%, which is under the 50%-plus one vote threshold to avoid a runoff for what would be his fifth, 4-year term.

Jones held second place with 18.68%, Auslen third with 17.1% and Whitworth with 14.94%.

Gibson had his old district radically redrawn by Supervisors last year when the Board majority chose to use a district map drawn by a private citizen that removed Morro Bay, SLO and Los Osos from the Second District and added Atascadero, parts of Templeton and San Miguel to a new Second District.

Morro Bay and Los Osos have supported Gibson in his

four other elections.

The new district looked decidedly more conservative than the old one, yet Gibson was able to connect with a lot of his new constituents for the election. So if the current ratios of votes holds up, the "two Bruces" will square off in November.

According to the SLO County Elections Office's report, 15,195 votes out of 36,806 registered voters had been counted in Dist. 2. Some 872 were "under votes" or ballots that marked no candidate, and eight were "over votes" meaning they marked more than one.

In the Dist. 3 race, Dawn Ortiz-Legg is holding onto a big lead over Stacy Korsgaden, 64.53% to 32.33%. If her lead holds, she'll win the seat that she was appointed to in late 2020, when the Governor named her to replace the late Supervisor Adam Hill.

In the 4th District, 2-term incumbent Lynn Compton is behind challenger Arroyo Grande City Councilman Jimmy Paulding. Paulding had 55.05% to Compton's 44.95%. Though there are still thousands of votes to count in that district, Paulding's 11-point lead would seem insurmountable.

In the only contested, countywide office, appointed County Clerk-Recorder, Elaina Cano, is cruising to victory with 64.03% of the votes to second place James Baugh at 20.55% and in last place was attorney Stew Jenkins with 15.42%.

In the Morro Bay City Council race, appointed incumbent Jen Ford is still way ahead of challenger James Costanzo, 57.83% to 42.17% and appears to be winning her seat. Ford replaced the late Councilman Red Davis after he died in July 2021, seven months after starting his second term on council.

And Morro Bay Councilwoman Dawn Addis remains ahead in her race for the State Assembly District 30 race, leading Vicki Nohrden. The State Elections Office has the count as 41.8% for Democrat Addis to 34.8% for the Republican Nohrden.

So those two will square off in November to represent the newly redrawn district, which stretches along the Coast including most of SLO County, and parts of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

Addis' City Council seat, which is up for re-election in November, will likely have no incumbent in the race. The Morro Bay City Council has set up the schedule for the November General Election at its last meeting.

There will be three seats — two council members and the Mayor — up for election. Councilman Jeff Heller holds one of the two council seats, Addis the other along with Mayor John Heading.

City Clerk Dana Swanson's staff report lists July 18 through Aug. 12 as the normal filing period. If any of the incumbents does not file to run, then the deadline for that race is extended to Aug. 17.

If readers are thinking about running, information on the election will be posted on the City Clerk's Pages on the

City's website, until then, see: [www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/12047/Candidate-Basic-Info-2018](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/12047/Candidate-Basic-Info-2018) for an idea of what one must do to run for local office.

According to the website: "If you are interested in declaring your intent to run as a candidate earlier than the nomination period and are considering raising or spending money for your campaign, you are subject to certain requirements. Please, contact the City Clerk at (805) 772-6205 for more information."

## Veteran TV/Radio Journalist King Harris Dies

Central Coast broadcaster and journalist King Harris died at his Arroyo Grande home on June 13. He was 75.

Harris came down from a Monterey TV station in 1980 to serve as news anchor at KEYT, Channel 3, in Santa Barbara, a position he held through 1997. After teaching journalism at Cal Poly for two years, Harris returned to the airwaves by becoming news director at KVEC radio in San Luis Obispo.

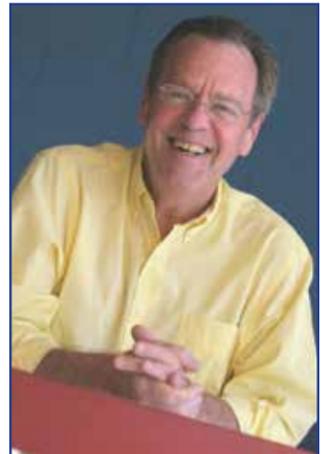
His journalism career during the 2000's included stints as a news producer at KCOY, Channel 12, and managing editor at New Times. He was hired by Tolosa Press to write the weekly "It's Good to be King" column starting in 2006.

Harris returned to KVEC in 2007 and remained the morning news anchor until his retirement in 2015. An avid music historian and record collector, Harris was making regular appearances each Friday afternoon on KVEC to salute his favorite music of the 1950s and 60s at the time of his death.

Harris was a Viet Nam veteran who served in Saigon during the war. He accompanied then UC-Santa Barbara professor Walter Capps and a group of Vietnam veterans to the Soviet Union in 1988, a journey that was captured in the award-winning documentary "Brothers in Arms."

KVEC radio host Dave Congalton had lunch with Harris the day he died. "King had health issues, but he was in good spirits the whole time," Congalton said. "We're all in shock at the news. Total shock."

Congalton called Harris "a friend, colleague, mentor, and personal hero. My favorite radio memories all involve the times I shared with King Harris," he said. "He truly was the King."



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Councilwoman Addis Speaks Out on Roe v. Wade

Morro Bay City Councilwoman Dawn Addis addressed the Supreme Court's overturning of the landmark decision Roe v. Wade, which ended federal protections for the right to abortions. "This couldn't be more devastating," Addis said in a news release. "I want to let people know that we are in this together, and I am committed to action. While abortion remains available to patients on the Central Coast, and in California, we are poised to lose access across 26 plus states. These attacks will disproportionately affect communities of color and those with less economic means. We cannot be silent. Make no mistake, we are under attack." Addis encouraged people to make their voices and vote heard. The Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund Board Member and co-founder of the 10,000 person Women's March in San Luis Obispo promised to do "everything I can to defend the rights of people everywhere to access care."

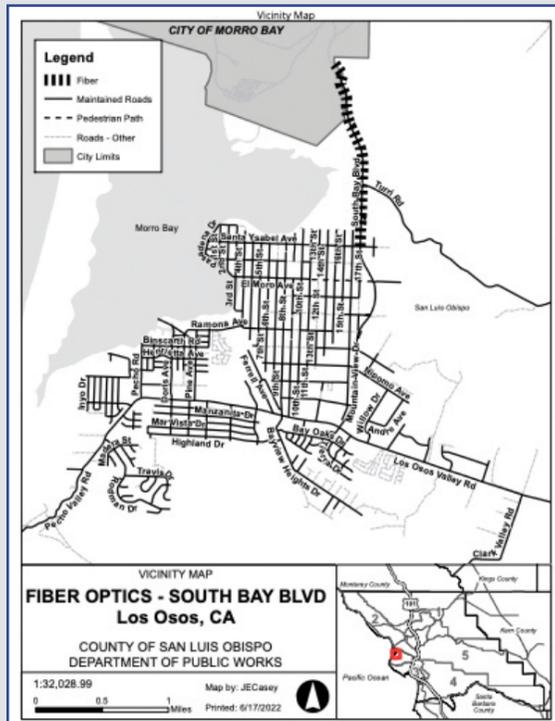
On January 25, 2022 the Morro Bay City Council passed a resolution supporting Roe in a 4-1 vote. About the resolution Addis said, "Reproductive care is an urgent need for people in Morro Bay and across the Central Coast. The onslaught of attacks on reproductive care threatens our entire community. Even in a state that has historic protections, it's up to us to make sure access is never rolled back."

Los Osos Makes List of Top 10 Coastal Small Towns

Some readers might hope it remains a secret, but Los Osos made the 10Best Coastal Small Towns in the United States list by USA Today. "Los Osos, California seems to have it all," said 10Best local expert Sherel Purcell noting the "small sophisticated restaurants and coffee shops" that sit on the quiet seaside offering the best views of Morro Rock to the north. "A hillside golf course overlooks a sleepy bay and the beautiful Montaña De Oro State Park." Travel experts and editors at 10Best initially came up with a list of 20 locations, each with a population of fewer than 25,000 people as of the last census, that was narrowed down to 10 finalists based on popular vote. Los Osos ranked No. 8 on the list, which included

Ocean Springs, Mississippi; Bay Saint Louis – Mississippi; Georgetown, South Carolina; Rockport, Texas; Nags Head, North Carolina; Bandon, Oregon; Half Moon Bay, California; Bar Harbor, Maine; and Cape May, New Jersey. The towns offer, "unpretentious and affordable seaside entertainment without the crowds, proving that bigger isn't always better," 10Best. Check out what they say about the other towns at 10best.com/awards/travel/best-coastal-small-town.

Fiber Optic Cable Install to Cause Delays



Plan for traffic delays. A project to install new fiber optic cables along South Bay Blvd. from the Morro Bay city limits to Santa Ysabel Ave. in Los Osos is underway. In case readers are having flashbacks to the last closure of South Bay Blvd. that seemed to go on for an eternity, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department expects there will only be partial lane closures. Work will be located mostly in the bike lane and on the road shoulder. "If partial closures occur, for the safety of motorists and workers, flaggers will be in place. Electronic message boards will display updated information during the project," officials said in a news release. "Motorists are advised

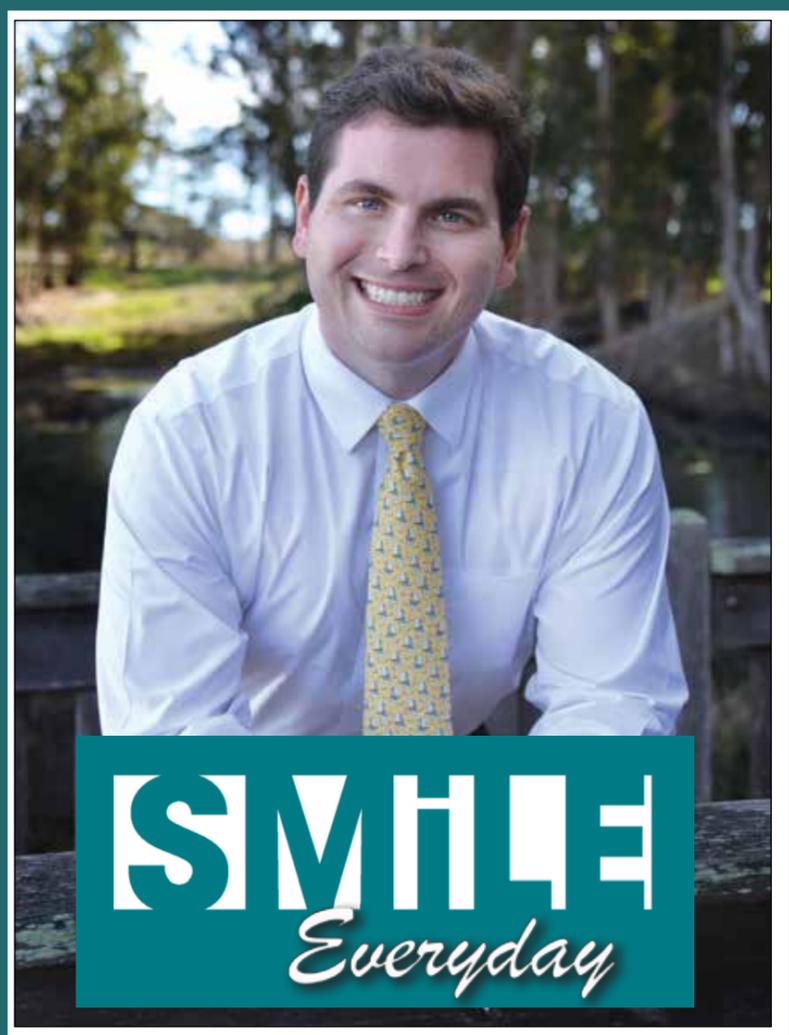
to adjust their travel plans in consideration of potential delays". The private telecommunications company, Zayo Group from Boulder, Colorado, has contracted with Leo Tidwell Excavating Corporation for the installation of new fiber optic cables. Zayo Group provides high-speed data infrastructure throughout North America and Europe. The project has an expected completion date of October 2, 2022.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Under Five

San Luis Obispo County children under age five will be able to get vaccine protection against COVID-19. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup have formally recommended small doses of vaccine for this age group. Until now, COVID-19 vaccination has only been available for those ages five and older. This authorization follows large-scale clinical trials for both vaccines. The side effects seen in the trials were similar to those adults experienced during clinical trials, including arm soreness, fatigue, or fever that lasted a day or two. "I hope this news brings comfort and relief to the parents in our community who have been trying to protect their children from COVID-19 without the layer of defense provided by a vaccine," said Dr. Christy Mulkerin, pediatrician with the County Health Agency. "If you have questions about the vaccine, your pediatrician is a great resource for getting the answers and information you need."

Two COVID-19 vaccine options will be available for children younger than five: one from Moderna (two doses) and one from Pfizer BioNTech (three doses). Each includes a smaller dose of the vaccines that have been provided to more than 200 million Americans. More than 10 million U.S. children ages 5-11 have received a pediatric dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Vaccine appointments for children under age five will be available from pediatricians, Public Health clinics and some pharmacies in the coming weeks as shipments of these smaller-dose vaccines arrive locally. To schedule an appointment, contact your pediatrician or visit VaccineFinder.org or MyTurn.ca.gov.

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# News

## Rockview Street Closed for a Month



A rendering of what the apartments at 405 Atascadero Rd., will look like when completed. Rockview Street closed June 22 to traffic while underground work is done for the low-income apartment project. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay residents who regularly use Rockview Street will have to take the long way around after the closure of that street for a month as part of the construction on the first, low-income housing development in Morro Bay since 2015.

The Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) is building 35 total apartments in a mix of one, two and 3-bedrooms, and deed restricted for low-income tenants.

The development broke ground a couple of months ago and on June 21, the City announced an extended road closure that would last about a month.

“Rockview Street between Sunset Avenue and Hill Street,” reads the notice from the City’s Derek Hanson, “will be temporarily closed starting Wednesday, June 22 through Wednesday, July 20, due to road work associated with a new development at 405 Atascadero Rd.”

The development of 35 apartments is bordered by Atascadero Road (Hwy 41), Sunset Avenue, Rockview Street and a small trailer park. It is a beehive of activity, as work on the site is well underway.

Estero Bay News asked the City about the work being done and Public Works Director Greg Kwolek and Hanson said the contractors on the apartment job need to put in retaining walls on either side of the roadway, also the Gas Company will be moving a gas main line in the street. When they are done, Rockview Street will be repaved, Kwolek said. The repair work is being done at no cost to the City, Kwolek said.

HASLO’s project is seen by City officials as a welcomed addition to the housing stock, and was even financially supported by the City Council. Back in 2020, the Council voted to award a loan of \$150,000 out of its “Affordable Housing In-Lieu Fund,” a tax on new developments meant to encourage and support low-income projects.

When a developer doesn’t want to make a required number of units available to “low-income” folks (usually it’s one discounted or low-income unit for every 10 market priced units), they pay a fee to the City, where it accumulates, and is spent supporting projects like HASLO’s. (This affordability idea has also been extended by the Coastal Commission to low cost accommodation requirements for new motel projects, which must set aside some of their rooms at the average room rate — currently about \$140 a night — or pay into an in-lieu fund).

The apartments are reserved for tenants who are at or below 80% of the Area Median Income or AMI. In the 2020 U.S. Census, the AMI for Morro Bay was pegged at \$73,864 a year, so a person could earn up to about \$59,000 or so a year and still qualify.

The terms of the City loan say HASLO doesn’t have to make a payment on the loan for 55 years, covering the duration of the deed restrictions. The City is however, charging 3% “simple interest” on that money, so when it finally gets paid back, it’ll be \$150,000 plus interest.

This has been done by the City before, but not for a while. “The City of Morro Bay has not had a new 100% affordable housing project added to the housing stock since the 2015 Morro Del Mar Senior Housing [on Main Street] project that included 21 affordable housing apartments for seniors,” Hanson’s report said.

The City awarded Morro Del Mar some \$600,000 in financial assistance, “which aided in the project being successful in its tax credit application,” Hanson said. HASLO’s 405 Atascadero Rd., project also got tapped federal tax credits.

Prior to the Morro Del Mar project the City had not had a fully affordable housing project built since 1996 with the Oceanside Gardens on Elm Street behind Spencer’s Market.

And the City had not had any project this large since 1989’s 40-unit Ocean View Manor Apartments on Elena Street, which is also behind Spencer’s. Both of these were built and are operated by People’s Self-Help Housing.

PSHH also has the Pacific View Apartments at 495 Main St., with 26 units and the Sequoia Apartments at 373 Sequoia St., with 12.

Also, Caltrans recently did a project along Hwy 41 at this same location to improve storm drainage off the highway. Contact Hanson at (805) 772-6285 with questions.

## Quintana Trenching Resumes; Another Water Main is Ruptured



Photo shows a June 12 water leak on the Power Plant bike path next to Morro Shores Motel on Atascadero Road in Morro Bay. Submitted photo

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay’s Water Reclamation project will be tearing up Quintana Road to lay the last pipe for the City’s mega-project, and ripping into familiar ground over the next several months.

If that sounds like an old record, it’s not, this dig down memory lane is to lay the final pipe in a jigsaw puzzle of a project that’s been dominating the town since May 2020.

The City announced June 16 that work would begin the following Monday on trenching down Quintana Road from Main Street to South Bay Boulevard in order to lay the recycled water pipeline in the \$160 million-and-counting project.

“This is for the second pass of pipeline construction in the area,” said Sarah Rossetto, the spokeswoman for the WRF pipeline’s outreach efforts. Rossetto is working with project managers Carollo Engineering. “Three pipelines were already constructed in 2021; this is for the fourth and final purified water pipeline.”

This final pipeline will bring the treated and disinfected wastewater back into town from the new treatment plant and deliver it to a series of injection wells to be located on the northeast corner of the Morro Bay Power Plant property.

It will also deliver the treated wastewater to the City’s

**Busted** Continued on page 6

# 10 WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY AND SAVE MONEY

#4



#7



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**Busted** From page 5

ocean outfall pipe, where the water will be discharged into Estero Bay most of the time. The most recent plan is to use the injection wells only a few days a month, as a buffer against seawater intrusion into the Morro Creek underground aquifer.

Those wells don't yet exist nor have they been entirely designed at this point. Indeed the City recently awarded a drilling contract to put in a test injection well on that site. That well will purportedly give the City the final puzzle pieces to its water-recycling scheme that is supposed to "meet state water and wastewater regulations, protect the environment and be capable of providing a safe and reliable water source for Morro Bay's residents and businesses in the future," according to the City's press release.

If readers wonder why they didn't lay this final water line along with the enormous trenches that were dug for the WRF's four other pipelines, it's because the water return line must be kept in a separate trench from raw sewage lines to guard against potential contamination.

The City said construction will include "trenching, pipe installation, soil backfilling and off hauling, and road restoration." Motorists plying Quintana have no doubt noticed for several days a buildup of piping stacked along Quintana Road opposite the Dollar Tree shopping center.

But don't expect to see Quintana returned to the smooth river of pavement it was before the WRF started. The pipes must still be tested and it would be unwise to repave the roadway before testing.

The WRF pipe laying work also continues alongside the Hwy 1, southbound on ramp at Hwy 41. That's where the City discovered another water line had been ruptured.

A local resident and someone who has been watchdogging the WRF project since before it started, told EBN that he saw the water leaking on a weekend, when the project crew was off work.

"Yesterday [Saturday, June 12], I noticed water bubbling out of the pavement in the bike path where Anvil has been working lately," the reader said in an email. "This is just south of Atascadero Road between the freeway on-ramp and the Morro Shores Motel."

He went on to say that he couldn't find anyone to report the leak to, so he went to the fire department. He added that on Sunday, the City Water Crew was out repairing the leak. He wondered if the WRF trenching contractor, Anvil Builders, was to blame. EBN asked Public Works Director Greg Kwolek that question.

"We found a crack in the water main on Saturday," Kwolek said, "and it was fully repaired on Sunday. I don't have a calculation on how many gallons of water were lost, but am told by the responding operators that it was not a major leak."

So who's responsible? "The break was likely caused by Anvil's nearby construction activities," Kwolek said. "The water main was not hit directly, but we currently believe vibrations from these construction activities caused the pipe to crack."

That pipe, he added, feeds water to the high school. It was at least the third water line to be broken by Anvil since trenching began. The first break occurred on the first day the company started work, literally with the first trench it dug on Quintana at La Loma Street.

## County Seeking Grants for Beach Bike Path



A screen shot of a video posted by SLO County shows the route of the proposed Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector Trail, a dedicated bike path on the west side of Hwy 1 overlooking the beach. See the whole video at: [vimeo.com/245606835](https://vimeo.com/245606835).

By Neil Farrell

There's hope on the horizon that funding for a much anticipated beachside bike path after a site visit from a major funding source and the application for a third multi-million grant.

San Luis Obispo County agencies have been working for man years on the so-called "Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector trail" a dedicated bicycle path paralleling Hwy 1 from Morro Bay's North Point Natural Area to the south end of Studio drive, around 4 miles. The Connector path would run along the top of the bluff west of the Hwy 1 fencing.

County Planner, Elizabeth Kavanaugh updated Estero Bay News readers on their progress. "We have heard from the Proposition 68 grants through State Parks that we applied for in January," she said in an email. "We received a site visit from their representative last month and she enjoyed the walk along the bluffs and view. We will hear about those two grants by the end of the year."

The Prop. 68 grants are for \$3 million each, she added. According to the State's official website: Prop. 68 is "the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018." The \$4.1 billion bond has already seen some \$3.8 billion committed to projects throughout the state and some \$281 million still to be awarded.

But grant writing especially for a competitive grant process that's focused on deferred maintenance projects, is iffy at best. So the County is seeking money from another source. "On Wednesday [June 15]," Kavanaugh said, "we applied for an 'Active Transportation Grant' through the California Transportation Commission for the full cost of construction of \$6,656,488. We will hear from them hopefully at the end of the year."

EBN asked what the strategy is for the connector trail — will they wait until all funding is in hand or possibly finance the project through a capital improvement bonds the County is seeking to issue that would cover several large projects — a new \$34 million Probation Department Office (out for bids now) and Cayucos Vet's Hall rebuilding are two that have made the list so far.

"Our strategy," Kavanaugh said, "is to keep applying for grants for this trail until we get the money to construct. This project is not included with the bond financing being done for the Cayucos Vet's Hall and the Probation Department."

The County's roads monies funding agency — San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) — is on board.

"The County," Kavanaugh said, "received \$650,000 from SLOCOG to finish up construction drawings and completing the right of way process with Caltrans. SLOCOG continues to be very supportive of this project."

She said the connector trail would be a 12-foot wide,

smooth surface trail. It will be completely separated from traffic on Hwy 1, "to ensure the safety and increased pedestrian and bicycle use in the area. Existing coastal access points will be protected."

The path will need dozens of little "bridges" spanning the numerous cuts in the bluff, some caused by erosion. It will also need a larger bridge to span Toro Creek, the major hurdle on the entire route.

The whole area between Morro Bay and Cayucos, which includes the Chevron Dog Beach, and the Chevron Marine Terminal lands, is actively being sought by a group of several local entities — the Trust for Public Lands; the Cayucos Sanitary District; the Cayucos Land Conservancy; the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County; Morro Bay Open Space Alliance; State Coastal Conservancy; and San Luis Obispo County — to purchase and bring the vast mountainous ranchlands under public ownership and conservation.

So far they've purchased Dog Beach — the only beach in SLO County where dogs are allowed off leash (dogs are banned entirely on all State Parks beaches and the City of Morro Bay's beach at Morro Rock only allows dogs on leash).

Dog beach was purchased by the Cayucos Sanitary District and ended up in the City's hands. Morro Bay has pledged to keep it open to dogs in perpetuity.

The Cayucos CSD and County have also purchased another slice of the old terminal lands on the east side of Hwy 1, which the District needed for a new lift station and piping down Toro Creek Road to its new sewer treatment plant. The entities are now negotiating to buy the main ranchlands that lay east of Del Mar Park in what promises to be an epic conservation of hundreds of acres of valuable coastal lands.

Kavanaugh said the County started a Survey Monkey poll to whip up support for the connector project, see: [surveymonkey.com/r/KFWRFDF](https://surveymonkey.com/r/KFWRFDF). The survey has been up for some time and the strategy is to keep it going, because the results are bolstering the grant applications.

"The data was very helpful in the most recent grant application," Kavanaugh said. "Feel free to direct folks to it."

The County has also posted online a cool flyover video of the route the connector path will go. It appears to be drone video. See: [vimeo.com/245606835](https://vimeo.com/245606835).

## D.A.'s Embezzlement Auction Nets \$115,000 for Victim

By Neil Farrell

The sold signs have gone up in the District Attorney's first attempt at using online auctions to help a crime victim get justice.

The SLO County D.A.'s Office announcement said the auction of items seized in an embezzlement case out of Atascadero netted \$115,400 for the victim.

"The District Attorney's Office," the D.A.'s Office said in a news release, "secured the services of SLOCAL Estate Auctions, Inc., based in Morro Bay to auction jewelry, watches, sports memorabilia, designer shoes, handbags, artwork, and other items seized as evidence during the criminal investigation."

It was the first time that the SLO D.A.'s Office has done an auction to help raise restitution for a victim. SLOCAL Estate Auctions is owned by Jen and Doug Little.

That case involved the arrest of Joy Noel Wilde, 44 of Atascadero for embezzling \$870,000 over three years from her employer, Greg Wiemann Construction. Wilde was the bookkeeper and according to Wiemann's court testimony, was like family to the family-owned business.

Wilde was convicted of numerous felonies and sentenced to 10 years in prison. "At the sentencing hearing," the D.A. said, "San Luis Obispo County Superior Court Judge Jesse Marino highlighted the 'outrageously large amount of money' taken by Ms. Wilde and concluded that the decade-long prison sentence was warranted 'due to its

**Embezzlement** Continued on page 14



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# Police Blotter



- **June 19:** Police responded at midnight to the 500 block of Kings where a man said his firearm “was misplaced” following an argument with his girlfriend, a rather unsettling scenario to be sure.
- **June 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:10 p.m. in the 2000 block of Sunset. Logs indicated a 73-year-old fellow was cited for allegedly carrying a “concealed firearm unsecured in his vehicle.”
- **June 19:** A citizen in the 700 block of Bernardo reported that his or her bicycle was stolen by some nefarious nincompoop.
- **June 19:** A citizen in the 2800 block of Elm reported the theft of a trailer and its contents by some unknown nodcock.
- **June 18:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to a disturbance involving a juvenile hooligan in the 300 block of Dunbar. Logs indicated the annoying flesh monkey was arrested for allegedly making criminal threats.
- **June 18:** Police stopped a suspicious car at the suspect time of 12:39 a.m. at Main and Atascadero Road, the last place one wants to be at that hour. Logs indicated a 29-year-old sozzled fellow was cited for suspicion of driving tanked and turned over to a sober friend, sparing him the infamous Hwy 1 walk of shame.
- **June 17:** Police responded to a disturbance at 8 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 30-year-old ruffian was pipped at the post for suspicion of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.
- **June 17:** Someone parked at Morro Rock reported that some wharf rat got into his locked vehicle and stole several valuable items.
- **June 17:** Police responded at 1:20 p.m. to the Mobile Gas Station in the 900 block of MBB for a reported vandalism. No word on what the tool broke. Police took another vandalism report at 11 a.m. in the 200 block of Main.
- **June 16:** Police responded at 7:19 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1700 block of Main. Logs indicated a 27-year-old woman was rocked for suspicion of being stoned.
- **June 15:** Police responded at 3:50 p.m. to a reported theft in the 800 block of Pacific. Logs indicated the thieves took gardening tools and other items, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.
- **June 15:** Police responded at 1:45 p.m. to a reported vandalism to a vehicle in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd. No suspects have been identified, so if you know something ...

- **June 14:** At 10:30 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana police did the bench warrant tango with a scofflaw who already had two FTAs and was issued a third disappearance ticket.
- **June 14:** Police responded at 10 p.m. to a report of assault in the 400 block of Quintana. A woman said a known man had assaulted her after they argued over a jacket, which apparently the Bobbies said was poppycock.
- **June 14:** Someone turned in a backpack they found in the 700 block of Quintana. No word on what was in it or what millionaire it belongs to.
- **June 14:** Police documented that at 10:52 a.m. a person reported as missing was located at Albertson’s, on the isle of forgotten souls.
- **June 13:** A citizen in the 3200 block of Main reported that his or her Genesis Bella Vista bicycle was stolen.
- **June 13:** Police responded at 4:30 p.m. to the 1400 block of Teresa Dr., where someone reported a red car blocking the roadway. The driver, a 36-year-old fellow, said the car had broken down and asked for a tow truck.
- **June 13:** Police in the 300 block of Quintana Rd., pulled over a suspicious vehicle at 9:11 a.m. while “speeding away from a high crime and known drug area.” The driver, 43, was nicked for suspicion of driving stoned and possession of suspected illegal drugs for sale.
- **June 13:** Someone found a “Billy sap” and turned it over to police. A sap is an improvised weapon such as a hankie wrapped around a rock or lead weight used to bash someone’s skull in.
- **June 13:** Someone turned in an iPhone they found along with a Ford key fob.
- **June 13:** A favorite miscreant, 37, was cited and released on two bench warrants after turning himself in at the police station.
- **June 12:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 4 p.m. in the 800 block of Napa. The 53-year-old schmoe had a warrant and was issued another sayonara ticket and released. That call came just after another call from next door of this same apparent boulder making threats.
- **June 12:** Police responded at 12:19 p.m. to a report of illegal parking in the 400 block of Jamaica.
- **June 12:** Police responded at 9:24 a.m. to the 1500 block of Quintana where a citizen reported the theft of two trees. Police reportedly have no suspects, but ol’ Tarzan is looking mighty suspicious.
- **June 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 2 a.m. in the 2700 block of Birch. The driver, a 57-year-old fellow was nailed for suspicion of driving hammered, then nailed.
- **June 11:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 8:49 p.m. at Main and Dunes. Logs indicated the 47-year-old mope was cited for alleged possession of dope.
- **June 11:** Police responded at 6:12 p.m. to the 1700 block of Embarcadero for a vandalism to an RV report at Morro Dunes RV Park, and the usual creek dwelling suspects are no doubt suspected.

- **June 11:** A citizen told police that some scalawag broke into his or her vehicle. The monetary loss wasn’t listed, but the loss in a sense of personal security was no doubt felonious.
- **June 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5 a.m. on Hwy 1 at Toro Creek Road. Logs indicated a 22-year-old rookie was nicked for suspicion of drunk driving, as he was apparently out late and not up early.
- **June 10:** Police responded at 8:30 a.m. to the 500 block of Morro Bay Blvd., where some anarchist vandalized Chase Bank.
- **June 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:16 p.m. at Main and Marina. Logs indicated a 39-year-old fellow was tossed into the dungeon for suspicion of driving both drunk and stoned, aka stupid.
- **June 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:55 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana after an officer reportedly noticed the driver was talking on a cell phone. The driver, 38, turned out to be on probation, so naturally police searched his vehicle, where they allegedly found a short-barreled shotgun and shells. The reprobationer was arrested “for several firearm/weapons violations,” and hauled to the gaol.
- **June 8:** A citizen in the 1500 block of Main reported the theft of some sort of flag. No word on what the flag was representing but the USA seems to be a popular target these days.
- **June 8:** Police contacted a suspicious man, 38, at 10:38 a.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the fellow had several warrants but apparently wasn’t going down without a fight. He reportedly was also charged with suspicion of resisting arrest, assault on a police officer and possession of drugs, which explains a lot.
- **June 7:** A citizen came to the police station to report a theft by fraud. The forger got away with \$4,000.
- **June 7:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:18 p.m. in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd. An 80-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of driving schnuckered.
- **June 6:** Police responded at 8:48 p.m. to a reported assault in the 900 block of MBB. Logs indicated the call involved a fight between a customer and a Mobile Gas Station employee, no doubt caused by Putin’s price hike. An assault report was sent to the District Attorney for possible inaction.
- **June 6:** Police responded at 2:12 p.m. to a disturbance in the 800 block of Main. Logs indicated a 61-year-old fellow was thrown into the pit for suspicion of being drunk and disorderly where the tourists can see him.
- **June 6:** Police responded at noon to the 900 block of Piney Way where some sinner vandalized two statues at St. Timothy’s Catholic Church. Police have no leads but God knows who you are ...
- **June 6:** Police responded at 12:19 p.m. to the 400 block of South Bay Blvd., for a report of some scamboogah stealing a motorized bike.
- **June 6:** A citizen in the area of Allesandro and Marengo said his trailer was stolen, proving once again that people will steal anything.

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## Lions Club Celebrates its Volunteers

The Morro Bay Lion’s Club celebrated its many volunteers over a variety of community benefit efforts, by sitting down to a “Volunteer Appreciation Dinner” at the Eagle’s Aerie in North Morro Bay.

Outgoing Club President Chuck Stoll introduced the volunteers that help the Club’s activities and programs, which include the free Monday Night Dinners, held every Monday night at the Moro Bay Vet’s Hall, 209 Surf St.

Eight total groups including local churches and community groups, help out with the weekly dinners, which serve a hot meal and distribute groceries and other items like clothing, to the folks who attend, many of which are homeless.

According to the Club’s newsletter the free Monday dinners served about 2,122 people from July 1, 2021 through May 2022.

They calculated over 2,100 hours of volunteer time went into those dinners. For those not aware,” the newsletter item said, “the project has multiple components. It starts earlier in the day with the community food donations pick ups and volunteers who hard boil the eggs if available, and the sandwich making team.

“But even that is not totally accurate because we have trips to the food bank for the pantry and individuals who go outside



those hours to pick up food donations.” The dinners also include other services like free haircuts and beard trimming by Jon Elliott of Mike’s Barber Shop. Different people, including some restaurant owners, trade off being the lead chef on given Monday nights.

The Lions also celebrated all the folks who volunteer with the Car Giveaway Program, the free Community Thanksgiving Dinners, and the club’s scholarships program, as well as programs through the larger Lion’s Club International supporting science based education, and a recycling program supporting the car giveaway and other Lion’s Club causes.

As for the location of the dinner, the Lions and Eagles have an agreement to share the Eagles’ clubhouse for its meetings and once a month the Lions cook a special dinner for everyone to enjoy.

In the photo are some of the Monday Night Dinners volunteers who were on hand for the Club’s Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Photo by Neil Farrell

# Music

## Buttercup Bakery Summer Concerts

Join the fun for the brand new Saturday afternoon concert series in Morro Bay! Buttercup Bakery is proud to present a free, family friendly concert every Saturday from 3pm to 5pm. They'll be serving up delicious food, baked treats, cold beer, wine, and soft drinks - paired with some of the area's finest musical talent! Concerts will feature Stereo Chickens, Raccoon-Dog, Matthias Clark and the Soul Poets, Ynana Rose, U2's Terry Lawless, Burning James, Robi's Narrow Bridge Band, Cliffnotes, Mark Adams Band, and Jill Knight. The Buttercup Bakery is conveniently located next to the Bay Theater and across from Shine Cafe at 430 Morro Bay Blvd. Stereo Chickens kick the series off on July 2. See you there! (Photo courtesy of Stereo Chickens)



**Fri., Jul. 1** • 6:00pm  
Burning Bad & Cool  
Avila Bay Athletic Club  
6699 Bay Laurel Place,  
Avila Beach

**Fri., Jul. 1** • 4:30pm  
Concerts in the Plaza:  
Resination  
Mission Plaza  
989 Chorro St,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 1** • 6:00pm  
Cuesta Jazz Fridays!  
Linnaea's Cafe  
1110 Garden St,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 1** • 8:00pm  
Legends Band  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Fri., Jul. 1** • 7:00pm  
Ethan Tucker Band/Thrive/  
Operation Culture  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 1** • 5:00pm  
Susan Ritchie Band  
Tooth & Nail Winery  
3090 Anderson Rd,  
Paso Robles

**Sat., Jul. 2** • 6:30pm  
The Cliffnotes  
Savory Palette  
601 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

**Sat., Jul. 2** • 2:00pm  
Santa Cruz Family Band  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sat., Jul. 2** • 3:00pm  
Stereo Chickens  
Buttercup Bakery Summer  
Concerts  
430 Morro Bay Blvd,  
Morro Bay

**Sat., Jul. 2** • 7:00pm  
Sugarmill Slim  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 7:30pm  
Greasy Dashiki  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 1:00pm  
Lazy Locals Concert—Up in  
the Air  
Castoro Cellars Winery  
1315 N Bethel Rd, Templeton

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 6:00pm  
Post Westerns / Murder  
Hornets

Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 1:00pm  
Lulu & the Cowtippers  
Filipponi Ranch  
1850 Calle Joaquin,  
San Luis Obispo

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 3:00pm  
Noach Tangeras: Grover Beach  
Summer Concerts  
Ramona Garden Park  
993 Ramona Ave, Grover Beach

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 11:00am  
Stellar Trio - Sunday Patio  
Music Series  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sun., Jul. 3** • 11:00am  
Sunday Brunch: Lewis & Rose  
Tooth & Nail Winery  
3090 Anderson Rd, Paso  
Robles

**Mon., Jul. 4** • 11:00am  
Village Band / Unfinished  
Business  
Heritage Square Park  
201 Nelson St, Arroyo Grande

**Mon., Jul. 4** • 6:00pm  
South Lot /Narrow Bridge/  
Loosies/Carbon City Lights

## Zongo All-Stars headline Morro Bay 4th of July

Morro Bay has a fun, free event lined up for the community on Monday, 4th of July. Kicking things off at 11:00am will be Billy & Charlie Foppiano, followed by a magic show, then the US Coast Guard Station Morro Bay with the color guard and national anthem - and then it's a full-blown dance party with the Central Coast's favorite fun dance band: Zongo All-Stars from 2:00 - 5:00! This all goes down at Morro Bay's crown jewel of event spots: Tidelands Park, situated right on the waterfront. Bring the whole family and a picnic!  
Photo: Lance Kinney



Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Mon., Jul. 4** • 2:00pm  
Zongo All-Stars: Morro Bay  
4th of July  
Tidelands Park  
339 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

**Tue., Jul. 5** • 8:00pm  
Jason Mraz  
Vina Robles Amphitheatre  
3800 Mill Road, Paso Robles

**Thu., Jul. 7** • 6:30pm  
Sunset Sessions: Miss Leo/Joe  
Kaplow  
The Olde Alehouse  
945 Los Osos Valley Road,  
Los Osos

**Thu., Jul. 7** • 7:00pm  
Susan Ritchie Band  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Fri., Jul. 8** • 4:00pm  
August  
Avila Beach Farmers Market  
404 Front Street, Avila Beach

**Fri., Jul. 8** • 4:30pm  
The Mother Corn Shuckers  
Concerts in the Plaza  
989 Chorro St,  
San Luis Obispo

**Fri., Jul. 8** • 8:00pm  
Par Avion  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Fri., Jul. 8** • 8:00pm  
Tower of Power  
Chumash Casino Resort  
3400 East Highway 246,  
Santa Ynez

**Sat., Jul. 9** • 2:00pm  
Live at the Lighthouse: Upside  
Ska  
Point San Luis Lighthouse  
1 Lighthouse Road, Avila Beach

**Sat., Jul. 9** • 8:00pm  
Molly Ringwald Project  
The Siren  
900 Main St, Morro Bay

**Sat., Jul. 9** • 3:00pm  
RaccoonDog  
Buttercup Bakery Summer  
Concerts  
430 Morro Bay Blvd,  
Morro Bay

**Sat., Jul. 9** • 8:00pm  
Rachel Baiman  
SLO Brew Rock  
855 Aerovista Place,  
San Luis Obispo

## Paul's Picks



**Sat., Jul. 9** • 2:00pm  
Unfinished Business  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sun., Jul. 10** • 11:00am  
Bay Love - Sunday Patio Music  
Series  
Sea Pines Golf Resort  
1945 Solano St, Los Osos

**Sun., Jul. 10** • 1:00pm  
Erin & the Earthquakes: Rock-  
in' the Ranch!  
Filipponi Ranch  
1850 Calle Joaquin,  
San Luis Obispo

**Sun., Jul. 10** • 1:00pm  
Lazy Locals - Flavor Packet  
Castoro Cellars Winery  
1315 N Bethel Rd,  
Templeton

**Sun., Jul. 10** • 6:00pm  
Live Outside: The Bogeys  
Schooners  
171 N Ocean Ave., Cayucos

**Sun., Jul. 10** • 11:00am  
Monte Mills  
Arroyo Grande Summer  
Concerts  
201 Nelson St, Arroyo Grande



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# Community

## Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Situation Could Improve for Homebuyers

While the Federal Reserve's actions to increase interest rates have placed home ownership even further out of reach for many Americans, those steadily rising costs might eventually help would-be buyers, said the chair of Cal Poly's Finance Area.

"House prices are more likely to come down in the longer run as the Fed holds its course of fighting high prices with restrictive monetary policy," said Ziemowit Bednarek, an associate professor of finance. "In that sense there is definitely hope for prospective buyers."



Hope is not something non-wealthy homebuyers have experienced much of in recent years.

The median existing home price in the United States reached an all-time high of \$407,600, according to Reuters. That's 14 percent higher than last year.

While the 3% mortgage rate was attractive to buyers during the pandemic, lack of available housing led to a seller's market that drove prices upward.

But now that interest rates have increased, so too have mortgage rates, meaning already expensive homes will be even more costly to finance.

"In times of the restrictive, or high, interest-rate policy, loans are more expensive for both businesses and individuals," Bednarek said.

Hoping to ease record inflation while preventing a recession, the Fed has increased the interest rate three times since March — with more penciled in this year. That in turn results in a higher mortgage rate, which doubled to 6%.

The impact is obvious to the consumer: The monthly mortgage for a \$250,000 home would cost \$356 more while the mortgage for a \$750,000 home would be \$1,067 more each month, according to the Washington Post.

Yet, again, there's a little hope. Because eventually people are likely to just stop buying homes.

"Expensive loans will dampen the consumer demand and, at least in theory, lead to the lower demand in the housing market — and therefore lower prices," Bednarek said.

But there is a caveat: "Since the COVID 2019 pandemic started in March of 2020, the economy has been undergoing a number of structural shifts — one of those being working from home," Bednarek said. "People realized that

they can move to a cheaper location and keep their job by working online. Of course, this caused the prices in those originally cheap markets to skyrocket."

Also, higher interest rates could impact the construction of new homes, which already stalled during the pandemic, contributing to higher prices.

"Companies will be less likely to expand and hire, which will only deepen the shortage of new homes," he said. "This part may, in fact, counteract the effect of expensive credit on the housing market itself, and keep existing home prices up."

The recent developments prompt mortgage rate strategies. Buyers who lock into a 15- or 30-year fixed-rate mortgage would be protected from future interest rate increases. However, there are occasions where a more unpredictable adjustable-rate mortgage might make sense.

"If you do not plan to hold on to the house for too long, or if interest rate increases are not expected to last, it may make more sense to go with an ARM," Bednarek said. "In our current market situation though, it looks as if the Fed is poised to keep hiking interest rates in the foreseeable future."

### Help Needed on 4th of July

Need to make a little fast money? The Cayucos Lions Club is looking for some folks to help with their Annual Cayucos Independence Day Parade and Fireworks Show.

The club needs about 14 people — four in the morning shift from noon to 3 p.m.; four from 3-7 p.m.; and six from 7-11 p.m. Pay is \$20 an hour.

We're told most of the restaurants will offer some food and drinks too.

If interested, contact the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce at (805) 995-1200, and leave your name and phone number.

### Woods Urgently Seeks Kitten Foster Volunteers

June was National Foster a Pet Month, but the need continues. Woods Humane Society says it needs more foster homes in order to help the many homeless kittens in our community that are too young or too under-socialized to come to the shelter yet.

"We need as many foster homes as possible right now," says Woods Intake and Foster Coordinator Kelsey U'Ren, explaining that June is historically the height of kitten sea-



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# Community



son on the Central Coast, and this year is proving to be no different. She says Woods has 104 kittens in foster homes right now, with more requests coming to them daily. Over the course of the month of May, the organization provided foster care for 147 kittens.

To help local community members determine whether fostering is right for them, Woods has created a foster page on its website, [www.WoodsHumane.org/Foster](http://www.WoodsHumane.org/Foster), which includes links to the foster application forms for both the SLO and Atascadero shelter locations, an infographic about what to do if you find kittens, as well as its recent kitten season webinar, featuring a bottle-feeding demonstration and answers to frequently asked questions.

For more information about Woods, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org) or call (805) 543-9316. Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero.

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

# News

## Coroner Seeks Help to I.D. Body Found in Pismo

The county coroner is asking for help identifying a man whose body wash ashore in Pismo Beach last January. The body was discovered on Jan. 13, 2022 washed up near South Dolliver Street in Pismo Beach, and has not yet been identified.

"The body had been in the water for an extended period of time," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release dated June 22. "There were no obvious signs to indicate the death was criminal in nature."

Due to being submerged in water for so long, they can only give a description of the man, who had some distinctive tattoos and piercings.

"The body appears to be a white male," Cipolla said. "Tattoos of note include what appears to be a tulip and other tattoos on the left arm. The left ankle has what appears to be tattoos of flames and possibly the top of a high-rise building."

"A tragus piercing of the left ear with a purple hoop earring was also present."

A tragus piercing is done on the small flap of cartilage that partially covers the ear canal, as opposed to piercings done on the outer rim of the ear or on the ear lobe.

Cipolla said the man's death is being investigated by the Pismo Beach Police Department and the Sheriff's Coroner's Unit. If readers recognize the man's description they should contact the Coroner's Office at (805) 781-4513.

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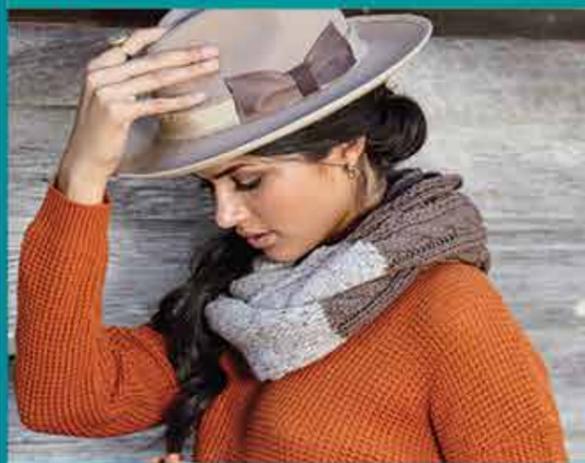
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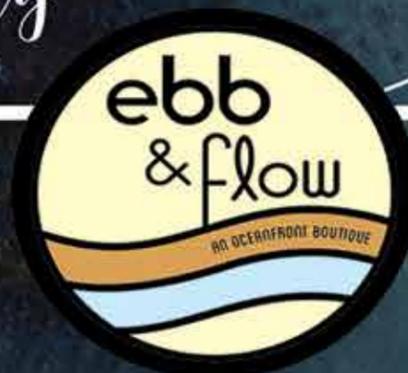
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# Community

## Events and Activities



By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Veteran fighter pilot, Lt. Col. Ed Cobleigh will speak at the Estrella Warbirds Museum's monthly dinner on July 6, 4251 Dry Creek Road in Paso Robles. Ed will recount adventures in his career as a fighter pilot with the U. S. Air Force, U. S. Navy, Royal Air Force, Imperial Iranian Air Force, and the French Air Force. He also instructed at the USAF Fighter Weapons School, USN's Top Gun school, and Royal Air Force's Qualified Weapons Instructor course. As an Air Intelligence Officer, Ed worked with the CIA, FBI, and MI6 on a variety of covert intelligence projects.

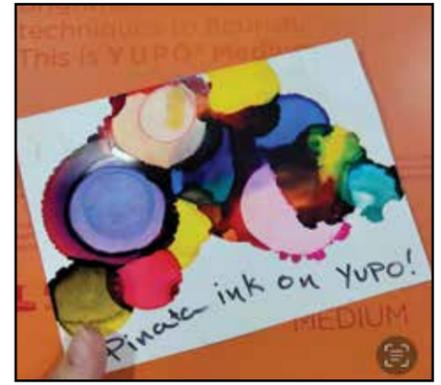
Ed will also describe his fascination with the Peregrine Falcons at Morro Rock.

The dinner is catered and reservations should be made by Monday, July 4. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 per person on-line at [www.ewarbirds.org/museum/reservations.shtml](http://www.ewarbirds.org/museum/reservations.shtml) or by calling 805 296-1935. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a no-host bar and dinner will be served at 6:30p.m..

...  
 Axe Throwing takes place on Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. at Bayside Martial Arts, 1200 2nd St., Los Osos. Enjoy the art of axe throwing in a safe and fun environment. Kids ages 10 and older are welcome with an adult. No personal axes are permitted. For more information, call 805-528-4880.  
 ...

Morro Bay Art Association hosts the Pastel Society of the West Coast and their 36th annual International Exhibition of Pastels USA. This juried event is a collective of exceptional pastel artworks featuring some of the finest contemporary artists in the world. Many of the artists are internationally acclaimed. Former entries have come from all over North America and as far away as Africa, Turkey, Asia and Europe!

"Pastels USA" is on display through August 8. The opening reception is Sunday, July 3 from 2-4 p.m. and the closing reception features the award ceremony on the last day of this event, Sunday, August 7 from 2-4 p.m. These events are free and open to the public.



Join Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street, Morro Bay, for a monthly meeting geared toward sharing information about what's happening at the center along with a free, fun filled, interactive art demonstration presented by the Art Central store in SLO.

During this interactive art demonstration, Spencer Collins will show folks how to use Piñata Colors. Use vivid alcohol inks on Yupo and Posca Markers to add extra flair.



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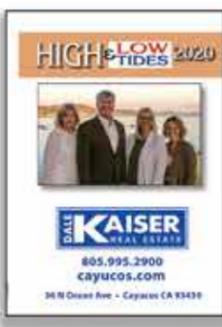
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This year we proudly celebrate 39 years of placing an American Flag in front of each Cayucos residence. For many years it was Dale alone that established this tradition and over the years it has built up to 50+ locals, mostly kids, that look forward to this early-morning holiday fun! Thank you to all those who have helped us honor Freedom for all in America.



DRE 01297036

# Community

Piñata Colors clean up with alcohol and re-wet themselves, allowing for unique effects and techniques not easily achieved with water-based inks. This general meeting takes place July 11, 3 - 5 p.m. It is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kirsti Wothe at [mrswothe@yahoo.com](mailto:mrswothe@yahoo.com) or visit [www.artcentermorrobay.org](http://www.artcentermorrobay.org)

The Central Coast Dragon Boat Association is recruiting men with a series of five Special 'Guys Only' Paddles on Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity for men of all ages to try the team sport of dragon boating. The 'Guys Only' Paddles are at 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on July 5, July 12, July 19 and July 26; all Tuesdays.

Meet at Sub Sea Tours at 699 Embarcadero #9, Morro Bay. Equipment and training will be provided. Men can come to any one or more of the paddles. The first paddle is free. After the first paddle, the organization requests a \$10 donation.

For more information, visit [CCDBA.org](http://CCDBA.org), or e-mail Sandy Mitchell at [director3@ccdba.org](mailto:director3@ccdba.org).

Seven Sisters Gallery, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 8 Morro Bay, presents The Plein Air Team. Acrylic artist, Nancy Lynn, and husband, watercolorist, Robert Fleming, have an ongoing show of originals and giclee prints of Morro Bay and local birds. For more information, call 805-772-9955.

Check out Butch Cassidy and the Sunburnt Kid at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano on Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. and Sundays, 6 p.m. through Aug. 6. This gut-busting parody follows the adventures of Butch and Sundance as they change the



course of history in the Old West. En route to Bolivia, the two outlaws find the perfect hideout in a town where nothing ever happens. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.americanmelodrama.com](http://www.americanmelodrama.com).

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

## OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

## First Sighting

Story and Illustration by Catherine Kornreich

I feel like I've been robbed. I'd like to be introduced to the majestic sea as an adult, to stand at her shore in awe, with eyes that have never witnessed such grandeur, such power, such glory.

But I don't remember the very first time I saw the ocean, because my family has vacationed at the beach forever.

I have photos of my grampa, as a young kid, clamming in Pismo with his dad. And photos of me, at about the same age, clamming, and posing behind a substantial mound of clams. Pictures of me toddling along Cayucos beach with nothing on but a soggy cloth diaper, clutching a piece of driftwood. And a shot of me on one of Virg's fishing vessels

in Morro Bay, at about 13, proudly hoisting my wimpy orange rock cod.

Yes, I envy the newbies who experience the ocean for their first time.

Today I watched a mother with her two young children as they cautiously tiptoed to the frothy water, then joyously danced and twirled in the gentle waves. I saw the children reaching up with their newfound treasures...a piece of broken clam shell, a shiny rock, a dripping clump of sand — the mother exclaiming with joy, congratulating them on each find.

The little boy ran along the shoreline, literally trying to catch a wave in his hands, while the girl sat and dug a hole for her tiny feet.

The mother stood with her arms flung wide, fingers splayed as she continued to rotate from point to point, taking in the entire coast. Every now and then I'd see her hop a few times...both hands tented over her mouth, as she watched a ribbon of pelicans meandered over a breaking wave...or a sailboat slowly moving along the horizon.

Keeping one eye on her children, she skipped along the shallow water, chasing after the sandpipers, scooping up seaweed, waving at a seagull who flew close by.

I'd love to see the ocean through her eyes, to experience it anew.

Don't get me wrong...I love the ocean and would be content to be beside her constantly. But I tend to go into a meditative trance, my gaze glazed somewhere in the middle distance, as she roars constant reminders of her power, and myriad birds and sea mammals nudge my peripheral vision.

I remember tumbling around in this ocean as a child — even throughout college — any time of year. The cold

**First Sighting** Continued on page 14



**Visit Morro Bay has THREE seats open for a two-year term. Starting on July 2022 and finishing in June 2024.**



### Requirements.

**Attendance of six board meetings per year, currently via Zoom.**

**Hotel, Inn, B&B and Motel board members must be owner or manager with at least one property within Morro Bay city limits**

**Business member seat must be owner or manager of a licensed businesses within Morro Bay City limits. Preferably tourism related business.**

**Find out more information at:  
[www.morrobay.org/board-of-directors/](http://www.morrobay.org/board-of-directors/)**

# Opinion

## Serving the Underserved

By Ruth Ann Angus

Language can be tricky sometimes and organizations that work with people in need often have difficulty expressing exactly what they offer. This is the case for Los Osos Cares (LOC) working on the Central Coast of California. LOC is a humanitarian organization that acts as a social service resource for people in the communities of Los Osos, Morro Bay, and Cayucos.

"We aid homeless and people suffering poverty with information and access to other organizations and groups that can help them," commented Executive Director, Linda Quesenberry, "but we realized that there is more to this. There are people who don't exactly fall into a particular category. From that we found that we needed to change our mission statement to say that we serve the underserved, because in truth, that covers the larger picture of what we do."

So, who are the "underserved?" One group that appears to be left out from the attentions of humanitarian and social services organizations are hospitality workers, especially Latino hospitality workers. We are talking about motel maids, servers, dish washers, cooks, and servers' helpers in restaurants, temporary workers, and others. And while here many of those workers are Latinos, they can be anyone. The underserved are a microcosm of all nationalities, races, genders, and religions.

The towns of the Central Coast of California are basically tourist destinations. Thousands of people flock there to enjoy the sea air, the beaches, and fun seaside activities all year long. In Morro Bay alone there are over 100 motels and a myriad of eateries. All these establishments need basic workers to serve the public. Most of these people are relatively invisible and for the most part little notice of any of their needs is taken. When Covid hit in 2020, restaurants and motels closed. No one travelled. What happened to the livelihoods of these workers?

That question haunted Quesenberry and when she mentioned it to others from social services agencies and humanitarian groups, a lightbulb turned on for everyone. What did happen to those workers? And how many times have they been left out of whatever help is available?

In the Sacramento area these questions had organizers forming the Western Service Workers Association, an all-volunteer grassroots labor organizing organization of low income, domestic and temporary workers. The mission was to identify these people to permanently improve working and living conditions for the lowest income workers. In the effort to discover who these underserved individuals were volunteers formed up and went house to house in certain areas of the city, knocking on doors, and asking residents if they worked in the service industries. The object of this was to gather a membership of service workers who share common problems, such as low wages, rising costs for housing, utilities and food and form them into committees to work for government and political changes to benefit them.

A similar organization, the Eastern Service Workers Association operates in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This too is an all-volunteer organizing drive through which low-income service workers have joined together to fight for their long-term economic interests including opposing destructive anti-labor government policies such as workfare, enterprise zones, managed care and the privatization of our public health care resources and school systems. Service workers in Pennsylvania along with other workers lost hundreds of thousands of jobs due to the economic fallout from the handling of the pandemic.

The economic impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the absence of timely, coordinated government action hit service workers hardest. Lacking the knowledge of what resources such as emergency food, clothing, medical care, dental care, legal assistance, referral services for jobs, and more left service industry workers on the Central Coast of California in the dark.

The question now for LOC is how to deal with this ongoing problem. Do we need to establish a similar door-to-

door volunteer canvassing to identify these workers? Should we organize a membership of domestic workers to tackle labor organizing? How best to get the resource information to the people? Do we need a Western Service Workers Association here? The answers to these questions hopefully will reveal a path for LOC to serve the underserved more adequately.

**Embezzlement** From page 6  
sheer volume.'

Wilde was also ordered to pay \$877,123 in restitution. After her sentencing, Wilde reportedly signed over her ill-gotten gains to the District Attorney to be sold and credited against her restitution order.

The victims were first allowed to keep whatever they wanted out of the luxury items she bought with their money. The items were appraised and the value of whatever they kept subtracted from Wilde's restitution.

In what has to be an oddity for what is essentially a theft case, albeit an enormous theft case, is that Wilde kept sales receipts from many of the more expensive items she bought.

It should be noted that while she used stolen money to purchase the jewelry, watches, sports and rock 'n' roll collectibles, and high fashion items (mainly shoes), none of the stores that sold her the merchandise is being prosecuted.

District Attorney Dan Dow was pleased with the results of the sale. "Embezzlement crimes are significant at several levels," D.A. Dow said. "In addition to the financial devastation that large scale thefts can wreak on a business, is the very personal impact realized when a long-term employee in a position of confidence violates that trust. The \$115,540 in auction proceeds is a significant step to offset the substantial financial loss inflicted by Ms. Wilde."

Ordinarily, when a criminal is ordered to pay restitution, they earn money while in prison that is collected by the State and eventually given to the victim. The D.A.'s Office is charged with keeping track of these orders and the payments.

**First Sighting** From page 11

water would eventually numb me, but today, the thought of wading out is not one I entertain, unless it's the Polar Bear Dip, or I'm in a wetsuit.

She still holds so many mysteries beneath her dancing surface, so many questions that we'll never answer.

But for now, my curiosity is completely overflowing with the tableau in front of me.

So many beachcombers are just that...people combing the beach. Looking for shells, heart shaped rocks, sea glass. Forgetting to look out at the horizon, at the pod of dolphins arcing in and out of the waves.

Paddleball, baggies full of gems, sandcastles, dogwalk-

ers, joggers, kite-surfers, surfers, skim-boarders, sun-bathers, fishermen, lovers, kayakers, collectors (everyone eventually stoops to pick something up), picnickers, kids hiding in giant holes and building sandcastles: the beach offers something for virtually everyone.

But if you don't want to get sand on your feet, well, then, you might want to find a place to park that has a good view.

And if you want to experience the sight of the ocean for the very first time, as I do, well, you're outta luck. Ain't gonna happen. But you can still grab your dog, a leash, and a ball, and head on down for some fresh air, some rhythmic

pounding and faithful roll of waves, birdsong, cool water and of course, sand.

And if you focus your gaze on the middle ground, halfway between the waves and the horizon, you just might be lucky enough to see those dolphins or whales go dancing by.

Even if you don't, you'll be happy you came to see the beach for the first time ... today.

Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich is a member of The Book-Shelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit [www.thebookshelfwriters.com](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com)



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By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay High school year is over, but before the seniors were unleashed onto the world and the rest of the students left for summer vacation, the school honored its top athletes in every varsity sport.

Called "The Platinum Pirate Awards" the honors go to the MVPs of their respective teams and to the male and female Athletes of the Year.

Those Athletes of the Year Awards were given to Wesley Wilson and Peyton Schemmer.

Schemmer was a standout on the Lady Pirates' Softball Team and had a truly amazing season. A shortstop and a pitcher, she batted .541, with 6 home runs, 13 doubles and 33 RBIs. Pitching, she posted a 1.34 ERA, with 158 strikeouts and allowed just 19 earned runs while pitching 70% of the time.

Schemmer has committed to play softball at Syracuse University in New York.

Wilson was a State Medalist wrestler who won the CIF Central Section Div. III title at 182 pounds. He will grapple on the mats for Cal Poly SLO next year.

The school also hands out Good Guy and Good Girl Awards and this year they went to Charles Minetti and Hana Yoneyama.

The Cross Country Platinum Pirate Awards went to Charles Inman and Annabelle Wieck.

In football the award went to Dylan Turner, who will play for Cal Lutheran next year.

In girl's golf the award went to Lena Karas and the boy's team award went to Johnathan Riley.

The Girls' Tennis Team award went to Ella Stoneman and the boy's team award went to Joshua Failla.

The Girls' Volleyball Team honored Hannah Colletti and the boy's team awarded Jonah Konjoyan with a Platinum Pirate Award.

The Boys' Water Polo Team honored Zeke Taylor and the Girls' Team honored Kali Gammie.

The Boys' Basketball Team gave its Platinum Pirate Award to Camden Steeb and the Girls' Team Award went to Sophie Graves.

Boys' Soccer Award went to Hugo Mendoza and the Girls' Team Award to Jessica Chavez.

Boys' Wrestling Team honored Shea Dawson and the Girls' Team Award went to Sofia Steen.

The Baseball Platinum Pirate Award went to Cayden Reineke and the Girls' Softball Team Award went to Reese Tartaglia.

The Boys' Track Team, which won the first ever Mountain League Championship in any MBHS sport went to hurdler Phoenix Popp and the Girls' Award went to Ava Burton.

Andrew Estala got the award for the cheerleader/stunt squad and Abigail Roberts was honored from the beach volleyball team.

Hayden Davis was the winner of the Platinum Pirate Award for the Boys' Swimming Team and Sydney Beckett won for the girl's team.

In other MBHS news, the Tribune named its All SLO County Baseball and Softball Teams and Pirates topped both lists.

Schemmer was the Tribune's Player of the Year for her terrific season leading the Lady Pirates to the CIF semi-finals. Tartaglia was named First Team All County and Emily Duclos was Second Team. Sadie Pilnick made Honorable Mention All County.

In boy's baseball, pitching ace, Morgan Codron was named Co-Player of the Year along with Arroyo Grande pitcher, Marc Byrum. Joining Codron on the First Team All County was Jackson Howell, with Nicky Johnson making Second Team All County. John Skaggs was Honorable Mention All County.

And on the administration front, school Principal Scott Schalde hired MBHS alumnus Tyler Hoyt to be the new Athletic Director, replacing longtime A.D., John Andree.

Hoyt is already a teacher in the San Luis Coastal School District and has been coaching at Laguna Middle



Morro Bay High School named Wesley Wilson (left) and Peyton Schemmer the 2022 Male and Female Athletes of the Year. Wilson was a State Medalist wrestler and Schemmer a standout on the softball team. Both plan to continue competing in college. Photo courtesy MBHS

School for 10 years, Schalde said in his announcement.

Hoyt has been pulling triple duty as the Laguna MS athletic director, track & field, and cross-country coach. Schalde came to MBHS in 2021 from Laguna MS, too.

"Throughout his time at Laguna and coaching at both Morro Bay High and SLO High," Schalde said, "Tyler has built large athletic teams, which fostered the development of young people and were also widely successful on a competitive level."

Hoyt was born and raised in Los Osos and Schalde said he's glad to be home again.

"He is thrilled to be returning to lead our athletic programs," Schalde said. "Prior to his career in education, Tyler attended U.C. Santa Cruz where he was instrumental in starting an NCAA men's cross country program and overseeing intramural athletics."

Hoyt and wife Jessica have two young sons — Dylan, who is 3, and George, 1. The family lives in Los Osos and Dylan and George will go to school at Baywood Elementary and eventually attend the school by the beach as their pops did.

Schalde also announced the hiring of a new head football coach, Robert Dougherty, replacing former head coach, Jake Goosen-Brown who resigned to take a job coaching at Notre Dame Academy in Southern California.

Coach Hired Continued on page 20

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# Community

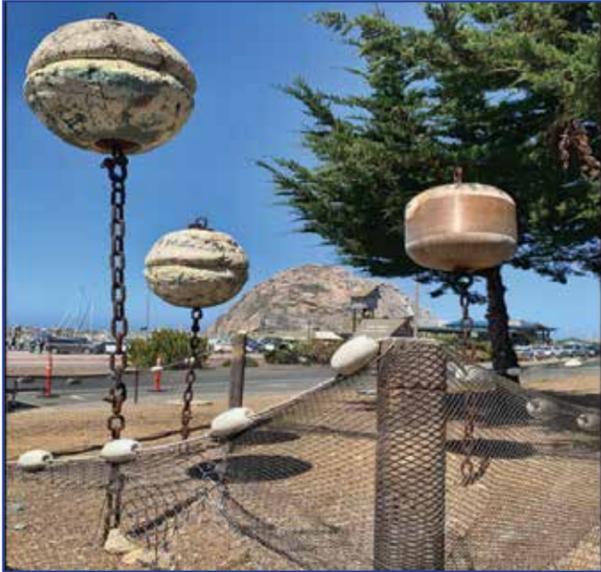
Surviving From page 1



Kids explore a Bathysphere, a unique spherical deep-sea submersible that was unpowered and lowered into the ocean on a cable.

perfect to release the competitors in the 2nd annual Rotary Ducky Derby on Morro Bay. Reserve your breakfast spot on the waterfront in full view to see your ducky swim to the finish or be wrangled by a Dragon Boat. Then stroll towards MBMM's presentation patio for the awards ceremony plus a full day of free, free, free maritime happenings at the Maritime Family Fun Day. Updates soon.

An historic reminder: it took 20-plus years of hoping and planning by founding members still involved, Larry Newland, Keith Kelsey and Jack Hunter, to realize a maritime museum on the Central Coast. Their small team of regulars spent years manning a booth at Morro Bay's Harbor Festivals and then weekends explaining to locals and visitors why a humongous U.S. Navy submarine, the DSRV Avalon, was consuming prime parking spaces.



Donated mooring balls stand tall in the Embarcadero frontage. In the 50s, Virg's Landing would take-on deep-sea fishing passengers at San Simeon Landing

A little "wind beneath their sails" came when the City of Morro Bay designated a piece of adjacent unpaved parking lot for the group to relocate the submarine and get the Tugboat Alma out of the Harbor Department's maintenance yard. Coincidentally, the Maritime Museum of San Diego decided to offer ticketed tours in Morro Bay for two weeks during the maiden Pacific Coast voyage of their recently crafted replica of Cabrillo's San Salvador. By October 2016 a permanent future home for MBMM was fast-tracked. Stars aligned to begin raising the funds to "raise the roof" on its first structure. When the San Salvador sailed into Morro Bay, the entire community was ready to host the mega-waterfront event. San Diego Maritime donated tour proceeds, local students, residents, and visitors donated dimes-to-dollars and a charter member campaign designated as the 1542 Navigators banked the funds to open MBMM debt-free in September 2018. Membership dues, sponsored brick and bench sales, keep-the-lights-on donations, and volunteers telling maritime stories kept the doors open - free to the public.

Then, March 2020 shuttered visitations, but the little museum that could, decided it would. "We had a fairly new board of trustees," said Bonnie Jones, treasurer. "We knew

we had to think outside the box, literally, and figure out how we would manage without visitors supporting the gift shop and donations. We realized we needed to focus on opportunities that would attract visitors outdoors."

Jones, past president Scott Mather and trustee Cathy Ryan talked this writer through numerous new exhibits. "The Spindrift was donated by the Fort Family and spent years deteriorating in the Harbor Department's maintenance yard. Then John Burgener, Bill Steele, newly elected trustee president, and several Morro Bay Yacht Club friends began restoration," continued Jones. "The William Steele Family's donation helped fund the project and supported our outdoor presentation patio."

MBMM began to host group gatherings, annual meetings, book signings, speakers, music, member barbecues, school tours, and hosted community groups like Red Hats, veterans, rotary and touring car clubs.

Jones added, "We have an entire rack of maritime books in the museum store but once we could offer speaker presentations and book signings, people were back to see what we were doing. It also helps us that we've been able to sell over 1,000 copies of Joe Dunlap's *When Morro Bay Went to War* and Stuart McDowell's *The Sinking of the Montebello*."

Since volunteers could no longer retell an exhibit's significance, Mather interviewed representatives who had served on vessels displayed then linked their story up to a QR Code so visitors access the recordings even when the museum was closed. For example, Keith Kelsey served on the Tugboat Alma, Rich Pescatore told his DSRV story, and Morro Bay's past president of the commercial fisherman group and now a MBMM trustee, Jeremiah O'Brian, explained how the Spindrift is representative of the typical fishing boat of his era.

"Did you notice the mooring display out front?" asked Mather. "Back in the 50s, at the height of the summer season, Virg's Landing would take-on deep-sea fishing passengers at San Simeon Landing." The donated mooring balls stand tall in the Embarcadero frontage area next to the DSRV. They attract visitors towards another new exhibit in progress - the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Association story about the fishing industry, the women's fishery contributions and a history of the Harbor Patrol. Also pending its completion is the indigenous Salinan Tribe exhibit.

MBMM joined an emerging California maritime museum consortium designed for members to share donated artifacts with noteworthy coastal history. A representative whaling harpoon and blubber melting pot were shared by the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Mather Lori Video Services coordinated the video production of "Morro Bay 'Once' the Abalone Capital of the World." Two presentations at the Bay Theater sold-out with representatives of the long-gone industry introduced and taking questions from the audience. If you missed the event, the video is available at the museum store.

A grant from the City of Morro Bay created the interactive maritime Kids Cove and Legos display. Wink, wink!! Parents, how about allowing your kids time to tie the nautical knots, please?

Ryan laughed remembering when a teacher locked herself up in the Kids Cove and one of her high school students said, "Best school day ever." She added, "Don't forget



Joe Dunlap, the author of "When Morro Bay Went to War," speaking at a Morro Bay Maritime Museum event.

Jim Costanza (a volunteer) showed up one day with several donation boxes he had built." The group has strategically placed them near more exhibits to gently remind visitors they can offer a thank you gift. "Visitors have been generous."

In his poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," poet Robert Frost wrote, "And miles to go before I sleep." MBMM's trustees are sitting on historic gold with no place to share it. Negotiations are active to expand their lease space. May 2022 the original SurviveOars dragon boat was donated. Also, a WWII Quonset hut has been pledged. MBMM's proposal to the City includes more indoor exhibits: a turn-of-century fishing shack outfitted with period equipment; a visual display of the merchant steamship era when founder Franklin Riley would row his products out to a Pacific Coast transporter; a multimedia theater/meeting room earmarked for nonprofits and city usage; a maritime research library; and a static diorama display of the US Coast Guard rescue boat and Morro Bay Harbor's retired boat.

Although the Rock the Waterfront and Maritime Family Fun Day is October 6 and 8, you don't have to wait to check them out. MBMM is open Thursdays-Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact [www.morrobaymaritime.org](http://www.morrobaymaritime.org) or link up on Facebook for the latest information.

Celebrations From page 1

8 p.m. at Hotel Cerro in SLO, 1125 Garden St. The event features barbecue-style dishes, hand-crafted cocktails, and live music from pop artist Nataly Lola. This event is complimentary to hotel guests and \$20 per individual for the public. Subject to availability. First come, first serve.

The Cayucos Chamber has Independence Day festivities planned. Fireworks on the Cayucos Pier take place after dusk on July 4. All day before that, the Chamber presents the Front Street Faire from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. featuring a myriad of food, boutique apparel, and craft and retail vendors. Stop by the Cayucos Chamber booth on Front Street to enter their Beachfront Vacation Rental giveaway.

Art in the Park in Morro Bay takes place July 2-4 at Morro Bay Park on the corner of Morro Bay Blvd and Harbor Drive. Saturday and Sunday goes from 10 a.m. to 5

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p.m. and Monday, July 4 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Check out 108 booths representing 125 independent artists and craft workers.

The Cayucos Lions club will once again sponsor the Independence Day Parade. This year the theme is "Re-united and it feels so good." It starts at 10 a.m., but get there early because Ocean Avenue will be closed at 7th street at 9 a.m.

Directly after the parade check out the Cayucos Lions Club sponsored BBQ at the Vet's hall-serving BBQ oysters, tri tip sandwiches, hotdogs and beverages. The Club is also hosting a sand-sculptor contest, starting at 5 a.m. with judging at 9 a.m.

Join History Center SLO for a July 4 pancake breakfast at Camp San Luis Obispo, the original home of the California National Guard. Bring the entire family and enjoy a delicious traditional pancake breakfast in troop mess hall (Bldg 839) from 0800 until 1000 hours (8-10 a.m.) prepared by the Bay-Osos Kiwanis Club.

Following chow, your marching orders are to deploy on the Heritage Walking Tour at your own pace. Inspect the historic Camp SLO Chapel and continue your reconnaissance up Sonoma Avenue to learn about each of the statues, memorials, and military vehicles displayed, including the Bataan Memorial diorama.

Please allow yourself at least an hour to peruse the Camp's military heritage displays along the half-mile self-guided walking tour loop. Printed pamphlets will describe the historic features. Informative audio recordings may also be available. So, bring your charged mobile device and headphones, cellular data roaming service required for downloads.

The proceeds, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12, will benefit the educational activities of the History Center

of SLO and the California State Guard Foundation, Museum Program. Children under 6 are free.

Drivers of all vehicles entering Camp SLO are required to show current drivers license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance at the main gate entrance on Hwy 1 between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Signage will direct vehicles to the parking lot adjacent to the dining facility on Calveras Avenue. Get tickets at [historycenterslo.org/campslo.html](http://historycenterslo.org/campslo.html).

Fireworks and fun return to the Pismo beach on July 4. Fireworks explode from the pier at about nightfall, but the day starts at 9 a.m. with a DJ, music, and vendors in the Pier parking lot.

Arroyo Grande will once again be home to Concerts in the Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 4 at Centennial Park. The Village Band plays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. then Unfinished Business takes to the stage from 2 to 4 p.m.

Avila will once again go to the dogs on the 4th of July. Start off the holiday celebration with a pancake breakfast for you and your canine friends in the garden of the Avila Beach Community Center, then head down to the Avila Beach Promenade for the annual Doggie Parade at 11 a.m. For more information, call 805-627-1997.

The Atascadero 4th of July Music Festival takes place at the Atascadero Lake Park from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 4. There is fun for everyone including music, food, drinks, family fun, kids amusements & playground, and vendors. Don't forget to bring your low back chair or blanket. The artists Bremen Town, Brad Alvord, and the Way Out West Band are slated to perform.



# Obituaries

## Louis George Tornatzky, Jr. 1940 - 2022



Louis George Tornatzky, Jr. passed away peacefully on May 29th, 2022 surrounded by his family, books, and art at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife, three sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, one sister, and three nephews.

Lou was born into a hard-working family. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, with two sisters. He blossomed into a studious hell-raiser and captain of his high-school football team. Electing to serve his country right out of high school, the Marine Corps expanded his world view.

After military service, he returned to Ohio, graduating with honors from Ohio State University. During his tenure at OSU, Lou sued the college over free speech issues and won (Schwartz, Tornatzky, Wilkinson vs. The Ohio State University 1963). Lou's attendance at the "I Have a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King during this time became a defining moment of his life. He became a lifelong supporter of social causes and believed deeply in fighting for justice and against fascism.

He returned to the West Coast and earned his Masters and Ph.D. in Organizational and Social Psychology from Stanford University. Alongside his studies in Palo Alto, Lou dabbled with becoming a sculptor. Evidence remains: a 12 ft. owl made out of car parts at a home in Palo Alto.

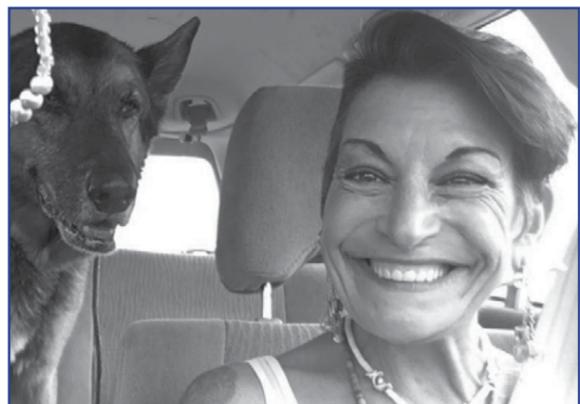
Lou spent the next twenty years working and teaching in Washington, D.C., at the National Science Foundation, and in and around Michigan State University.

He authored and co-authored many books, monographs, reports, and papers. This time of his life served as the basis for many of his lifelong friends and colleagues, particularly while working at Industrial Technology Institute in Ann Arbor. During the early heyday of the economic boom of the Raleigh-Durham area, Lou assumed a role as Director for the Southern Growth Policies Board in North Carolina where he was responsible for growing tech sectors among 16 Southern States and Puerto Rico.

Lou returned to California where he lived in Silverado, an old mining town, and he served as senior scholar and vice president for research at the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and Select University Technologies. Later, he moved to Los Osos/Baywood Park on the Central Coast. He spent the final years of his career working at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he was a department chair and professor of Industrial Technology. His happiest achievement there was co-founding the Cal Poly Center of University Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center.

After retiring, Lou spent many years in civic duty as a director on the Los Osos Community Services District and as a docent for Friends of the Elephant Seal. Regardless of location or time period, he always was a significant contributor to the many lives he touched. Students, peers, family, and strangers can attest to his affable character that was filled with humor, passion, and love.

## Mimi Goldberg 1966 - 2022



Mimi Goldberg, resident of Morro Bay and Los Osos for more than 30 years, was 54 when she passed away on April 5, 2020. She is survived by her daughter, Lena and her son, Alden, her brother and sister, Mike and Andrea, and her mother Beatrice.

Mimi was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. As a child and teenager, she was very outgoing and enjoyed many activities including swimming, gymnastics, skateboarding and horseback riding. She continued her love of the water as an adult by moving close to the ocean and regularly swimming and kayaking in Morro Bay.

Mimi was very creative and loved to make crafts and jewelry and was enjoying a ceramics class at Cuesta College. She loved live music, singing and karaoke and regularly attended music festivals and concerts.

She loved animals and always had her beloved dog, Bruno, close by. Bruno was

her best friend and faithful companion for many years and was with Mimi where ever she went.

Mimi loved the outdoors and was actively involved in protecting animals and the environment. She was active in her community, and she frequently attended and spoke at city council meetings to advocate for changes that would positively impact the community.

Mimi had a very warm and generous heart and would do what ever she could to help friends and strangers alike. She had a great sense of humor and would keep a positive, up-beat attitude even when facing adversity. She always had a positive word and smile for everyone she met.

Friends and family will gather for a celebration of Mimi's life on July 17, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cayucos Pier.

### July 4th Pancake Breakfast and Heritage Walking Tour of Camp San Luis Obispo

Hosted by Camp San Luis Obispo and the History Center of SLO County

**Monday morning July 4, 2022**  
Bay-Osos Kiwanis Club will serve breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m.  
followed by a self-guided walking tour at your leisure

**Celebrate Independence Day**  
with this rare opportunity to visit and tour Camp San Luis Obispo, the original home of the California National Guard.

Bring the entire family and enjoy a delicious traditional pancake breakfast in a troop mess hall from 0800 until 1000 hours (8-10 a.m.) prepared by the Bay-Osos Kiwanis Club. *Kids under 6 are free!*

Following chow, your marching orders are to deploy on the Heritage Walking Tour at your own pace. Inspect the historic Camp SLO Chapel and continue your reconnaissance up Sonoma Avenue to learn about each of the statues, memorials, and military vehicles displayed, including the Bataan Memorial diorama.

Please allow yourself at least an hour to peruse the Camp's military heritage displays along the half mile self-guided walking tour loop. Printed pamphlets will describe the historic features. Informative audio recordings may also be available. So, bring your charged mobile device and headphones (cellular data roaming service required for downloads).

Proceeds of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 6-12 will benefit the educational activities of the History Center of SLO and the California State Guard Foundation, Museum Program.

Online registration is encouraged. Please visit [www.HistoryCenterSLO.org/campslo](http://www.HistoryCenterSLO.org/campslo). The general public is welcome, and attendees may sign-up that morning at the dining facility.

To register online or for more info visit [historycenterslo.org/campslo](http://historycenterslo.org/campslo) or call (805) 543-0638

# Community

Walkabout From page 1

## Ugly Mug Ceramics 875 Main St.



The name Ugly Mug Ceramics belies the cute little art store that specialized in handcrafted ceramic mugs, bowls, cups and art pieces, with a small studio space in the back.

Owned by Aimee Brantley and Shell Voorhees, Brantley told Estero Bay News that they opened in the old circle Inn Building. She migrated here from Fresno about 4-years ago, though her grandma has had a vacation home here since she was young. "This has always felt like home to me," she said. "I left Fresno and never looked back."

The store is filled with the ceramic pieces created by the two owners and they also carry ceramic works by other artists, she said, from here and from the Central Valley.

They opened the store in October 2020, she continued, in the midst of the pandemic. They'd had a studio space off Quintana Road, a home base for a vendor business they had going at street fairs and special events.

The goal is to use the studio space at the store to hold ceramics classes, which were hard to do under the pandemic's restrictions on gatherings. But they'll be getting back to that soon, she said.

"We're an art gallery and an art studio," Brantley said. "We fit both descriptions."

Check out their Facebook Page at: The Ugly Mug Ceramics, or their Instagram account @theuglymugceramics. Call 805-225-5088.

## Grandma's Mercantile on Main 863 Main St.



For three years, Ellan "Sugar" Cliff worked for Beverly Durrer at Grandma's Yogurt and Waffle Shop at the corner of Main and MBB. But last April, Durrer closed down the yogurt shop to take care of her husband, local bluesman Lenny Blue, who is battling Parkinson's.

But as they say, when one door closes another door opens, and such was the case for Sugar. The previous owner

of Main Street Mercantile wanted to sell her business and retire.

Grandma Sugar, as she likes to be called, said her family came to Morro Bay from Memphis Tenn., some 20-years ago. Her brother already lived here (she has four sisters too).

"We wanted to get our grandson out of the big city," she said. He now attends Morro Bay High which she said he loves. Her brother had suggested they all go in on a home together, which sounded pretty good to them. They brought their mother over from the Central Valley too.

Grandma Sugar said when she was at the yogurt shop she was always being asked by visitors where they can get things like a tube of toothpaste or a toothbrush, and she realized there was something missing from Downtown.

"There's nothing like that downtown, no general merchandise stores, not even a drug store anymore," she said. "They couldn't get aspirin or even a bottle of water."

So she decided she'd open a real "mercantile," the old fashioned term for a general store carrying essentials like toiletries as well as some cool handmade gift items.

They bought the mercantile store including the stock both in-store and in storage. These items she's selling at a discount, she said. "We'll keep the vintage gift items, kid's clothes — gently used.

"If you forgot it, odds are I got it," she laughed at her unofficial motto.

She wants her own unique store; and she said they'll change the merchandise all the time.

"Grandma' had a little bit of everything," she said. "That's what I want to be — an old grandma selling grandma stuff." She said Grandma Beverly, who is helping her out in the store, said it was "A Now & Then shop," a distinction that Sugar loved and even put on her business cards.

She's been an institutional cook, including at schools, all her life and the Mercantile is a welcomed change. "This is the first job in a long time where I don't have to cook for anybody," she said. "I think I'm going to like this job."

## Out of the Dark 334 Morro Bay Blvd.



Entering Mark Baysote's small, custom, lamp store, Out of the Dark, you get a feeling that you've wandered into the playground of a creative mind.

Baysote is a recently retired union electrician, who put in 30 years harnessing Ben Franklin's discovery, down in Malibu, Calif.

"I love the people up here," Baysote said while sitting on a public bench in front of the store. He'd just gotten his business license from the City and was busy trying to get the store fully opened before 4th of July.

"Down there there's so much of a pretentious environment. We were there 30 years."

They plan to also open Dawn's Closet, a small clothing boutique that will have clothing and shoes in the back of the store. "It's not going to be a thrift store," he said. "It will be very nice clothing and shoes."

The front of the store, the lamp gallery, is where his

magic shines. He specializes in repurposing a variety of items — nail kegs, lab equipment, a Buddha statue, and even gumball machines — turning them into unique and interesting lamps and one-of-a-kind art pieces. Seems like a natural fit for an electrician.

"I will do lamp repairs too," he explained. "I'm 'semi-retired' but this is a full time job. Retail is a whole different animal."

He buys unique lamps wherever he finds them, and has a collection of lampshades, too, hanging from the ceiling.

The store is just a block away from the Art Effects Gallery, a specialty art gallery and lamp shade store and he's already spoken to the owner of that long-time business, Kathleen McCarthy, on how they might compliment each other's stores.

After all, she does wonderfully creative shades and he can make anything into a lamp. And both specialize in recycled and repurposed items.

## Morro Made 490 Morro Bay Blvd.



Nestled in a fishbowl like storefront with large picture windows on two sides at the corner of Napa Street and the Boulevard, Morro Made is a collection of the works of about 35 artists and makers, offering paintings, jewelry, pottery, furniture, and whole lot more.

Ruth Moynihan is the owner of Morro Made. She's a transplant from New Hampshire, who moved out west 20-years ago, settling in Tahoe for the skiing.

Some 15-years ago, she said, her family moved to SLO County, staying five years in SLO and most recently, living on a farm property in Los Osos Valley, she explained.

She's been married 19 years, she said, and they have two young sons ages 8 and 6. The store is a reflection of her.

"My aim is to try and have a good variety of items, things not available in Morro Bay."

She likes unique and unusual things. "I'm definitely drawn to the eclectic," Moynihan said. "Part of this is experimental, to see what people respond to and what they want to buy."

Opened just since the start of May, she said the first month has been pretty good, which she credits to the wide variety of items she carries. She will also take on consignments, if it's something she feels will sell in her store.

She asks people to email her photos of their products, so she can "make sure they fit" what she's trying to do with her store. "Some things just don't fit in." She tries to pick and choose the items she puts on sale, not just collect gobs of things, like one might do at a thrift store. "I try to curate the things I take in," she said. "It feels eclectic but it's curated with intention."

Her reception in the community has been warm. "People have been very generous with compliments," she said. "People say they get a calming feeling when they come in."

Morro Made is open daily except closed Wednesdays. Hours are Thurs. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



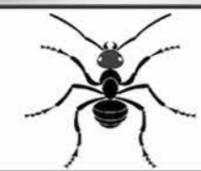
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# Community

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## Set and Setting 360 Morro Bay Blvd.



Walking into Set and Setting, a holistic, healing and spiritual store, owner Erin Meisse welcomes her customers into the soothing, calming environs of her store.

"We sell shamanistic pieces," she said. They help people realize their spirituality and help their self-development, she explained. She has a number of special herbal oils and other natural products.

She opened last November offering gatherings that worked on breathing, sound healing and holding workshops on tarot card readings, and astrological readings, which she has others come in to do.

"I have a variety of facilitators that come in," she said. "We help people develop rituals and ceremonial practices to help them be grounded. It's a full-service for self-development."

She also practices what she calls a "new type of capitalism," in that many of the items she sells don't have price tags on them. A variety of items displayed on a large table just inside the door. "It's pay what you feel" the thing is worth. "We'll try that and see what happens." She's building up a clientele made up mostly of local residents and features artworks by many local artists. It's a new way to do business and perhaps a bit experimental in Morro Bay. "We're trying to change the world as little bit," Meisse said.

## Goin' Coastal 315 Morro Bay Blvd.



While the little clothing boutique, Goin' Coastal, isn't exactly a new business, it does have a new location. The store moved to Morro Bay several years ago setting up shop near the corner of MBB and Main Street, after leaving a space in Los Osos in 2019.

Sole proprietor, Julie Phillips, seems relaxed in her new location, the spot that housed The Aloha Shirt Shop for 22 years. Aloha Shirt Shop moved its business to, naturally, Hawaii, and sells mainly online.

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She moved her business to the new space in April. "Business has been good," she said, while smiling and chatting with customers that just walked in.

Goin' Coastal is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5:30 on Mondays). Check them out on Facebook, @Goin-coastalmb.

## Tiger Monkey Tattoo 468 Morro Bay Blvd.



Asked where the unusual name for their shop comes from, Amie Wilkinson said her husband, "was born in the Year of the Tiger, and I'm the year of the Monkey," she explained, referring to their respective birth years in the Chinese Zodiac.

It's she and husband Brian Wilkinson's first endeavor together, she said, and the name "summed up who we are."

The shop is a chance for Brian to practice his art, he's been slinging ink for over 18 years, most recently at a shop in South County. He's also worked at shops in SLO and Pismo Beach but their new shop is more than a place to get inked.

"We're not just a tattoo shop," Amie said. "We have other artists here too." Among the items are original artworks and custom jewelry, making Tiger Monkey an art gallery and art hub. "We wanted to give people a reason to pop in, other than tattooing," she said.

With the brilliant décor, which includes artfully painted murals, she explained they were going for a "different vibe" with the interior. "We want to be visually exciting," Amie said, "with art and tattooing — we feel they are one and the same. This isn't an old sailor or an old biker tattoo shop."

They also subscribe to the old barter system of commerce. "We like to see what other people bring to the table," Amie said. "It [sales] doesn't have to be monetary."

## Gilligan's Sandwich Shop 480 Morro Bay Blvd.



Los Osos native son, Andy Zepeda, and wife Shannon were in a quandry over what to call their new sandwich shop. They kicked around various "bay" or "ocean" themed names like Surfside and Bayside but decided to try something different. "We wanted something catchy," Shannon explained. "Something to remember." Of course everyone associates the name "Gilligan" with the campy, comedy, TV show, "Gilligan's Island," which was fine by them. "Everyone who comes in comments on the name," she said.

But using such an iconic name for a sandwich shop led them to worry a bit about copyrights, so their mascot, a pelican with Joe Cool sunglasses and a captain's cap, was created to "cut out the confusion."

Since they opened the first week of May, customers have said they need to decorate their walls more. One customer's neighbor has a cat named Gilligan, Andy said. Sure enough the next time he came in, he brought a framed photo of the kitty cat, which hangs on the wall at Gilligan's. They welcome other such donated items for their walls.

Andy said they did a "soft opening" first, to iron out issues and train a crew. Just last week they sent out mailers announcing their grand opening. Andy said business has been great and people are happy there's a place to pick up a sandwich, mostly to go, as they have but a few tables inside the shop.

They specialize in hot, cold and grilled sandwiches, Shannon said, as well as homemade soups and salads. Andy added that they make everything themselves. As for the décor, Andy said they originally wanted to put faux brick on the walls to get the feeling of an old New York deli, but when it was delivered, it wasn't what they'd imagined, so the faux brickwork was out. "That changed the whole plan," he said.

Their customers are already becoming like friends, which shouldn't be too hard for Andy, who graduated from

Walkabout Continued on page 21

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Coach Goosen-Brown was here three years and steered the program through the difficult period of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Goosen-Brown led Morro Bay to a CIF Central Section and Region Titles last season and the Pirates played for a State Championship but came up short in the school's most successful football season ever.

Schalde reached into the Aloha State to find a new coach, who will also teach P.E.

Coach Dougherty said he was born and raised in Visalia, attending Mt. Whitney High School. He was a 3-sport letterman — football, basketball and baseball.

"I attended College of the Sequoias," Dougherty said, "where I played both football and basketball and was fortunate enough to be offered a scholarship to Boston University to play football." He has a healthy philosophy of sports and life.

"Throughout my life," he said, "I have come to realize the impact athletics have played in my life journey and how important the mentors I have been coached by were to my development as a son, husband and father. My passion is teaching and coaching."

He said he coached at Corcoran High School, then Exeter High and eventually his alma mater, Mt. Whitney. The family's big move came soon after.

"In 2013," he said, "we moved to Maui to be closer to my wife's family, taking a job as an Athletic Director for six years, where I was able to see athletics from the administrative point of view.

"I realized that I missed what was truly my calling, teaching and coaching, so I took a job as a teacher and head football coach at Maui High School."

He and wife Allison have been married 26 years, he said, and they have four children — Makena, Maile, Madelyn, and Sands.

"Sands will be attending Morro Bay High School in the fall as a freshman," the coach said. "I love my family and we are very excited about the move to Morro Bay and our return to California. Aloha."

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**Start Time:**

**10:30AM**

**Northside of Morro Creek Bridge**

# Community

**Walkabout** From page 19

Morro Bay High in 1986.

Their sandwiches are reasonably priced. A club sandwich goes for \$13, hot roast beef and pastrami is \$15 and a Reuben will set you back \$15. A build-your-own sub sandwich is \$13.

Gilligan's Sandwich Shop is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for (limited seating) dine in and takeout. Call 805-225-1320 to order.

## Chowa Bowl 898 Main St. Suite D



Chowa Bowl's owner, Katie Bosken brings a refreshing energy to her new little takeout restaurant located facing Harbor Street across from the Siren. She opened in January.

Bosken's adventurous spirit shines through a broad smile and quick wit. She said she and her boyfriend were in The Siren one day trying to figure out what would be next on what sounds like a high seas, adventurous life, when she noticed the little sushi shop that had been there was

moving out.

She's always cooked but learned the craft while cooking on a 65-foot yacht sailing around Thailand. She said she was traveling the world having quite a time but one day, she ran out of money. She was traveling with some other women and missed the last ferryboat out of Thailand. Some guy came up to them dressed in ratty jeans and asked if they wanted a ride on his boat. They thought, 'yeah this guy's got a yacht,' she laughed. Sure enough he took them to a 65-foot catamaran. "I ended up with him for three weeks, she said. The elderly gentleman turned out to be a retired professional kite boarder, she said. "It was my first time on a yacht."

The ocean has played a large part in her life. When she eventually went home, she said, she got jobs on yachts in Alaska and the Caribbean. She was a commercial fisherman fishing salmon in Alaska where she met her beau. She also crewed on a crab boat, which was very hard work.

When the season was over, she asked her captain what was next and he suggested she go to San Diego and fish shrimp. "They say, 'There's no rest for the wicked,'" she laughed.

She said they went to Ventura where she walked the docks and got a job on a purse seiner fishing for shrimp. They landed 110-tons in two days, she said, which brought everyone a windfall and led to her eventually starting Chowa Bowl and specializes in the traditional Thai bowls, basically bowls of rice with various toppings, like shrimp or beef.

Her menu isn't big. "I keep it small to make sure everything is fresh and good," Bosken said. She's only using tenderloins of beef. "Our beef now is filet mignon," she said.

She calls it "fine-fast" cooking, with the goal of creating fine food quickly. She added that there are no plates at Chowa Bowl. They have all bowls all day and while chopsticks are not required, she smiled and said they do have them.

She's working with some Cal Poly students on a new home delivery app that's designed for the farm-to-table crowd, working with various organic farmers in the area. Hers is the first restaurant they've signed up, she said and

she's getting her vegetables through them. "They are such cool kids," she said. "And they've got a great concept. They are trying to break into the restaurant market." Her biggest sellers are Poke Bowls and Shoyu Ramen.

She really wanted to use smaller and local farms for her ingredients, and "That's what they do." Her philosophy is to "buy seasonal and local things from this area, and support your local community."

Chowa Bowl is open Thursdays-Mondays and closed Tuesdays-Wednesdays. Hours are noon-7:30 p.m. Check out their website at Chowabowl.com. Call 805-776-5060 to order ahead. There is some outdoor seating available.

## The Sunny Spot 600 Morro Bay Blvd. Suite C



Less than a block off Morro Bay Boulevard and across the street from Distasio's, The Sunny Spot, is an art, skin products, jewelry and plant shop, and someplace you should check out to find great gifts or just a new plant to liven up your house.

Sunny Spot is a cooperative of sorts, and the owners — Naomi Holmes and Kelly Edward — are two charming and creative women.

Holmes, 34, hails from Australia and has been in and around jewelry making forever, as it's her family's business back home. She makes semi-fine jewelry, Holmes explained, and has been making jewelry full time for four years now, she said.

The two had a store in an office complex on Quintana Road but mostly had home-based businesses.

Edward, 28, hails from Southern California and has been in SLO for eight years. She has been selling houseplants online for years, buying them from various nurseries. She also makes a line of all natural and organic skin care products sold at the store.

Holmes has a small jewelry studio inside the store where she creates her jewelry using sterling silver and gold, with semi-precious gemstones.

Sunny Spot is a co-op store of sorts, and actually home to three businesses — A Potted Plant, Lazy Goods Jewelry, and Manifest Essentials natural skincare products, owned by Edwards and Holmes.

The pair work the store themselves along with store dog, Whiskey, a Queensland heeler.

The Sunny Spot is open Wednesdays-Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. And while they are a little off the beaten path, the little shop with a variety of plants and crafts is worth seeking out.

## Electric Valley Vintage 755 Napa Ave.



Traveling nurses by profession, Ashley Cooper and husband, Jarrod Brown, who originally come from Florida, tired of the constant travel and wanted to settle down somewhere.

They opened Electric Valley Vintage Clothing & Goods shop in the former Summer's Salon on Napa Avenue. Cooper said they specialize in vintage clothing from the 1940s through the 2000s. She explained that today's young adults, like Cal Poly students, "consider the 2000s as vintage."

This is their first entrepreneurial adventure together. "We traveled a lot," Cooper said. Morro Bay, "Is our favorite place that we've landed. We've been on the East Coast the

**Walkabout** Continued on page 23

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# News

**Lindsey Retires** From page 1

"Weather has such a great impact on all of us, maybe that's the thing that attracted me. It impacts everybody to one degree or another. I just found that really interesting, because in one way or another we're all connected."

Folks looking to stay connected to John can still do so with his weekly print forecasts in the Tribune and Santa Maria Times as well as a monthly print column. He will also be a regular on The Dave Congalton Show on KVEC.

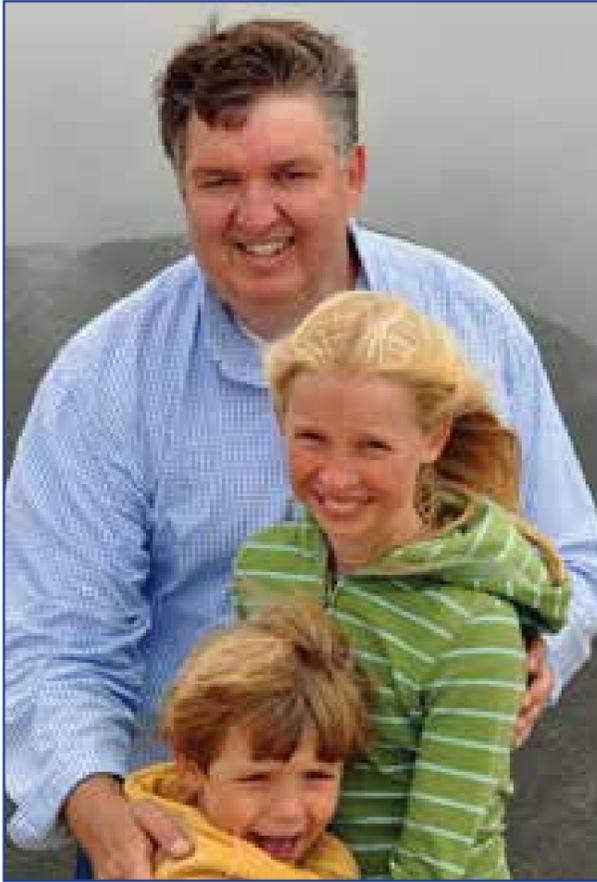
After 30 years in the business of weather, John said estimates and assumptions are, in part, somewhat like predicting the future, but it is more than that.

"I'm fortunate, I've been forecasting since 1991 in one area," he said. "Over a timespan, you start getting the feel for the local weather pattern. That's a real advantage. That's helped out a lot, and I still have access to all the models. To be honest with you, the models are getting better and better and better each year. I'm really astonished by how good they have become."

Applying all of that knowledge to a utilities company has more of an impact than whether to take an umbrella to work or not. John's job included forecasting to determine how much energy would be required to keep homes warm or cool depending on the season. Storms and winds also have a huge impact on utilities as do wildfires that are progressively getting worse throughout the state and other areas of the country.

"The 1300 weather stations that we have installed throughout our service territory is remarkable," John said of PG&E. "In San Luis Obispo County alone there's hundreds of weather stations now that are available to the public that measures temperature, humidity and winds. Those stations are being inputted into models to make the models even more accurate."

Despite technological advances that provide improved atmospheric and oceanic models, increased data collection, more weather stations and powerful satellite images, John said the personal touch remains important.



John Lindsey with his children, Chloe and Sean, when they were kids.

"I still think that you need a human being there to verify that the models are correct," he said. "Being able to communicate is vital, especially conditions that could be hazardous for people. You never know, it might have prevented an injury or saved a life."

Over the years, most of us on the Central Coast have grown used to the sunshine, coastal fog and the worrisome drought, but in on May 5, 1998, John had the opportunity to cover a tornado in San Luis Obispo with winds up to 86 mph.

"The National Weather Service came out, and they verified that it was a tornado," John said recalling that the rain and the wind picked up at about 6 a.m. and the windows in his home on the corner of Kentucky and Fredericks streets were rattling.

The tornado knocked out power to several hundred homes and damaged four, including one struck by a fallen cypress tree.

Although that was the "weirdest" incident he covered, it was not the only one that stands out in John's mind.

"I think the March 1995 storms were just remarkable. We had an atmospheric river. We had a cold front that stalled over the area and that's when Santa Rosa Creek flooded in the middle of Cambria, and people were going up and down Main Street on surfboards and in kayaks and canoes."

During his career, John also served on the boards of the Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers, Central Coast Aquarium, PG&E Employees Veterans Resource Group, and United Way of San Luis Obispo County and volunteered for the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Earth Day at Montaña de Oro State Park and other causes.

He says he looks forward to increasing community involvement during his retirement. With more time on his hands, John also plans to utilize the 700 plus columns he has written to pen a weather related book while dedicating more time to Rotary and non-profits.

Perhaps most importantly, he will spend more time with Trish, his wife of 25 years with whom he has two children Chloe and Sean.

"Trish is a pretty remarkable woman, to say the least," John said. "She amazes me every day. I couldn't imagine life

without her. I am fortunate because I'm nine years older than she is, so I'm planning to leave this earth before she does. I would never want it any other way."

It has been a good 30 years for John, his friends and followers.

"The support that I've received from the community has been overwhelming. I'm so grateful that I've been able to provide the service to our community and to all the people who read and listen, I am this profoundly happy that they found a good use for this stuff."

Estero Bay News wishes John the best years to come and thanks him for his years of a Central Coast connection to the world of weather.

**Gull Patrol** From page 1



Falconer, Anita Wolf holds Harris' hawk, 'Ranger' while talking with folks at Anchor Memorial Park.

times a wolf hawk, and known in Latin America as peuco, is a medium-large bird of prey that breeds from the Southwestern United States south to Chile, Central Argentina, and Brazil."

Wolf explained that Harris' hawks are the only birds of prey that hunt as a pack. Ranger is 5-years old and fully grown, she said, while standing in Anchor Memorial Park. With Ranger still stowed away out of sight in a large crate, the gulls are already squawking in alarm.

Airstrike has another Harris' hawk, Max, Wolf said, who splits time on the Morro Bay Waterfront with Ranger.

Wolf said the hawk's job isn't to harm or capture gulls but to deter them from roosting and nesting on rooftops through what amounts to a learned response.

It's like if there's a mountain lion in your backyard, Wolf explained, and you make a loud noise that scares it away. "You won't have that lion there the second day. Eventually it leaves. That's how this works."

She steps up to the big box sitting atop one of the park's picnic tables and brings out Ranger, a beautiful, majestic and fierce looking bird.

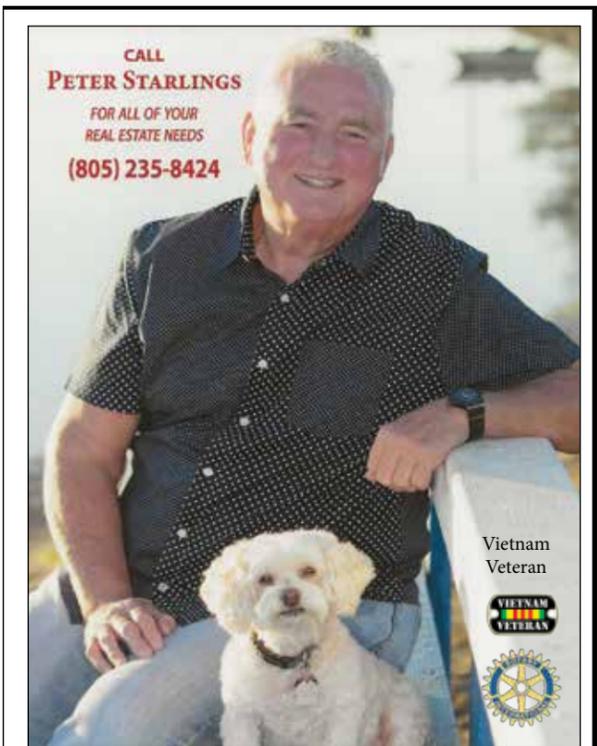
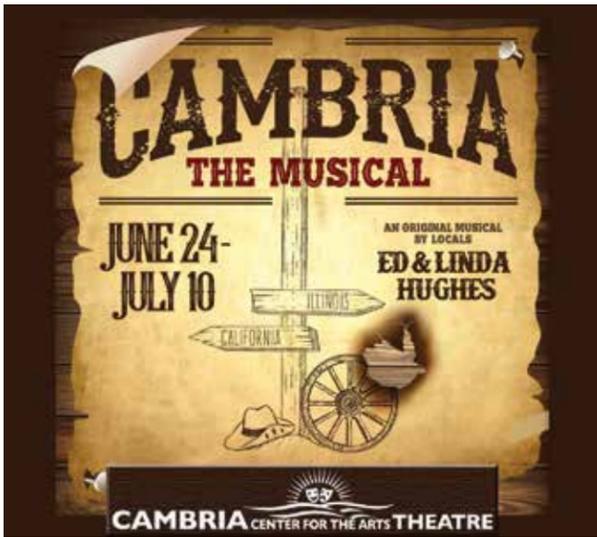
Immediately, gulls step up their alarm calls and, more begin to appear out of nowhere. A dozen seagulls enter the immediate airspace. They are not happy birds, seeing this formidable predator.

As Sammi Jackson, Wolf's daughter and the lead falconer on the Morro Bay job, frees him from the box, the gulls start dive-bombing, even though Jackson holds him perched on her leather-gloved hand. (It's as if the gulls are saying, "Never mind the girl; get that bird!")

Jackson said the hawk's natural prey is small rodents, like squirrels, gophers, rabbits, and they had to teach him to "chase seagulls, but not catch them. It takes three months to train them."

The response of the gulls is almost comical, as they swoop in trying to scare away Ranger, who frankly doesn't seem very concerned. A mere flap of the raptor's wings sends the gulls fleeing, only to soar back around and do it again.

The falconers have been on duty in Morro Bay since the Wednesday before the Memorial Day Weekend, starting with a bird issue the fire department was having at the Harbor Street Firehouse.



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An up close look at 'Ranger,' a Harris hawk owned by Airstrike Bird Control, who is helping chase off seagulls from the Embarcadero business district.

Hundreds of seagulls had made homes on the roof of Albertson's Market/Rite Aid next door to the stationhouse, and were using the department's training tower, too, which left a stinky mess in their facility.

"That first night," Wolf said, "there were 500 gulls on Albertson's roof. By the time we finished, maybe 25% came back." The rest apparently got the message and flew off to more hospitable environs.

"Their poop is corrosive," Wolf said. "It gets into ductworks; it could eventually collapse" a structure.

She added that part of their work involves climbing onto rooftops to remove nests. "We clear nests daily," she said, "so long as there are no eggs in them. Once a nest has eggs, we don't remove the nests. Our goal is to get them to move back into the natural environment, and out of the built environment."

They also do gull eradication at Morro Bay High School, vineyards, and at landfills, where the birds carry trash, and potentially diseases, away from the garbage heaps.

Wolf said the gulls attack garbage trucks that aren't covered. "Once I watched them dump the load and 60 seagulls came flying out of the truck." Landfills are "really a perfect environment for them," said Wolf.

She said Airstrike started 29 years ago in Atascadero. "We were one of the first companies to do bird abatement," Wolf said. They helped write regulations for bird abatement and their first contract was with Cold Canyon Landfill.

Despite there being seemingly lots of natural areas nearby for the gulls — including Morro Rock and a 4-mile long Sandspit, plus state parklands — the gulls "Choose building tops because it's closer to their food," Wolf said.

Indeed, restaurants along the Embarcadero have fought a running battle with marauding gulls, which can be brazen in their raids on people eating at outdoor patios. They'll steal food right off your plate if you turn your back or let your guard down.

The scavenging gulls also raid garbage cans and scatter trash all over the place.

The garbage problems got so bad that several years ago, the City removed all the individual garbage cans set out along the Morro Rock parking lot, in favor of secured dumpsters located by the public restrooms.

Jackson said one of their success stories on The Embarcadero was at Giovanni's Seafood Market and Galley, where they not only chased away the gulls (and pigeons too) they also pressure washed the roof.

"That first night was insane," Jackson recalled. "We removed a couple of hundred nests the first couple of days. And in one week, there was a 90% decrease in the population."

Baby seagulls are not like other, completely helpless baby birds, in that within a short time they can run around the roof tops "peep-peep-peeping" at their parents begging for food.

Jackson said when the baby birds start running, they risk falling off the rooftops and can be injured.

So why not just shoot them? Jackson said seagulls

are protected by the Migratory Bird Act, but "Migratory doesn't mean they actually migrate." Plus Morro Bay is a bird sanctuary by law and simply killing them likely would be met with a public uproar.

As most Morro Bay folks can probably attest, seagulls are deadeye shots and can squirt their excretions at anyone or anything that annoys them.

"We wear hats," Jackson said, "because seagulls can aim their poop. They also have facial recognition capabilities," which means they now recognize the falconers when they arrive on the Embarcadero. They know that Ranger's appearance isn't far behind.



Falconer, Sammi Jackson holds onto 'Ranger,' a Harris hawk used to deter seagulls from the Embarcadero.

"We started at the fire station and buzzing Albertson's," Wolf said, "then the other shopping center [with Family Dollar Store]."

On the Embarcadero they started at Tidelands Park, and drove them down the Embarcadero and eventually back to the wild.

"Ninety percent of this job is understanding gull behavior," Jackson said. "You have to figure out the quickest and easiest way to get them to move."

Regardless of the small swarm of angry gulls buzzing Ranger at the park, the gull patrols seem to be bringing the numbers down. "Last week," Jackson said, "We had thousands of gulls surrounding us."

Indeed, before Ranger made his appearance, which drew a crowd of people too, there was nary a gull in sight. That changed very quickly, once Ranger came out of his box.

There are other methods available to deter gulls but they don't always work, as gulls are pretty smart for having, well, bird brains.

"Some of them have been habitually here for many years," Jackson said. "The ones that have only been here a little time, you can push them out to the natural areas." Hi-tech is evidently not a solution.

"They can knock drones out of the air," Jackson said. "Plus the batteries run down. We do use drones to inspect the buildings."

As for fake owls, Jackson said they don't work either. "We found a fake owl's head in a nest," said Jackson. "The Libertine has the body but the head was in a nest. We took 10 nests off the Libertine's roof."

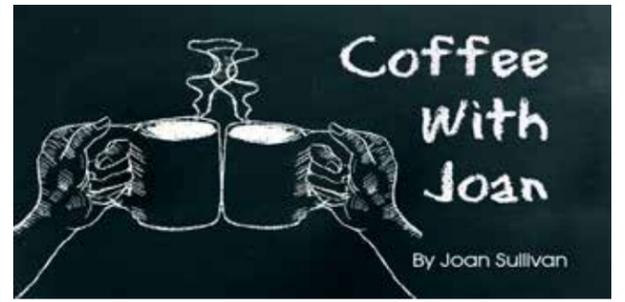
Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, said they looked at several ideas to combat the seagull problem including, flashing lights, spike strips and a falconer, among others.

"You can't just do this for two weeks and drop it," Kwolek said. "It has to be continuously."

So how much is all this costing? Kwolek said it would be \$25,000 to \$40,000 including about \$2,000 for educational signage; money the City Council approved last February to discourage people from feeding the gulls. It could become a permanent item on the City's annual budget.

Airstrike has some 70 falconers and does eradication work in California, Arizona, Washington State, New Mexico, Montana and Missouri.

To contact Airstrike Bird Control regarding a nuisance bird problem, call (805) 391-0444.



Fourth of July celebrations bring back many memories. My first recollection of this special day was of swirling sparklers in the air as they burned out. My parents celebrated by setting off loud fireworks obtainable only to adults.

Tracing the history of fireworks I discovered that they were developed in the second century B.C. in Liuyang, China. The first natural "firecrackers" were bamboo stalks that, when thrown in a fire, would explode with a bang because of the overheating of the hollow air pockets in the bamboo. *Happy Fourth everyone! Stay safe.*

#### Walkabout From page 21

West Coast; we've been everywhere."

"We loved the desert valley and were thinking of Las Vegas and the neon signs." Those bright lights always made them feel warm and they wanted to incorporate some of that in the name of the shop. "I want to get a big neon sign," she laughed.

They buy from collectors and estate sales, she said of where their inventory comes from. They take donations but will sift through it and pick out the things that would go with their shop's theme.

Among the things they sell are old concert T-shirts and other collectibles, like framed Big Brother & the Holding Company and Rolling Stones' Some Girls album covers. They curate the items in the store and are particular about what they sell, in keeping with their vintage theme.

Though they've been selling online for some time, Cooper said this is their first brick and mortar store. The couple has been married for 2 years.

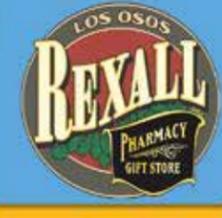
Electric Valley is open daily but closed Wednesdays. Hours are Mondays-Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. See [electricvalleyvintage.com](http://electricvalleyvintage.com).

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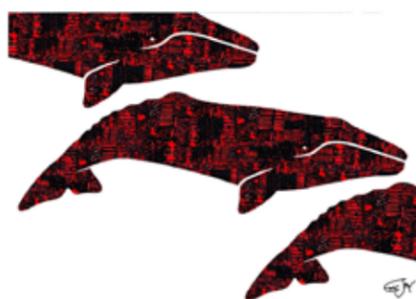
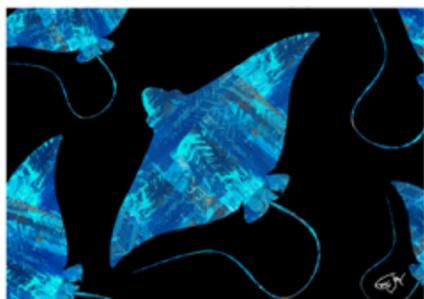
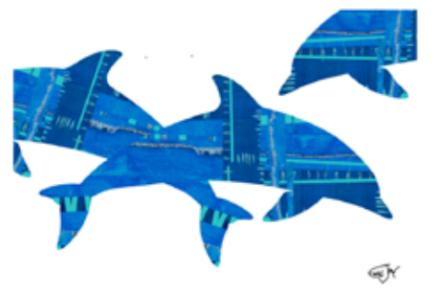
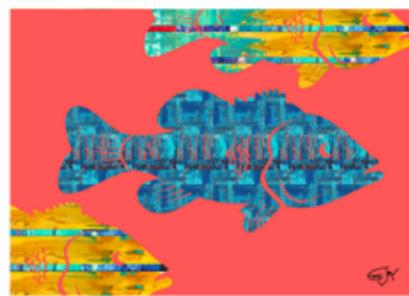
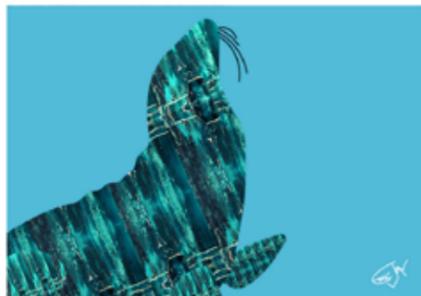
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