

State Doubles Down on Offshore Wind Energy

By Neil Farrell

The State of California has doubled-down on a commitment to sustainable energy with the Governor's proposed budget, including a significant lump of cash for offshore wind development.

On Jan. 10, Gov. Gavin Newsom released his 2022/23 State Budget, and increased the monies for offshore wind from \$20 million to \$45 million.

Part of the "Clean Energy Investment Plan" and totaling some \$2 billion, the money is supposed to spur "additional innovation and deployment of clean energy technologies in the state's energy system," the Governor's Office said.

The biggest expenditures is \$962.4M, "to provide resources to accelerate de-carbonization of existing buildings."

The wind monies will go to the California Energy Commission and be used to "advance the development of offshore wind energy in federal waters off the state's coast."

Naturally, it will create a new bureaucracy. "This involves creating an Offshore Wind Energy Deployment Facility Improvement Program to advance the capabilities of deploying offshore wind energy off California in the areas of facility planning and development."

Currently, there are two areas being eyed by Uncle Sam for wind farms — off the Coast of Humboldt County and off the Coast of San Simeon, a site that would conceivably bring power ashore at the mothballed Morro Bay Power Plant.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM has been working towards holding a lease auction for the so-called "Morro Bay Call Area" some 399 square miles about 30 miles off San Simeon, which the Biden Administration believes could have 4 gigawatts (4,000 megawatts) of generation capacity.

More Changes to WRF

By Neil Farrell



Part of the massive City of Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility project included tunneling under the roundabout on Main.

More changes to the contracts are in the pipeline for companies building the City of Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility project, adding over half a million dollars to the pipeline portion of the project.

At its Jan. 19 meeting, the Public Works Advisory Board was presented with new amendments to the contracts for the conveyance system of the City's biggest project ever, now about \$175 million.

In a staff report, City engineers presented Amendment

Changes to WRF Continued on page 18



This shows one possible design of offshore wind platforms being developed by a Japanese company.

The funding comes a few months after enactment of the Offshore Wind Bill — Assembly Bill 525 — in September 2021. That law "would require the Energy Commission, on or before June 1, 2022, to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and de-carbonization benefits and to establish offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045," reads the bill's text.

The bill requires the Energy Commission "to submit the strategic plan to the Natural Resources Agency and the Legislature on or before June 30, 2023."

BOEM for its part is working through a schedule for review of the matter, including environmental impacts being conducted now, and leading to a possible auction of lease sites in the Morro Bay Call Area sometime this coming summer.

But don't think offshore wind could start anytime soon, the proposition has a mountain to climb in terms of environmental study, engineering, bureaucratic red tape,

Wind Energy Continued on page 18

Moving Forward: TopTracer Golf Energizes Dairy Creek & Morro Bay Rotary's Classic Fundraiser

Story by Judy Salamacha
Photos courtesy of Josh Heptig



TopTracer at night at Dairy Creek Golf Course.

As a Morro Bay Rotarian for almost 20 years, I admit I just couldn't wrap my excitement around a Central Coast TopTracer Golf Classic as a replacement fundraiser for our decades-long Central Coast Golf Classic. It was virtual golf one might play on a smart TV, right? Could 150 golf tournament players really be COVID-safe sitting in bays even if outdoors? It was compared to a bowling alley with bays for a foursome. I decided to see for myself.

Dairy Creek Golf Course is one of several public-serving features within El Chorro Regional Park, a stone's throw east of Cuesta College. I'm not a golfer, so had been to the dog park and SLO Botanical Gardens, but never saw the golf course. I quickly recognized why golfers enjoyed getting outdoors to chase a little white ball for nine-holes — a great 3-4 mile walk or cart ride around stunning vistas! Recent rains reminded me of Ireland's vast green rolling hills.

Upon arrival at the clubhouse, I entered a sports bar-restaurant with a large outdoor patio the public was invited to enjoy. It is operated by Paul and Kelly Boisclair, the owners of Morro Bay's Siren. Outdoor music concerts are anticipated someday. A meandering sidewalk overlooked what I expected was the driving range dotted with golf balls, but it contained several curious large rounds teetering like merry-go-rounds. A towering structure open on one side loomed above the rounds. Indeed, there

Fundraiser Continued on page 17

Anti-Camping Initiative Qualifies for June Ballot

By Neil Farrell

Opponents of RV camping on Morro Bay's Embarcadero have qualified a ballot initiative to let voters decide if the practice by the Harbor Department will be allowed to continue.

The trio of local residents pushing for the initiative — Betty Winholtz, Carole Truesdale and Jim Curnutt — announced last week that their signature drive had been "certified."

"The City Clerk," Winholtz said in an email, "will be presenting the Notice to the City Council at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 8. At this time, the Council for their action: can either adopt the initiative as an ordinance or put it to a vote of the people."

City Clerk Dana Swanson, in her certification letter dated Jan. 28, said, "That after proponents filed this petition, based on the County of San Luis Obispo Registrar of Voters' Signatures Verification Certificate and in compliance with California Elections Code, I have determined the following facts regarding this petition:

- Total number of signatures filed by proponent raw count: 1,027;
- Total number of signatures verified as sufficient: 869;
- Number of signatures found insufficient (non-duplicate): 120;
- Number of signatures found insufficient because of duplication: 38;
- Total number of signatures required to qualify (10% of 8,196 registered voters): 820."

"Based on the above," Swanson concluded, "the petition is deemed to be sufficient."

The City Council will have to decide, perhaps at its Feb. 8 meeting, whether to simply accept and adopt the ini-



tiative's language into law, which essentially bans all types of camping on The Embarcadero and at Morro Rock.

This will greatly affect the Harbor Department's pretty successful RV Camping pilot program that was begun in September 2020 with an emergency and temporary permit from the Coastal Commission.

This was in part due to the extraordinary measures that were taken, shutting down all "non-essential" businesses in California, starting in March 2020 in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Among the businesses that were initially deemed "non-essential" and subject to closure were motels and restaurants, which after initially shutting down completely for a couple of months, were allowed to open for takeout orders only, or with limitations on occupancy for the lodging properties.

That placed an immediate pinch on the Harbor Department's already tight revenues, and sent the department scrambling to find new sources of revenue.

June Ballot Continued on page 18

Police
Blotter
Page 8



Year of
The Tiger
Page 9

Surf's
Up
Page 12



News

Commission to Approve Granny Unit Change

By Neil Farrell

The Coastal Commission was expected to approve at its meetings this week, a new amendment to the Local Coastal Program in Los Osos and Cambria to match relaxed State laws on secondary dwelling units or ADUs.

The County sought the LCP amendment for both North Coast communities but the Commission was mainly concerned with Los Osos, as it has issues mostly concerning water supplies that complicate the matter greatly.

“San Luis Obispo County,” reads the Commission staff report, “proposes to modify the Local Coastal Program’s Land Use Plan (LUP) and Implementation Plan (IP) to modify existing regulations governing accessory dwelling units, including to update the LCP consistent with recent changes to state housing law.”

Change Would Match State Law

The main changes have to do with streamlining the ADU permit processes, “namely those having to do with minimum parcel size, property line setbacks, Junior ADUs, allow for both an ADU and a JADU on a single residential parcel, allow for ADUs in several new land use categories (including in agricultural and multi-family residential land use categories), and modify parking requirements by eliminating off-street parking for all ADUs throughout the County’s coastal zone.” JADU refers to granny units under 500 square feet, or so-called mini-homes. But it’s never so easy in Los Osos.

“However,” the Commission report reads, “...the proposed amendment does not adequately address certain geographically specific coastal resource issues and constraints that apply in parts of San Luis Obispo County, particularly related to more rural/agricultural lands, water supply and public service capacities, and public coastal access ways.

“In other words, the proposed amendment requires additional tailoring on these points to appropriately facilitate ADU development without significant adverse resource impacts in these specific areas. In light of these concerns, Commission staff engaged in a productive dialogue with County staff on potential solutions, and reached a consensus on a modified approach.”

County Zoning Issues

The County Zoning Ordinance doesn’t allow ADUs on ag-zoned lands and the change would allow them. Essentially, the change would allow both ADUs and JADUs as well as “guesthouses” on ag land, which the Commission thinks could lead to residential uses.

“While well intentioned,” the report reads, “the end result would be to encourage additional residential units in more rural and agricultural areas, as opposed to more developed parts of the County where such units can be adequately served. If not better controlled, this would lead to non-agricultural development that would likely adversely impact agriculture.”

Also, “as proposed, the amendment does not differentiate between areas with significant service constraints and those where infill development can likely be accommodated without significant coastal resource impacts. In particular, the lack of a sustainable water supply in Cambria and Los Osos is well known to the Commission and the County.

“There, even existing water extractions to serve existing development has led to coastal resource degradation [e.g., groundwater overdraft, seawater intrusion, fishery impacts, ESHA degradation, etc.], and both communities continue to be designated a Level of Severity III under the LCP in terms of water supply.”

Water Woes Compounded

With both Cambria and Los Osos having tight water supplies, the Commission report says AUDs will only add to the problem. Therefore, “suggested modifications are included to not allow for ADUs in Los Osos and Cambria for the time being.”

Assuming the Commissioners approved the County’s LCP amendment, the matter would have to come back to Supervisors for a final OK before going into effect, usually

45 days later.

But don’t start dreaming of putting in a rental unit to help pay the mortgage just yet, the County is still not handing out building permits in Los Osos or Cambria for that matter, due to the potential impacts on the water supply.

The proposed amendment generally provides for relaxed ADU (including JADU) development standards consistent with State Law (e.g., reduced setbacks, excluding ADUs from lot coverage and density calculations, etc.), all of which are aimed at facilitating ADU construction in the County, including to help create more housing opportunities.

The changes proposed are mostly straightforward and should help to facilitate the development of ADUs. And since the LCP’s existing tools to address core coastal resource issues (e.g., related to ESHA, wetlands, riparian corridors, public views, natural landforms, coastal hazards, etc.) remain in effect, the LCP as proposed to be amended should serve to ensure ADUs are appropriately sited and designed in most cases, according to the Commission report.

City Comments on Wind Farms

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council, in comments to federal authorities discussing offshore wind farms, is sticking up for the fishing industry and local communities.

In a Jan. 6, 2022 letter addressed to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM, the agency handling leasing of offshore wind farms in federal waters (past 3 miles out to sea), Morro Bay Mayor John Headding said, “With Morro Bay at the epicenter of the California Central Coast offshore wind [OSW] effort, foremost among the City’s concerns continue to be how offshore wind energy projects will impact our local commercial and recreational fishing industries and local communities. These fishing industries are a core part of our community, history and economy, and provides important food sources locally, regionally, and across our state and nation.”

The City is pushing for a “legally binding non-profit mutual benefit organization based on the Central Coast Joint Cable-Fisheries Liaison Committee model is the best approach and have the greatest degree of success and support of the fishing industries, OSW industry and Federal, State and local regulators and agencies.”

The Cable Committee was formed in August 1999 in response to telecommunications companies seeking to lay undersea fiber optic communication cables running mainly from Montaña de Oro State Park, across the Pacific Ocean to points in Asia and Australia. Cables were laid starting in Grover Beach as well.

The cable companies wanted to ensure the fishermen didn’t drag trawl nets across and potentially break their cables, so they agreed to pay trawlers to stay away from the cable routes, as they run through the Continental Shelf.

The Cable Committee issues annual grants in support of the fishing industry.

Mayor Headding called it a proven, effective model. “The spirit and basics of such a model,” he wrote, “are currently engendered in the benefit agreement between Morro Bay and Port San Luis commercial fishing organizations and Castle Wind, one of the Morro Bay OSW proponents.”

The City asks that such an agreement be required by all companies that bid in BOEM’s upcoming lease auction, tentatively scheduled for sometime this summer.

The city believes that type of agreement and organization, with a representative board, would provide a level of local control over expenditures and would, “Provide for fishing industry and community support by dispersing revenues in a manner that will enhance and assist the commercial and recreational fishing industries and communities affected by OSW, as the Cable Committee model currently does and not just revolve around compensation for direct fishing losses. Such a model will have the greatest effect on fishing industry and community resiliency.”

The letter also calls for local communities to have a

voice in BOEM’s decisions. “Because, we are the people who will be most impacted by the results of BOEM’s decisions for decades.”

Morro Bay, County’s Highest Grade on Tobacco Report

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The American Lung Association’s 20th annual “State of Tobacco Control” report revealed significant progress in the work to end tobacco use, but there are still areas for improvement.

Morro Bay received and overall “B” grade, the highest in SLO County moving up from a “D” in 2020. The city earned an “A” rating in three categories: reducing the sale of tobacco products (up from an “F” in 2020), smokefree housing (up from “F”) and smokefree outdoor air, which includes recreation areas, dining, public events and worksites.

“Overall our score improved dramatically compared to the last time we received an overall score of ‘D,’” said City Manager Scott Collins. “The City Council updated our tobacco ordinance to include a tobacco retail license program, to help with enforcement of tobacco laws locally. Council



Estero Bay News Staff

Dean Sullivan

Owner - Publisher
dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor
editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell

Reporter
neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan

Marketing Director
shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan

Jill Turnbow

Ruth Ann Angus

Judy Salamacha

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



care about . . .

Happy Valentine's Day!



Steve Auslender | Owner
DRE # 101068681 | **REeBroker Group**

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
(805) 801-4444

E: steve@bearvalleyre.com
900 Los Osos Valley Rd Suite A
Los Osos, CA 93402



Bear Valley Realty

News

extended a ban to smoking in apartment complexes. And Council instituted a ban on vaping products. Implementation has been slowed a bit due to the pandemic.

“Council listened to the community, high school and middle school students and administrators, County Public Health, and tobacco retailers in creating these new laws aimed at reducing the ability of these harmful products to wind up in kids hands.”

Morro Bay did not receive “A”s across the board; the city earned a “D” for restrictions on flavored tobacco products.

“The ‘D’ for flavors is interesting,” Collins said. “The City Council banned almost all flavors, with exception of menthol. That came after input from all the aforementioned stakeholders. Menthol, from what we learned, is not the issue for kids. It was flavors like bubblegum and ice cream that were problematic. Those are all banned in Morro Bay now.”

Collins said that there are between 15 to 20 smoke shop or cigarette retailers in the city, they cannot sell vaping products and flavors.

Statewide, “products like e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, create concern for losing another generation to nicotine addiction,” said an ALA news release.

Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Paso Robles and Pismo Beach all earned an overall “D” while the City of San Luis Obispo and the unincorporated areas earned “C” grades.

That said, in the restriction of flavored tobacco products category, it was “F” grades for all except for Morro Bay.

“Tobacco use is a primary cause of preventable death and disease in this country,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer. “It is concerning that the multitude of flavored electronic cigarettes and vapes are attracting a whole new generation that may have never smoked before.”

Morro Bay was also the only “A” in smokfree housing. Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Pismo Beach earning an “F” and the remaining areas earned a “C.”

The “State of Tobacco Control” report evaluates state and federal policymakers on actions taken to eliminate tobacco use, the nation’s leading cause of preventable death. The report recommends proven-effective tobacco control laws and policies to save lives. The 2022 “State of Tobacco Control” reveals that the country has made substantial progress in advancing tobacco control policies over the past 20 years, including comprehensive smokefree laws in more states, increased tobacco taxes across the nation and more Americans with access to treatments to help them quit smoking through state Medicaid programs.

“While we have seen considerable progress in California, tobacco use remains our leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 39,950 lives each year,” said Erica Costa, advocacy director at the Ameri-

can Lung Association in California. “And our progress on tobacco control policy has not been equal. We continue to see the unequal burden of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in communities experiencing health disparities.”

According to State data, 96% of high school students who vape use flavored products, County Public Health said. Local data from the 2019-2020 California Healthy Kids Survey shows 35% of the County’s 11th graders have tried vaping.

“This report underscores a local need to protect our youth from fun-sounding tobacco flavors—like ‘bubble gum’ and ‘blue razz,’” said Tobacco Control Coalition Chair, Professor Julia Alber. “Adding flavors masks the natural harshness, making it easier to smoke and easier to become addicted.”

This year’s report from the American Lung Association marks 20 years of evaluating city, county, and state performance on tobacco control policies that researchers determine to be instrumental in supporting public health.

To read the full State of Tobacco Control 2022 report, visit lung.org/research/sotc/state-grades/california. For more information or details on the local grades, contact The Tobacco Control Program at tobaccofree@co.slo.ca.us or 805-781-4305.

Central California Coast Snail On Road to Recovery



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally changed the status of the Morro shoulderband snail from endangered to threatened, citing Endangered Species Act protections that have helped spur its recovery.

Found only in Los Osos/Baywood and Morro Bay in western San Luis Obispo County, this native snail is thought to have a stable or increasing population. Based on 2018 surveys, there are now thousands of individuals. The species has benefitted greatly from protection of coastal dune and sage-scrub habitat in state and local preserves.

“This is good news for a laid-back, native SLO species,” said Jeff Miller, a senior conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity and a Los Osos resident. “Like everything it does, this snail is moving very slowly and steadily toward recovery.”

Morro shoulderband snails live in native vegetation on sandy soils of coastal dune and coastal sage-scrub habitats. Their native range covers about 6,520 acres, extending from Morro Strand State Beach in northern Morro Bay southward to Montaña de Oro State Park and inland to eastern Los Osos.

The snails are named for the dark spiral band on the shoulder of their shells and are typically found in leaf litter and on the shady undersides of lower branches of native dune shrubs. They are active during rain and heavy fog but go dormant during the dry summer. Unlike invasive garden snails, they are not pests. They eat mostly fungal mycelia that grow on decaying plant matter and thus help build up soil.

The Morro shoulderband is the latest imperiled species to benefit from protection under the Endangered Species Act. It joins other Central Coast success stories like the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, brown pelican, least tern, snowy plover, California condor, southern sea otter and tidewater goby, all of whom have recovered or are on a recovery trajectory thanks to the Act.

“Recovery of this snail demonstrates that to save species from extinction, we have to protect the places where they live,” said Miller. “A bonus of saving the Morro snail is it helped in creating and protecting many of the local preserves and open spaces we all love, making life better for all on the Central Coast, from people to gastropods.”

Background

The species was listed as endangered in 1994. A recovery plan was prepared in 1998 that identified four conservation-planning areas to focus on for habitat protection. The Center for Biological Diversity and Christians Caring for Creation secured protection in 2001 of 2,566 acres of critical habitat for the snail around Los Osos and the Morro Bay estuary. Blocks of protected and unfragmented habitat large enough to minimize the snail’s risk of extinction have since been secured in Morro Spit, West Pecho, and southern and northeastern Los Osos.

Surveys from 2000 to 2005 found more and more snails each year, in a wider variety of habitat types than previously thought. A 2006 status review by the Service concluded that the snail population was stable or increasing and had a wider range and distribution than believed at time of listing.

The snail is still designated as threatened and is not yet fully recovered. Maturing vegetation in preserves such as

Recovery Continued on page 4

Bayside Cafe

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

Just plain good food, generous portions






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

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

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


FOR SALE

Encino Park, California



Awesome opportunity to customize this single-level home and/or expand into your dream property! Three bedroom, two bath and den with wood beam ceiling. Interior custom brick wall and hearth around wood stove. Custom brick work all around the front and back exterior of home. Large private backyard. Great location! Close proximity to Schools, Balboa Park, Balboa Lake, Sepulveda Recreational Center, Balboa Golf Course, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and more.

Only minutes away from 101 and 405 freeway access.



Call the Broker with the **SOLD** signs!

Kelly Vandenheuvel

Central Coast Property Sales
Owner / Broker / GRI
CalBRE# 01472453

I Can Sell Yours Too
Call Me Today!

805-471-1046

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

County Postpones Point in Time Count

Due to the current COVID-19 surge, the County of San Luis Obispo postponed the date of the upcoming bi-annual Homeless Point in Time Count from January 26 to February 23.

The County conducts a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every two years and is seeking volunteers countywide to participate in the count. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires local Continuums of Care to conduct a Point in Time count at least every 2 years on a single night during the last 10 days of January. This extension is due to the need to take more time to address health and staffing challenges posed by the pandemic and has been approved by HUD.

This extra time will allow the County to recruit additional volunteers, count in a post-surge timeframe, and refine efforts to count special populations such as youth, encampments, and persons in vehicles. Volunteers can register online at asr.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6KYX5TPz9z91X4F.

Morro Bay Makes Winter Fishing List

When you think of the winter season, fishing is not usually an activity that comes to mind immediately, but an online organization says Morro Bay is one of the top places to grab your pole and head to the water.

FishingBooker, a platform for connecting anglers and fishing guides, with over 30,000 fishing trips available in more than 2,000 destinations worldwide, just released their list of the 10 Best Winter Fishing Destinations in 2022, and Morro Bay came in second.

“The stars of the fishing scene in Morro Bay are lingcod and a variety of rockfish, so from the get-go, you know that bottom fishing is on fire,” said FishingBooker

in a press release. “Shore fishermen can head to one of the beaches or local parks for surf fishing. Thanks to the rocky shore and deep waters close to land, the bite is something that needs to be experienced to be believed.”

The full list includes:

- Kenai, AK
- Morro Bay, CA
- South Padre Island, TX
- Lincoln City, OR
- Orange Beach & Gulf Shores, AL
- Bristol, TN/VA
- Elephant Butte Lake, NM
- Miami, FL
- Presque Isle Bay, PA
- Bozeman, MT

Commute Advisory

A portion of Orcutt Road north of Tank Farm Road intersection will close Feb. 22 to through traffic through May for the third phase of the Tank Farm and Orcutt Road roundabout project. Work takes place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some night-work will be done on an as-needed basis from 8 p.m. from 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. This segment of Orcutt Road will be closed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the anticipated construction.

During this time, Tank Farm Rd., which has been closed since September for construction, will be reopened to again provide east/west access as well as restoring access to the Islay Hill Playground parking lot. Updated information can be found at www.slocity.org/roundabouts.

Cal Poly Ranks First in the Nation in Study Abroad Survey

Cal Poly sent the most students on study abroad experiences among master’s-level institutions, according to

the Institute of International Education’s annual statistical survey of U.S. campuses for the 2019-20 academic year released today in celebration of International Education Week.

“Study abroad at Cal Poly remains an integral aspect of our students’ degree programs and reflects the global mindset of our students, faculty and staff,” said Cari Vanderkar, Cal Poly’s senior international officer and assistant vice provost for international programs. “We are thrilled by the ranking and look forward to our continued strong participation in study abroad and international education generally as the world navigates out of the pandemic.”

Since 2000, Cal Poly has ranked as a top sender in the nation among master’s-level universities for internationally bound students.

In 2019-20 year, the most current numbers available, Cal Poly sent 863 students abroad to 46 nations (including some multi-country programs). Participation was through Winter 2020, as study abroad was suspended worldwide in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2018-19, Cal Poly sent more than 1,200 students abroad. Study abroad resumed in Fall 2021, with around 150 Cal Poly students currently abroad.

In the past two decades, the university also has ranked in the top 10 among those who study abroad for long-term (an academic year). For mid-length programs, which run for a semester or a quarter, Cal Poly ranked first in the nation for the third straight year with 786 participants. It has ranked in the top eight since 2004-05.

The Institute of International Education is the leading not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization in the U.S. It has conducted the Open Doors Report annual survey since 1919, and since the early 1970s, it has been aided by support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Open Doors surveys about 2,000 U.S. universities and colleges with study abroad programs.

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

Recovery From page 3

Morro Strand State Beach, Los Osos Oaks State Preserve, Morro Bay State Park, Montaña de Oro State Park and the Elfin Forest Reserve may require habitat maintenance and

removal of invasive plants to provide long-term habitat for the snail. Recovery criteria have not been fully achieved, and some of the conservation areas still need management plans.

The Service also issued “take” regulations for the Morro shoulderband that exempt and allow native habitat restoration activities including removal of invasive species, and fire hazard reduction activities by Cal Fire and others.



COUPON:

Buy one crepe or waffle meal and get the second one for 1/2 OFF

All crepes and waffles include a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and a side of our fresh, REAL frozen yogurt or almond milk.

Offer good all month long in February with coupon!

Monday – Thursday NOON-6:00 pm
Friday & Saturday – 10:00 am – 10:00 pm • Sunday – 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

**307 Morro Bay Blvd., (Corner of Main Street)
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 704-9866**



SHOP
805-203-5538

OFFICE
805-909-9022

6100 Moonstone Beach Dr
Cambria • CA • 93428

Find us on Facebook and Instagram
@ebbandflowcambria

shopebbandflow@yahoo.com
ebbandflowoceanfront.com



OCEAN HEIR

oceanheirestatecompany.com
@shopoceanheir

We're Hiring!

ASSISTANT MANAGER POSITION
Oceanfront Boutique
32-40 hrs/week
We Pay Well + Vacation + 401k + Perks!
Focus on Work/Life Balance

Seeking dynamic, engaging, creative individual. Must have a min. of 5 recent years retail sales/management/merchandising experience who excels in apparel sales, can assist owner with purchasing and oversee consignment art sales.

Merchandising skills with an eye for display and design required in addition to being self starter, reliable and willing to 'run' the shop.

We offer security/longevity and a pleasant, stimulating, creative work environment amongst a professional, long-standing staff.

Send resumes to
shopebbandflow@yahoo.com



Pandemic Surge May Be Slowing



County Health officials, citing current infection numbers, said the coronavirus pandemic’s current surge shows signs of easing, even as the county passes a gruesome milestone in COVID-19 deaths.

County Health Public Information Officer, Michelle Shoresman, said in a Feb. 2 news release, “COVID-19 cases in San Luis Obispo County increased by 3,852 over the past week, indicating the pace of the current Omicron-fueled surge, while still swift, may be slowing compared to previous weeks when totals rose by more than 5,000.”

The 14-day average in cases dropped from 649 on Friday, Jan. 28 to 621 on Feb. 2. However, in January they recorded over 14,659 cases of COVID-19, which is “more than 30% of total local cases since the pandemic began.”

And SLO County also passed 400 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic started in March 2020. The four latest deaths were among people 70 to 90-years old and brought the total to 402.

The County also reported a slowdown in the surge of COVID-19 cases in local care facilities. “County Public Health officials are currently responding to approximately 56 outbreaks of COVID-19 in congregate care, skilled nursing, and corrections facilities, down from 60 reported last week,” the news release said.

On Feb. 2, Shoresman said, there were 44 people in hospitals “because of severe COVID illness” and six in intensive care. But, “These numbers do not count those who need hospital care for other reasons and also have COVID-19.”

That clarification would seem to address the issue of how many people are hospitalized due to COVID-19 versus how many people are hospitalized for other illnesses or injuries and also have COVID-19.

The County cautioned that the COVID-19 case numbers are still very high and despite the slight downward trend, we’re not clear of the pandemic yet.

“We know hospitalizations and deaths tend to increase several weeks after a surge in cases,” SLO County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein said, “so it remains critical

that we do all we can to continue to safeguard our hospital capacity for those who are severely ill.”

The surge in hospitalizations has health officials asking people to stay away from the emergency rooms if you want to get a test, and not to come to the hospital if you have “mild” symptoms.

Vaccines are available at no cost at pharmacies, doctor offices, Public Health Department clinics, and mobile clinics countywide. To schedule an appointment, see: www.slopublichealth.org/vaccines or call (833) 422-4255.

Readers are reminded that the State has mandated everyone wear facemasks in all indoor public places.

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

State Awards \$589M in Roads Money

The State has awarded over half a billion dollars in transportation funding and San Luis Obispo County will see a sizable chunk to address a dangerous stretch of Hwy 46.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) announced Friday, Jan. 28 it was releasing \$589 million “for projects to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state,” reads a news release. “Senate Bill 1 [SB 1], the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, accounts for \$302 million — more than half of the funding.”

Among the projects getting funding is \$136 million “to convert Highway 46 East to a four-lane expressway from west of the Shandon Roadside Rest Area to east of the Jack Ranch Café in San Luis Obispo County.”

Hwy 46 has long been known as “Blood Alley,” given its heavy traffic and stretches of 2-lane roadway, plus the infamous “Y” intersection where Hwys 46 and 41 diverge. From there, Hwy 46 heads towards Bakersfield and Hwy 41 towards Fresno.

Building an interchange system to replace the Y is another previously funded project.

The area in question here includes the Shandon Rest Stop and a cross-traffic, left turn, for vehicles heading west towards Paso Robles.

The CTC also allocated \$2.7 million “to install rock slope protection to prevent impacts to the bridge foundation of the Soquel Creek Bridge on Highway 1 in Capitola in Santa Cruz County.

“This investment follows our ‘fix-it-first’ commitment to repair California’s aging infrastructure,” Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin said, “while at the same time increasing transit and active transportation options. These

projects will make our transportation system safer and more convenient for all users and create thousands of good paying jobs in the process.”

Caltrans has also submitted a draft “2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program” (SHOPP) funding. The SHOPP is “Aimed at preserving the condition of the highway system; the draft 2022 SHOPP accounts for \$17.3 billion in funding over a four-year period and includes projects for safety, restoration, road and bridge preservation, and other highway-related facilities,” according to Caltrans.

That SHOPP money hasn’t officially been approved and the CTC is taking comment on it at a hearing in February, though no date has been set, with a final vote slated for March.

Among the list of projects under the SHOPP are some 24 in San Luis Obispo County. All the 2022 SHOPP projects are listed on the Caltrans’ Ten-Year Project Book website, see: ProjectBook.dot.ca.gov.

The 13-member CTC is responsible for program-ming and allocating funds for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California, reads the CTC website. The Commission also advises and assists the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency and the Legislature “in formulating and evaluating state policies and plans for California’s transportation programs.”

Former Store Owner Charged with Embezzlement

The former owner of a San Luis Obispo consignment store has been charged with allegedly embezzling money from several of her vendors, the District Attorney announced Feb. 2.

District Attorney Dan Dow said former storeowner, Andrea Ruth Bowengardner, 51 of Arroyo Grande, was charged with 10 counts of felony embezzlement.

Bowengardner is the former owner of Timeless Treasures consignment shop. She was charged on behalf of some 58 consignors “who entrusted to Bowengardner antiques, art, furniture, and other items for her to sell,” the news release said.

The charges allege that Bowengardner sold consigned



Andrea Ruth Bowengardner

Embezzlement Continued on page 6

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

Fitness Works for Life

2 FOR 1 ENROLLMENT

SAVE \$50 EACH*

2 for 1 enrollment offer* is based on any 2 people signing up for a 1 or 2 year membership at the same time.

Offer valid through 2/28/2022. Not valid with any other offers.

Over 30 Classes Weekly

Pump♥Combat♥Spin♥Barre

Zumba♥CORE♥Pilates♥Yoga

Senior Works♥Qi Gong

- 15,000 sq. ft. Facility
- Functional Training Zone
- Extensive Strength and Cardio Equipment
- Personal Training
- Small Group Training

FITNESSWORKS

MORRO BAY CALIFORNIA

805-772-7466♥500 Quintana Rd., Morro Bay♥FitnessWorksMB.com

Is HIRING!

Virg's Landing is the premier sport fishing venue on the central coast and has been in business since 1954. We also have the largest and best stocked tackle shop in San Luis Obispo county. We are currently accepting applications for employment in our tackle shop. These positions are part-time with potential for full time during the season for the right people.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Basic knowledge of local fishing (ocean & fresh water)
- Great customer service skills
- Ability to multitask and work under pressure
- Retail sales experience
- Computer POS and social media experience
- Great phone etiquette
- Must be able to work Saturday & Sunday

We are looking for individuals who are responsible, dependable and punctual. A background check is required.

For more info, contact Pamela Harwood at 805-772-1222

You can also come by the tackle shop at:

1169 Market Ave., Morro Bay and fill out an application

Demo Begins on Embarcadero Motel Project

By Neil Farrell



Demolition work began on the Morro Bay waterfront to make room for a Motel project.

Demolition work recently began in the rebuilding of one of the few remaining buildings from the original Morro Bay waterfront.

TLC Family Enterprises, which holds the master lease on lease sites Nos. 87/88 and 87W/88W made quick work of the building that for decades housed Bob’s Seafood Restaurant and most recently had Off the Hook.

TLC is Travis Leage and Cherise Hansson’s company formed to take over and rebuild the lease site that had recently belonged to Violet Leage, Travis’ aunt, before she lost it in a somewhat shady real estate transaction to a third party.

But in 2018 when the City put the lease site out for bids, that third party was passed over in favor of TLC, which took over the lease site and has been working on the project for some time.

As with all waterfront lease projects, final permitting lies with the Coastal Commission in a process that greatly stretches out and complicates the process.

TLC’s project was last before the City Council Jan. 25 seeking approval of a new loan and accepting a deed of trust for the 50-year lease TLC was granted as part of the redevelopment deal.

With the City’s sign-off on the loan documents, they wasted little time getting started with demolition. In just a few days the buildings were down and carted off to the landfill.

The final approved project — named “Harborwalk Plaza” — got final approval by the Planning Commission in November 2019. Projects in the Coastal Commission’s

“original jurisdiction” areas follow a 3-part process — first is gaining City approval, then Coastal Commission approval — which often means changes to the original — and then back to the City Planning Commission to finalize whatever the Coastal Commission has approved.

The project called for demolition of a 6,687 square foot building, and construction of a 2-story, 7,994 s.f., 25-foot tall building with retail and restaurant uses on the ground floor and eight boutique motel rooms on the second floor.

Also, replacement of an existing side-tie dock and gangway, replacing pilings and public access improvements to include extending the Harborwalk around the water side of the new building and improving a small courtyard area between the Plaza and the Boatyard Center next door.

Motel rooms will range in size from 248 to 449 s.f. It would include a 1,565 s.f. retail store space, a 262 s.f. shop space for a frozen yogurt business, and 2,072 s.f. restaurant space.

They will replace nine wooden pilings with concrete piles that will help support the Harborwalk extension. There will be new seating areas and three public restrooms, according to the City’s report.

Hansson owns and operated the Under the Sea Gallery and gift shop, which was the lone business left open on the lease site. She has another store a few doors down in the Rose’s Landing Complex.

The building was one of just a handful left on the Embarcadero that date back to the 1960s, when the City first took control from SLO County of the State tidelands areas.

The others are the Libertine, which is next door to TLC’s lease site and the former Morro Bay Aquarium, which is being remodeled into a new, Three Stacks and a Rock brew pub.

“Completion of the redevelopment of this lease site in the heart of the Embarcadero of one of the last remaining ~1960’s-era buildings on the waterfront will modernize and upgrade this key property,” reads a City staff report.

SLOPD Seeks Robber



San Luis Obispo Police are looking for a man they said violently robbed a Downtown pharmacy claiming he had a knife, and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

According to a news release, at about 8:38 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2 police got a report of a robbery at the CVS Pharmacy, located at 171 Marsh St., in Downtown SLO.

According to police, “The suspect entered the store and asked the clerk if she could change a bill for him. The suspect then walked behind the counter, physically assaulted the clerk, and demanded the money from the register.”

No weapons were apparently used however, “During the robbery, the suspect told her that he had a knife, but none was seen.” The robber fled on foot and was last seen going north on Broad Street towards Higuera Street , police said.

Police described the suspect as being a White or Hispanic male, with no notable accent, approximately 5-feet 1-inch tall with an average build. He had light brown hair and brown eyes. The suspect’s face was covered by what appeared to be a white tank top T-shirt.

He was wearing light-colored, matching, sweat pants and sweatshirt with white shoes and blue nitrile-style gloves.

If anyone has information regarding the suspects identity, contact SLOPD at (805) 781-7313 or Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-7867.

Irish Molester Gets Prison

An Irish Atascadero man will serve a lengthy prison term after being found guilty of molesting three minors, and according to the district attorney, when he gets out, they’re supposed to deport him.

District Attorney Dan Dow announced Feb. 2 that accused child molester, Tim Patrick Prendeville, an Irish citizen, was sentenced to 12-years, 8-months in prison and must register as a sex offender for life. Prendeville, 56,



Tim Patrick Prendeville.

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

Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

PETER STARLINGS
BROKER/OWNER
805.235.8424
peterstarlings@yahoo.com

BRE# 00692586

Embezzlement From page 5
items and never paid the owners their share. “Some items were sold at an auction in May 2019,” the release said, “and others were sold between December 2018 and June 2019.”
When the charges were filed in court, an arrest warrant was issued for her and she was picked up for booking. She is now free on \$20,000 bail and arraignment is set for Feb. 23 in Superior Court.
A fraud conviction requires satisfying several key ingredients of the crime:
• An owner entrusted their property to the defendant;

- The owner did so because they trusted the defendant;
- The defendant fraudulently converted or used that property for their own benefit; and,
- When the defendant converted or used the property, they intended to deprive the owner of it.

The D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation’s Financial Crimes Unit, investigated the case. Deputy District Attorney Mike Frye, part of the Special Prosecutions Unit that includes major fraud and public integrity, will prosecute.

Laurie Lackland
(805) 506-1649 TTY:711
Calling the number will direct you to a licensed agent.

Confused about Medicare?
Call Laurie today!
Absolutely no charge...ever.

LacklandHealthPartners.com
Laurie.Lackland@Hey.com

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

6

February 10, 2022 - February 24, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

News

pled “No contest” to five felony sex crimes against children, reads a news release, including three “violent crimes of committing a lewd act on a child under 14.” He was also convicted of misdemeanor indecent exposure.

D.A. Dow said Prendeville’s crimes occurred in Atascadero between December 2011 and October 2019. He reportedly knew two of his young female victims and the third had been invited “into the defendant’s home as a guest of the family.”

Prendeville had been working as a teacher’s aide at Templeton Middle School, according o the news release.

D.A. Dow said, “Our hearts break for the survivors because of the abuse they had to endure. Any person who preys on vulnerable children must face strong consequences. Mr. Prendeville betrayed numerous children who were close to him and now stands convicted of three ‘strikes’ under California’s Three Strikes Law. After serving his prison term, pursuant to current Federal law, he should then be deported out of the United States.”

Prendeville pled no contest to the charges on Oct. 5 and Superior Court Judge Jesse Marino passed sentence Feb. 2. Two of his victims testified at sentencing.

According to the D.A.’s Office, “At today’s sentencing, two of the young survivors and their mother provided the court with an impassioned description of the traumatic impact of the crimes.”

Atascadero Police and D.A. investigators investigated the case and Deputy District Attorney Melissa Chabra of the D.A.’s Sexual Violence Unit prosecuted.

Atascadero Man Gets Prison for Attacking Women

An Atascadero man has been found guilty of numerous felony charges including kidnapping, burglary, sexual assault and the masher will spend the next decade in prison and have to register as a sex offender.

District Attorney Dan Dow announced Jan. 24, that after multiple jury trials, they finally convicted Tyrone Anderson, 41 of Atascadero, in connection with two frightening crimes in San Luis Obispo and Atascadero.

According to the D.A.’s news release, in December 2017, Anderson broke into a woman college student’s apartment in SLO “where he bound her hands and ankles with duct tape and sexually battered her.” He fled the scene and was later linked to the crime via DNA evidence.

In May 2018, Anderson was accused of attacking a woman after she’d dropped her child off at school. Anderson deliberately rear-ended the woman’s car with his car in a ruse to get to her.

Anderson pulled the woman into the back seat of his car and physically assaulted her, according to the news release. The woman had a Guardian Angel assist when a witness stepped in.

“A bystander, Michael Rummel, rushed to intervene,” the release said. “Anderson pulled out a knife and Rummel suffered an injury to his hand in the altercation.” Again Anderson fled the scene but Atascadero Police caught him a short time later.

While being booked, Anderson’s DNA was taken and soon matched to the evidence in the SLO home invasion assault, four months prior. But getting convictions in both cases proved problematic.

“In March 2020, a San Luis Obispo County jury returned guilty verdicts on the charges related to the May 2018 [Atascadero] incident, including attempted kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. However, the jury was

unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the two counts related to the December 2017 [SLO] incident.”

The D.A. re-tried the SLO case last July for the two remaining charges but again, “the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.” Last December Anderson pled to lesser charges, essentially misdemeanors instead of felonies, for the home invasion assault.

“Anderson pleaded no contest to residential burglary,” the news release said, “assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury, false imprisonment and misdemeanor sexual battery.”

“We commend the neighbors and passersby in Atascadero who witnessed the crimes and came forward to help,” D.A. Dow said. “Even when it requires multiple jury trials, our team will continue to pursue justice and accountability for dangerous criminals. It is because of the victim survivors’ willingness to come forward and participate, that we were able to bring this predator to justice.”

The case was investigated by the APD, SLOPD, and the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation worked the case with assistance from the D.A.’s Central Coast Cyber Forensics Lab. Chief Deputy District Attorney Lisa B. Muscari, who supervises the Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and Child Abuse prosecution units, was lead prosecutor.

Anderson was given just 11 years in state prison and 10 years registering as a sex offender once he is released, despite the seriousness of the two crimes. But that’s the way of things in California.

“Anderson’s 11-year sentence is the maximum provided by law for his convictions.”

Man Re-arrested for Stealing Misplaced Gun

A transient man was re-arrested and is back in the hoosegow for allegedly taking a firearm that was left in the bathroom at County Jail by an employee.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 9:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 24, a civilian jail employee, who has a concealed weapons permit, left his weapon in the bathroom in the lobby at County Jail.

“The employee had just arrived for work,” Cipolla said, “and was in the process of taking a COVID test. A recently released inmate, identified as 51-year-old Matthew Goldsmith, is believed to have taken the gun from that location. It’s believed Goldsmith left in a vehicle toward the city of San Luis Obispo.”

Goldsmith had just been released from jail after he was arrested the day before for suspicion of being drunk in public by San Luis Obispo Police. Sheriff’s deputies quickly figured out that the man’s gun was gone and started a search bringing in the Highway Patrol and SLOPD. It didn’t take long to find their man.

“Approximately 45 minutes later,” Cipolla said, “Goldsmith was located near Santa Rosa Street and Foothill Boulevard in San Luis Obispo and the firearm was recovered.”

Goldsmith was re-arrested on suspicion of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, Cipolla said. “A criminal investigation is being conducted,” he added, “as well as an internal investigation into the actions of the civilian employee.”

Ordinarily, misplacing one’s firearm, for example leaving it in a public restroom, is a serious matter that could get you fired. However, several years ago when the SLOPD Chief left her service weapon in the restroom of an El Pollo Loco chicken joint and it was found and taken by a Los Osos man, she was not fired or charged for the mistake.

Her weapon was eventually recovered after relatives of the man who found it turned it in. The finder, who had developmental disabilities, was not charged.

CASA Executive Director Retires

Teresa Rothe Tardiff, the longtime executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Luis Obispo County announced her retirement recently. The nonprofit CASA has helped thousands of children in crises successfully navigate the court system without charge.

“During my 19 years with CASA of San Luis Obispo County we have recruited and trained hundreds of volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of local children facing incredible hardships through no fault of their own.” Tardiff said. “Throughout this time the standing of our staff and volunteers has increased in the court and child welfare community so that now the input of our advocates is sought out and valued.”

Tardiff, an attorney, has fought tirelessly for San Luis Obispo County children in foster care, many of whom were victims of abuse and other crimes.

“I’m proud of what we at CASA have accomplished, thankful to the CASA staff and especially the volunteers for standing up in the court and community for foster children,” Tardiff said.

Fighting for San Luis Obispo County youth facing hardships takes hundreds of volunteers, a lot of money and a highly coordinated effort. It’s an ongoing battle for justice that Tardiff has successfully led locally for close to two decades.

“We have secured millions of dollars in grant money to enable our critical mission of advocating for local children, most recently through the Victims of Crime Act, which recognizes that children who experience abuse or neglect are crime victims,” Tardiff explained. “We have developed a positive reputation with donors in the community who have continually risen to the occasion every step of the way to meet every need our organization has faced. I can’t thank our donors enough and I can assure them that every dollar raised was carefully and thoughtfully invested to benefit kids in crises.”

Spending decades advocating for kids in crises has given Tardiff a keen insight into the difference one caring adult can make in a child’s life. “I truly believe that CASA volunteer advocacy is helping to break the cycle of abuse, neglect and poverty,” Tardiff said. “Children with a CASA volunteer learn another way of life where they are heard and celebrated. They learn there are people in this world who care about them and their families, people who stick around. I’ve been around long enough to see children we served a decade or more ago become healthy, contributing members of the community, volunteering as advocates, and becoming great parents themselves.”



Director Retires Continued on page 8



Visit The Morro Bay Maritime Museum

Thursday - Monday
10 am - 2 pm Free Admission!

Visit our shop with unique gifts!

Your local nonprofit preserving the history of the Central Coast

1210 Embarcadero
Morro Bay, CA
805.255.5044

MorroBayMaritime.org

QUICKTECH

Business IT DONE RIGHT.

Reliable on-call tech support, installation, consultation, management and maintenance for your small to medium sized business!

- Remote Support
- Backups
- Network Security
- Wireless Networking
- Device Management
- Server/Endpoint Management/Maintenance
- Commercial CCTV Systems
- Point Of Sale Systems
- Video Conferencing
- Flatscreen Mounting
- And Much More!!

Call Now! (805)-806-0165

Often Imitated, Never duplicated!

APPOINTMENT PREFERRED, Walk-In by LUCK!

Mike's BARBER SHOP .com

BOOK NOW ONLINE Or text or call shop!

@mikes.barber.shop @northsidemikes

Serving the Central Coast Since 1941

Police Blotter



• **Jan. 23:** Police responded at 7:46 p.m. to Coleman Drive and the Embarcadero for a car crash. Logs indicated a big rock apparently jumped in front of a car and the driver had abandoned his busted up car and fugitated. He was caught a short time later and the 29-year-old was of course allegedly driving trashed when he crashed and was dashed off to the meat locker.

• **Jan. 23:** Police were called at 5:41 p.m. to an ongoing residential disturbance in the 900 block of Allesandro. The Bickersons were apparently counseled to ‘shadd-up already!’

• **Jan. 23:** Police responded to the 2300 block of Nutmeg where some dingus vandalized two parked cars.

• **Jan. 23:** Police responded at 7:52 a.m. to Albertson’s Market on Quintana for an assault. An Albertson’s employee apparently had a go with a customer; no word on who started it, but one might further a guess who will be blamed.

• **Jan. 23:** Police contacted a swizzle stick waltzing down the 2800 block of Main at 2:30 a.m. Logs indicated the 69-year-old fellow for suspicion of being stultified as even duct tape can’t fix stupid.

• **Jan. 21:** Police responded to a disturbance at 2 p.m. in the 100 block of Kodiak. An apparently out-of-control juvenile was taken for a 72-hour timeout at County Mental Health.

• **Jan. 21:** Police contacted a regular customer at 1:40 p.m. at Albertson’s Market. The 29-year-old apparent plod was given a notice to appear on the five failure-to-appear tickets he already had, for justice is blind — and apparently deaf and dumb too.

• **Jan. 21:** Police responded to a vandalism report at Sunset and Atascadero Road. Some demented maniac damaged the passenger door on a 2021 Ford F-150 truck.

• **Jan. 20:** Police caught up to a suspicious man goin’ woolly-booger in City Park. The 33-year-old Mamaluke was nicked for suspicion of being high on drugs.

• **Jan. 20:** Police responded at 5:50 p.m. to the 300 block of MBB where they arrested a 51-year-old fellow got picked up for suspicion of being skulled in public.

• **Jan. 20:** At 5:30 p.m. police responded to City Park where some bust-a-fooligan was acting out. Logs indicated they arrested a 36-year-old man for suspicion of being blitzed and of course while being hauled to the nick he allegedly resisted arrest. So that charge was added to his sheet.

• **Jan. 20:** Police encountered a familiar face at 2:16 p.m. in the 900 block of MBB. The 35-year-old apparent nillionaire had a bench warrant and was of course cited and released again.

• **Jan. 20:** Police responded at 5:20 a.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Ironwood. Logs indicated a 24-year-old boisterous fellow was arrested for suspicion of resisting arrest and being a tornado riding the back of a hurricane.

• **Jan. 20:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 12:05 a.m. in the 900 block of Piney Way. The 37-year-old man had outstanding warrants and was given another and released.

• **Jan. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10 a.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 26, was nicked for suspicion of driving schnookered but was cited and released to presumably a sober friend.

• **Jan. 19:** A citizen in the 400 block of Mindoro told police that their property management company “has been embezzling money since possibly June 2021,” which is no doubt just the tip of the iceberg.

• **Jan. 19:** Police conducted a welfare check at 2 p.m. in the 500 block of Monterey. Logs indicated the 44-year-old fellow they were checking up on had a warrant. He was cited and released for our troubles.

• **Jan. 18:** Police responded at 10:12 p.m. to yet another disturbance in City Park. A 37-year-old apparent ruffian was arrested for disorderly conduct.

• **Jan. 18:** police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9 p.m. at Beach and Morro. The driver, 27, was cited for a suspended license and sentenced to hard labor at the DMV.

• **Jan. 18:** Police documented an anonymous threat to Morro Bay High School by some apparent fiend.

• **Jan. 18:** A woman in the 400 block of Marina told police that someone stole her car. Logs indicated all car keys were accounted for and the vehicle doors were locked making this an actual crime.

• **Jan. 18:** Police responded at 1:14 a.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Piney Way. A 59-year-old apparent batleaxe was nicked for suspicion of disorderly conduct.

• **Jan. 17:** A citizen in the 2800 block of Fir told police that some music critic stole his guitar, guitar case and harmonica.

• **Jan. 17:** Police responded to a disturbance at 8:50 a.m. in the 300 block of MBB. A 58-year-old apparent loud-mouth was cited for suspicion of disturbing the peace.

• **Jan. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious car at midnight in the 900 block of Surf. Ol’ Cinderella, 60, was nicked for suspicion of driving loose; her pumpkin turned into a cop car and she was delivered to the masquerade ball in the hoosegow, sans glass slippers and Prince Charming.

• **Jan. 15:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10 p.m. in the 800 block of Market. The 29-year-old apparent swagman was arrested for suspicion of being schwacked on drugs.

• **Jan. 14:** Police took a courtesy report for the County Sheriff of suspected child abuse in Los Osos.

• **Jan. 14:** Police contacted a familiar foe at 10:09 a.m. at Morro Bay Boulevard and Monterey. The 53-year-old scoff-law had a warrant and was nicked.

• **Jan. 14:** Police took a report in the 2000 block of Main of a stolen catalytic converter off an innocent and unsuspecting parked pick-up truck.

• **Jan. 14:** At 3:38 a.m. to the 2900 block of Main where they towed off a vehicle for having false tags, a hanging offense in these parts.

Director Retires

From page 7

The chief executive officer for the CASA state organization, California CASA, recognized the substantial contribution Tardiff has made.


“Having been involved in the CASA network for more than 25 years, 20 of them as CEO of Voices for Children, the largest CASA program in the West, I have been fortunate to interact with many exemplary leaders,” said Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq., CEO, California CASA Association. “Without question, I count Teresa Tardiff among them. In her 19 years of dedicated service at CASA of San Luis Obispo County, Teresa has transformed the lives of thousands of children and families by leading an outstanding CASA program. Her retirement leaves a huge void in our California CASA network of 44 local programs, but an even larger void in her community. All of us at the California CASA Association are grateful for her many accomplishments and contributions to our field, and we wish her well.”

Tardiff said she plans to stick around San Luis Obispo post retirement. “I plan to spend time with family and friends,” she said. “Especially outdoors, with my dog, Tali.”

CASA is in its 29th year of providing advocacy for court-dependent children in this county who have been abused and neglected. Most of the youth CASA serves

live in foster care and face many challenges to their health, education, and general well-being. It is the dedicated CASA volunteer who becomes the child’s advocate and trusted, consistent adult, regardless of changes to the child’s school or place of residence. In fiscal year 2020/2021, CASA provided an advocate to 316 children and oversaw volunteers who logged over 12,000 hours to improving children’s lives.

For more information about volunteering or donating, contact: staff@slocasa.org



Hey sun! I'm waiting. Oh God, it's in my eyes Stupid, shiny sun.

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



OPEN FOR BUSINESS!
Curbside service available.

Morro Bay
510 Quintana Road
805-772-1265

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

San Luis Obispo
1336 Madonna Road
805-544-5400

RadioShack
COAST ELECTRONICS

PCM PACIFIC CAPITAL MORTGAGE

805-528-5353
www.pacificcapital.biz

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

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

BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Stamped Concrete

- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations

State Lic# 816944

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com
www.burchconcretesolutions.com



Community

Cayucos Surf Company Has New Location

Story and Photos by Neil Farrell

A family-owned Cayucos surf shop has caught a wave, and moved into a larger space down the street, and expanded its offerings.

Cayucos Surf Co., was begun in 1996 by Kevin and Lisa McClory in a corner space at 95 Cayucos Dr., in a prime location just down from the Cayucos Pier Plaza and Vet's Hall.

The McClory's daughter, Allysa Molette, said the business has grown steadily since it opened, and outgrew their original store space.

The business at the end of January moved about a half block down Ocean Avenue into a historic building that's been vacant for nearly a decade, and most recently housed the Rich Man Poor Man Antique Mall. That antiques consignment shop moved to Cambria in 2013 leaving the 3-story building vacant.




Photo shows the front entrance of the building. The building is a historic structure with a dark, possibly wooden, facade. The photo is a close-up of the front entrance area, showing the hood and headlights of a vintage car parked in front of the building.

After a ton of clean up, paint and remodeling work done by the owners, Cayucos Surf Co., moved in a single day and held a soft opening on Jan. 29.

Molette said they plan to hold a grand opening some time in March.

The larger space has allowed the store to expand its offerings with more clothing and still carry all the gear needed by the local surf community.

The building, which has the look and feel of an Old West saloon, has a wrap-around second story space that Molette said they plan to fill with historic exhibits from the Cayucos Historical Society, and local surf memorabilia.



Photo shows the front entrance to the new Cayucos Surf Co., store, 145 N. Ocean Ave., Cayucos. The new store fills a historic building that has been vacant since 2013.

creating a museum of sorts and celebrating Cayucos' rich history.

There's also a basement space that she said they are using for storage.

Back when Rich Man Poor Man was in there, they had items from numerous vendors filling all three floors with a maze-like set up that revealed a myriad of treasures seemingly around every corner.

They also brought with them the glass front door off their original store, which is adorned with hundreds of surf stickers — a time capsule of surfing history.

They will also have muralists come in to put artwork on some of the interior walls, Molette said.

And the move frees up the old space, which is a prime location for a new business venture, though no signs listing it available have been put up yet.



The old front door to the former location of Cayucos Surf Co., is a history of the surfing industry told in stickers and will be a part of Cayucos Surf Cos., new store.

And, peering through the windows, it appears that the interior needs some work before it's ready to be leased again. Eventually, it'll be a rare opportunity for someone to open a new business in the heart of Cayucos.

Cayucos Surf Co., is at 145 N. Ocean Ave., and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

⇒ Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay, presents Earth and Fire. This exhibition will reflect how we view our own fundamental beginnings, born of primitive elements and how these origins resonate within ourselves.

This exhibit celebrates artistic expression in all media to include textile, sculpture, encaustic, mixed media, oil, watercolor, acrylic and photography.

Earth and Fire is on display in the main gallery concurrent with Aquarius, which will be on display in the Virginia Russel gallery upstairs from February 24 through April 4. This event is free and open to the public. Art Center Morro Bay is open daily from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. A reception takes place February 27 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, 805-772-2504 or www.artcentermorrobay.org.

Events Continued on page 10

Sofi Stadium

NHC
NATURAL HEALING CENTERS
SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA CANNABIS CULTIVATORS

LVI SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

PICK ANY DEAL!

SCAN TO VIEW DEALS!

FEB 13TH | 2:20 - 4:20 pm

COME IN WATCH THE GAME AND RECEIVE 2 TACOS

While supplies last. *Minimum spend \$50+

BEST QUALITY MEDICAL MARIJUANA

GROVER BEACH
998 Huston St.

MORRO BAY
495 Morro Bay Blvd.

LEMOORE
338 West D St.

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

Shop in-store & online for express pickup and delivery

(805) 201-1498 | NHCDISPENSARIES.COM | OPEN DAILY 7AM-9PM

Grover Beach License # C91-000026R-LIC | Morro Bay License #C10-0009707-LIC | Lemoore License #C91-0000734-LIC

The logo for Jim Marshall Insurance Inc. features the name "Jim Marshall" in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, "INSURANCE INC." is written in a smaller, all-caps, serif font, underlined by a thin horizontal line. A decorative flourish is positioned below the underline.

Jim Marshall
INSURANCE INC.

- AUTO
- HOME/RENTERS
- BUSINESS
- HEALTH
- LIFE

(805) 528-4739

2141 10th St., #A • Los Osos
www.jimmarshallinsurance.com

Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students and Jazz Federation members. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406 or visit its calendar website.

Join the SLO Botanical Garden's free admission day on Saturday, February 12 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The normal admission cost of \$10 for adults and children over 12, and \$8 for seniors, students, and military will be waived. This is a great opportunity to spend time outdoors and learn about native plants. There will be a botanical art activity outside of the Education Center. Paper and basic drawing supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. The garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Road in San Luis Obispo, inside El Chorro Regional Park. If you can't make it out on the 12th, join them for the next free day on Saturday, March 26, which coincides with their Art in the Garden Show and Annual Spring Plant Sale events. Questions? Contact dara@slobg.org or call 805-541-1400 x 302.

Tickets are \$15 and 20 for the public and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are sold at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). For more information, visit the Music Department's calendar website, email music@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-2406.



Author, podcaster, and journalist, Mark Oppenheimer, to keynote San Luis Obispo's Jewish Festival of Learning in response to local anti-semitism. The Jewish Community Center-Federation of San Luis Obispo, along with San Luis Obispo Hillel and Alpha Epsilon Pi, will host the Festival at

GROCERY OUTLET
bargain market

1130 Los Osos Valley Rd. | Los Osos, CA
(805) 534-9778 | 8am - 9pm Every Day!
lososo@groceryoutlet.com

@LosOsosGroceryOutlet
 @Los_Osos_Grocery_Outlet

Los Osos

FEELS LIKE
Falling in Love
ON
Every Aisle.

A Healthy Cart
IS A Healthy Start

OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/22

\$5 OFF \$35

\$35 minimum purchase
(excludes, alcohol, dairy, gift cards, tax & state bottle deposits)

Valid at Los Osos Grocery Outlet only. One coupon per person. Duplicated coupons will not be accepted. **Not valid with any other offer.**
Expires February 28, 2022.

DUTCHMAN'S
SEAFOOD HOUSE

Happy Hour
is Back!

HAPPY HOUR MON-THURS 3-5

BEAUTIFUL MORRO BAY

FRESH SEAFOOD

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

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

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

701 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Call: (805) 772-2269 • www.dutchmansseaoodhouse.com

Community

Cal Poly from Thursday, February 24 - Saturday, February 26, 2022, for a three-day conference that brings its audience on a journey from the "Axis of Hate to the Nexus of Love." Details and registration information can be found on the program website at: <https://www.jewishfestivalof-learningso.com/>

Oppenheimer will discuss his book, Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood. The talk will take San Luis Obispo from the traumatic hate that was experienced to a nexus of love a community can flourish in. Following the Thursday talk, Friday is a full day of panels and discussions from local students and Jewish professionals, covering topics of Antisemitism on campus, Anti-Zionism, and the best way communities can respond to acts of hate. Friday evening will celebrate LOVE for all in a communal celebration on Shabbat, after hearing from Phil Koek, a second generation Holocaust survivor who shares the story of his father, Joe, and aunts, Eva and Henny, on their recollections during the Shoah.

The final day of the conference will occur in conjunction with Cal Poly's Change the Status Quo. The afternoon will include options for outdoor recreation, Torah study, and a tour of the History Center of SLO County's local Jewish history exhibit, L'dor Vador. The day will culminate with a community gathering to mark the end of Shabbat with a candle-lighting, songs, and celebration at the Hillel of San Luis Obispo's Makom space at the JCC-Federation of SLO property.

Enjoy a Valentine's Wine Dinner at Oceanpoint Ranch, Cambria on Sunday, February 13 6 p.m. Sip on a variety of Winemaker Chuck's newest wines paired perfectly with a unique Indian-food themed menu created by Chef Samantha Eitel. This intimate dinner is in held in the Canteen at Oceanpoint Ranch. Separate parties will not be seated together. It includes four courses + wine and is \$120 per person. Purchase tickets at bit.ly/3AQk0wd.





In Print
&
On Line

[esterobaynews.com](https://www.esterobaynews.com)



Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts hosts the sixth annual Social Justice Teach In on Feb. 17, featuring more than 40 virtual and in-person talks and workshops centered around social justice and equity. Presenters include students, staff, faculty and community leaders, representing the diverse voices needed to foster diversity of thought and create a just society for all.

Attendees can register for sessions across a wide range of topics. Four are focused on specific topics to help attendees identify sessions that best match their interests: "Equity-Minded Education," "Self-Care and Community Well-Being," "Art and Creative Efforts," and "DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) and STEM."

The Teach In will culminate in a keynote session from Christine Wong Yap titled "How I Keep Looking Up: Art and the Social Practice of Belonging and Resilience" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wong Yap is a visual artist and social practitioner working in community engagement, drawing, printmaking, publishing and public art. She partners with organizations to conduct participatory research projects to explore dimensions of psychological well-being such as belonging, resilience, interdependence and collaboration.

These events will comply with all mandatory requirements and mitigation measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about the sessions and register: <https://cla.calpoly.edu/teach-in>.



The Morro Coast Audubon February Community Program takes place on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Bill Toone presents "The Decline and Not So Certain Recovery of the California Condor: a Tale of Three Heroes."

This program is a summary of the political and biological

ical drama of the early years of the recovery program, from late '70's up until the first releases of the California condor back into the wild. The story is told through Bill's eyes and experiences, but it is a tale of three personal and professional heroes who he believes have made it possible for these majestic birds once again to fly in our skies.

Bill Toone is an internationally recognized conservation biologist. He helped to develop some of the techniques that led to the highly publicized and groundbreaking recovery of the California condor. This work created an international reputation that led to in-situ conservation work in 30 countries over the last 4 decades.

Join Zoom Meeting (meeting link):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85003063314>
Meeting ID: 850 0306 3314

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

Takin' Care
of
BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Ribbon Cutting



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce celebrated the soft opening of Gaia's Garden and Apothecary and it's new location at 875 Main Street Ste. C, Morro.

With this expansion, they now offer organic, herbal, house tea blends that customers can enjoy in the shop, get to go or take home a prepackaged variety. They also create custom herbal blends based on whatever their customer needs, and they sell organic herbs for people to make their own wellness blends at home.

Keep an eye out because Gaia's will soon hold workshops, classes and gatherings. Follow them on instagram at [gaiafgardenmb](https://www.instagram.com/gaiafgardenmb) or better yet stop in and say "hi."

Are you a business owner interested in a ribbon cutting or joining the Morro Bay Chamber? Contact lynsey@morrochamber.org

Wedding Venue
Giveaway



The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is hosting a wedding venue giveaway to celebrate the upcoming spring season. One lucky couple will win the use of the Oak Glen Pavilion, surrounding garden patio areas and commercial kitchen space at the SLO Botanical Garden.

The 2,140 sf. Oak Glen Pavilion offers audience style seating for 150, dinner seating for 96, or as many as 200 for cocktails and appetizers with a built-in projector screen, all valued at \$3,500.

The garden is accepting submissions to the giveaway through March 19 at 11:55 p.m. The winner will be chosen on the first day of spring, March 20. The announcement will be made on [slobg.org](https://www.slobg.org) and through SLOBG's social media channels.

The wedding must be held by December 31, 2023. The client is responsible for the security deposit, cleaning fee, and the hiring of a security guard for the event. The client is required to sign and abide by the terms of the

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN
A BETTER TIME TO SELL
Let's Start a Conversation about
your next move...



Call "The Captain" To Sell
Jay Chiasson

805-500-3911
NAVHOMES.COM

NAVIGATORS
REAL ESTATE

CalDRE# 01836276

Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 11

SLOBG rental agreement contract. To enter, go to <https://www.slobg.org/> and hit the green button about halfway down the page.

Update Your Cambria Chamber Profile

The time is here! Make changes, submit edits, and add new employees to your Cambria Chamber web page. Members need to claim the listing for their webpage. Click on the "claim your listing" link on the bottom of the home page, cambriachamber.org. Make your changes by February 25. Check appropriate categories for your business so anyone who needs you can find you.

Send changes to the Chamber at info@cambriachamber.org. Send JPEGs for images and any text you would like added to your listing as well as the as the contact for your business?

For more information, send an email to info@cambriachamber.org or call 805-927-3624.

Increased Shuttle Services for Poly People

Cal Poly community members now have increased access to Mustang Shuttle with two additional hours of service, running past midnight.

Mustang Shuttle, a free convenience shuttle service that gives students and employees a ride across campus every evening, will run from 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. through the end of winter quarter.

With the switch to Daylight Saving Time the shuttle will run from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. during spring quarter effective March 28. Cal Poly's Transportation and Parking Services partnered with SLO Safe Ride to provide shuttle service seven days a week beginning last November.

Mustang Shuttle follows a scheduled route with seven stops throughout campus. To encourage riders to congregate and wait for the shuttle in a more populated area, two of the stop locations will be drop-off only.

The shuttle service starts at 5:30 p.m., with the last pickup leaving the library at 12:10 a.m. before making all seven stops.

Riders must show a Cal Poly ID when boarding. Mustang Shuttle does not run during academic holidays or breaks. More information on the Mustang Shuttle route can be found at afd.calpoly.edu/parking/safetyprograms/.

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.

Year of the Tiger

Photos by Dean Sullivan



For the 18th year Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe in Los Osos held a Chinese New Year celebration in front of the store.

The Cal Poly Lion Dance Team and Band performed the centuries-old Lion Dance ritual to bless the community.

This is the Year of the Water Tiger, which combines the energy of the tiger with the flow of water. The water element brings sensitivity and creativity to the vitality of the tiger. Water is powerful enough to conquer fire; it can navigate obstacles, yet never lose its way.

Between the energy of the tiger and the momentum of water, 2022 is a good year to explore and learn new things, be adaptable, and continue to move, ever forward.



Board Seats Need Filling

The City of Morro Bay is looking to put some butts in empty seats on several of its advisory boards.

The City Clerk's Office has put out a call to fill several advisory board seats, they are:

- One seat on the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee or CFAC, a citizen's group that reviews City expenditures of the special sales taxes — Measures Q and E-20 — and the progress of the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) budgets and cost overruns.

CFAC has no real authority, however, the city council recently doubled its monthly pay following a recommendation by CFAC, which reviewed the issue. CFAC has seven members and falls under the City Administration Department, with the Deputy City Manager serving as the staff person.

- The Harbor Advisory Board (HAB) needs an alternate member to the seat delegated to the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization.

The HAB oversees issues having to do with the Harbor Department and matters important to the bay and waterfront, including reviewing lease agreements and capitol improvements projects. They too have no real authority.

The 9-member HAB works through the Harbor Department and the Harbor Director is their lead staff person. Each seat represents a specific constituency.

- The Recreation and Parks Commission has two vacant seats. The commission advises the City Council on issues having to do with the public parks in town and the various recreation programs it provides.

Recreation Services Manager, Kirk Carmichael, is the lead staffer for the commission.

If readers are interested in these positions, you can get an application online at the City Clerk's webpage, see: www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody or visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.


The deadline to apply for these positions is 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 and interviews by city council are tentatively set for Tuesday, March 8.

The interviews will likely be via the Internet, as the City Council has yet to restart having the public at its public meetings due to the Coronavirus Pandemic response.

The council, indeed all the City's advisory boards, have been meeting online since April 2020, with no end in sight.

LIVING TRUST

WILLS = PROBATE



Since 1980


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

PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS!

- In-home Appointments!
- A complete Living Trust

For only \$400

Call Edward at: 805-772-2655



Call now for your peace of mind • ELH Trust

Lic# 095935-03



Dreaming up the ideal retirement is your job. Helping you get there is ours.

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call my office today.

Los Osos



Deanna Richards, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

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

Cayucos



Alex Schams
Financial Advisor

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

Morro Bay



Nelson Pamplona
Financial Advisor

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



Jennifer L. Redman
Financial Advisor

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

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

FLOORING DISCOUNT CENTER

Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring

For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.

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

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

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

Monday - Friday 10-4

www.fdcmb.com

12

February 10, 2022 - February 24, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Community

A Dose of Good Dogma

Red Light, Green Light

By Lisa Ellman



A couple years ago there was an article going around the interweb about a Yellow Ribbon Project. The goal was to have dog owners, with leash reactive dogs, place a ribbon of green, yellow or red on the dog's collar or leash to indicate to people, walking with or without a dog, that your animal was either approachable, cautious or unapproachable. I thought it was a brilliant idea. I started to suggest to clients that this is a pretty safe, accurate way to let people know not to let their dog approach yours.

It can be difficult and confusing to determine the reason(s) for leash reactivity, especially if you have a dog that's great off leash. There are several factors that could explain the reactivity. Perhaps there was no leash socialization as a puppy, perhaps it's fear, maybe your dog feels trapped by the leash and becomes hyper vigilant trying to ward off danger, trying to protect itself and its resource: you. It also could be that you're somehow reinforcing the reactivity without even being aware of it. Let me explain.

You have a dog that's reactive on walks. You see another dog approaching and you automatically become anxious; your body chemistry changes, you tighten up the leash, at this point the dog has become on alert and perhaps senses that there is some tangible danger. Maybe you start dragging the dog off in another direction. The threat ceases because the dog is taken out of the situation and you continue the walk until the next dog appears. Lather, rinse, repeat.

No matter the reason for the reactivity, all of those responses will not change the behavior. Reactivity is not easy to rehabilitate, it takes consistent work, every day. The first thing one must do, in order to change the dog's behavior, is change human behavior. It's a scary and difficult thing to do; it's frightening to see your dog spinning and lunging like a Tasmanian Devil, and all you want to do is get away. But here's the thing, by leaving the situation the dog learns nothing. No alternative behavior has been taught. Some people give up walking their dog altogether! The dog learns nothing.

I like to teach people to use positive reinforcement and calm focus to recondition the dog's response. For example,

BREATHE! Stay calm. Scan and anticipate the reaction, you know it's coming. Be aware of the dog's body language and signals before it starts to react. Catch the dog before it reacts and reward it, with high value, tasty treats (or a ball), for not reacting. Teach "look" and put the dog's focus on you, the calm confident leader. Use clicker training if you're comfortable with it. Be aware of distance. Start far enough away from the stimulus so you can actually get your dog's attention. As the dog becomes more comfortable and less reactive at that distance, gradually, over time, move a bit closer. Teach your dog "leave it". Walk quickly past other dogs while engaging your dog with treats or words, keep the focus on you. Don't slow down or stop.

Learning to manage the behavior is going to make a huge difference in your walks. Working privately with a trainer, or attending a reactivity workshop to clarify training and help you be consistent will accelerate the progress and build your confidence. If you want your dog to meet and greet another dog, look for a ribbon or always make contact with the other owner first, and ask permission. Put a ribbon on your dog or leash and explain the significance to others.

Lets get this going and make walking your dog safe and enjoyable again!

Good Dogma has been helping dogs with people problems since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@hotmail.com. Contact information for all offered services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net

by the options presented, I craved more. I volunteered for the next conference, but the director, Cathe Olson, had secured her dream library career and decided I had the resume to become the next director of CCWC. Aha! I thought, this position could allow me to binge on everything and everyone I might need to know about the world of writing and publishing.

But first I needed a network of local volunteers — professional and wannabe novelists like myself — to produce this amazing conference that began in the 1970s. It made sense to check out a SLO NightWriters meeting. Their mission statement is "...to advance quality writing, promote publication and expand author recognition in a forum that nurtures a spirit of community for all its members." This became my new tribe.

Next I needed to find professional authors, editors, agents and publishers to present at the conference. Along the way I discovered editor/author Jordan Rosenfeld and invited her to participate in a trendy workshop called "The First Page." Industry spokespersons cautioned, "If you don't grab the reader on the first page, you'll lose them."

Sandra and I were well into drafting a biography of Colonel Thomas Baker, the namesake of our hometown, Bakersfield. I convinced Sandra to attend CCWC and read our first page for comments to the team of editors presenting. In my heart and new knowledge, I knew the editors' comments would not be pretty. Jordan, however, not only advised us the page was breaking the cardinal rules of 'show don't tell,' but in a brief five minutes she kindly advised us what was needed to fix it. Sandra immediately bought Jordan's book "Make A Scene" at the conference bookstore and drafted a new first page, which became my inspiration to continue writing since I was the voice of the book and Sandra was the researcher and editor.

Today, I thank and credit Jordan Rosenfeld for helping us get on the right path to finish and publish our book.

And, local writers, the evening of March 8 she's available to you, too.

Jordan will present by Zoom "Get Intimate With Your Characters" for SLO NightWriters. Her credits include three suspense novels and six books on the craft of writing, including "How to Write a Page Turner" and my favorite "Make A Scene." Jordan has also been published in numerous publications, including "The Writer" and "Writer's Digest Magazine."

SLO NightWriter's program chair Steven Mintz invites interested writers of all levels to attend. "You don't need to have a work in progress," he said.

So if you are looking for fellow writers - a tribe to



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

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

Writers, it's Time to Make a Scene

By Judy Salamacha

Are you a wannabe writer? Have you broken your New Year's Resolution to start or finish your book in 2022? It's February, writers! If you meet up with Sandra Mittelsteadt, who's written four books including the one we co-authored, "Colonel Baker's Field: An American Pioneer Story," she'll say, "The only difference between you and me is I wrote the first word."

I was one of those dreamers but knew I needed some industry knowledge to inspire me to craft the novel I knew was in me so I attended my first Central Coast Writers Conference at Cuesta College (CCWC), which is now on hiatus due to COVID-19. I was so inspired and awestruck

Out & About Continued on page 14

Silva's
Detail Shop

MORRO BAY CALIFORNIA

- Cars
- Trucks
- RV's
- Motorcycles
- Trailers

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

We pride ourselves in being Eco- Friendly

We also offer Propane refills

805-423-0235
Call us today or Book Online
Appointments only
Book you appointment today:
www.silvasdetailshop.com/
1598 Main st Morro Bay licensed and insured

Morro Bay

Upholstery

Is Your Boat Ready For Summer?

2602 Main St. Morro Bay
mbupholstery1@gmail.com
805-225-5252 • 805-538-0543 - cell

Community
Letter's
To
The Editor



Jewish Festival of
Learning

Last week was a good one to be a Jew in San Luis Obispo: “Fiddler on the Roof” is on at the PAC, Marc Maron is at the Fremont Theater, and there is even an ongoing exhibit of the history of Jewish life at the SLO County Historical Museum. I can now find vegan kosher food from a new restaurant at the SLO Public Market.

But it’s not such a good time to be a Jew in the world. A few weeks ago in Colleyville, Texas, we were reminded that a Saturday morning Shabbat service can all too suddenly become a hostage crisis on an international scale. The violence streaming online was the opposite of our Shabbat; a sacred time to gather without threat or harm, to open our doors to all who are in need. The thought that one hostage considered using the prayer shawl, the tallit, to strangle the perpetrator, others who crept toward the exit, and the rabbi who threw a chair, are signs of the training which are now required and the tragedy of what kind of place our world has become.

We are blessed to live in the Goldilocks of California: not too big or too small, not bleeding red or blue, not the Bay Area and not LA. In my role as a rabbi and executive director of Hillel for Cal Poly, I was heartened by the emails and calls I received from our Chief of Police, Rick Scott, and Cal Poly’s VP for Student affairs, Dr. Keith

Humphrey. Our other Jewish institutions also heard reassurance from Chief Ian Parkinson of the SLO County Sheriff’s Office and the Gala Pride and Diversity Center sent over a Statement of Solidarity. It was more than a message of hopes and prayers. It was an ongoing enduring relationship among professionals and friends. It was politics in its highest form. It is the bellwether of authentic community.

A year ago our local Jewish fraternity at Cal Poly was defaced with a swastika, a mark of hate on the doorpost next to the mezuzah, a sign for millennia that publicly marks a Jewish home. This act rippled to many of our community partners and activated a network of support to prepare, educate and share best practices for not only Jews who face a constant layer of fear in any society they live, but for the community at large to participate in understanding the long history of antisemitism and how it impacts our entire society.

The events in Colleyville, hearkened to the tragedy of Pittsburgh three years ago, before Covid, when the largest murder on sacred space in this country’s history happened. The lessons of Pittsburgh are not only to remember the past: minor slights and hatreds causing major bloodshed, a community committed to righteousness for the marginalized attacked for virtues that should be self-evident. The shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue is a barometer of how community can change the way we see one another and ourselves.

Mark Oppenheimer, who just wrote a book on Pittsburgh, “Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood,” reminds us that a synagogue shooting is a reflection of a whole community and not only one religion. Community support comes from unsung heroes and bellwethers of leadership like police and politicians. Coffee shops and digital designers, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and of no religion have a major impact on how a community is seen by the world and heals through tragedy.

Our Jewish community is proud to host Mark at our second Jewish Festival of Learning, along with Hillel, AEPi, and the JCC-Federation on February 24 at Cal Poly. If any part of you wanted to reach out to your Jewish friend

or family member on that Saturday that heard about the hostage crisis, then please come join us to learn and hear from this deep and open mind reflecting on the souls of our neighborhoods. Our Jewish Learning Festival conference is in part a response to the attack on the fraternity, but it is also in part a response to the heightened insecurity Jews feel in our own land. As we endure new protocols and strategies to this time of illness, may we too learn to prepare for and react to waves of hatred and violence that also plague our society, no matter how proud or calm it seems today.

*Rabbi Micah Hyman,
Executive director of SLO Hillel at Cal Poly*

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

Out & About From page 1
network with on a monthly basis - check out www.slomight-writers.org. There is also Coastal Dunes CWC (California Writers Club) www.coastalduneswc.com. Author Laura Colbert will present “How to Pee Standing Up-An Alarming Memoir of Combat and Coming Back Home” on Saturday March 5. There is also Central Coast Sisters (and Misters) in Crime on Facebook.

Be sure to watch for a comeback of the CCWC at Cuesta College. But first and foremost, I’ll share some great advice from my first editor, area journalist Neil Farrell. I had started my dream journalism career and felt blocked when Neil said, “Just write, Judy. Write anything. The words will come.”

Judy Salamacha is a member of The BookShelf Writers. To see more of her work, please visit www.thebookshelf-writers.com.

Fundraiser for Local Family

Ink Dynasty Tattoo will hold a fundraiser for Brittany Hunt on Feb 20 from 10 to 6 p.m. (maybe later depending on how busy they are).

The shop will do cancer related tattoos along with tattoos that represent Brittany such as an LA dodger logo made with cancer ribbons, or LA kings crown on a cancer ribbon, boxing gloves with cancer ribbons, along with a variety of styles of cancer ribbons that people can customize with their colors choice as well as F#%k Cancer style designs. These are all pre drawn flash style.

This is a first come first serve bases. All the proceeds benefit the Hunt family to help during these hard times.

If you have any questions about the event, call (805)295.6419 or send a text to (805)821.1700.

*In Loving Memory
Brittany Hunt*



We'll be doing F@ck Cancer inspired flash in honor of Brittany. She lost her battle to cancer at the young age of 35 years old. All proceeds will go to her husband and son, Travis and Paxton.

INK DYNASTY TATTOO
791 DOLLIVER, PISMO BEACH (805)295-6419

Are You In Need Of Storage
at Your Home or Property?



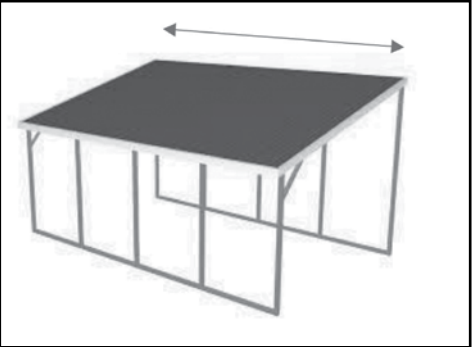
Box Eves



Classic Eves



Lean To



Fully Enclosed



FREE Delivery • Insulation Included • Financing Available
Contact you local rep at:

pacificmetalbuildings.slo@gmail.com

Obituaries

'Grandma' Grace Poletti
1925 - 2022



Grace Eleanor "Grandma Grace" Poletti passed away peacefully on Jan. 21, 2022. Grace was born on May 24, 1925 to Donald and Ester Silacci of Cayucos. She was one of nine children raised on the Villa Creek Ranch and attended Someo School and graduated from Coast Union High School. In 1949, Grace married William Poletti and for the next 40 years they operated a dairy ranch on the Cayucos coast before retiring to Morro Bay. Grace kept herself busy and always had a job or two. She worked at Hearst Castle, M.B. Grocery and Rexall Drug. She served as housekeeper for St. Timothy's Church for 28 years. Grace's association with the church spanned all three of the priests in St. Timothy's history. And most recently was the demo lady at Albertson's. No matter how busy Grace was she always found time to volunteer. She served as Altar Society President, was active in Alpha, volunteered for the Salvation Army and was active for over 30 years in local food and toy drives. She was the "team mom" for the Morro Bay Police Department and the "Are you okay?" caller for the Fire Department. It is no surprise that Grace was named "Citizen of the Year" in 2004. No matter how busy Grace was she always made time to decorate her house for every holiday inside and out. She took great pride in her home and always welcomed family,

friends and neighbors who came to visit. "Grandma Grace" as she was commonly known to many was happy to claim all that she knew as hers. She was quick to spoil and always had a one or two dollar bills to hand out. Grace is survived by her grandson Joey Pettit and wife Brenda, great grandchildren Tyler, Hunter, Tessa, Haley, Hanna, and numerous nieces and nephews. Grace was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, William in 2001 and their only child Shirley Pettit in 1988 and granddaughter Jaimey Nelson in 2008. A mass was celebrated for Grace on Feb. 4 at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Morro Bay, with the pews filled with people who knew and loved Grace. Among them police officers — past and present — and members of the Fire Department in dress uniforms. Fr. Ed Holterhoff, recently retired from St. Timothy's, presided and spoke candidly about his friend. Former MBPD Chief and SLO County Undersheriff Tim Olivas gave the eulogy. In lieu of flowers please send a donation to your favorite charity or to Hospice of the Central Coast who was invaluable to her family in her final days.

Willard Dean Williams
1959 - 2021

Willard, Willie as he was known, was born in Downey, CA on December 18, 1959. He spent his early youth in Fresno, Visalia, Lemoore, and several other cities in the San Joaquin Valley before moving home to Cayucos. He passed on Thanksgiving Day. He was preceded in death by his mother Connie Mae Russell, his father Robert Dean Williams, and brother Eric Dean Williams. He is survived by his children Ashley Olcott, Nathan Williams, Jedidiah and Mary Wil-



liams, Evan and Amanda Williams and his grandchildren Haden, Stella, Chloe, Dakota, Austin, Sebastian, Kaylee, Wesley, Lilly, Jedidiah Jr., Maliya, Marlee, and Remington Mae. Not everyone liked him, but not everyone knew him, and as he would say, "Not everyone matters." He was a one of a kind human whom was devoted to spreading all of the love to everyone he encountered. He will be forever missed, never forgotten and Rest in Power until we meet again.

Sandra Heizenrader
1935 - 2022



Sandra Heizenrader, beloved and cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend passed away peacefully at home in Cayucos, CA on Friday, February 4, 2022. Sandra was born on February 3, 1935 in Santa Cruz, CA. She is preceded in death by her husband Leroy Heizenrader, her parents Revis (Bill) and Violet Phegley, her son Brian Heizenrader, and son-in-law Robert Hallmark. She survived by her husband Ralph Stenger, son Brady Heizenrader, and two daughters Debra Hallmark and Sharon Heizenrader (Lonnie Chapman). Her 11 grandchildren Holli Heizenrader, Ashley Olcott, Cory Heizenrader (Jessica), Nichole Masullo (Richard, Nathan Williams, Justin Sheehan (Krystle), Jedidiah Williams (Mary) Hilary Sheehan (Joel Hughes), Evan Williams (Amanda), David Heizenrader, Madison Kirkley. Her great grandchildren Jaxon, Clayton, Haden, Stella Madelyn, Addisyn, Sawyer, Chloe, Dakota, Sienna, Jordan, Jackson, Austin, Kaylee, Sebastian, Wesley, Lillian, Jedidiah, Maliya, Marlee, Remington, Mae, Ethan and Edward. A memorial will be held on Monday, February 14 at Cayucos Community Church at 11 a.m. Graveside services and reception immediately follow. For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Nichole Masullo at nicholee555@yahoo.com. The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our wonderful community who have provided love and support through this very difficult time. Sandra was a faithful servant of the Lord and would pray that all whom she lived for and loved would have faith and know that she is now happily resting in bliss with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Constance Mae Russell
1941 - 2021



Constance Mae Russell was born on June 1, 1941 in some funky little town in the San Joaquin Valley to a feisty old broad named Ruth. She had a beloved sister named Donna and a major pain in the rear brother named Greg. She spent most of her life in Brigden, Ontario Canada where she met her seventh husband Charlie. She lived in Oregon after they retired and after he passed she moved to Prior, Oklahoma with her best friend and cousin Donna. She had one son who was her pride and joy and endless source of distress, but he was also her most coveted person, besides her fur baby Lizzie the poodle. Her son Willard married Sharon Heizenrader and they had 4 children. Her son brought her oakie ass back here to Los Osos by way of Coeur d' Alene, ID where she lived for a time with her grandson Evan Williams, his wife Amanda and their 3 beautiful daughters Maliya Marie, Marlee Rose and Remington Mae. She loved living by the beach with her granddaughter Ashley Olcott whom she lived with when she passed, as well as her favorite bacon and eggs chef Joshua Howell.

Winter Dessert Menu 2022

Buttercup Bakery & CAFÉ

- Chocolate Raspberry Tarts with Cream cheese topping
\$3.25 each; 1 dozen for \$24
- Black Forest Cake with cherry cream filling, ganache and a Swiss Meringue buttercream
\$4.50 individual
6" - \$24.95 (serves 6-8)
8" - \$36.95 (serves 10-12)
- Dairy Free Chocolate Cream Tarts
\$3.95 each
- Pineapple Upside Down Cake
\$3.75 Individual
\$19.95 Large round (serves 8-10)
- Coconut Cream Cake with lemon curd filling
Individual size - \$3.75
6" - 24.95 (serves 6-8)
8" - 36.95 (serves 10-12)
- Chocolate Raspberry Cake
6" - 24.95 (serves 6-8)
8" - 36.95 (serves 10-12)

www.clover.com/online-ordering/buttercup-bakery-cafe-morro-bay
430 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay • 805.226.6678

Community

O'Reilly Store Opens in Morro Bay

By Neil Farrell



It's a company with a catchy advertising jingle — "O'Reilly... Auto Parts!"

O'Reilly Auto Parts has finally opened its new store in Morro Bay, filling a store space that's been home to a number of businesses.

Store manager, Travis Frye, said the company-owned store opened its doors Jan. 3 and they plan to hold a grand opening on Feb. 9.

It took seemingly forever to get the store remodeled and opened. The company, he said, got to a point where it was growing so fast, they had to put off opening the Morro Bay store until after the first of the year.

The parts store carries a complete line of car parts and accessories from different manufacturers, but there's something that sets them apart from the town's other auto parts chain store, Auto Zone.

"It's our service and the quality of the parts," Frye said. Their parts meet original equipment quality and manufacturing standards. They also deliver parts to auto repair professionals and bill online.

The motto is, "Never say never," Frye explained of the company's philosophy.

Nationwide, it's a tough time to open a new store, as businesses are struggling to find workers due to the Coronavirus Pandemic response. Frye, who hails from Bakersfield, said he had several job options when he relocated, and the O'Reilly job seemed the best fit for him.

"Everyone is having staffing issues," he said. But they started their hiring process early and the people they hired worked in other stores before they came to the Morro Bay store, bringing that on-the-job experience with them.

The new store fills a sizable space — 6,200 square feet — that has a long history in local business. The stand-alone building, at 710 Quintana Rd., once was home to a True Value Hardware store and then a Dollar Tree store.

True Value closed when the owner retired and was replaced by the Dollar Tree, which moved down the street a couple of years ago to share a former grocery store space with a Family Dollar store. Both brands are owned by the same company.

O'Reilly Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, and from 8 to 8 on Sundays.

Obituaries Continued on page 15

She died peacefully surrounded by love and to the tunes of her favorite album "The Red Headed Stranger" by Willie Nelson, which she played in trying times and felt a connection to only second to anything Merle Haggard.

She is survived by the above mentioned grandchildren and others Jedidiah and Mary Williams, and Nathan Williams. She was blessed with many other beautiful great grandchildren Haden Olcott and Stella Marie, her muse until the end. Chloe Bella Daugherty, Dakota Dean Williams, Austin James Williams, Sebastian Michael Hatton, Kaylee, Wesley, Lilly, and Jedidiah Jr Williams.

She will be forever loved and missed by all who ever heard her contagious cackle... and there were many, as she was well known as a drummer and steel guitar player in several Valley and local honkytonks.

Sea Shanty
RESTAURANT & CATERING

Always in Perfect Taste!

805-995-3272

296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

Poly Provides Free Tax Prep for Underserved Communities

Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business is once again providing free tax return preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Cal Poly's on-campus VITA clinics will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays through March 12.

This year, all community members are required to schedule an appointment at www.myfreetaxes.org.

More than 50 Cal Poly accounting students will prepare tax returns as part of the VITA program, which is sanctioned by and coordinated with the Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board. These IRS-certified students will prepare returns while Orfalea College of Business faculty and volunteer certified public accountants review and file the returns. Students will prepare basic forms for local individuals and families earning less than \$58,000. These include 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, 540, 540A, 540EZ and some supporting forms.

The Cal Poly clinic takes place on the third floor of the Business Building (No. 3). The clinic is wheelchair accessible. Visitors should enter the western edge of campus on California Boulevard and follow the signs. Parking is free and available in lots C4 and C7 near the Business Building. See <https://maps.calpoly.edu/> for parking lot locations.

Participants need to bring their ID, Social Security card and/or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number; 2020 tax returns; and all 2021 tax-related documents, including: child-care expenses, Letter 6419 for monthly advance Child Tax Credit payments, Letter 6475 (if you received a third round of stimulus checks in 2021), and health insurance coverage information.

Due to new COVID protocols, participants must wear a mask and bring proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of visit. In addition, only one representative from each family will be permitted to enter the building.

Clients have the option of filling out necessary forms available on the VITA program website (vita.calpoly.edu), dropping them off at the clinic, and returning the following weekend to review the tax return and sign necessary documents.

Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business has hosted VITA clinics on campus since 1992. In the last decade, students have helped prepare more than 7,000 tax returns for community members. The clinics serve as a valuable, hands-on senior project, allowing students to prepare returns, interact with clients and help underserved communities.

Students also have the chance to work with faculty members and tax professionals. This year's VITA program is led by Cal Poly faculty members Trisha Daughtrey and Christine Lebar of San Luis Obispo.

For more information, call 805-756-2667 (English and Spanish) or visit vita.calpoly.edu. For more details on the United Way clinics, call 805-922-0329, ext. 103.

Poly Names Director for Organic Role

Matthew Grieshop, Associate professor of organic pest management and director of the Sustainable Farming and Food Systems academic program at Michigan State University, has been named director of Cal Poly's new Center for Organic Production and Research. Grieshop will begin in January 2022.

"I am thrilled to welcome Matthew Grieshop to the team as we prepare to launch a unique learning model that will enable research and innovation across disciplines, focusing on real-world issues that directly impact the state's multibillion dollar organic industry," said Andrew Thulin, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

The Center for Organic Production and Research will integrate some of the greatest talents in academia, private industry, government and a wide range of disciplines to benefit the organic industry, Poly officials said.

While at Michigan State University, Grieshop also served as its organic pest management specialist, leading a multitude of research activities, and teaching classes focused on providing economically viable pest management knowledge, training and tactics for organic farming systems designed through a better understanding of agroecosystem dynamics, pest natural history, and behavior.

In November 2020 the Grimm Family, former owners of Grimmway Farms, the global leader in organic produce and the world's largest producer of carrots, donated \$5 million to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences — paving the way for the launch of the Center for Organic Production and Research on campus.

The organic industry is one of the fastest growing agricultural segments in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food



Matthew Grieshop has been named director of Cal Poly's new Center for Organic Production.

experience

counts.

DALE KAISER TEAM

805-995-2900

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERTS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

All Broker Dream Team

CAYUCOS.COM

Rare Oceanfront Parcel offers one lucky buyer the chance to work with vacant land on favored Pacific Avenue in developing a landmark Cayucos residence that incorporates the latest design trends and building technologies. This lot is also unusually deep and located near special rock formations that emerge from the sandy beach to showcase secluded coves. The historic Cayucos downtown area and pier aren't far and the high bluff provides spellbinding views of Morro Rock and the entire Estero Bay. The impressive Mouse Rock break is a short distance offshore to provide the future landmark with a perfect vantage point for gazing at those perfect curls. If you seek an opportunity to explore your oceanfront creativity with a vacant lot and fewer compromises, call your Realtor® today!

DALE KAISER REAL ESTATE

DRE 01297036

Community

and Agriculture. This emphasis on organic production and research is of particular importance in California, which accounts for 40% of all organic production in the nation.

The center represents a unique partnership between Cal Poly and private industry designed to expand Cal Poly's emphasis on applied research in organic production and soil health by providing a unique, collaborative platform for academia, industry and government from across California and beyond to join forces in advancing the organic agriculture industry.

Grieshop will oversee the development and leadership of this new interdisciplinary, public-private partnership, focusing on applied research to solve major issues in organic agricultural production, particularly regarding soil health and plant nutrition, weed management and pest management. He will ensure that the center leads in collaborative and transdisciplinary research to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of organic agriculture in California, and he will manage an internship program to provide students with direct experience in organic agriculture practices.

The Center for Organic Production and Research will serve as a hub for students to work with experts from across the industry to develop solutions to the most pressing issues related to organic production and agriculture. Research of soil structure and biodiversity, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, water quality, composting and organic matter and technology innovation will be at the forefront of the Center for Organic Production and Research.

Grieshop earned a doctorate in entomology from Kansas State University, a master's degree in entomology from Montana State University, and a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from UC Santa Cruz.



Traveling by Car

While traveling by car gets you to your location much slower than by plane, you have the opportunity to enjoy scenery along the way, as it was when my daughter and I went drove to Seattle.

After attending to business and enjoying the world of evergreen trees for several days we started homeward, again



taking Highway 5.

Southward I had more time to observe the names of the hamlets and villages I have never heard of nor visited that included, Travis, Sutsin Parkway, Benicia, Gold Hill, Fairfield, Willow Pass, Dublin, Alcosta, Stone Valley, Danville, Crow Valley, Calaveras, Livorna, Halleyer, Blossom Hill, Vernal, Cayote Creek Berryessa, Durham. Jacklin, McKee, Bailey, Tully to name a few.

While I'm sure the towns and hamlets were home to many residents the names were totally foreign to me. I apologize to those residents for being unaware of their existence, which is when I decided to include the unfamiliar names in this column in case readers ever find time to visit these little known (to me) parts of California.

Fundraiser From page 1

were large seating bays facing the rounds. Golfers relaxed watching teammates position their golf-stance to aim at or beyond one of the rounds. A television monitor was set to 104-feet. Helpful staff confirmed student team-hopefuls were demonstrating their skills at the TopTracer 'long drive.' Their high school coaches stood by seeking future star players.

SLO County's Golf Superintendent Josh Heptig was my guide. Since 2008 he has managed the three county golf courses, Morro Bay, Chalk Mountain and Dairy Creek for SLO's Parks and Recreation. Always an advocate for positive environmental programs at his facilities, Heptig received the 2017 President's Citation for Environmental Stewardship from GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America).

I told Josh I hoped he might help me understand this new golf thing called TopTracer? He said, "I tell people to think driving range, sports bar, bowling and pinball." My personal perception was close, but then he surprised me with a pandemic comeback story. I really did stumble on a good COVID-come-back story, my readers might also enjoy.

Dairy Creek had a major water problem, not particularly drought related, he explained. Josh develops Zero



Golfers play "rounds" of TopTracer at Dairy Creek Golf Course.

Waste programs on golf courses he manages. Dairy Creek's landscaping water supply is reclaimed water from California Men's Colony (CMC). When California's prison system realigned, CMC's water usage had decreased due to prison population downsizing. Ultimately, Dairy Creek's water allocation was reduced 60 percent. Josh's management team was challenged to master plan the vast Dairy Creek property. They researched multiple suitable recreational uses the public might enjoy. However, Josh being an avid golfer — the lead golf advocate for the county — his hopes included finding something to expand golf play at Dairy Creek. He needed to introduce more non-golfers to appreciate the game he loved.

Josh discovered Toptracer Golf (www.toptracer.com). Originally developed in Sweden, the concept was acquired by Calloway Golf, the company that had expanded TopGolf sports bar complexes in major worldwide hubs www.topgolf.com. Toptracer Golf was Calloway Golf's answer to bring TopGolf patrons out of the sports bars onto the golf courses. Their marketing promotion matched Josh's goals: "Today, every golfer—from the pros to the Joes—has access to valuable shot insights like how far, how fast, and (for some of us) where did that shot even go? Through the gamification of the driving range experience, Toptracer is introducing golf to a new generation of players, teeing up ranges for long-term success, and bringing people together in meaningful ways."

Josh admits it was a leap of faith when he convinced his bosses to support Toptracer Golf to increase public use golf rounds, thus, revenue. Given the struggles other business

Fundraiser Continued on page 19

10 WAYS
TO REDUCE ENERGY
AND SAVE MONEY

#4

#7

SOLAR ELECTRIC + BATTERY BACKUP

Savings + security + 26% tax credit thru 2022.

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

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

Order Flowers For That
Special Someone Soon!

D & D Floral Design

NO
CONTACT
Delivery to:

Los Osos
Morro Bay
Cayucos
Cambria
SLO

805-528-4230

1958 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos

www.danddfloral.com

18 February 10, 2022 - February 24, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Community

ago, the bills are still coming due. Water Works, which designed and plotted the route for the conveyance system portion of the WRF, “supported construction manager in review of delay claims made by Contractor related to alleged change in geotechnical conditions and obstruction in the path of the micro-tunnel machine,” reads the City report. “Services included virtual meetings, engineering analysis, field visits, and response to contractor correspondence. Activities for this task are complete; however, associated costs are for compensation for out-of-scope services provided by WWE to support the program management team.”

Additional duties include re-routing the pipes through the power plant bike path’s 70-foot easement, and over the bridge at Morro Creek; analyzing a change demanded by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to combine the outfall from the City’s desal plant into the ocean outfall system for treated wastewater; and to re-designing some electrical panels, among others.

Currently, the desal plant discharges brackish (salty) water into the outfall canal at the base of Morro Rock, which has completely silted in since the power plant ceased using it in 2014.

Anvil Hammer Drops

The contractors on the pipeline, Anvil Builders, Inc.’s part of the changes, would add some \$587,000 and bring the company’s contract up to over \$32.75M. The original conveyance system bid was for \$31M.

Anvil’s breakdown for the new charges includes: \$43,000 for delays and disruptions caused by SoCal Gas; \$111,000 for delays due to the tunneling job’s difficulties; \$301,000 to buy the CARB required equipment; and \$84,000 for boring through debris obstructions on the bike path, among others.

According to the report, “The project’s joint trench, containing multiple pipelines, parallels an existing 16-inch diameter SoCal Gas high pressure gas main for nearly the entire alignment along Quintana Road. SoCal Gas requires a representative to be on site during all digging activities, as well as other work activities occurring within 10 feet of the high pressure gas main (i.e. that could potentially damage or otherwise impact the main). There have been several occurrences where the SoCal Gas representative did not show up for scheduled assignments, which prevented Anvil from performing contract work and/or progressing the joint trench.”

So while SoCal Gas fiddled, Anvil’s workers were left idle, according to the report. It lists six specific days when the crews had to wait around for gas company reps, wasting from 2 hours to 4 hours on each day.

They also discovered a water line where it wasn’t supposed to be. “As part of the site preparation and demolition work at Pump Station A [on Atascadero Road],” reads the report, “an unknown 6-inch waterline was discovered and needed to be relocated to construct the pump station. The extra work included potholing and locating the unknown utility, trenching and installation of new by-pass piping, pressure testing and disinfection of the relocated waterline, backfill and other site work.”

New Tunnel Company Hit Snag Too

The underground debris was discovered by a new subcontractor — Pacific Boring — while tunneling under Willow Camp Creek, which crosses the bike path and enters the power plant property. It happened on Nov. 11 while jacking through a 5-foot diameter casing to carry the conveyance system’s four pipes. It was quite a discovery.

“Anvil and Pacific Boring,” reads the report, “were immediately instructed to suspend the jack & bore mechanical operation and hand excavate to investigate and confirm the size and extent of the concrete obstruction. For the following 6 consecutive days (including Saturday 11/13/21 and Sunday 11/14/21), Anvil and Pacific Boring worked 8 to 10-hour shifts to hand excavate and jack hammer out the concrete obstruction, while simultaneously advancing the casing pipe about 20 feet using the hydraulic jacking equipment.”

They cleared the obstruction on Nov. 18, and finished the job that same day, according to the report. So what was it?

“The obstruction appears to be an old Caltrans culvert structure from the original CA Route 1 highway,” the report said. “Also note the jack & bore work through jurisdictional wetlands needed to proceed without delay, working through the weekend, in order to meet a California Department of Fish and Wildlife mandate for the tunnel to be completed by 11/19/21.”

Changes Covered, Barely

These changes, like all the others that have come before, don’t yet mean the City’s budget is busted, as they will be handled through the project’s contingency monies. But there is little wiggle room left.

“As a result of these two amendments,” the report said, “the remaining [conveyance] project contingency is \$17,028. As a result, these amendments will not result in an increase to the WRF project budget or the rates paid by the City’s water or wastewater customers.”

While the pipeline contingency funds might be all but used up, the City set rates back in 2018 using a project budget that included some \$23 million in cash, raised through water and sewer rates.

With its two loans from the State and Federal Governments sporting incredibly low interest rates, that cash will be raised through the rates but not necessarily needed, unless future changes bust the project budget further.

Fundraiser From page 17

would face, even he was amazed it all happened as it did. If construction had started two weeks later than mid-February, 2020 the project would have been delayed post-COVID-19. And in October, 2020, when TopTracer at Dairy Creek was open for business, Sacramento and SLO County were the only counties in California that allowed golf courses to remain open during pandemic shutdowns. Somehow leadership had convinced healthcare authorities golfing was healthy “...a physical outlet for mental wellbeing...Getting outdoors was good for the human species.” Locals were ready to get out of their houses and Dairy Creek TopTracer became one of the few options. When restaurants and bars were closed during the pandemic Dairy Creek’s bays were open already limited to four individuals with social distancing encouraged.

Josh said, “People came out to rent the bays just to get out of the house and watch the sunset. We had a group of eight moms with their babies come out weekly just to visit while the babies slept. Grandparents came with their grandchildren who were distance learning. We had anniversary, birthday - a variety of family gatherings.”

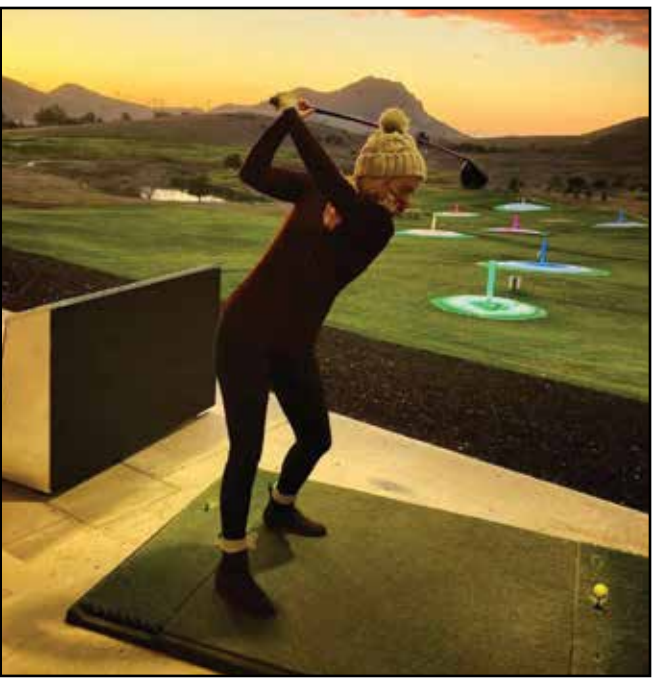
For the regular golfer, Toptracer offered more training tools than Josh could offer. “Some golfers were amazed the data would mark their swing to identify which clubs they should be using. They could virtually pre-play other courses they might want to play someday, determine true length of their long ball drives or challenge each other to see who gets closest – even get a hole-in-one – virtually.”

New golfers can rent clubs and are offered a free lesson. “Children love it. My two daughters like the aquarium game best to beat the sharks.”

Morro Bay Rotary Club’s president Tim Olivas knew hosting the decades-long Central Coast Golf Classic at Morro Bay Golf Course could not happen in 2021. He asked Josh if a TopTracer tournament might fill the loss of the fundraiser that earned scholarships for Morro Bay High School students. Josh was intrigued to test out the tournament concept, another TopTracer first for SLO County. Josh offered all the bays at three prime TopTrac-



Gold isn’t the only thing on the menu at Dairy Creek.



er tee times. President Tim chose a Pebble Beach virtual challenge. Golfers would receive a meal with a beverage and a first-ever TopTracer Tournament shirt for a comparable donation of \$50 per player. As in the past teams of three could choose to host a Morro Bay High School junior golfer. The deal was struck. Saturday, February 29, it’s a happening at Dairy Creek. Sponsorships and Sign-ups are at www.morrobayrotary.org

Was it luck or good business sense when Josh recommended SLO County become one of the first regional golf courses to join the TopTracer movement to excite new golfers? Josh said luck launched him into a good business venture for the county and hopes the first-ever tournament partnership with Morro Bay Rotary Club might create a new-normal for area golf tournaments at Dairy Creek Golf Course.



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

License #832059



It just doesn't get any better than this!

Celebrating In Business
50
YEARS
1971 - 2021



805-772-2411
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open 7 days a week.



WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!

Morro Bay Appliance
805-772-2755

Sales - New & Reconditioned
Service & Repairs On All Major Brands

Freezers • Refridgerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves
Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods

Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971
935 Main Street, Morro Bay



Your Central Coast California Real Estate/Property Management Connection Since 1978!



Leon Van Beurden
DRE # 00646313



Bay Osos Property Management

Are you tired of managing investment property? Tired of late night calls and fee negotiations with contractors?
Tired of trying to find qualified renters and ensuring your investment is cared for? Bay Osos Property Management has over 30 years experience on the Central Coast and knows how to handle the unique challenges this rental market faces. With hundreds of properties already managed by Bay Osos Property Management, we know how to get things done.

Matching our knowledge with integrity

Contact us to see how we can take the work out of your investment.

805-528-1133 or bayosospropertymanagement.com



**Kathy
Van Beurden**
DRE# 00683117



**Simon
Van Beurden**
DRE# 01909180



**Jennifer
Buentiempo**



**Jill
Stow**
DRE# 01490106



**Nicole
Londono**
DRE# 01146064



**Arrnie
Silacci**

Your Central Coast Mini Storage Connection

Locally Owned

Best Rates / Free Locks

12 Month-Prepaid/One Month FREE

Budget Mini Storage

1133 Santa Ynez
Los Osos



South Bay Mini Storage

2110 Mountain View
Los Osos



Bay Osos Mini Storage

2820 Mountain View
Los Osos



Morro Mini Storage

997 Alesandro
Morro Bay



**Budget Storage Special - Large 11x24 Unit
\$280.00/One Year Contract/Save \$300.00**

(805) 528-1133 or toll free (800) 540-0229

1330 Van Beurden Drive, Suite 101, Los Osos

www.bayososbrokers.com