

Morro Bay Power Plant a ‘Life After People’ Relic



Story by Neil Farrell, photos by Dean Sullivan

Photo from drone footage taken by Dean Sullivan

It was a marvel of its time, burning fuel oils to produce electricity and reliably helping power California’s growth and prosperity for over 50 years.

But now the Morro Bay Power Plant, which closed in 2014, looks more like an episode of the TV show, “Life After People,” with crumbling interior roads, and plants bursting through the pavement, as the dune scrub vegetation reclaims large areas of the property.

Its once bustling, power generation building sits empty, a home for pigeons and seagulls that plant owner Vistra says it can’t keep out, and whose guano litters the floors and piles up on the pipes, so much so that a group of local residents — this reporter included — on a tour had to wear filter masks inside the building.

Vistra arranged a series of tours for city officials and selected members of the public as the environmental review for its proposed Battery Energy Storage System or BESS gets underway with the City.

The BESS is a 22-acre 600 megawatt facility that if built will be one of the largest in the world. The current record holder — is Vistra’s 400 MW BESS at the Moss Landing Power Plant, which currently has a third phase

of expansion under construction, bringing the site to 750 MW by next summer.

Brad Watson, Vistra’s director of community affairs, leads the tour with his team — including Meranda Cohn, Claudia Morrow and David Yeager. Vistra’s team is also dismantling the 1960s-era Moss Landing Power Plant, work that is ongoing now.

Vistra committed to dismantle the MBPP and its three iconic stacks, signing an agreement with the City to do so by 2028 or pay the City \$3 million cash.

Plant Was Part of 1950s Boon

The plant was part of a 1950s energy boon, fueled by the discovery of natural gas and oil in the Central Valley. Watson said Pacific Gas & Electric spent a billion dollars on six power plants on the Coast. In Morro Bay they bought a former Navy Amphibious Training Base that the Navy abandoned after World War II and sold to the County for \$1.

Construction of the plant’s Units 1 & 2 with one stack was completed in 1954 and Units 3 & 4 and two more stacks were added in the early 60s. The plant originally ran on oil and natural gas, switching full time to gas in 1995.

Deregulation Caused Sale

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‘Run-Hide-Fight’ Surviving an Active Shooter



By Neil Farrell

Firemen teach, “Stop-Drop-Roll” as how to react when your clothes catch fire.

For police these days the mantra is “Run-Hide-Fight!” when you find yourself in the worst imaginable scenario — among the random targets of a maniac with a gun.

Morro Bay Police Cmdr. Amy Watkins on July 8 addressed a small group of people at the Morro Bay Senior Center on what to do if there’s a gunman spraying bullets about.

“This is a very serious subject,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “Over the past few years you’re hearing more and more about it.”

Mass killings like the recent attacks at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and the 4th of July Parade sniping in Highland Park, Ill., normally come with some breathing room in between. But multiple shootings “Occur every single day,” Cmdr. Watkins said.

According to dictionary.com, a mass shooting is “a single incident involving the shooting with one or more firearms of a number of people, but more than two and typically a large number, especially when the victims are random.”

So not every mass shooting involves dozens of people or random victims, and most don’t make headlines outside their immediate area. Given the massive amount of gun violence erupting daily in big cities, it’s the spectacular killings of innocent people by rogue gunmen that garner the national media’s coverage.

She said in her previous 20 years as an officer in Visalia, “We had three mass shootings, workplace shootings. So I’ve dealt with this firsthand. It’s a difficult subject to approach,” she added, because of all the violence involved.

Since 2006, she said, the U.S. averages an active shooter incident every 2.9 months. “So the odds of you being involved in one, is very slim.” But, “In reality, these things are going to happen.”

She said that witnesses say they thought the gunshots were

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Moving Forward: MB Rotary Recognizes Community Heroes



The Rotary Club of Morro Bay honored ‘community heroes’ including Dean Heilman, Bob Neumann, Sgt. Gene Stuart, Paul Piette, Bear McGill, Neil Farrell, Erica Crawford, Chief Dan McCrain, Lori Stilts, Captain Annie Clapp, Michael Williams, Rotary Membership Chair. Photo by Rotarian Dean Sullivan

By Rotarian Judy Salamacha

Announcement! Announcement! For the first time since the Rotary Club of Morro Bay was established October 13, 1964, the members will officially meet Tuesdays at noon literally on Morro Bay — specifically dockside on the Chablis.

During his presidential year, John Solu intends to showcase the Morro Bay business community. A variety of owners and operators will be invited to tell their stories during the meeting’s programs. For years John and Joan Solu owned and operated multiple Morro Bay hotels. He believes sharing lunch in a beautiful

setting and discovering firsthand what a business owner does day-to-day is the best way to get to know someone. “People prefer to do business with owners we get to know,” he said.

During the last meeting, Solu introduced Captain Annie as his “community hero” and thanked her and husband, Executive Chef Rodney Clapp, for stepping up and partnering with Rotary during his presentational years.

To kick off the “B-to-B” concept, Solu’s first official meeting on July 12, he encouraged members to host their “community hero.” Past Rotary District Governor John Weiss introduced this recognition program during his year as Morro Bay Rotary’s president.

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988 Hotline Faces Concerns

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Billed as the 911 of mental health, the three-digit national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline hotline rolled out this month to a lot of applause, but there are some local concerns.

Formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (a 10-digit number), people can now call or text 988 and be connected to a trained mental health counselor. The 988 Lifeline is a network of more than 200 state and local

call centers supported by U.S. Health and Human Services through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. It provides 24/7, confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

People in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties continue to have access to Central Coast Hotline at 1-800-783-0607. It too is a 24/7 mental health guidance, crisis and suicide prevention telephone line that provides

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Sups. Approve Los Osos VR Ordinance

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors have approved a new ordinance governing vacation rentals in Los Osos and set a limit on licenses, though new construction remains stymied by the State.

County Senior Planner, Cory Hahn, said after the board’s approval, they sent the ordinance back to the Coastal

Commission, which has since certified it.

That means, the ordinance is now in effect, Hahn said, and anyone wanting a permit for a vacation rental can apply at the planning department.

The limit is 55 total VRs, he said, within the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line. The URL is the area outside the “urban services line,” where services

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News

WRF Costs Jump Another \$2 Million

By Neil Farrell

Mishaps, delays and more have cost the City of Morro Bay and its water-sewer ratepayers another \$2 million, but will still not trigger a new rate hike in the \$160 million Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Project.

At its June 22 meeting, the City Council was asked to approve the seventh change order in the WRF treatment plant's construction contract with the partnership of Black & Veatch and Filanc, Inc. (F/BV). The \$2 million increase brings F/BV's contract up to \$78.68M. Its original "Guaranteed Maximum Amount" contract bid was for \$69M.

The treatment plant portion of the project was done under a design-build bidding process, meaning the winning bidder would both design and build the new plant, hence the engineering firm Black & Veatch teamed up with construction company, Filanc, to jointly build the WRF plant.

Carollo Engineers was hired as project managers to oversee the project budget and work progress.

Still, while \$2 million is a lot of money it wasn't anticipated.

"This increase," Public Works Director Greg Kwolek said, "was anticipated in the recently updated WRF project budget of \$159.8 Million and consequently does not increase the overall WRF Project budget, once adopted by City Council as part of the FY 2022-23 City Budget."

"Approval of this amendment does not require any increase in rates paid by water and sewer customers."

The new costs are being caused by the construction of the conveyance pipelines that will carry raw sewage from the old plant on Atascadero Road and from the lift station under the Front Street parking lot, to the new WRF plant, some 3.5 miles away and about a 350-foot elevation gain.

Anvil Builders, which is doing the pipeline-trenching part, "has been impacted by contractor-caused delays associated with dewatering at Pump Station A," Kwolek said, "and inefficiencies constructing the pipelines; and delays associated with approval of the cultural resources monitoring plan and associated excavation clearance activities required by the City's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act [WIFIA] loan."

And, "Consequently, the pipelines and pump stations being constructed in the Pipelines Project will not be completed and commissioned when F/BV is ready to receive wastewater and commission the WRF."

To be sure, Anvil has had a rough go of it trenching from Atascadero Road to a new lift station on Main Street next to Lemos Ranch Pet Supply, and out Quintana Road to South Bay Boulevard and then up the hill to the plant site.

It's burst at least three water mains and its trenching subcontractor ran into difficulties while tunneling under the Roundabout. It's also dealt with high groundwater through much of the route through town.

Kwolek said the anticipated delay in start up of the treatment plant would be about 6 months. And that "will change the WRF substantial completion date from July 12, 2022, to Jan. 20, 2023, and the final completion date from Sept. 7, 2022, to March 20, 2023."

He added that the delays would not hurt the chances of meeting the Regional Water Quality Control Board's so-called "Time Schedule Order," (TSO), which calls for the new system to go online by next Feb. 20.

Indeed, so long as the City is making progress, the RWQCB isn't likely to push an enforcement action should the TSO deadline pass.

The seventh change order's key elements, Kwolek said, include:

- Commencement of the guarantee that the WRF will remain free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one year starting on the original substantial completion date of July 12, 2022. The manufacturer's warranty for the membrane bioreactor and reverse osmosis membranes will begin upon membrane installation.
- Extension of F/BV's builder's risk insurance through final completion.
- Release of retainage for work completed prior to the

original substantial completion date of July 12, 2022.

- Clarifying that the City will pay the increased costs associated with the extended testing and maintenance period outside of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and that the increased costs will not impact the City's or F/BV's ability to collect the shared savings associated with F/BV delivering the WRF under the GMP.

The City and Cayucos Sanitary District in 2003 were asked by the water board to upgrade their jointly owned sewer treatment plant to full secondary levels and eliminate a so-called 301(h) permit under the Clean Water Act.

That special permit allows the discharge of a blend of primary and secondary treated effluent into the ocean, which occurred on heavy flow days like busy summer weekends when both towns are full of tourists.

Over the next nearly 20 years the two agencies first tried to get a joint project approved and located next door to the existing treatment plant.

But the Coastal Commission, which was seeking to enforce its climate change policies with regards to sea level rise and coastal hazard avoidance, took control of the permitting on appeal.

The Commission in early 2013 denied the project at the behest of the City Council majority at the time, which had sought to build a new plant away from the ocean.

That act was seen as a betrayal and led the CSD to break with the City and build its own treatment plant on farmland up Toro Creek Road, which was completed in Summer 2021, and has been online for about a year now.

There's another reason the water board isn't likely to punish the City for not meeting its deadline — because with Cayucos' departure from the old plant, the flow has changed and the plant should have little trouble meeting the full secondary threshold under the CWA.

However, the water board has pledged not to renew a 301(h) permit for the City and the City has vowed not to seek a waiver from the EPA for the old plant, which would seem to be the equivalent of a lame duck at this point.

Also, the old plant is obsolete in terms of having parts and equipment readily available in case of a breakdown. Indeed for years, the City staff has had to manufacture replacement and spare parts using an outside machine shop, a situation that can't be sustained forever.

needed to be nominated is easy enough to gather, there is a lot of paperwork for the State that must be done and certain deadlines are set for things like getting ballot arguments onto the sample ballots sent to all voters, and donation-spending reports that must be filed.

Whoever gets elected will sit on a council along with Councilwomen Jen Ford and Laurel Barton. Ford won her seat in June that she was appointed to after the death in 2021 of the late Councilman Red Davis.

Her win in the Primary means she will serve out the rest of Davis' term and face voters again in November 2024. Barton's term is also up at that time.

The City has a candidate's guide available online to assist anyone thinking of throwing their hat into the ring, see: www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/12047/Candidate-Basic-Info-2018.

Also on the upcoming ballot is a parcel tax measure that seeks to raise money to support the harbor department's efforts to maintain public facilities — docks, slips, seawalls and more.

The measure would cost property owners — residential and commercial — \$10 a month or \$120 a year per parcel, added onto their property taxes. A simple majority of votes is all that is needed for the measure to pass.

Local Broker Charged with 56 Felonies

By Neil Farrell

A Morro Bay real estate broker and property manager, has pled not guilty to over 50 felony charges, this after she was allegedly discovered to have stolen over half a million dollars from her clients.

According to the



Marissa Nicole Hudson

Election Nominations Open Now



Nominations are open now through Aug. 12 for seats on the Morro Bay City Council up for grabs in November.

The City officially announced the nomination schedule for three seats — mayor, and two Council 4-year-terms — that will be contested in the Nov. 8 General Election.

Mayor John Heading would be chasing his third, 2-year term as Mayor; and Councilman Jeff Heller, if he runs for re-election, would be seeking his second term.

Councilwoman Dawn Addis isn't likely to be on the ballot, as she is a leading contender for the new State Assembly Seat. If she or Heller don't run for council, the deadline for council nominations would be extended to Aug. 17; same goes if Mayor Heading decides to hang it up.

If readers are thinking about running, they should contact the City Clerk to get important information. Email City Clerk Dana Swanson at: cityclerk@morrobayca.gov or call (805) 772-6205.

Running for office involves a lot of paperwork. While the roughly two dozen or so signatures of registered voters

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News

District Attorney’s Office’s July 19 news release, Marissa Nicole Hudson, 35 of Atascadero and broker at Seaside Real Estate and Property Management in Morro Bay, “was arraigned in court for 58 criminal counts involving theft and embezzlement from numerous business clients.”

Hudson faces 56 felony embezzlement charges, misdemeanor grand theft, and one felony insurance fraud charge. She pled “Not Guilty.” She has since posted bail and been released from custody.

“The complaint in this matter,” reads the news release, “alleges that the embezzlement and grand theft charges occurred between February 2019 and May 2022 and involves 32 separate victims.”

The D.A. alleges that Hudson “stole a total of more than \$500,000 from her victims. The thefts are alleged to have occurred while Hudson was managing long-term property rentals and involved withholding rental security deposits and rental income.”

Seaside had been one of the larger property management companies in the area and was also involved in vacation rental management, too. It had an office in Morro Bay for about 30 years most recently at 817 Morro Bay Blvd.

Marissa Hudson’s father, Don Hudson who started the business, ran into trouble himself for much the same activities in allegations that went back to 2015 and 2015, according to a news report by Cal Coast News.

In 2018 he gave up his broker’s license and transferred ownership of the company to his daughter, according to the CCN report.

The recent spate of complaints started in 2019 and led to fresh investigations by the State with similar results. The State in May stripped Hudson of her broker’s license, though the Seaside office on Morro Bay Boulevard has been closed for much longer. And now the D.A. has filed charges.

According to the charging document, which was released with the news release, Hudson’s list of alleged crimes lists numerous victims, most noted twice for crimes against them. Each one lists a different dollar amount — \$13,800, \$14,010, \$9,400, \$14,310 to list just a few of the amounts alleged to have been stolen.

Among the largest losses was \$80,800 to someone identified as G. Gallo for rental income that was never turned over. A second count for G. Gallo lists a loss of \$19,000 meaning that victim is out nearly \$100,000.

Several of the victims are listed as having their security deposits stolen, amounting to just a few thousand dollars each. The cutoff for felony charges is \$950.

Hudson is scheduled to return to court on Sept. 14.

PG&E Begins School EV Charger Program



By Neil Farrell

The State’s largest utility company has launched a new, electric vehicle, charging program, placing the charging systems in K-12 schools and includes a special curriculum about PG&E’s sustainable energy efforts. According to a July 1 news release, the company “had broken ground on the first of up to 130 new electric vehicle (EV) charging ports at 22 schools in its service area. The first installation is at Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto, Calif.”

PG&E’s EV Charge Schools Pilot Program “aims to help fill charging gaps at these locations and support California’s clean transportation and de-carbonization goals.” The company is installing two, Level 2 chargers “at school facilities and educational institutions for staff, parents and students to charge their EVs, with access varying by location.”

PG&E, the release continued, “will help fund the costs of purchasing and installing the EV charging equipment and networking fees at these schools as well as ongoing maintenance and operations.”

The program targets certain populations. “With up to 40% of the new chargers located in disadvantaged communities,” the company said, “the pilot will help to bring EV charging options to customers who might not have had them before.”

EBN questioned the wisdom of installing EV chargers in disadvantaged neighborhoods, which by definition are economically challenged and hence less likely to afford an EV or have a credit card available to even use one.

Level 2 chargers require a 220-volt or 240-volt service connection on a dedicated circuit and cost from a couple of hundred to nearly \$3,000 each.

With most level 2 chargers — 1 hour charging time is

needed to travel 25 miles in the car. “The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC),” PG&E’s Mike Gazda said, “set the parameter aiming for 40% of the schools in the program to be serving disadvantaged communities. ‘Disadvantaged communities’ is a CPUC designation that refers to the areas throughout California, which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens.”

Despite its “prep school” name, Eastside College Prep was founded in 1996 to give “first-generation students from low-income families” the kind of college prep education found in private schools. All of its students attend on scholarship.

Asked how the chargers will work and whether they would require credit cards, or take cash, Gazda said, “The schools will determine who has access to use the charging stations and whether they will be available to staff or if they will also allow access to parents and students.”

“This is a great program to ensure schools have the infrastructure today and for the future.”

PG&E’s Aaron August, Vice President for Business Development and Customer Engagement, said, “By increasing charging access at schools, we strive to make electric vehicles a viable option for more Californians. Expanding the use of clean transportation and reducing vehicle emissions is good for our state, our customers and the environment.”

And the K-12 curriculum, “will allow teachers to connect classroom learning to real-world infrastructure and help expand awareness of clean energy transportation.”

The school EV program isn’t the company’s only program for EVs.

“As part of its first EV charging infrastructure program EV Charge Network,” the company said, “PG&E installed 4,827 Level 2 EV charging ports at customer sites across Northern and Central California.

Its EV Fleet Program “Aims to install or rebate make-ready electrical infrastructure to support the adoption of 6,500 medium- and heavy-duty EVs.”

It also has an “EV Fast Charge Program for Public Fast Chargers,” which “complements state and privately funded initiatives by installing Direct Current (DC) fast charging in highway corridor and urban sites. PG&E has seen high demand for the program, receiving five times the applications for available funding.”

They are also looking into “EV Charge Parks,” which “will provide charging infrastructure at California State Parks and Beaches in support of California’s electrification goals.”

They are also offering special deals for EV owners. “PG&E offers electric rate plans tailored for EV drivers and provides tools such as PG&E’s EV Savings Calculator and Fleet Calculator [see: ev.pge.com and fleets.pge.com] to help customers understand costs when deciding whether to drive an EV.” For more information, see: pge.com/ev.

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SL0 Woman Arrested for Child Endangerment



Sheriff's photo shows the messy conditions inside the home of a 28-year-old SLO woman who was arrested on drug and child endangerment charges.

A San Luis Obispo woman was arrested for suspicion of child endangerment after Sheriff deputies said they found dangerous drugs and a messy home where she lived with her 5-year-old child and two unnamed adult relatives.

According to Sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 10 a.m. June 15, Special Operations Unit detectives served a search warrant at a home in the 200 block of Higuera St.

The warrant search led to the arrest of Brynn Maddox, 28, for suspicion of "child endangerment likely to cause great bodily injury/death," Cipolla said. "Maddox lived at this location with her 5-year-old child and two additional adult relatives."

During the search, detectives reportedly seized "numerous items of narcotics [fentanyl] and narcotic paraphernalia in locations in the living room that were easily accessible to the child."

The house was apparently filthy. Cipolla said the home had an "excessive accumulation of garbage, severe lice infestation and the lack of running water made the living conditions unsanitary and unsafe for the child."

Child Protective Services took the child away when its mother went to County Jail and Cipolla said the child "would later test positive for fentanyl in their system."

Maddox was jailed with bail set at \$100,000 but it didn't last.

"Ultimately," Cipolla said, "Maddox was released on June 22 on a 'Post Arraignment Monitoring Program,'" or PAMP, which is basically being released on your own recognizance.

Under possible terms with PAMP, a defendant makes a promise to the court to obey all laws, not do drugs, be subject to search without cause by the probation department or law enforcement, potentially wear an ankle monitor, and regularly report to a probation officer, among other requirements.

PAMP also includes potentially being subjected to



Sheriff's photo shows suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia reportedly found during the search of a San Luis Obispo home, where CPS removed a 5-year old from the custody of its mother, who was arrested.

random drug and alcohol testing, though the exact terms Maddox got from the judge were not released.

Violation of any of the PAMP provisions could result in the order being revoked, and a person sent back in the hoosegow until trial.

County Surveying COVID Cases

The San Luis Obispo County Health Department is conducting a survey of people who tested positive for COVID-19 in an attempt to judge the long-term effects of the disease.

Over 50,000 SLO County residents were tested at clinics, doctor's offices, pharmacies and County testing sites and the County will be sending out text messages that links to a website with the survey questions.

These people also gave up their contact information when they were tested, but there were also a lot of people who tested positive for COVID-19 using at-home test kits. Those people can take the survey online at: slopublichealth.org/longcovid. Survey responses are confidential.

"This follow-up is really about understanding how this virus is affecting residents' health over the long term, including people who had severe, mild, or even no symptoms," County Public Health Epidemiologist, Jessie Burmester, said. "Nationally, researchers are learning more about what we now call Long COVID, but we don't have robust local data to put this in context. The feedback residents share will help us understand any emerging problems and identify resources to address them."

"Long COVID" are symptoms that occur weeks or months after initial infection," the County said. "These symptoms may be new, returning, or lingering from the original illness. People who initially had no symptoms may

later develop post-COVID conditions." Though the worldwide coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020, some experts say they still know little about the disease's long-term effects. See: slopublichealth.org/longcovid for information on the survey and to find resources.

Poly Addresses Plastic Problems and Positives



"We need professionals that understand the profound implications of their design decisions," says Javier de la Fuente, who chairs the Industrial Technology and Packaging area in the Orfalea College of Business.

Even before California passed a groundbreaking law requiring all plastics be recyclable or compostable by 2032, Cal Poly students were exploring more sustainable packaging alternatives, professors said.


"We need professionals who understand the profound implications of their design decisions," said Javier de la Fuente, who chairs the industrial technology and packaging area in the Orfalea College of Business. "I repeat this to my students all the time."

And, he added, more legislation will be needed to make a difference.

"The regulations of one state are clearly insufficient to solve challenges that do not recognize borders," de la Fuente said. "More policies will be needed to have a real effect."

When Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB 54, Solid Waste: Reporting, Packaging and Plastic Food Service Ware, into effect June 30, his office noted that this legislation became law after the U.S. Supreme Court limited the federal government's ability to address pollution and climate change. The law vows to cut plastic packaging by 25 percent in 10 years and requires 65 percent of all single-use packaging to be recycled in the same timeframe.

Since the 1950s, the use of plastic has increased exponentially — particularly in the past 20 years — according to "The Plastic Economy," a 2021 research paper co-authored



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Cal Poly students, Colton O'Connell and Serena Pu, work on their sustainable packaging prototype in a packaging development class.

by Cal Poly economics professor Jacqueline Doremus. According to that research, plastic production is expected to reach four times the current levels in 2050.

In many ways, plastic has improved modern life. It protects medical devices, allows cars to be lighter and more fuel efficient, and keeps food fresh.

"I'm not saying plastic is perfect," said Jay Singh, a professor and program director of Cal Poly's packaging department. "But if we want to have fresh asparagus from Peru available to us in California any time of the year, you can't have that lifestyle without plastic being involved."

At the same time, one of plastic's best qualities — its durability — poses multiple threats to the environment. Beyond disturbing images of marine life trapped in nets or plastic rings, solid plastic waste creates micro particles of plastic, or microplastics the size of a sesame seed or smaller, that have been found in the water we drink, air we breathe and food we eat, de la Fuente said.

"Microplastics have been found in humans' blood-stream, tissues, and organs," de la Fuente said. "A recent study found that viruses can survive longer in the environment by attaching to microplastics in fresh water."

We don't know the full danger microplastics can pose to humans, he added, but cancer and damage to DNA molecules are possibilities. "These particles may be toxic to humans," he said.

Students in Cal Poly's program — which is the only one of its kind in a U.S. business school — are encouraged to explore sustainable packaging — "from understanding protection needed and consequences of choosing different materials and manufacturing processes, to calculating carbon footprint using life cycle assessment software," de la Fuente noted. Last winter, he added, students in a fiber-based packaging class worked with the Paperboard Packaging Alliance to develop packaging systems for substituting single-use plastic.

But recycling is complicated. Only 5 percent of plastic waste generated in the U.S. is recycled, while 85 percent ends up in landfills.

"It's rugged, and it's durable," Singh said. "On the other hand, it doesn't break down. It doesn't degrade."

Not all plastics can be recycled, and systems aren't currently in place to recycle much, Singh said.

However, he added, consumers have to always consider the alternative — which offers even more complications.

Plastic Problems Continued on page 6

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

M.B. Police Citizen's Academy Signups

The Morro Bay Police Department is hosting the 2022 Citizens' Academy starting Sept. 1, from 6-9 p.m. and the following eight consecutive Thursdays ending Oct. 27 at the MBPD Stationhouse, 850 Morro Bay Blvd. It's free to attend, but there's a background check that has to be done first. Signups are limited and applications are due by Aug. 19

The Academy, which is open to members of the public who live and/or work in Morro Bay, is a series of interactive sessions where citizens can learn firsthand how their police department operates, and how law enforcement performs within the community of Morro Bay.

"This is a great opportunity for our officers to collaborate and interact with our community," said Chief Jody Cox. "This year's academy curriculum will provide a variety of presentations to highlight how and why we do what we do. I'm looking forward to spending time with our community and I'm proud of the curriculum our officers have prepared."

Citizens will receive an overview of law enforcement in Morro Bay and demonstrations from a variety of instructors from the department.

Orientation topics consist of the history of the Morro Bay Police Department, an introduction to the department divisions, and a segment giving participants an opportunity to ask questions for a greater understanding of the law enforcement profession.

Instructional training includes radio communications, crime prevention, patrol procedures, crime scene investigations, and a variety of other topics.

Stop by the station. to pick up an application or reach out to Sergeant Nicole Taylor at ntaylor@morrobayca.gov or Support Services Manager Bonnie Johnson at BJohnson@morrobayca.gov.

Information Presentation About Pacific Wildlife Care Center

Folks who want to know more about the Pacific Wildlife Care Center can do so virtually on Aug. 5 at 1 p.m.

Join Claudia Duckworth and Christine Johnson of the Pacific Wildlife Care Center for CA State Parks and Central Coast State Parks Association's Virtual Mind Walk presentation!

Claudia and Christine will show the different areas of the Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) facility and provide brief descriptions of the process and progress of an injured or orphaned animal that comes into their care. They will also provide an update on the relocation of PWC's operations over the next several years from its site in Morro Bay to property owned by the organization near San Luis Obispo.

Claudia Duckworth is a long-time member of PWC. She joined in the late 1990s when care was done by volunteers out of their homes. She has served on the board, worked as a supervisor at the clinic, been a lead worker in the Baby Bird Room, developed the creance team, worked on the hotline and as an animal transporter. She is currently volunteering at the center twice a week, continues with creance and does back-up for the hotline.

She also keeps PWC's education raven, Corax.

Christine Johnson has worked for more than two decades in higher education and nonprofit organizations, and she joined Pacific Wildlife Care as its inaugural executive director in January 2021. Her nonprofit experience also includes a great deal of volunteerism in her personal life, from youth sports to countywide Boards. She also served as a Morro Bay City Councilmember from 2012 to 2016.

This event is free. Register at <https://bit.ly/3OvJJz4>

More Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in SLO

Electric car drivers will have more spaces to park and charge in the City of San Luis Obispo.

The City Council recently authorized staff to develop a no-cost deployment of public electric vehicle chargers and related infrastructure on City property. This will help the City get one step closer to achieving its goal of communitywide carbon neutrality by 2035 and its transportation goal for electric vehicles to account for more than 40 percent of vehicle miles traveled by 2030.

The program will be delivered at no-cost to taxpayers because the City will lease public parking spaces at strategic locations to a qualified vendor that will build, own, and operate the charging stations.

Mid-State Fair Safety

If you are going to hit the Mid-State Fair this weekend, the final days, be prepared for hot days and COVID-19 protection.

"Safety is our number one priority at the California Mid-State Fair, and we are excited and prepared to welcome community members and guests," said the Fair's Chief Executive Officer Colleen Bojorquez. "We are pleased to partner with the SLO County Public Health Department and offer our guests a few tips to follow for a safe, healthy, and fun visit."

Tips to Stay Healthy and Safe:

- Be COVID-19 safe. Health officials recommend wearing a mask (ideally a KN95/N95) in crowded indoor public spaces and being fully vaccinated.
- Regularly wash your hands. Always wash your hands after petting animals or touching anything where animals are housed. Don't bring strollers, pacifiers, sippy cups, or toys into the animal exhibit areas. Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the fairgrounds.
- Monitor the weather and dress appropriately.
- Stay hydrated with water. Visitors may bring up to two unopened plastic water bottles. Water is available for sale from various vendors. A new hydration station where water is available free of charge can be found at the new Cal Fire display.

Although the Fair is almost over, big sellers happen on July 30-31 including the rodeo as well as the tractor pull and freestyle motocross events. For the price of admission on July 29 attendees can see The Taproots and Al Jardine & The Wilson Sisters. On July 30, admission gets you High Voltage (AC/DC tribute), and on July 31 DeJa-Vu and Niko Moon. Check out midstatefair.com for times and stages.

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News

Plastic Problems From page 5

During the pandemic, he said, more people ordered products online, resulting in more packaging.

“A lot of it recently has been arriving in bags,” he said, which protects the products yet adds plastic waste. “But if I put it in a box, that’s going to take up more volume, and it’s heavier. You’re using more resources, not only in the material, but also in the shipping. You need more fuel to move them on trucks, you need more volume and space in storage or a delivery van.”

At the same time, he said, regulations can force consumers to think differently and industry to innovate.

“Just because we love to drink out of a straw, that doesn’t mean it’s the only way,” he said, noting companies like Starbucks have begun using strawless lids.

While “conscious shoppers” — people seeking to buy more sustainable products — had emerged pre-pandemic, the desire for social distancing became a bigger priority.

“It was more related to hygiene and safety features,” Singh said. “They wanted individually wrapped products to make sure they were safe.”

Now he expects a shift back to conscious shopping. But the pandemic increase in e-commerce marked a shift in consumer behavior that’s likely to remain.

Companies have made conscious decisions as well. But their behavior is shaped by costs, which lead to continued



Jay Singh is a professor and program director of Cal Poly’s Packaging Department.

plastic usage. “Plastics are often chosen because they make immediate economic sense, not because of their superior barrier properties,” de la Fuente said. “Regulations can help with both challenges caused by providing incentives for better recycling and better design and decision-making.”

Grover Man ‘Guilty’ in 2018 Murder



Kristen Marti, who reportedly graduated from Morro Bay High, was murdered in January 2018. Her killer, Robert Koehler, IV was recently convicted of first-degree murder.

By Neil Farrell

A Grover Beach man has been convicted in the 2018 murder of a Morro Bay woman who was living in San Luis Obispo when she vanished.

According to a District Attorney’s Office news release, on July 14, a jury convicted Robert W. Koehler, IV, 40 of Grover Beach for the first-degree murder of Kristen Marti, 26.

Marti attended Morro Bay High School and was reported missing in January 2018 by her mother. San Luis Obispo Police were the



Grover Beach resident, Robert Koehler, 40, on July 14 was convicted of first-degree murder in the 2018 killing of Kristen Marti, a Morro Bay High graduate.

initial agency involved and Marti was described by police as having frequented motels with no known address when she disappeared.

Police began a massive search for Marti, who was last seen in a pickup truck with a man on Prefumo Canyon Road on Jan. 9. The search focused on the Prefumo Canyon area, the last place she was reportedly seen alive.

The S&R team consisted of 45 volunteers, six K-9 teams, and SLOPD Detectives.

A cadaver dog discovered a body lying partially hidden in Prefumo Creek off Prefumo Canyon Road on March 25, 2018. A few days later Marti was identified through dental records.

“Based on the circumstances surrounding this investigation,” SLOPD Detective Lt. John Bledsoe said, “it is being investigated as a homicide at this time.”

Koehler, who was under suspicion from the start was soon arrested and charged with Marti’s murder.

“Today’s verdict,” District Attorney Dan Dow said, “has brought justice for Kristen Marti and her loved ones who still grieve her loss.”

Koehler was due back in court July 18 to hear evidence of a previous felony conviction for carjacking in Shasta County, which could weigh heavily on his ultimate murder sentence.

The judge in the case was Judge Jesse J. Marino and it was investigated by SLOPD, the Sheriff’s Department and D.A investigators.

Chief Deputy D.A. Lisa B. Muscari prosecuted the case. She supervises sexual assault, child abuse, intimate partner violence, juvenile, and mentally disordered offender cases.

Man Dies in ATV Crash

A Santa Maria man died in a single-vehicle crash in rural Nipomo, when for an unknown reason he ran into a parked trailer on the side of the road.

According to a Highway Patrol news release, at about 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 15, Abraham Espindola, 42 of Santa Maria, was southbound on Hutton Road just south of Cuyama Lane (Hwy 166) driving a 2010 Polaris ATV when he veered off the road and onto the dirt shoulder where he ran into a parked, metal, semi dump trailer.

Espindola was reportedly not wearing a helmet and suffered a major head injury in the crash. He was transferred to Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria but died from his injuries.

The news release did not give a cause and no indications whether alcohol or drugs played a part in the crash.

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Police Blotter



• **July 17:** Police responded at 10:30 p.m. to the 1700 block of Embarcadero, where a woman said some psycho was recording her while she was taking a shower. Police are investigating, but ol' Norman Bates hasn't been arrested.

• **July 17:** Some sneak thief got into a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Market, as the tourist tax is collected once again.

• **July 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 1 a.m. in the 1000 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated the driver, 53, was nicked for suspicion of driving stoned on drugs, possession of drugs, and drug paraphernalia. He was drug to jail.

• **July 17:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 12:41 a.m. in the 1800 block of Main. The driver, 24, was cited for a bench warrant and released.

• **July 16:** Police stopped yet another suspicious vehicle at 11:15 p.m. at Main and Beach, like catching fish in a barrel. The driver, 63, punched in at County Jail for suspicion of driving clocked out.

• **July 16:** Police took another petty theft report this time in the 400 block of Elena St. No word on the booty that was pinched.

• **July 16:** Police responded at 7:45 p.m. to a lewd conduct report in the area of Beach and Monterey. Logs indicated a 37-year-old woman and 20-year-old man were allegedly spotted doing the hunka-chunka in public. Logs indicated the woman was arrested for suspicion of being stoned on drugs and possessing paraphernalia. The other Ubangi Stomper was allegedly in possession of drugs. Both shining examples were hauled to the gaol.

• **July 15:** Police responded to a deceased citizen at a care facility in the 1400 block of Teresa Dr.

• **July 15:** Someone in the 300 block of Shasta said he or she lost their passport and no doubt we're now stuck with them forever.

• **July 15:** At 2:18 p.m. in the 300 block of Kern, police towed off a car for vehicle vagrancy — being parked too long in one place.

• **July 15:** Police responded at 8:45 a.m. to the Morro Dunes RV Park, where three unhappy campers said someone stole their bicycles. Police have no leads, though a search next door in Morro Creek might be a good place to start.

• **July 14:** Hooligans are definitely running amok as a citizen in the 3100 block of Tide said their vehicle was burgled, and grand theft was reported in the 2400 block of Reno Ct.

• **July 14:** Police contacted a wanted squit, 33, in the 400 block of Quintana who had a felony warrant. Naturally he was cited and released with another disappearance ticket.

• **July 13:** Police responded at 4:39 p.m. to a car crash in

the 1700 block of Main. No word on casualties, so that's a good thing.

• **July 13:** At 1 p.m. police arrested yet another offensive vehicle parked too long at Surf and Main.

• **July 12:** Police responded to the 400 block of Kodiak where a citizen reported the willful violation of a stay-away order by some apparent humanicus dooficus.

• **July 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:08 a.m. on Atascadero Road. The 26-year-old fellow was cited for driving with a suspended license and now faces certain death waiting in line at the DMV.

• **July 11:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 5:07 p.m. in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the 34-year-old nillionaire was cited and released for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, his stash had apparently already gone up in smoke or was stashed where police prefer not to search.

• **July 10:** Police responded at 8:30 a.m. to a reported case of larceny in the 2700 block of Dogwood. Logs indicated they contacted a 36-year-old fellow and arrested him for suspicion of petty theft, possession of stolen property and possession of drug paraphernalia, which explains a lot. He was cited at the stationhouse and released. Police later discovered that he is a convicted felon and plan to also file a charge of convicted felon in possession of a firearm with the D.A., which the model citizen will no doubt ignore, too.

• **July 9:** A citizen in the 1700 block of Embarcadero said some hooligan stole the rear license plate off his 2004 Chevy 2500 pickup truck, sentencing him to deal with the DMV.

• **July 9:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:30 a.m. in the 1100 block of Main. Logs indicated the 25-year-old honked driver was nicked for suspicion of driving on a toot.

• **July 8:** Police noted the death of a local fellow at his home in the 2100 block of Nutmeg, after EMS tried to save him.

• **July 8:** Police responded at 9:34 a.m. to Allesandro and La Loma, where they towed off an apparently offensive single-axle trailer parked in one place too long, a hanging offense in these parts. The day before at Kings and Quintana, they removed another slacker car parked too long on the street.

• **July 6:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse on Kings Avenue, then sent it on up the food chain.

• **July 7:** Someone turned in a wallet they found somewhere in town. No word on whether there was still cash inside, but don't bet on it. Someone else found something somewhere in town some time ago and gave it to some police officer to do something with.

• **July 7:** At 5:49 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main police responded to a report of another citizen who passed on to a better world.

• **July 6:** Police flew down to an uncivil dispute in the 1000 block of Front St. They took a courtesy report for the inevitable lawsuit to follow.

• **July 6:** Police responded at 12:49 p.m. to the 300 lock of Beach where a hooligan tree battered a vehicle by dropping a big branch on it. A report was taken to document the alleged arboreal assault.

• **July 5:** Police responded at 9:30 p.m. to the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a woman said she was sexually assaulted and the attacker stole \$546 from her purse. Police are investigating.

• **July 5:** Police responded at 8:20 p.m. to a traffic crack up at Laurel and Koa. No juicy details were available.

• **July 5:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to the 400 block of Quintana where someone said they were bitten by some mutt's dog.

• **July 4:** Police responded at 10:09 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Arcadia. A 26-year-old tomato got pinched for suspicion of being stewed.

• **July 4:** Someone turned in a Washington State ID found in the 500 block of Embarcadero.

• **July 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4:43 p.m. in the 2700 block of Alder. Logs indicated a 31-year-old lady firecracker was nicked for suspicion of driving bombed, a heck of a way to spend Independence Day.

• **July 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4:30 p.m. at Pacific and Embarcadero. The 72-year-old fellow driving was allegedly wearing beer goggles. He was cited and released for DUI.

• **July 4:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 11:30 a.m. in the 600 block of Morro. The 37-year-old fellow had a couple of misdemeanor warrants and was naturally cited and released. (Now say it with me — "Catch-Release-Repeat; Catch-Release-Repeat...ad infinitum")

• **July 4:** Police responded at 12:42 p.m. to a vandalism report in the 100 block of Bayshore Dr. Logs indicated the victim declined to press charges, so why call police?

Ready to hit the beach?

Photo by CatNoirCC.com

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

Friends of the NRA Fundraiser Dinner Protested by Locals



Demonstrators gathered outside the Morro Bay Community Center during a dinner held by the local chapter of the Friends of the National Riffle Association, the fundraising program under the NRA Foundation. The group of about 15 activists stood to the side of the entrance to the center carrying signs reading “Protect Kids Not Guns, “Ban Assault Weapons, “USA!!!! No.1!! in Mass Shootings!” Los Osos Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe owner, Carroll Leslie, organized the protest that had no incidents. Photo by Nancy Haber.

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Community

City Building Bocce Ball Courts



Bocce ball courts are going in at the corner of Shasta Avenue and Kennedy Way in Morro Bay. Photo submitted

By Neil Farrell

Work finally got underway on two bocce ball courts on a City-owned vacant parcel at the corner of Shasta Avenue and Kennedy Way.

The City Council back in 2018 agreed to a request from the Morro Bay Seniors, Inc., to put in a couple of bocce ball courts at what used to be a “pocket park.”

That little park was put in as a community beautification project in April 2013 by volunteers with the 4-H Club, the City Tree Committee, Guerilla Gardeners and the Morro Bay Garden Club. The pocket park project was spear-headed by former-Council Members Nancy Johnson and Noah Smukler.

Prior to that, the lot contained two, 2-story apartment buildings owned by the City, which became dilapidated and condemned. The fire department used the buildings for training in 2011-12 before they were bulldozed.

Former Fire Chief Steve Knuckles said at the time the buildings were not in a good location to burn as they were too close to the neighboring home. But they were able to practice roof venting, breaching walls, vertical second story rescues, and “self-extraction and survival” techniques,

among others.

The pocket park lasted from April 2013 to July 2016 when the City decided to remove picnic benches it installed in the little park because homeless people were using them, cursing like sailors and smoking cigarettes just feet from the Public Works Department’s door.

The volunteer groups that had been caring for the pocket park abandoned it, and it has been little more than a weed patch ever since. All of the fruit trees, and flowerbeds that were planted for the pocket park died or were removed by the City erasing all signs of that volunteer effort.

At one point the City had the property listed for possible sale, but that was when the City’s finances weren’t looking as good as they do now.

The City Council first listed the bocce ball courts in the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 budget, according to Public Works Director Greg Kwolek.

Morro Bay in Bloom, a volunteer beautification organization, had wanted to build a small greenhouse on the site, to grow plants to support its efforts across town. The Council’s initial approval was for both the bocce ball courts and the greenhouse.

Kwolek estimated the court work to cost about \$70,000 plus volunteer time and the contractor is “G. Sosa Construction, Inc.,” Kwolek said. “The City will also be working with community volunteers to install some of the final touches.”

He said the Morro Bay Seniors “initiated this project, and they remain a strong partner. They have indicated they are prepared to make a donation to add some elements to the courts. The City recently met with the Seniors about this but details about which elements will be added are still under discussion.”

The picnic tables the City took away from the old pocket park were put out at Giant Chessboard Park on the Waterfront, after the City removed all the grass from that tiny park and replaced it with crushed granite.

The tables were also intended to support outdoor dining, which the City pushed during the initial months of the Coronavirus Pandemic, when restaurants were not allowed to use their dining rooms.

As for MB in Bloom’s involvement, Kwolek said, “we’ll be looking for all the help we can get. However, the greenhouse is no longer a part of the project at MBiB’s request.”

So will this be a free-use facility, like the tennis and basketball courts in other parks, or programmed through the

Recreation Department?

Kwolek said it would be “a combination thereof.” The Seniors, who have been tossing their bocce balls around at Tidelands Park for the past couple of years, will have organized use of the courts.

As for the future, Kwolek said the City-owned lot is currently not on the potential sale list. “The site is still under construction,” he said. “The City may opt to make it an official park at a later time.”

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

The Bookshelf Writers present to SLO NightWriters August 9



The Bookshelf Writers are Debbie Black, Judy Salamacha, Kiki Kornreich, and Susan Vasquez.

By Judy Salamacha

The Bookshelf Writers decided to form a writers’ critique group one Tuesday evening in January 2015 while carpooling home to Morro Bay after a SLO Night-Writers general meeting. The group has evolved over the years maintaining one primary core value: provide requested constructive suggestions to encourage and enhance a fellow members’ draft manuscript.

Flash forward to August 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Current members of The Bookshelf Writers, Debbie Black, Kiki Kornreich, Susan Vasquez and Judy Salamacha, have been invited to present to San Luis Obispo’s writers’ group’s

Out & About Continued on page 10

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Out & About From page 9

general membership meeting. They intend to share the group’s journey and hope to lead an interactive discussion utilizing best practices for building and maintaining a writers’ critique group. Guests are welcome to attend whether already in a group or wherever one might feel they are in their personal writers’ journey.

Each writer writes in a different genre and for the past two years have rotated submissions under the column heading of “Out & About with the Bookshelf Writers. It is published biweekly in Estero Bay News esterobaynews.com.

Debbie Black writes novels for young readers and adults. For EBN she finds unique stories to tell about her hometown Cayucos as well as regional camping opportunities. She is an active member of Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, Women’s Fiction Writers Association, and SLO Nightwriters. Visit her at www.DebbieNobleBlack.com.

Catherine “Kiki” Kornreich has traveled to 35 countries on six continents and enjoys blogging and illustrating her journeys at

www.peekatkeek.wordpress.com. She has also written four unpublished books: two autobiographies, one novel and a self-illustrated children’s book. She makes her home in Morro Bay, with a wise old cat and a naughty puppy, where she hosts bi-monthly gatherings with The Bookshelf Writers.

Judy Salamacha has been a freelance feature writer and journalist for several San Luis Obispo print publications. She co-authored Colonel Baker’s Field: An American Pioneer Story (Bear State Books, 2013), a creative non-fiction biography of the namesake of Bakersfield, CA, her birthright home until she moved to Morro Bay. For EBN she features local authors, artists and musicians. Many of her stories are re-published and updated on her blog www.judysalamacha.com.

Susan Vasquez has lived in fifteen cities on three continents. So timely today as we continue to hope tensions will be resolved in Ukraine, her published book, “My Ukraine, One Year of Memories,” tells the true story of Susan’s teaching adventure in Ukraine. “Growing Up: My Coming-of-Old-Age Story” tells of her experience moving into a Morro Bay beach bungalow while turning 60. For EBN she focuses on a different One Small Walk somewhere in the Estero Bay and periodically her blog includes snarky fun-times with her poetry, Violet and Doris. Her work can be seen at onesmallwalk.com.

The original group was called Critikis. Over the years they have encouraged each other to finish their works-in-progress, tested out different genres, learned social media and volunteered as staff for the Central Coast Writers Conference at Cuesta College and the San Francisco Writers Conference. For several years they gleaned publishing tips from fellow member Brian Schwartz, owner of www.selfpublishing.com until he decided to focus exclusively on growing his author-support business.

Years ago, the Bookshelf Writers developing a writers’ retreat weekend based in Morro Bay, but quickly decided the horrendous organizational hours might be better spent working on their own manuscripts.

They did test out the retreat concept by traveling together to a remote location to write, review, and enjoy the area. The first retreat was in Pacific Grove, CA. The value was so immediate and beneficial for all, that they decided to make it an annual event.

A strong bond of trusted friendship has been the bonus discovered during their 5-day writing retreats subsequently held at Carmel, Carmel Valley and Solvang over the past few years with a break for COVID-19. They are looking forward to Three Rivers this fall, 2022.

If you’re intrigued by their combined writing journeys and want to energize your own, join the discussion at SLO NightWriters on August 9. For more details, check out slonightwriters.org.



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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The 43rd Annual
Oktoberfest Returns

Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce and Bay Osos Kiwanis will once again present Oktoberfest, the oldest in the county that attracts more than 5,000 people.

It all takes place on October 30 at Santa Maria and 2nd Street. The day is kicked off with the infamous Fun Run and delicious pancake breakfast at 9 a.m.

After, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., folks can stroll around the car show then hop over to enjoy some hops at the locally hosted beer garden by Beerwood featuring a variety of local breweries’ products.

Next it is time to rock ‘n’ roll and feel the Los Osos groove while cheering on the live music. The yet to be named musicians will perform on the new, executive sponsored stage. If you work up and an appetite there are eats from a variety of local food vendors.

The more the merrier, is the way the Kiwanis and chamber like to party, so make sure to bring the kiddos for the executive sponsored Kid Zone with plenty of fun and games for all ages. Last but certainly not least be sure to wear a costume for the contest with categories that include adult, kids and even pets.

Event and executive sponsorships are available now. Contact Jim Stanfill (805) 528-1557 or LOBP Chamber (805) 528-4884 or info@lobpchamber.org, for more sponsorship information. Event organizers say they are grateful for the continued sponsorship support year after year, and that for maximum exposure, reply by August 1.

Judy, Judy, Judy



Three cheers for Judy Salamacha, Estero Bay News’ beloved writer and keeper of all the inspiring community stories of resilience, success and moving forward. The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce awarded Judy with their spotlight award.

“Judy, pictured here with her best bud CJ, is a lady about town,” the Chamber said. “She is a Rotarian, community volunteer, writer for Estero Bay News and simply a top notch gal! You may have seen Judy volunteering at many of our Chamber events. She regularly supports local businesses through her articles in Estero Bay News, writing beautiful pieces on who they are as people and how they got to where they are.

“She is a champion for this community and we couldn’t be happier to know her!” We at EBN couldn’t agree more.



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Community

Avocado Festival Reimagined

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Avocado and Margarita Food and Drink Festival is reimagined and rebranded for 2022. It takes place Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11.

This brand-new experience will feature some of the best chefs, bakers, mixologists, musicians, and retail vendors in the Central Coast and surrounding areas, organizers said. The three-day festival will showcase unique margaritas and gourmet avocado dishes.

“The Avocado Margarita Food and Drink Festival has completely transformed to embrace everything that makes the small, authentic coastal community of Morro Bay so vibrant,” says Morro Bay Chamber CEO, Erica Crawford. “This includes the endless acres of avocados, the beautiful harbor, freshest seafood, eclectic shops, health, wellness, live music, and the iconic Morro Rock.”

Additionally, there is a family movie night on Friday evening exclusively for three-day pass holders, and the chefs and mixologists at the Tidelands Park venue will vie for coveted, crowd-sourced “Best of Festival” titles. Performances all weekend long include music from Devin Welsh, The Charities, Kenny Taylor, Cocktail Shorty, Silk Ocean, Hilary Watson and Band, Carbon City Lights, Dante Marsh and the Vibe Setters, Damon Castillo, and Moonshiner Collective.

Tidelands Park will anchor the reimagined festival, but event organizers are also building a temporary stage at the iconic Morro Rock for satellite events happening on Saturday only. The stage will be brought to life by a three-hour workout experience led by Boston-based fitness celebrity Kelly Brabants, founder of Booty by Brabants, on Saturday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

“This event celebrates our agriculture and natural wonder of Morro Bay,” said Michael Wambolt, executive director of Visit Morro Bay. “Attracting this level of national talent to and exposure for Morro Bay is very exciting.”

In true “detox-retox” fashion, the exercise experience will be followed by a tequila happy hour out at the Rock venue exclusively for workout ticket holders. Details are forthcoming on a headliner concert in the evening.

Interested foodies, friends, families, fitness lovers, locals and visitors are invited to follow @avomargfest on Instagram and #avomargfest for evolving, up-to-the-moment information and to go to avomargfest.com for complete ticket information. This year’s attendance will be limited by the capacity of the new venues. Three-day and VIP passes are expected to sell out.

Los Osos Community Center Hiring

The Los Osos South Bay Community Center is looking for part-time help. They are in need of an organized and caring person to work about 10 hours a week for \$25 an hour as an office manager. This position is the chief paid administrative position of the center and is directly accountable to the board of directors.

Responsibilities include planning, organizing, managing, and directing the everyday operations of the SBCC and implementation of policies and decisions of the board of directors.

Interested folks can go to southbaycommunitycenter.com, click on the “About” tab then scroll to “SBCC documents” and under “Miscellaneous Documents” there are job description and application links.

Fill out the application, and contact the office at 805-528-4169 or sbcc@sbcommunitycenter.net to turn it in.

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.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The 48th Annual Antique Gasoline Engine Show is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 6-7 in Downtown Cayucos. Admission is free and the antique engines, aka “hit-miss” engines for the way they are regulated, will take over the vacant lot adjacent to the Cayucos Tavern at Ocean Avenue and D St.

Dozens of antique gas and steam-driven engines will be on display from throughout the Central Coast and doing a variety of jobs — grinding corn, pumping water, sawing logs and animating various moving figures.

Hit-miss engines come in many sizes and make unique sounds. They are marvels of the early Industrial Revolution.

Members of the Early Day Gasoline Engine and Tractor Association will be on hand to discuss the history and use of the old engines.

The public is invited to see the engines in action and

to learn about the early form of machine energy, which was used before internal combustion engines and electric motors were developed.

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for adults is having its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, August 3, 2022. Meetings are free and yearly membership is only \$50. Social and sports activities occur year round.



Pops-by-the-Sea returns on Saturday, September 3 at the Avila Beach Golf Resort, where the San Luis Obispo Symphony will celebrate their 60th year. Gates will open at 2:45 p.m. and music begins at 4 p.m. The SLO Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Andrew Sewell, will play music by John Williams, Aaron Copland, John Philip Sousa, and more.

Tickets are available for purchase online at my805tix.com or by calling 805-356-1438. Lawn seating is \$25 for adults and \$15 for minors ages 13 to 17. Children under 13 are free with a paying adult, so bring along the entire family. You can also reserve a single chair in theater seating for \$50. Table seating is available for \$75 a seat (or \$600 for a table of 8.) Parking is free and a parking pass will be attached to your printable ticket! No outside drinks are permitted and ice chests will be inspected upon entry.



Sign up now for Painting the Head in Oils with Warren Chang to save your space. This is a limited class of 10.

Events Continued on page 12

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Community

Events From page 11

It takes place January 14-15, 2023, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street. The cost is \$500 for the two-day workshop. Register at artcentermorrobay under the "register for classes" tab.

In this oil painting workshop, participants will get an inside look into Warren Chang's art practice and learn how to paint a head to final painting, using a limited palette. Warren will teach the fundamentals of light and shadow and how this applies to painting a portrait, demonstrating painting a head of a live model. Students will be able to get feedback directly from. By the end of this 2-day workshop, each participant will have a final painting inspired by Warren's unique approach to painting that gives a window into his practice.

Learn about drawing, values and composition in a workshop designed to create in a relaxed, informative yet focused environment for all skill levels. This workshop will feature live models. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

The following are free events brought to you by the Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave. They can be reached at 805-528-1862. All library programs follow current California and County of San Luis Obispo health guidelines.

- **Featured Artists**
The photography of Kurt Rightmyer will be on display through August.
The will also have woodcarvers in the display case as you enter the library.
- **Paws to Read** - Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School Age.
- **Storytime** - Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.
Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.
- **Stay Young with Qi Gong!** - Fridays, 9-10 a.m.
Qi gong is a system for physical, mental and spiritual development that has roots dating back thousands of years in China. It consists of slow flowing movements and meditations that cultivate life force energy (called qi by the Chinese). The basics of qi gong are not difficult to learn and practice, and are particularly beneficial for older adults. Instructor Devin Wallace was certified to teach by qi gong master Lee Holden. Devin has taught at hospitals, fitness and yoga centers and also does private classes.

- **Allegria Winds Quintet** – Sat. August 13, 3-4 p.m.
Listen to some amazing music by this very talented quintet! All ages are encouraged to attend.

The Morro Bay Police Department is hosting the 39th Annual National Night Out with a free community barbecue set for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Cloisters Park in Morro Bay.

Attendees will get safety tips from the professionals, enjoy booths and exhibitions, and connect with your local public safety departments — police officers, firefighters, and harbor patrol. There'll be free hotdogs and sweet treats, too.

National Night Out is sponsored by the Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch Association.

The next SLO Funny Comedy Show, hosted by Key Lewis, is July 30 at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall, 209 Surf St., Morro Bay. It features Kiran Deol, with Sean Grant and Nick Novicki. The headliner is Betty Barnes (also known as: Liz Stewart). There are two shows: 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. This show is Rated R. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Get them at My805Tix.com or Eventbrite.com, search SLO Funny.

Join Camp Ocean Pines on July 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for an evening by the campfire at 1473 Randall Drive, Cambria. Soak up the incredible ocean views and watch the sun dip into the Pacific. Relax with friends, toast the sunset, and cap the evening with fire-roasted s'mores. And, if guests are lucky, they can catch the sound of the sea lions from the nearby beach. This special fundraiser is suited for 21 years and older. Appetizers, wine tastings, and s'mores provided.

Food and drink is generously donated by Camp Ocean Pines' friends: wine by Fermentations, light eats from Cam-



bria Mimosas, and non-alcoholic drinks provided by Soto's True Earth Market. Tickets are \$50 / person in advance or \$65 / person at the gate. They can be purchased in advance at campoceanpines.org/sunset-social.

San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre (SLO REP) opens the 2022-23 season with Steel Magnolias. Based in a small Louisiana town, Steel Magnolias is a funny, tender-hearted story about six Southern women who become close friends despite their eccentricities and complicated lives. The show opens Friday, July 29 and runs through Aug 14 at SLO REP's intimate city playhouse at 888 Morro Street in downtown San Luis Obispo. Ticket prices range from \$20 - \$38 and are available at www.slorep.org or by calling 805-786-2440. For more information about the show or SLO REP, please contact Chris McBride at (805) 781-3889. Ext. 14 or chris@slorep.org.

The Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St in Cambria, has a call for artists for the Gallery's next show: John Seed: Paintings from Then and Now.

When John Seed first showed his work in 1984, he was painting large oil paintings with bold, expressionistic subject matter. Now, living in Cambria, he paints small semi-abstract watercolors loosely based on local scenery. Seed's CAA exhibition features three large oils, including "Wine and Roses," which was included in his 1984 one-man show at Newspace Gallery in Los Angeles. On the opposite wall Seed will show a broad selection of his watercolors. There will also be a display of some of the books and magazines he has written or contributed to in his nearly two decades as an active art writer.

Artists can register and submit art online to the Cambria Center for the Arts August 25-28 as the Gallery will feature original artwork by its member artists, in addition to Seed's work. On-line registration is required. For membership and exhibit details, go to CCA cambriaarts.org/home. Opening reception for the next show is Saturday, September 3 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m., and the exhibit will adorn the walls through October 30, 2022.

Estrella Warbirds Museum March Monthly Dinner takes place August 3. Zach Reeder will talk about his career as a test pilot and recent experiences at Joby Aviation. After graduation from Texas A&M in 2005, with a Bachelor of Science



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degree in Aerospace Engineering, Zach landed a job as test pilot and engineer at Scaled Composites. At Burt Rutan's revolutionary company, Zach flies the Firebird Demonstrator, Proteus, and Task Vantage. Zach's first solo flight was in a hang glider that he designed and built for \$100. He is now a commercial, multi-engine, instrument rated pilot, and has flown 42 different airplane types. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a no host bar (cash only, no credit cards), and dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Space is limited, so make your reservations now by calling the museum at 805 296-1935 or go online at www.ewarbirds.org/museum/reservations.shtml. The deadline for reservations is 6 p.m. on Monday, August 1. Price for the dinner is \$25.00 per person. Estrella Warbirds Museum is located at 4251 Dry Creek Road in Paso Robles,

...

Keeping it Simple Strategies takes place Aug. 8 from 3-5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay. It is free and open to the public. For more information, go to artcenter-morrobay.org.

Bring sketchbooks and soft pencils, and join in for an interactive monthly meeting with special guest speaker Pat Watson!

During this enlightening art presentation and slide show, Pat will take you through a little background and historical precedents, transitioning to current themes and practices in visual art. He will then guide you through practice projects to reinforce those concepts. This discussion will explore how applying concepts that emphasize simplicity can dramatically improve our efforts during the process of creation, resulting in a pleasing drawing, painting or design.

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.



Charity Dance Party, August 26



A local charity that works with local schools to feed hungry children and their families is holding its annual fundraiser, this year featuring local favorite, Zongo All Stars.

The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition is hosting "A Family Friendly Dance Party" at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26 at the SLO Brew Rock, a pub and concert venue located at 855 Aerovista Ln., in San Luis Obispo (out by the County Airport).

The event will have food and drink available at the pub with outdoor seating available.

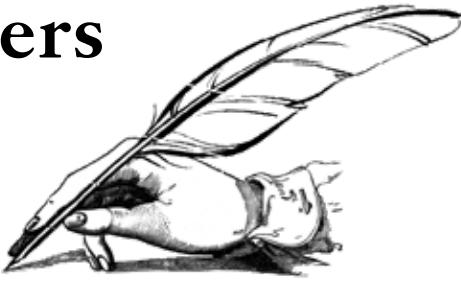
Advance tickets are \$15 per person and \$20 at the door. They will be selling raffle tickets too for a chance to win some fabulous prizes.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy original Afro-Caribbean dance music, delicious food and drinks, and excellent raffle prizes. See: <https://my805tix.com/e/kindness2> to order tickets online.

Proceeds help provide healthy meals to the food insecure members of the Estero Bay community. Coalition volunteers fill backpacks with food and send them home with school children every Friday during the school year. It's designed to make sure the kids, who qualify for free lunches when in school, don't go hungry over the weekend.

See: esterobaykindnesscoalition.org for more information on the coalition.

Letters To The Editor



Now is the Time to Run for Office in Morro Bay

If you believe that local leadership of Morro Bay is important, then now is a great time to run for office. Three seats will be up for election in November: The mayor's and two council seats. The filing period for these three positions opened on July 18 and runs through August 12th.

As I near the end of my four-year term as a city council member, my awareness of how fortunate I am to have been elected to office in our small town is acute. Rather than fretting over decisions made by elected officials in Washington, D.C. or Sacramento, or SLO County, we all have the tremendous opportunity to actively participate in how our city is run. No prior experience necessary. No financial support from a major party required. One just needs the desire to learn and have ideas on how to make things better for our residents.

Naturally we all have reasons why we can't possibly run. I did, too. It will take too much time; I don't understand anything about it; What if I don't like it, etc. But I eventually concluded that I could not ignore the remarkable opportunity to actively participate in our democracy. Our entire system depends on average people like me stepping up and jumping in. So, I ran for a council seat, and much to my surprise was elected in 2018. Although I will not be running for re-election, I urge each of you to consider jumping in. The city is in a strong position right now. We need your vision and leadership to sustain us going forward.

The filing period for these three positions opens on July 18 and runs through August 12. Contact our City Clerk (Dana Swanson) at dswanson@morrobayca.gov for assistance with the paperwork.

Thank you for the opportunity you've given me to serve!

Jeff Heller
Morro Bay City Council

Letters Continued on page 17

Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce

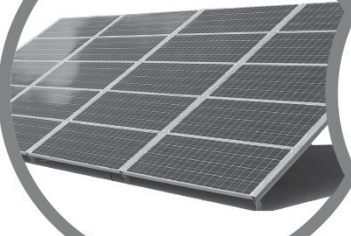
Oktoberfest


15th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show by the Bay

The sweetest little car show on the bay once again happens in beautiful Baywood Park. The 15th annual car show takes place on Sunday, October 30 at Oktoberfest. Enter your classic car or motorcycle for a chance to win an award for your ride.

For more information about entering the show, contact Dean Sullivan at 805-528-6011 or email dean@esterobaynews.com. To register online and see past photos, go to www.carshowbythebay.com

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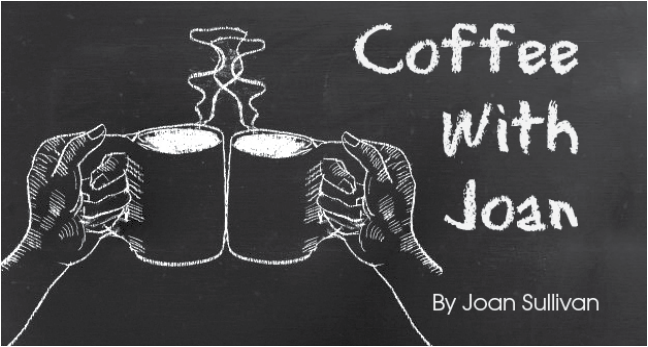
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Bonetti Ranch



Artwork by Joan Sullivan 1976

Tucked away in my memory bank are the numerous times I painted on the old Bonetti Ranch in the 70s with my art class.

When the ranch was reserved for the Bonetti Market I was given permission from the building contractor to open the locked gate and drive onto the ranch wherever I chose. I did several watercolors, pastels and pen and ink drawings of the original ranch buildings before it was closed off to me when new construction began.

On each occasion, over a two year period, I parked at various spots on the property and working from inside my car, I tried to capture the spirit of the old ranch while I did watercolors of the ranch house, the storage shack and the water tank.

Recalling the day when I first got permission from Bina Bonetti to bring my class to the ranch, she made particular mention of the fountain in front of her yellow house. At that time she was preparing to take a trip to Italy. When she returned I showed her the paintings I did. She was very disappointed that I hadn't painted the fountain in front of her house. I did another painting including the fountain and gave it to her at a later date.

When the market was opened I sold my collection to the contractor. Hopefully my work is being enjoyed by the new businesses as a reminder of the working of ranch life that took place throughout San Luis Obispo County over time.



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Technically Speaking



Securing your network

Today cybersecurity is a big factor in the state of technology and without it, the internet would NOT be what you know it as today. A big part of cybersecurity is staying current and ahead of newly known vulnerabilities released to the public by leaks or patch notes.

Once a vulnerability and subsequent patch go public, many “hackers” or “darknet affiliates” use these as a roadmap to vulnerabilities on the devices that have not been patched yet. So, it’s a catch 22. It is a sysadmin’s, or IT administrators’ duty to make sure these patches are implemented thoroughly and timely to mitigate any vulnerability

that may be utilized once the darknet is aware of the flaw.

However, these vulnerabilities are not always found by malicious users but are sometimes found by the good guys too! This is the definition of a cybersecurity professional. Their job is to monitor, upgrade, and maintain a network, hardware, or software for a company/user. A professional will patch or report any findings to higher ups, developers or IT teams to apply a hotfix before there is an issue. Some of these vulnerabilities can lie dormant in a piece of firm-ware or software for years before it is discovered and, until then, it would be a potential risk for an endpoint, network or infrastructure.

We always say as a rule of thumb if your network hardware hasn’t been updated in six months to a year, there are most likely a few vulnerabilities that can actively be exploited. This rule of thumb applies to all situations however most serious attacks are targeted. This means that unless you are a large corporation, hold trade secrets, have serious enemies, or are some sort of celebrity, venture capitalist, or politician with information people are willing to pay for, no person is going to actively try and hack your network. However, if you have an open firewall with open ports flapping in the wind or download a virus and an infected machine is on the local network, there are bots crawling the internet that will surely pick up on this and attempt to hack your network automatically.

My best advice for businesses is to get a professional’s opinion on your setup and network usage to ensure everything is configured using best practices and that the proper precautions are taken. My advice for the everyday home user is to upgrade your router if it is more than 5-years-old, and refrain from opening ports in your router/firewall unless you absolutely need to!

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

Send your questions to chad@quicktechcomputers.com.



A copy of a Baywood Park newspaper dated June, 1960. No staff box or any information on who produced it. See this 8 page broad sheet newspaper on our website at www.esterobaynews.com

Community

Our Own Joan Honored



Joan Sullivan receives an award from San Luis Obispo History Center. Award presented by John Ashbaugh. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County has named Los Osos resident Joan Sullivan as its recipient of the 2021-22 Award for Local Historic Scholarship.

Joan was recognized for her dedication as an artist, author, and documentary filmmaker, and for her many years of service to the History Center. Joan's artwork is frequently shown throughout San Luis Obispo County and is featured throughout the world.

In addition to her art, Joan is the author and illustrator of several books on San Luis Obispo County history including "Rounding Up the Ranches," "Castle Chronicles," "All About Baywood Park" and Los Osos Valley/Valley of the Bears."

"In both color paintings and pencil sketches, she has successfully interpreted the unique landscapes, buildings, people and places of our historic community," said John Ashbaugh, History Center board member. "Not content with static pieces, she has also produced and 'starred' in several films about local historic sites, available on YouTube or on DVD at local libraries, for the benefit of future generations.

"Joan's published books and her wonderful paintings, sketches, and watercolors bring to life the history of our area better than almost any other body of work that grace the bookshelves and walls of our community.

Her 1989 book 'Rounding up the Ranchos' is now out of print, but it remains a timeless account of the history of a disappearing landscape. She's also written a fine history of Los Osos/Baywood."

A frequent subject of Joan's is the Dallidet Adobe, a historic property owned by the History Center in downtown San Luis Obispo. The gardens at the Dallidet are the feature of a Watercolor Workshop on Saturday, July 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, go to historycenterslo.org/paint.html.

Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber Corner



A Digital Adaptation

As many in our community have heard, the Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce moved out of our location on June 30th. This move came after our long-time landlord and generous supporter, Alex Cosentino, passed away. Like many businesses during this time, we find ourselves in the position of needing to make a strategic change. As a membership organization, and one specifically meant to support people doing business, our Board of Directors decided to pursue a leaner business model.

Rather than searching for a new location, we're going to shift our focus 100 percent on our member benefits, community communication and growing our organization to better serve those that have supported us for the past 67 years.

On July 2, the board held a mid-year retreat. We took on some significant changes to our structure to better coincide with other chambers of commerce as well as adjusting how the business operates from day-to-day. You'll now see a chairperson of the board and a president/CEO running the LOBP Chamber of Commerce.

Bas van Eijk, owner of Cal Coast Orchids is transitioning from president to chairman of the board for the remainder of his elected year. Marshall Ochylski (director, Los Osos CSD) is stepping into the chairman-elect position. Christina Grimm, owner of CG Bookkeeping will step down from the board and into the role of president/CEO.

Many may be asking; what's going to happen next? That is a good question.

It was difficult to lose our building. Our Board feels strongly that we can take this situation and transform it into something we're going to do with intention. Nothing is outside of our control and what happens next is within our reach to accomplish with a quality and attention to detail that our members and community deserve.

Questions are encouraged and welcome. Please direct those to: info@lobpchamber.org

We're still working on the final details of getting out of the building and are looking forward to evolving with our community.

Obituaries

Edith "Edie" Joan Mascolo
1931 - 2022



Edith "Edie" Joan Mascolo of Los Osos passed away on July 13, 2022 in Atascadero at the home of her daughter surrounded by birdsong, flowers, sunshine, and love.

She was born in 1931 in Kingston Borough, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to Fred and Alma Hanson Wahlstrom and is survived by her daughter, Leigh Livick and her husband Rob, and granddaughter Clare; and her son, Scott Mascolo and his wife Cindy.

Edie retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District where she worked as an office clerk/manager at Lorne St. Elementary School for many years. She was an avid reader and especially enjoyed mysteries along with books and art depicting life from the Regency era. She was also fascinated by ancient Egyptian history. Her reading habit made her a wiz at crossword puzzles. Edie also enjoyed sewing, knitting, and crocheting; hobbies she shared with Leigh. She shared her love of jigsaw puzzles with both her daughter and granddaughter. Later in life Edie became an avid quilter and raised succulents.

Edie's life was not complete without at least one cat in her life. She had many beloved felines in her life beginning with "Beauty" as a child and later "Tegan" in her daughter's home. She was a strong advocate for feline rescue programs as well.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wilshire Hospice or a feline rescue of your choice.

Daniel Thomas Edwards
1949 -2022

On Thursday, July 7, 2022, Daniel Thomas Edwards passed away at the age of 72 at his home in Cambria, California surrounded by his loving family after a long battle with Parkinson's and dementia.

Dan was born on July 26, 1949, in Long Beach California to Orville and Letitia Edwards. Dan was a skilled carpenter and general contractor who took a great pride in his trade.

Dan had a passion for surfing, and enjoyed fishing, camping, watching football, walks on the beach, and spending time with family. He loved barbecuing for family and friends and was very proud of his home and yard. He had a great sense of humor and was a great conversationalist.

Dan was preceded in death by his mother Letitia, father Orville, and sister-in-law Laura. He is survived by his wife Angela, his brother Barry, his children Jeff and Jennifer, son-in-law Chris, his stepchildren Monica, Bart, and Gino, and his grandchildren Ciera, Dylan, Daniel, Andrew, and his great grandsons Mykah, Isaiah and Jackson.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, July 30 at 1 p.m. at San Simeon Cove. The family will barbecue Dan's favorite tri-tip, and make his special Chicken George beans. Please BYOB, a side dish, chairs, and stories to share as we say goodbye to Daniel T for Trouble.

Death Notice

Jared Bridges, 49 years of age, passed away 07/01/2022
Los Osos Resident - Los Osos Valley Mortuary

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Unit three and four Control room

Power Plant From page 1

Duke Energy North America — seeking to be a part of California’s experiment with deregulation of the energy industry — bought four of PG&E’s gas plants in 1998 — Morro Bay, Moss Landing, Pittsburgh and Oakland — and ran them for several years, while simultaneously seeking to upgrade with new more efficient so-called “combined cycle” plants.

It succeeded at Moss with a plant that is still operational, but the upgrade proposal failed in Morro Bay.

The plant has changed hands a couple of times through purchases and mergers, with Vistra of Irving, Texas the current owners.

With an eye on getting in on California’s renewable energy future, Vistra’s BESS is slated to be built on the site where the huge fuel tanks sat before being removed in 2011.

Oil tankers uploaded their cargo of fuel oil, kerosene or even diesel fuels to be stored in the plant’s tanks, and at another storage tank farm located atop a hill off Hwy 41 just east of town. Those tanks too have been removed.

The offshore moorings and underground/undersea loading pipes have also been removed.

Touring the BESS Site

The tour strolled along the interior access road running atop of the old containment berms that used to surround the fuel tanks. It’s where the BESS’ three battery buildings would go and the one site on the plant where the State found small levels of pollutants in the soil.

Members of the tour are among the town’s leaders and well versed in the plant’s history and the BESS, and they engage the Vistra group with a lot of questions.

Among the first questions was one about fire hazards, and the potential for the planned lithium-ion batteries to catch fire, which almost happened at Moss Landing.

Yeager went through a lengthy explanation of what happened at Moss and how a smoke sensor detected low-levels of smoke below its specified design level, which improperly triggered a fire suppression response that shut the place down.

Basically, the batteries worked as designed, and they’ve learned a lot from the incident with the suppression system, he said.

Moss Landing BESS is now repaired and back on line, he said, with several design issues being corrected. What they learned there will be incorporated with the Morro Bay BESS’ design.

Questions arose over the BESS’ role in what appears to be a re-industrialization of Morro Bay — where a proposed 3-gigawatt offshore floating wind farm is being worked on now by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The energy from that massive facility — three separate lease sites covering nearly 400 square miles — is proposed to be brought ashore at Morro Bay for connection to the power grid.

The BESS is completely separate from the wind project, Watson assures.

But the existing substation at the plant, owned by PG&E, is insufficient to handle all that energy and Yeager said it would likely have to be retooled and more substations may have to be added in the future.

We walk along the northern edge of the roughly 100-acre property, with the heavily wooded Morro Creek meandering along just outside the boundary fence, a bramble of poison oak, willows, pines and lots of wildlife habitat. It’s also near the area where the City plans to place its Water Recycling Facility injection wells.

Before walking towards the enormous plant and its trident of smoke stacks, Watson points out a flat area next to the substation where future equipment could be sited. It’s where the plant’s natural gas connection once stood.



Unit one & two stack, unit three then unit four stacks

So the power plant is no longer even connected to its fuel source.

A Powerless Hulk

The once integral part of the State’s energy grid no longer has electric power to the generating building, so everyone was handed a small flashlight before the tour started.

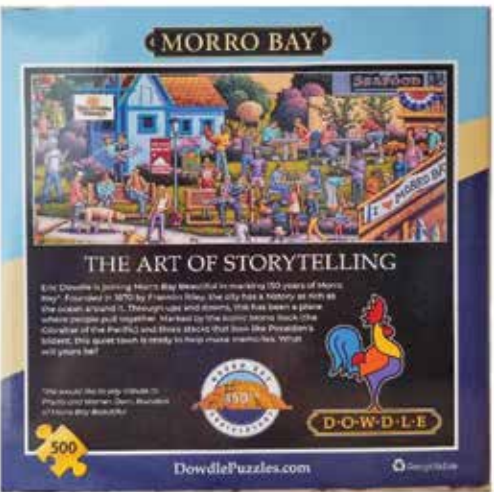
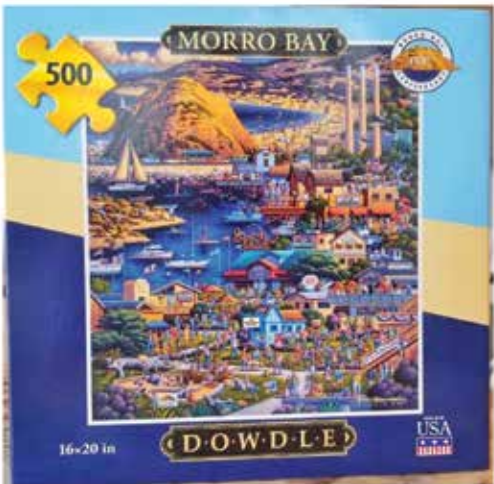
Inside it’s eerie, spooky like a horror movie set, with empty offices, shiny steam pipes running every which way with big gate valves, and shadows, spooky shadows everywhere.

Big blue generators and steam turbines loom half in the dark, lit just by sunlight streaming through the open rollup doors. More than one tour member commented that the plant would make a great set for a movie.

Bird droppings cover the ground and pipes, and the plant’s two control rooms sit idle like an unused sci-fi film set.

Hanging from the back of the control room for Units

Where can you get the Morro Bay PUZZLE ???



- In Morro Bay:**
- * **Giovanni’s Fish Market** - 1001 Front St
 - * **Hungry Fisherman Restaurant** - 399 Beach St.
(has puzzles AND prints)
 - * **The Shell Shop** - 590 Embarcadero
(ample parking)
 - * **Sun N Buns Bakery** - 830 Embarcadero
(has puzzles AND prints)
- In Cambria:**
- * **Etcetera Etcetera** - 789 Main St.
(has puzzles and prints)
- In Cayucos:**
- * **Cayucos Market** - 301 So. Ocean Ave
- In Los Osos:**
- * **Rexall Drug** - 989 Los Osos Valley Road

Our City Puzzle expresses:
Beauty, Fun, and Health



Unit four turbine generator.



Brad Watson, Vistra's director of community affairs. Photo by Neil Farrell



Inside unit one and two stack.



Bottom of condenser outlet to discharge tunnels.

3 and 4 is the famous Christmas Star that first PG&E and then Duke would hang from the center stack from Thanksgiving through New Years for decades, ending in 2003. It was the biggest Christmas Star west of the Mississippi River, according to the foreman of the crew that came to rig the star in 2003.

Into the Belly of the Beast

Down two flights of stairs the tour goes into the belly of the plant, it's basement. That's where the seawater for the cooling system came in pumped via underground pipes from the intake building across the Embarcadero.

It's that cooling system and the toll it took on larval marine life that killed Duke's repowering plan and probably why none of the subsequent owners tried to finish what Duke started.

The State Water Resources Control Board passed regulations that called for the end of so-called "once through cooling," or simply put, the use of seawater or freshwater to cool steam. In Morro Bay's case, it used water taken from inside the harbor.

It's also a big reason that PG&E decided to close

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant when the licenses for its two reactors run out in 2024 and 2025.

Diablo's substation and grid connection may also play a big part in the system that will be needed for the renewable energy push underway now.

But Diablo's final chapter has yet to be written, as there's a movement afoot to extend the plant's life for as much as 10 years, as more and more wind and solar generation are built, and battery and potentially hydroelectric energy storage facilities are developed.

Storage is the key to the big energy grid transformation that's underway in California, to even out the availability of spotty wind and solar power generation.

Entering the Stacks

Watson leads the tour outside and into the northern, and oldest smoke stack, which is a chimney lined with bricks. Looking up through the interior of the stack is dizzying and more questions arise.

Can the bricks be recycled? Maybe.

Can it be imploded? No, there won't be an implosion due to the proximity to the PG&E switchyard and Embar-

cadero.

These days they have big diamond grinding machines that grind the concrete towers into dust.

All the concrete on site will be recycled, Watson explained, and used to fill the deep basement hole after the 16-story power building is removed.

The tour gave a glimpse of just how massive a job removing the plant will be.

Just what the plant's future will be is somewhat unknown. If the BESS is not approved, Vistra doesn't have a back up plan for the property.

It's agreement with the City to remove the powerhouse and stacks has a relatively inexpensive out — a \$3 million one-time payment vs. an unknown amount, perhaps \$20 million, \$30 million or more, to tear it all down.

It covers about 14 acres of what would be valuable real estate if it can be re-developed. Watson said whatever it ultimately becomes will be decided by the City and the residents.

Letters From page 13

Minor, Sex Trafficking Victim

Publishing the name and photo of a minor, sex trafficking victim, Alilianna Trujillo, is in poor taste, serving no redeeming value (VOL. 4, Issue 13). It is counter to journalism ethics of minimizing harm with no long-term impact. To wit, it exposes the child to ridicule and shaming from her peers.

In conclusion, hopefully, the newspaper will change its standards to be consistent with the ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists.

*Eric M. Rounds
Morro Bay*

Raises for the Mayor and City Counsel?

Would someone from the Morro Bay City Council explain why our mayor just gave himself a raise and now is the second highest paid mayor in SLO Country, just below the mayor of SLO (a much bigger town).

Please list the accomplishments that deserve a raise, especially when we the citizens are being asked to vote for a reduction in our money to bail out the Harbor, in November. If voted in, our property taxes will go up every year forever. What kumquat thought that up? Next let's talk about the sewer. Read "The Happiest Corruption" by Debbie Peterson.

*Sandi Tannler
Morro Bay resident & Tax payer*

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

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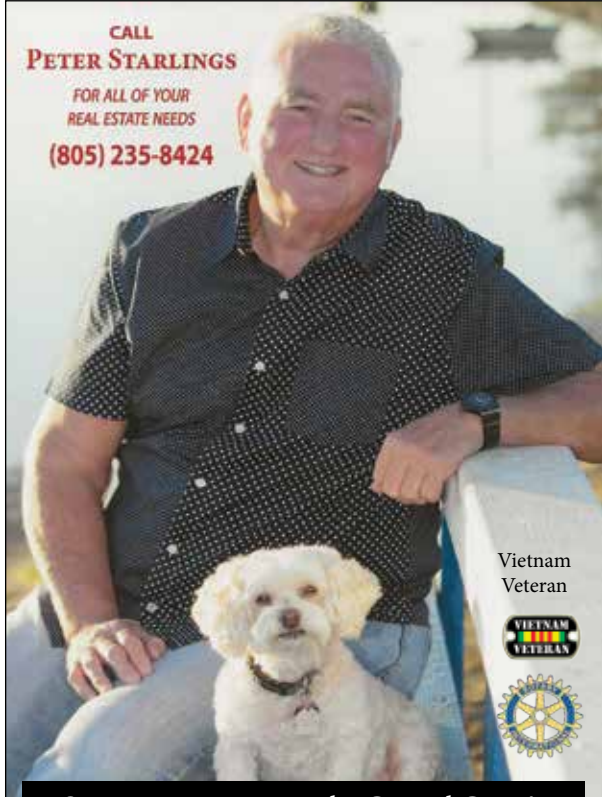
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Community

Active Shooter From page 1

fireworks or a car backfiring. “People don’t think it’s real. “

She described it as scary, frightening and fearful. She recommends you have a plan wherever you go, look for emergency exits or somewhere that you could hide if you had to.

“In all likelihood,” she said, “it will be a whole lot better if you have a plan.”

When an active shooting starts, you should immediately take cover. “The harder it is to see you or hit you, the safer you are.”

“If you can get out,” she said, “do so.”

You should try to stay calm and think clearly, visualizing your escape. Use cover like furniture to conceal yourself, she added. And don’t hesitate to force your way out.

“Use emergency exits, windows, the back doors, kitchens, stockrooms,” Cmdr. Watkins said. Most buildings have multiple exits and emergency fire doors, too. Hopefully, you won’t have to hide for long.

“The police are minutes away not seconds,” she said, “so you must take measures to protect yourself.

“If you can help others without putting yourself in danger, do so.”

If exiting is not an option, she said to find an area where you can lock down and secure the location. Then, “Lock and barricade the door; block the windows and mute your cell phone.”

But don’t make your hideaway a trap. “You want to find a place to provide protection, a place with a lockable door, but don’t trap yourself. Go where there are more options to escape.”

If you call 911 make sure you are safe first, and leave the line open, she said, so dispatchers can listen. “Sometimes an open line can be very helpful,” Cmdr. Watkins said.

“If you can’t run then hide,” she said. “Cover yourself behind anything that a bullet can’t penetrate. Conceal yourself.”

“An active shooter’s goal,” she said, “is to get as many casualties as they can.”

And if running and hiding don’t work, she said you must fight for your life.

“Defend yourself,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “Try to disrupt the shooter’s ability to see, his ability to breathe or to control his weapon.”

Things like chairs, fire extinguishers, and in the case of the Senior Center’s rec room, pool cues, make good bludgeons. You are literally fighting for your life.

“There are lots of stories of citizens who take down a gunman because they chose to fight,” she said. “If you can run, get out of there.”

She said when you are in imminent danger, “There are no rules — hit, strike, spit, bite, whatever you have to do. The strength of a person is more than you know, especially when you have adrenaline flowing through you.”

So what places are the safest? “There’s no pattern or method to where they happen,” she said. “Malls, schools, churches, theaters, workplaces, those have all been places where this happens.”

Such a person is most likely going to keep shooting until they are stopped.

She explained that most active shooter incidents are over within 10 to 15 minutes. But it could be longer, as with the Texas school shooting, which lasted well over an hour because of a questionable police response.

What happened in Uvalde is not how police train for these events, she said.

“Law enforcement’s first response is to stop the suspect, not render aid to victims. EMS comes in when it’s safe.”

As for motive, “It could be revenge, hatred, a bad marriage, child custody, or simply put — it could be anything at all.”

“The most likely time and day of the week when these hap-

pen is daytime, Thursdays through Saturdays, interestingly.”

Police have special equipment like “active shooter vests” which are worn over the top of the normal bulletproof vest. They have armored plates in them.

They also have helmets and goggles, “and we all carry AR-15s.”

Cmdr. Watkins recalled the infamous North Hollywood bank shootout (February 1997), when police were badly outgunned.

The two robbers were heavily armed with automatic weapons and body armor, and police, “commandeered rifles from gun stores,” so they could match firepower. “After that and Columbine, law enforcement acquired these weapons.”

Now they get about 400 hours of active shooter training, and have special “go bags” packed with the added protective gear and weapons. “If this does happen,” she said, “we need to be prepared.”

She noted that SWAT units arose from the LAPD shootout with the Symbionese Liberation Army in the 1970s. “SWAT,” she said, “you’ve got to have it but you hope to never need it.”

Being prepared to “Run-Hide-Fight,” isn’t normal. “We’re not supposed to live this way,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “But events force us to.”

Moving Forward From page 1

“Members host someone that has significantly impacted their lives and/or made Morro Bay a better place to live,” Weiss explained.

Fire Chief Jeff Jones, who served both Morro Bay and Santa Maria fire departments introduced retired chief Bob Neumann.

“Bob worked his way through Cal Poly, then the ranks to become Morro Bay’s Chief,” Jones said. “He retired in 2002 yet remains active. As interim director of the SLO County Emergency Medical Services Agency, he wrote and trained emergency planning throughout California. COVID impacted Morro Bay during my term as Rotary president. We helped the business community by sourcing local sanitizer and delivering it free to every open business. For community shut-ins, Bob answered Chief Knuckles’ call to serve. CERT and Rotary members made 80 calls per week for 39 weeks totaling upwards to 15,600 calls and delivered medications, food, gave mental support, and other items for those immuno-compromised individuals sheltering in place.”

Chief Neumann commented, “The Covid Caller project was the most worthwhile program I’ve ever worked on.”

Rotarian Gary Stoner introduced Paul Piette, who recently retired as principal of the Grizzly Youth Academy.

“You have probably noticed the young men and women of the Grizzly Youth Academy helping out with various events in Morro Bay,” Piette said. “Our students have elected to come to us leaving an environment that has put them at risk. Instead, they have chosen to learn the values, life skills, self-discipline and receive their secondary education with us.” The curriculum combines California’s required subject areas with National Guard training to intervene and reclaim at risk youth.

Harbor Master Eric Endersby introduced Lori Stilts, Harbor Business Coordinator.

“Rescue efforts are important, but Lori’s ability to keep the department running smoothly is even more valuable,” Endersby said. “She deals with our staff and the person off the street wondering where somewhere is located or why the showers aren’t working.”

Lori said, “I love coming to work and working with people.”

As he introduced Bear McGill, the founder of Honor Flight Central Coast California, Rotarian and veteran Thomas “Worth” Vogel was overwhelmed by the experience and the closure he felt during his hosted Honor Flight this past spring. He attended with

immediate rotary past-president Tim Olivas and Tim’s father.

“I always felt guilty that I was the lucky one that came home,” said Vogel. McGill said Vogel’s experience is the most common thread among the many veterans our group has taken to Washington DC to see their service’s memorials and say goodbye to buddies they left behind.

Currently over 350 local veterans are waiting their turn. For more information, go to honorflightcccc.org.

Morro Bay Police Chief Jody Cox introduced Morro Bay’s Sgt. Gene Stuart. “Besides his regular duties Sgt. Stuart was selected for his community activity in supporting local Morro Bay families with children during the holidays - supplying them with gifts and food - for supporting community events by donating his personal Shaved Ice business and for all his work designing and selling merchandise to support the Morro Bay Peace Officers Association.”

As the author of this column, indulge me as I write what I wanted to say but didn’t due to time constraints. I know many will agree with me – our Morro Bay community hero is truly Erica Crawford, CEO/President of Morro Bay’s Chamber of Commerce. It has only been two years since I was personally inspired to invest in the Chamber due to her exceptional work ethic, business advocacy and her leadership of an ever-evolving and currently exceptional board of directors.

I have always been involved in the Chamber — here and Bakersfield — but in Morro Bay my membership was always affiliated through the newspapers I have written for. I met Erica her first week on the job, and I knew in my heart she was a keeper. I had invited her to meet the CEO and Vice President of the San Diego Maritime Museum, who were visiting to finalize plans for the San Salvador visit, which ultimately helped fund the first structure built by MBMM. When the Chamber finally introduced a Governmental Advisory Committee and became a true active partner with the City of Morro Bay advocating economic development, I joined and agreed to serve on the GAC. Erica then showed all of us her passion for Morro Bay businesses by communicating and working with all of the city’s businesses regardless of membership spending countless hours keeping everyone informed during the changing policies of COVID-19. She continues to pledge the Chamber’s advocacy and best practices for our business community. And, indeed, she has never disappointed me or Morro Bay.

Retired Morro Bay fire chief Steve Knuckles introduced the current leader, Chief Dan McCrain thanking the fire chief for his ability to take control of the new job so quickly and his ability to draw up comprehensive plans for protecting MB citizens so fast.

Chief McCrain, who previously served in Cambria, said he has enjoyed working with people in Morro Bay and intends to get more involved in the years to come.

John Weiss introduced Morro Bay’s forever-vigilant reporter Neil Farrell, who has written for every publication that has produced community news for the Estero Bay.

“I’ve had the privilege to work side-by-side with Neil,” Weiss said. “He believes in getting to the truth of an issue, doing his homework by digging deep, enjoying a tongue-in-cheek article from time-to-time, and shooting that community involved photo — the one that goes on the refrigerator and stays there even after the kids grow up.”

Farrell graduated from Cal Poly, interned at The Sun Bulletin, and his first assignment was to write an obituary. “I had no idea what I was doing, but it came easy, he said. I believe I was born for this job.”

I’m sure Publisher Dean Sullivan who worked with Neil when Sullivan first created The Bay News and hired him back to write for EBN, will agree Morro Bay is lucky to have Neil Farrell keeping us all honest.

Three additional community heroes will be honored at a

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