

## Carbajal Secures Money to Repair North T-pier



The North T-pier in Morro Bay will get an upgrade with monies secured by Congressman Salud Carbajal.

By Neil Farrell

Our local Congressman recently brought home some hefty bacon, securing several millions for local projects including a sizable chunk for repairs to the North T-pier in Morro Bay.

Congressman Salud Carbajal (D—Santa Barbara) announced that he'd secured \$4 million in funding in the new fiscal year 2023 budget. The money would "provide funds to help construction of a new 101 interchange in San Luis Obispo, renovate a key bridge in Arroyo Grande, and make upgrades to a critical multi-use pier in Morro Bay," reads the news release.

"I am proud," Rep. Carbajal said, "to have secured more than \$4 million for San Luis Obispo County that will improve our quality of life once approved by the Senate and signed into law for the upcoming fiscal year. With these funds, we will be able to make critical upgrades to our roads and highways, bridges and piers to keep commerce and people moving smoothly throughout our region."

The money was part of Carbajal's larger securing of \$22.46M for 14 projects Carbajal pushed through for his

district. The local projects were:

- Some \$2.06M towards building a long awaited overpass and interchange on Hwy 101 at Prado Road in SLO. That overall project includes a new bridge, on and off ramps on both sides of the highway, auxiliary lanes on Hwy 101 and separated sidewalks and protected bike lanes for both sides of Prado Road.

SLO Mayor Erica Stewart was grateful. "We greatly appreciate Rep. Carbajal's including the Prado Bridge replacement project in his request for Community Project Funding," the Mayor said. "Replacing this 70-year-old bridge with a structurally sound bridge that includes bike lanes, improved lighting, and pedestrian walkways will make the intersection safer and prepare the intersection for the future Prado Road overpass."

- Some \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of the historic "Swinging Bridge" in Arroyo Grande's Village District.

A.G. City Manager Whitney McDonald said, "The Swinging Bridge is an important historical asset of the Arroyo Grande community, providing connectivity across Arroyo Grande Creek to the City's historic Village. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity that this funding will provide to preserve the Swinging Bridge as a vital

## Rockies on the Rocks; City Leases Out Teen Center



By Neil Farrell

Citing low participation and trouble hiring staff, the City of Morro Bay has signed a lease for the Teen Center on Atascadero Road, handing over the keys to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Central Coast free of charge.

City Council recently approved a 5-year contract with the Boys & Girls Club to have them take over the Teen Center and run programs for kids in sixth-12th grade. The move means the City's 18-year offering of a teenage afterschool program — dubbed "Rockies" — will end up on the rocks.

In the agreement, "the City will not charge Boys and Girls Club rent for use of the Teen Center facility, forgoing revenues to the City," Recreation Supervisor Kirk Carmichael's report said. "However, the Boys and Girls Club will provide services to youth in our community at no cost to the City."

The City also agreed to pay up to \$10,000 in "direct expenses to support readying the facility for Boys and Girls Club," Carmichael said. Since the issue came up after the Council approved the new fiscal year budget, the \$10,000 debit will be accounted for at the mid-year budget review, likely to happen next January or early February.

The City is also waiving any permitting fees the Club may incur if it remodels the Teen Center for what it wants to do. No estimate for this gift was given, as plans for the Teen Center have not been submitted.

The Teen Center is basically four areas — a main building, the rear yard that used to have an outdoor mini golf course, another that was dubbed "The World's Most Difficult Mini Golf Course" and lying under a pole barn, and the front parking lot where the City set up a skateboard

T-Pier Continued on page 18

Rockies Continued on page 18

## Moving Forward: Goin' Fishin' and Top Dog Coffee Bar Changes Ownership

By Judy Salamacha

Fifteen years ago, one of my first small business stories for the Bay News was about Patrick Bietz and Suzanne Maury, owners of Top Dog Coffee Bar. As of July 26, Dustin Blom became the new owner.

A private gathering of longtime patrons and past employees was recently held to introduce Dustin. He announced that he intends to build on the quality products and services, plus continue the advocacy programs, that have defined Top Dog Coffee and Rescue-Me-Coffee.

Pat and Suzanne have become dear friends, but then the duo have never met a stranger most likely because Pat has that coveted storytelling gene. I was barely a cub newspaper reporter during that first interview and will be forever grateful that he taught me it was the back-



Dustin Blom is the new owner of Top Dog Coffee Bar.

story behind the business ownership that was equally, if not more, important than the products offered. I realized success, to me, for future assignments would be to discover and reveal something my readers might never know unless they read my story.

For example, did you know Pat had given up living large in the Hollywood film industry after meeting Suzanne? But

Top Dog Continued on page 19

## Request Help for Longtime Morro Bay Resident Mary Leizear

By MB Rotary Club President  
John Solu and Judy Salamacha

After a lifetime of cheerleading for others our good friend Mary Leizear could use some of our time, help, and prayers.

Mary had a stroke Friday night, July 22. It woke her up. She said she knew it was different and called 911. Paramedics stabilized her as they transported her to St. John's Regional Hospital in Oxnard. She received innovative surgery and treatment, but it will take time to retrain her body to catch back up with her quick wit and zest for inde-

Request Help Continued on page 19

## Next Gen Business Leaders

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A couple of entrepreneurs will head back to the classroom this August. While, like their peers, they may have spent much of their summer break playing video games, riding bikes, or taking family vacations, these youngsters also started their own businesses.

Estero Bay News caught up with the future generation of business leaders, a brother and sister team from Los Osos, and got the lowdown on business from a kid's perspective.

Haley is 11 and Asher is 10. Together they run the

Next Gen Continued on page 16

Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Big  
Donation  
Page 9



Cambria  
Rotary is  
The Best  
Page 15





# Sad End for Rescued Sea Lion



The Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and volunteers with The Marine Mammal Center rescue a seal lion from the Morro Bay Sandspit. Photo by Heather Harris © The Marine Mammal Center

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A sea lion recently rescued on Morro Bay Sandspit died of infection and disease three days later.

The Marine Mammal Center’s received a call from Kayak Horizons in Morro Bay about a lethargic and emaciated looking California sea lion on Morro Bay Sandspit, on Monday, July 25. The Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and Center volunteers boated out to help the large mammal.

After the 150 plus pound sea lion, the Center named Trudge, was offloaded in the harbor, it was transported via a Center response vehicle back to the Morro Bay field office where it stayed overnight. The next morning, Trudge was transported to a Center hospital in Sausalito for an admission exam and further evaluation.

Veterinary experts confirmed the animal was a malnourished, sub-adult male sea lion that was lethargic and would not eat offers of sustainably caught herring. Despite receiving antibiotics and bagged fluids to help boost hydration, Trudge was found diseased in a rehabilitation pen three days after being rescued.

A necropsy, or animal autopsy, exam conducted by the Center’s pathology team determined the animal had suffered from leptospirosis, a potentially deadly bacterial infection that can cause kidney failure. The sea lion also had liver disease.

“Although this is an unfortunate outcome, we are heartened to know that this California sea lion is no longer suffering and was given the best possible chance to make a full recovery despite suffering from severe diseases,” said Shayla Zink, operations coordinator at the Center’s Morro Bay field office. “We are incredibly thankful to our partners at Morro Bay Harbor Patrol for their efforts in assisting us in this logistically challenging rescue and to Kayak Horizons for alerting us to this sick animal.”

The Marine Mammal Center reminds the public that they play an important role in the conservation of marine

mammals by keeping these viewing tips in mind:

**Keep A Safe Distance.** Whether on the water viewing marine life or walking with your pet on one of San Luis Obispo County’s beautiful beaches, a great wildlife viewing experience starts with keeping your distance and keeping pets on leash.

**Use Your Zoom.** It’s ok to take photos and admire the animals, but if you’re so close that you’re not using your zoom or they’re reacting to you, then you’re too close. No SEAL-FIES please!

**Call Us.** If you see a marine mammal in distress along the California coast, do not intervene and instead call your local wildlife first responder. Experts will monitor the animal and, if necessary, send a trained responder to rescue it safely. If you are visiting between Mendocino County and San Luis Obispo County, please call The Marine Mammal Center’s hotline at 415-289-SEAL (7325).

# Morro Bay Looks at All-Electric Law

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is attempting to go all-electric with new developments and major remodels, and residents are being asked to comment on a draft ordinance in anticipation of it going to City Council.

Last week the Building Department released Ordinance No. 14.10 to its building codes that calls for all future residential developments to be all-electric service, part of the City’s continuing homage to fighting climate change.

The ordinance sets in place a “new building requirement for new or significantly remodeled homes, apartments, add-ons, and ADUs (accessory dwelling units),” a news release from the City said.

The natural gas ban is supposed to put the City’s codes in alignment with its new general plan, its climate action plan and City Council goals.

“All-electric residential buildings,” the release said, “will have the benefit of being emissions free, which improves indoor and outdoor air quality, increases energy efficiency, and helps achieve local, regional, and statewide emission reduction goals.”

The City set up a survey to ask resident’s opinions “To better inform development of this policy.” A few days later, it officially released the draft ordinance (see: <https://bit.ly/3PhfhcB>).

The ordinance lists various justifications for the switch ranging from the procurement of natural gas as producing significant greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming; the City being in danger of ocean flooding due to rising sea levels; and human use of gas increasing the “worldwide average temperature, which contributes to melting of glaciers and thermal expansion of ocean water — resulting in rising sea levels.”

It also lists the city’s proximity to earthquake faults and the city’s being “particularly vulnerable to devastation should such an earthquake occur.”

And this: “Additional potential situations inherent in such an occurrence include loss of the City’s two main water sources (The State Water Project and Morro Valley wells) broken natural-gas mains causing structure and other fires, leakage of hazardous materials, the need for rescues from collapsed structures, and the demand for first aid and other medical attention to large numbers of people. As a result, the City is pursuing a policy to discourage additional natural gas extensions and the related, expanded risk of gas leaks and explosions during seismic events for the protection of human life and the preservation of property in the event of such an occurrence.”

The new ordinance purports to be necessary “because of health and safety concerns as City residents suffer from asthma and other health conditions associated with poor indoor and outdoor air quality exacerbated by the combustion of natural gas.”

Behind all this is the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which has declared war on fossil fuels of all kinds and especially natural gas, saying that gas appliances emit

dangerous toxic vapors that harm “Young children, people with asthma, and people with heart or lung disease.”

Under its definitions, the ordinance defines an all electric building as “a building that has no natural gas plumbing installed within the building and that uses electricity as the source of energy for all space heating, water heating, cooking appliances, and clothes drying appliances.”

The “all-electric residential building requirements” are:

A. All Newly Constructed Residential Buildings shall be All-Electric Buildings. Natural Gas Infrastructure is prohibited in Newly Constructed Residential Buildings.

B. All substantial remodels and substantial additions of existing Residential Buildings shall be required to convert to All Electric Buildings.

C. The requirements of this Section shall be deemed objective planning standards under Government Code section 65913.4 and objective development standards under Government Code Section 65589.5

With regards to remodels, the ordinance lists various levels of work including simply removing wallboard from an interior wall, changing the flooring, or adding any square footage, would require retrofitting to all electrical appliances for houses plumbed with gas service.

There are exemptions spelled out but they are narrow. “...natural gas may be allowed in a building otherwise subject to the requirements of this ordinance if the authority responsible for entitling or permitting the project finds that it provides substantial benefit to the Public Interest.”

Among the exemptions is if making the switch would require significant upgrades to the electric service such as putting in new transformers or other distribution equipment that a property owner would not normally have to do.

The project results in a minor use of gas that could be offset through “a sequestration project or other proposal directly tied to the development project.”

But even if a project is granted an exemption and can use natural gas, you’re still not off the hook. “If the installation of Natural Gas Infrastructure is granted under a public interest exemption,” the ordinance reads, “the Newly Constructed Buildings shall nonetheless be required at the minimum to have sufficient electric capacity, wiring and

# Correction

In Estero Bay News Vol. 4 –Issue 14, we listed the incorrect website for Brian Schwartz in the Bookshelf Writers Column. The correct website is [selfpublish.org](http://selfpublish.org).



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conduit to facilitate future full building electrification.”

So the City wants all new construction to be fully wired for full electrical — water heating, home heating, appliances — so they can make the switch at a later date.

The City of San Luis Obispo a couple of years ago passed a similar ordinance but Morro Bay’s seems to be missing one key component that SLO’s had — an in lieu fee program.

In SLO the ordinance allows a builder to pay a fee and go ahead and plumb the home or commercial structure for gas service, which might be valuable for a development like a restaurant.

The Building Department is expected to first bring the ordinance to the Planning Commission for a public airing, review, analysis, amendment, and eventually a vote on a recommendation “yes or no” to the City Council.

The Council will do likewise and assuming it gets passed, it would then — as a General Plan Amendment — go to the Coastal Commission for their approval or possible changes. From there it would go back through the City process to review the Commission’s changes.

Ironically, Morro Bay is home to a major gas distribution network, as So Cal Gas Co., a few years ago took over the huge gas mainline that used to feed into the Morro Bay Power Plant, and daylights at a switch yard on Main Street.

That line connects with the gas company’s network of distribution lines, which are buried throughout Morro Bay and surrounding communities.

But Morro Bay’s contributions to this climate fight could be expected to be pretty small, as last year the City only issued permits to build eight new homes and in past years has seen as few as five new homes built.

It does however, issue a much larger number of remodeling permits and a handful of ADU permits.

And as a possible hint as to how the residents feel about electricity, a proposal to build a giant battery energy storage facility at the power plant — seen as a key component in the State’s push to go emissions-free in its utility grid — is opposed by a majority of residents, if comments on social media are any indication.

So too are the proposed offshore floating wind farms being met with increasing skepticism. And a proposed energy storage facility slated for farmland off Hwy 1 has gotten zero support from dozens of stakeholders including neighbors of the property, local conservation agencies, and County, State and Federal agencies as well.

Additionally, while the State and Federal Governments are pushing everyone towards buying an electric vehicle, Morro Bay currently only has one public charging station located at the Chamber of Commerce Office, 965 Harbor St.

Several more chargers are included in the plans of a major motel development being built now on Atascadero Road in front of the high school.

# Publisher’s Comment

## 8 - 11, 1989 to 8 - 11, 2022

### 33 Years of Publishing

August 1989: My partner, Cliff, and I got the delivery of our first newspaper. Looking at it, I asked Cliff, “Is that how you spell August?” He looked up and relied “Nope,”

And, it all started from there — what we still laughingly call the “Augsut Issue.” The paper has seen a lot of changes since then.

1994: Cliff decided that self-employment was not for him. “I want to show up on Monday with a full inbox and leave on Friday with a full outbox” said Cliff. I learned so much from him.

I changed the name to the Bay Breeze and kept publishing the newspaper. My mom, Joan, was a big help back then. The joke was she was the only one who knew how to type and spell. The Bay Breeze kept on until 1999.

In 2000, Dave Wyrich showed up wanting to dominate the local publishing world. Sadly, he didn’t listen to the pros he hired, and that project failed. While it may have been exciting to make national news, you can’t call your paper a community newspaper and exclude parts of the community you serve.

In 2001, following a bit of legal action against Wyrich, The Bay News returned and was soon joined by The Coast News in the South County. T, also know as Theresa-Marie, became the editor of the Coast News. After awhile, I stepped away from these publications for about 12 years to pursue other passions.

December 2018: Simply Clear Marketing closed all the papers, Coast News, Bay News and SLO City News, all papers I had started. It was the day after Christmas when T came to the house to inform us that they had closed all the papers and let the writers go. As I started pacing back and forth, my wife looked at me and said, “Just go for it, you know you are going to do it,” and I did. The Estero Bay News was born.

Not alone in this endeavor, with support from my wife, Shari, my mom, Joan, who is now 96, T, who is the editor, Neil, once he stopped laughing, and Judy, who joined us not long after, we started publishing. I also get help from my son Ryan, who has been delivering papers since he was a little boy. My sister Lynne, who goes up to the printers in King city to bring the papers back, the paper is alive and well.



It takes a lot of people to put something like a community paper together, writers, stringers, people and organizations who are part of the area doing their part and many others.

The big one is the advertisers, without them, a paper like this would not exist. Looking back, the oldest paper I have, unfortunately, not the Augsut issue, is Vol#2 - Issue #4 dated September 14, 1990.

- Advertisers Back Then:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Steve Auslender,</b><br>still advertising,<br><b>Hungry Bear,</b><br><b>Bay Medical Pharmacy,</b><br><b>Allesandro Garage,</b><br><b>Round Table,</b><br><b>Los Osos Autobody, Allstate</b><br><b>Ins. Dick Kane,</b><br><b>San Luis Soil,</b><br>still advertising,<br><b>Ruddell Tree,</b><br><b>Douglas Michie,</b><br><b>Las Casita,</b><br><b>Baywood Liquor &amp; Deli,</b><br><b>Willhite and Son,</b><br><b>Coastal Presbyterian Church,</b><br><b>Don Eduardo’s,</b><br><b>Coastal Chiropractors,</b><br><b>Wardrobe Exchange,</b><br><b>Sheltered Acres,</b><br><b>Donell Trainor bookkeeping,</b><br><b>Sunshine Hair Care,</b><br><b>O’steeni’s,</b><br><b>Quinana’s Bun &amp; Crust Cafe,</b><br><b>Lawrence Dieter D.C.,</b><br><b>Nardonnnes, Clothes &amp; Co.,</b><br><b>Medicine Shoppe,</b><br><b>Copy Spot,</b><br><b>The Works,</b><br><b>Laws Hobby Center,</b><br><b>Sullivan Studios,</b><br><b>Bay West Ins.</b><br><b>Janice Meyers,</b><br><b>Progressive Gardens,</b><br><b>10th. Street Fitness Center,</b><br><b>Jim Marshall Ins.</b><br><b>Lolo’s Mexican Food,</b><br><b>Dk’s,</b><br><b>Depth Perception,</b><br>still advertising,<br><b>Merrimakers,</b><br><b>Redfield’s Los Osos Cafe,</b><br><b>Jug Liquor,</b><br><b>Desert Rose Landscaping,</b> | <b>Happy Jacks,</b><br><b>Sweet Springs Saloon,</b><br><b>KOTR, Bay Osos Repair,</b><br><b>Just Us For Hair,</b><br><b>Oak Motors,</b><br><b>Packard Pest,</b><br><b>Sylvester’s,</b><br><b>Rocky’s Family Haircutting,</b><br><b>Sea Pines,</b><br><b>Shear Comfort,</b><br><b>Village Children’s Center,</b><br><b>Maya Mexican Restaurant,</b><br><b>Robin Hood Tax Service,</b><br><b>Rodney’s California Cuisine,</b><br><b>The Hairin,</b><br><b>Shepherd’s Carpets,</b><br><b>JD’s Pet House,</b><br><b>Baywood Video,</b><br><b>Parcel Post Etc.,</b><br><b>Natural Nutrition,</b><br><b>Fredrick Navy M.D.,</b><br><b>Sandcastle Preschool,</b><br><b>Reading By The Bay,</b><br><b>Brunelli’s,</b><br><b>Jake’s Take &amp; Bake,</b><br><b>Roger Bradley,</b><br><b>Diet Center,</b><br><b>Bay Osos Brokers,</b><br>still advertising,<br><b>Kitty’s Kitchen,</b><br><b>Abba’s Bay City Grill,</b><br><b>Bay Beauty Supply,</b><br><b>Accessories Et.,</b><br><b>A.P.I Auto,</b><br><b>El Morro Carpets,</b><br><b>Valley Management,</b><br><b>Catch-all,</b><br><b>Ted E. Bears,</b><br><b>Henrickson’s,</b><br><b>Bay Osos Hardware.</b><br><b>Ron Roundy,</b><br><b>Marty Jacobson,</b><br><b>Hano’s Real Estate,</b><br><b>Coldwell Banker Liberty Realty,</b> |
|--|---|

Publisher’s Comment Continued on page 4



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# Precautions Put in Place to Fight Bird Flu Outbreak

A State wildlife agency has found infestations of bird flu in California and a local wildlife rehabilitation center is taking special precautions when dealing with sick or injured animals brought to them.

According to a news release from Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC), "On July 14, California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] confirmed the presence of 'Highly Pathogenic Eurasian H5N1 Avian Influenza,' or HPAI for short, in wild birds in California."

CDFW said HPAI viruses naturally circulate among water birds, but this current strain of the virus circulating in the U.S. and Canada has been causing illness and death in a higher diversity of wild bird species than during previous avian influenza outbreaks. The virus also remains highly contagious for domestic poultry.

PWC is the only licensed rehabilitation center in SLO County "that cares for injured, orphaned, sick, and pollution-damaged birds, land/air mammals, and reptiles/amphibians with the goal of returning animals to the wild."

"Therefore, we want to alert the public to new protocols at our wildlife clinic as well as share information about how to reduce the spread of HPAI in SLO County."

PWC will continue to accept animals in need of care at the wildlife clinic located on the Morro Bay Power Plant property and will continue to send its trained rescue volunteers out into the field to retrieve animals throughout SLO County. However, protocols needed to change as this disease continues to spread in California.

The new protocols are intended to try and keep the virus out of the population of animals being cared for at the clinic and PWC has set up a special intake tent outside the

facility to first accept the animals.  
"The tent will serve as a triage area and is reserved for staff wearing appropriate PPE only," PWC said. "The public should not enter the tent."  
Anyone bringing in an animal is asked to place the animal's carrier on a table located outside the tent and then call 805-772-9494 for immediate assistance.

PWC's trained staff will meet you outside at the drop-off table to complete intake forms. "An important change in our operation: we will be unable to return individual carriers, boxes, or liners to rescuers as these items are considered fomites and, as such, could transmit the virus."

The public is encouraged to use gloves and a mask while handling wildlife and transporting it to PWC during this time.

To slow the spread of HPAI, discontinue feeding and providing water to wild birds, especially in the vicinity of backyard poultry or other captive birds such as ducks, geese, pigeons, doves, and parrots.

According to the CDFW website, increased concentration of wild birds at feeders and bird baths may lead to fecal contamination of the local environment, which may aid in disease transmission. Wild birds should be excluded from entering enclosures for domestic and pet birds, and food and water should not be shared between wild birds and domestic or pet birds.

PWC Executive Director, Christine Johnson, said, "Pacific Wildlife Care will continue to serve SLO County wildlife in need during the HPAI outbreak by utilizing new protocols to keep both wildlife and our staff and volunteers safe."

Johnson encouraged the public to call PWC's Wildlife Hotline, 805-543-WILD (9453), which operates every day of the year, for further information.

Humans are not much threatened by the bird flu. "According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, avian influenza does not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with avian influenza have occurred and more information is available from the CDC."

More information on HPAI is available online at: CDC —www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm; Fish & Wildlife, wildlife.ca.gov; U.S. Department of Agriculture, www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avianinfluenza/hpai-2022; and the American Veterinary Medical Association, www.avma.org/avian-influenza-veterinarians.

PWC is a non-profit organization based in Morro Bay that for the past 38 years has been supporting SLO County wildlife through rehabilitation and educational outreach.

For more information, contact Johnson at: christine@pacificwildlifecare.org or call 805-305-3759.

# Council Nominations Close Aug. 17



By Neil Farrell

One Morro Bay Councilman has officially bowed out of the November race, saying he's had enough after just one term, and the deadline for nominations has been extended a week.

Councilman Jeff Heller, who was elected to Council in 2018, has publicly declared that he will not run again in November. And with Councilwoman Dawn Addis leading in the race for a State Assembly seat, the City will have two, wide open council seats up for grabs.

That also means the deadline for council nominations will be pushed back to Aug. 17.

Mayor John Heading confirmed to Estero Bay News that he will be running for a third, 2-year term, so that race will close nominations by end of business Friday, Aug. 12.

If readers are thinking about running, they should 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 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 the dais along with Councilwomen Jen Ford and Laurel Barton. Ford won in the June Primary to claim the seat that she was appointed to after the death in July 2021 of the late Councilman Red Davis.

**Publisher's Comment** From page 3

ERA Realty 4,  
Pacific Capital,  
still advertising,  
Columbia Realty, Prudential

Realty, Coast & County-Better  
Homes and Garden,  
West Wind Realty,  
and Oceanside Realty.

Wow, I almost remember every one one of these.

It has been an awesome 33 years bringing news and events to the Central Coast, and I am hoping for many more great years. I really want to thank everyone who contributes to the newspaper.

*Sincerely,  
Dean Sullivan  
Owner/Publisher*

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News

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](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/12047/Candidate-Basic-Info-2018).

In a Letter to the Editor of Estero Bay News (July 28) Heller said: “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.”

So officially, the City has two, wide open council seats and whoever wins will join Councilwomen Jen Ford and Laurel Barton. Ford won the seat in June that she was appointed to in August 2021 of the late Councilman Red Davis.

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, along with another Mayor’s race.

And the City has officially given a name to a proposed parcel tax to support the City Harbor Department. It will be called “Measure B-22,” according to City Manager Scott Collins.

That tax, which was sponsored by a group of citizens and thus needs a simple majority to pass, would add a \$120 per year tax on all privately owned parcels (\$10 per month) and would be earmarked for supporting the harbor department’s efforts to maintain public facilities — docks, slips, T-piers, seawalls, launch ramp and more.

Heller’s farewell letter to his supporters said, “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.”

It should be added that a person has to be at least 18-years old, and a registered voter living in Morro Bay (for at least 6 months) to run for council. City Council seats are also non-partisan positions.

Heller ran down some of the excuses that people will tell themselves when contemplating a run for office. “Naturally we all have reasons why we can’t possibly run,” he said. “I did, too. ‘It will take too much time; I don’t understand anything about it; and 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.”

As for costs, the County charges a fee to get on the sample ballots, and any fundraising done for the campaign will have to be reported to the State, but people have been elected to council with little money, and some, former Councilman Rick Grantham for example, didn’t accept any donations and paid for his whole campaign himself.

Drowned Man Identified

By Neil Farrell

The County Coroner’s Office has identified the man who drowned in Morro Bay Harbor in June despite a heroic effort to save him by police and rescue personnel.

The call came in of a man who’d fallen into the bay and was being swept away by the current at about 9:50 p.m. Friday, June 24.

According to MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins the report said someone on a kayak paddled out to a boat moored off-shore off Estero Inn. The kayak capsized and the man went into the dark, cold and swiftly moving waters.

Ofc. Will Marvos and Ofc. Daniel Palumbo responded to the call.

They located the struggling man using a flashlight, Cmdr. Watkins told Estero Bay News. “He was responding to their calls and the officers urged him to swim to shore.”

But officers could see the man was struggling to keep above water and so they commandeered a skiff and set out to try and rescue him. Cmdr. Watkins said the skiff’s motor wouldn’t start so they grabbed paddles and set out.

They managed to find him in the pitch darkness of the harbor but he’d been facedown in the water for some time and was unresponsive. The two officers managed to pull the man into the skiff and immediately started CPR.

A harbor patrol boat driven by Patrol Chief Becka Kelly soon arrived with firefighter paramedics on board.

They transferred the man to the patrol boat and Kelly said she took him to the Yacht Club dock, as it was open. A waiting ambulance took the man to Sierra Vista Hospital. His pulse had been restored but he was still unconscious. He never did regain consciousness, and the Coroner’s Office reports that he died on June 26, at Sierra Vista.

The man’s name was Randolph Jack Finney, 57, and cause of death was “Cardiac Arrest, due to Acute Hypoxic Respiratory Failure, due to Anoxic Brain Injury, Due to Drowning.” In layman’s terms the cold water caused his breathing to stop, and his heart to stop pumping oxygen to his brain, as he drowned.

Kelly said she was sure he wasn’t one of their permitted liveboards and didn’t know if the kayak he reportedly fell out of was his.

Mr. Finney was believed to have been homeless, as authorities later found an abandoned car believed to be his parked nearby filled with personal belongings, as if someone had been living in the car.

Cmdr. Watkins said she was impressed with the actions of her officers.

“It was a large risk to the officers,” she said, “because if they fell out of the skiff, with all the gear we wear, they would most likely sink.”

And trying to pull a limp body into a small skiff already laden with two police officers isn’t something they train for

at MBPD.

“It is very difficult to pull a body out of the water,” Cmdr. Watkins said. “We don’t practice a lot of water rescues.”

She added that Mr. Finney wasn’t wearing a lifejacket when he drowned, and if he had been, the officers might have gotten to him in time.

Stretch of LOVR to Get Repaved



In the photo is the smooth new road surface and fluorescent green bike lanes on Ocean Avenue in Cayucos from the intersection with 13th Street looking back towards Downtown. Photo by Neil Farrell

An over 2-mile stretch of Los Osos Valley Road is due for new pavement, part of a huge paving contract Supervisors approved for mainly the Nipomo area.

Supervisors on July 12 awarded an \$8.3 million contract to Papich Construction Co., Inc., of Arroyo Grande, to do the “2020-21 South County Overlay” project to do extensive overlay paving on a majority of the streets in Downtown Nipomo.

It also includes a 2.5-mile stretch of Los Osos Valley Rd., from the Los Osos Creek Bridge to Turri Road.

The project will lay a hot mix asphalt overlay “to extend the service life of the pavement to reduce time spent by the road crews on pavement patching,” reads a report from the Project manager, Evelyn Sanchez. “This work is necessary to halt further deterioration of these paved roads, and to improve safety and operation. “

Supervisors also approved an additional \$834,000 contingency to bring the overall budget for the job to over \$9.1 million.

Sanchez’ report said the Nipomo Community Services District was chipping in some \$310,000 for the job.

Papich was lowest of three bidders and came in 5.6% higher than the County Engineer’s estimate, of \$7.9M or some \$442,000. The other bidders were CalPortland Const., at \$8.35M and Granite Const., at \$8.73M.

This South County paving job comes as the same treatment has been done in Cayucos and Cambria earlier this year. Cayucos saw almost every street in town get a re-surfacing, with new crosswalk stripes and fluorescent green bike lanes painted for several blocks from 13th Street.







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City Taking Bids on Paving Job

BY Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is out for bids now on this year’s round of street repairs and pavement management work.

On July 25, the notice went out on a project for this year’s work on city streets, repairing potholes and large areas of cracked pavement, the continuation of a work plan begun years ago with the passage of Measure Q in 2006.

That half-cent sales tax was approved by voters with the money intended to go towards supporting the police and fire departments, repairing streets and storm drains. It raises about a million dollars a year.

The City Engineer, Eric Rudolph said the budget for this round of work is \$ \$1.1 million, which was approved by the City Council with the Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget. Rudolph told EBN that once bids are opened in August, the contract will likely be award at council in late August or early September.

And if all goes well, the work should begin within 30 days after the contract is awarded. So readers can expect to see work crews and flagmen controlling traffic sometime in October.

Depending on where the bidding comes in, the City may have to cut some of the work plan or could add to it. The City Council could also backfill any shortages in the available budget out of reserves.

What’s the job entail? “The work shall include,” reads the bid notice, “but is not limited to, providing all tools, materials, labor, equipment, and incidentals necessary for the removal of failed, localized pavement areas and replacement with asphalt materials in roadways denoted on the plans and as described in the specifications.

“All utilities will be protected in place or adjusted and returned to their prior condition.”

The job also includes safety measures both during and after the paving work. “The work will also include traffic control, removal and reinstallation of traffic striping and pavement markings, public notifications, and all work necessary to render the infrastructure/facility complete and operational.”

The deadline for bids is 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18. After that the City Clerk will open the sealed bids and read them aloud at a meeting in City Hall. Public Works staff will go over the bids to make sure they are complete and correct, and then make a recommendation to the council to award the contract, a routine matter unless something goes awry,

City council will then be asked to award the contract, making whatever adjustments are needed with the available budget. Work could expect to start with a month or so. Readers can expect to deal with flagmen probably around the end of September or early October.

And if the bids all come in too high, or if no one bids, which actually happened on the contract for a test injection well, part of the Water Reclamation Facility project.

MB Man Arrested in Fatal DUI Crash

A Morro Bay man has been charged with murder and vehicular manslaughter after an alleged DUI fatal car crash in San Luis Obispo.

According to the Highway Patrol, at about 8:14 a.m. Saturday, July 30, a man driving a black truck reportedly crossed the yellow centerline on Tank Farm Road, between Broad and Higuera Streets, slamming head-on into a Volkswagen sedan, killing the VW driver and seriously injuring the man in the truck.

Both were rushed to Sierra Vista Hospital where the VW driver, who was later identified by the CHP as Stephen James Kritzer, 63 of San Luis Obispo, died.

The driver of the truck, identified as David Downs, 62 of Morro Bay, was arrested at the hospital for suspicion of murder, gross vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence.

Sheriff Ask Help to ID Cambria Thieves

The Sheriff’s Department is asking the public’s help identifying a trio of suspected thieves who lifted a valuable piece of jewelry at a Cambria store working as a team.

According to a news release, on July 22 at about 4 p.m. a man and two women reportedly entered the store, which the Sheriff’s Department is declining to identify, and while the man distracted the store clerk, the two women allegedly stole a 14 carat gold, sapphire and ruby bracelet. No value was given for the bracelet but the crime was reported as a grand theft, meaning a loss of at least \$950.

Detectives are trying to identify the three suspects who were captured on surveillance video. If anyone has information on this incident or the identities of the suspects, contact the Sheriff’s Office’s Detective Division at 805-781-4500.



Bicyclist Hit by Fire Truck Dies

An Arroyo Grande bicyclist died July 27 after he was hit by a fire engine in Grover Beach, the Highway Patrol said in a news release.

At about 10:20 p.m. July 27, a 29-year-old Arroyo Grande man, later identified as Dylan Tyler Smith, was riding an electric bike on Trouville Avenue at 13th Street, Grover Beach. At the same time a 2017 Pierce fire engine was traveling in the 600 block of 13th and entered the intersection. Smith too entered the intersection and was hit by the engine and thrown from his bike suffering major injuries.

Firefighters on the engine immediately went to Smith and started administering emergency medical care, the CHP said.

He was taken to Arroyo Grande Community Hospital but died from his injuries.

According to the CHP report the driver of the Five Cities Fire Authority engine was listed as 39-year-old “J. Farnsworth,” of Arroyo Grande, presumably a fire engineer.

Five Cities Fire is a regional fire department serving the cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and the Oceano Community Services District.

Its Station 2 is in Grover Beach on Rockaway Avenue about nine blocks from the accident scene.

Five Cities Chief Stephen Lieberman released a statement on Twitter: “While returning to fire station #2 from a prior call for service, a Five Cities Fire Authority fire engine was involved in a traffic accident involving a bicyclist.

“The individual riding the bicycle succumbed to their injuries, and their identity has yet to be released. The California Highway Patrol initiated an accident investigation. The Five Cities Fire Authority will cooperate with the on-going investigation.”

The CHP said in its initial news release that “It is undetermined if alcohol and/or drugs are a factor to this collision.”

Templeton Man Guilty of Child Porn Possession

By Neil Farrell

A Templeton man was convicted of possessing hundreds of child porn images, some of them depicting children as young as 12.

On July 26, District Attorney Dan Dow announced that Jeffrey Paul Gentile, 35 of Templeton, was convicted of possessing over 600 child pornographic images, and at least 10 of those depicting “prepubescent children



Jeffrey Paul Gentile



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Federal Funding for Morro Bay Estuary

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program landed federal funding to the tune of \$4.5 million over five years to protect and restore water quality and habitat. The funding is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s unprecedented investment of \$132 million from President Joe Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) to protect and restore estuaries of national significance. “BIL funding will provide an invaluable resource for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to implement projects that address local environmental issues and have long-lasting benefits to our coastal communities,” Melodie Grubbs, the Morro Bay program’s executive director, said in a news release. “We look forward to leveraging strong partnerships, prioritizing multi-benefit projects that address climate threats, and building meaningful relationships with underserved communities.” Funds will support projects that address climate resilience, prioritize equity, and manage other key water quality and habitat challenges across 28 estuaries along the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts and in Puerto Rico. In California, the San Francisco Bay-Delta, Morro Bay, and Santa Monica Bay national estuary programs each received up to \$4.5 million. “Protecting the water quality of these three incredibly important California estuaries not only defends critical habitats, but protects the quality of life and economic foundations of our communities,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. The National Estuary Program (NEP) is a place-based program that, since 1987, has funded projects that restore water quality and ecological integrity across 28 estuaries of national significance. The BIL funding will accelerate work on Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans, which are structured frameworks for protecting and restoring estuary resources and meeting water quality needs.

Cuesta Breaks Scholarship Record

Scholarships for students at Cuesta College rose dramatically for the upcoming academic year. Donors supporting education helped dole out 527 scholarships to 409 Cuesta College students totaling \$437,935 — a 22% increase from last year and the highest amount in college history. Scholarship honorees were current students at Cuesta College, incoming transfers, and high school students attending the Fall 2022 semester. Many students received more than one scholarship for tuition, books, and other expenses. The scholarships awarded do not include the Cuesta College Promise Scholarship, made possible by a generous donation by the Charles and Leeta Dovica Family Trust and offers two years of fee-free education to San Luis Obispo County high school graduates. During the 2021-22 academic year, a record-breaking 1,285 students received the Promise Scholarship totaling \$469,669 in fees.

The Cuesta College Foundation recently held a celebration for donors and student recipients. “The Foundation continues to grow thanks to many generous community members,” said Grigger Jones, president of the Cuesta College Foundation Board of Directors. “We are proud to steward gifts that support the outstanding work done to provide quality and accessible higher education to San Luis Obispo County.” Last year, the Cuesta College Foundation delivered more than \$1.8 million in support of various programs and scholarships.

Poly Awarded Funds for Sustainable Ag

Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) was awarded \$39.5 million in one-time state funding to build long-term stability for food, forestry and agricultural systems in the face of intensified weather events and changing climate patterns. The funding will assist in providing the infrastructure needed to build programs to teach future generations sustainable agriculture practices. “The food, agriculture and environmental science industries foresee double-digit job growth over the next 10 years,” said Andrew Thulin, dean of CAFES, in a news release. “Building climate resilience is critical to the future of farmers, food producers, and land, water and air resources.” California’s 2022-23 budget, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 30, includes \$20.3 million in one-time general funds to rebuild Cal Poly’s Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz and \$18.75 million of \$75 million earmarked for California State University farms to make equipment and infrastructure improvements to the university’s agricultural production units. State Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), who chaired the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education, and Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) worked directly with Cal Poly leaders to secure the funding. Poly’s CAFES is the fifth-largest college of agriculture in the country with more than 4,100 undergraduate students. For more information visit CAFES.calpoly.edu.

LOCAC Names New Members

The Los Osos Community Advisory Council has new members making a full committee. They will recruit for citizen committee members once everyone is in place. New members are

- District 1 - Andrea Leuker
- District 2 - Tom Cross
- District 3 - Larry Raio
- District 4 - John Lindt

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

Cuesta College Starts August 15

The fall semester begins Aug. 15 at Cuesta College. Almost 60% of course offerings have an in-person component at the San Luis Obispo and North County campuses. Students can find a comprehensive listing of classes on the class finder and register for courses at bit.ly/cuestaregistration. **Degrees and certificates are available in the following areas of study:**

- Business, Agriculture, Hospitality, and Legal
- Creative Arts, Humanities, and Communication
- Education and Information
- Health and Wellness
- Skilled Trades and Technology
- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- English as a Second Language and Adult Education

Highlighted course offerings include expanded ethnic studies courses in response to graduation requirements by the California State University and California Community College systems. Eight courses are offered online, on both Cuesta College campuses, and at the California Men’s Colony.

Those exploring careers in teaching are encouraged to follow the Teacher Pathways program and take classes in Introduction to the Teaching Profession (EDUC 200) and Child Growth and Development (CDFS 201). Students interested in a degree or career in the STEM fields are invited to a 2-unit multidisciplinary STEM seminar course to learn more about academic and employment opportunities and get more information about local and external undergraduate research projects and internships. Fully online classes are also available and are offered on the California Virtual Campus (CVC) exchange. Students at any community college in California can cross-enroll in Cuesta College’s distance education courses without filing a separate application. New Cuesta College students are invited to attend Connect@Cuesta, a free event providing opportunities to find a community at Cuesta College and learn how to navigate the campuses, access academic and campus resources, and meet other students, faculty, and staff. Connect@Cuesta is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 22, at the San Luis Obispo campus and Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the North County campus. For more information, call (805) 546-3952.

under the age of 12,” the D.A. said in a news release. Gentile’s road to prison started six years ago. “On March 1, 2015,” the news release said, “Arroyo Grande Police Department Detective Jim Jolly, while assigned as a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Taskforce, received evidence that a particular computer was sharing child pornography with other computers over the internet. Det. Jolly’s investigation traced the computer’s internet protocol address to Gentile’s residence in Templeton.” As Templeton is outside Arroyo Grande Police’s jurisdiction, the case was transferred to the County Sheriff’s Department. “A search warrant for the residence was authorized resulting in the seizure of Gentile’s computer,” the D.A.’s release said. “A forensic search of that computer revealed more than 40 videos depicting explicit child pornography, the equivalent of more than 2,100 images of child pornography.”

This is one crime the D.A. vows to prosecute. “Child pornography is exploitation,” the D.A. said, “that causes immeasurable harm to its victims when the material is created, and again each and every time it is viewed by another person. Individuals who possess child pornography fuel the demand for this despicable product and perpetuate the exploitation of children. “Many child molesters possess child pornography, and they often use it to desensitize their targeted victims. Our office is committed to the aggressive prosecution of these individuals and to hold them accountable.” According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: “Today’s Internet is also rapidly becoming the marketplace for offenders seeking to acquire material for their child pornography collections. More insidious than the exchange of sexually explicit material among adults, child pornography often depicts the sexual assault of a child and is often used by child molesters to recruit, seduce, and control their victims. Although not all molesters collect pornography and not all child pornography collectors molest children, significant consensus exists among law enforcement officers about the role pornography plays in recruiting and controlling new victims. “Pornography is used to break down inhibitions and validate sex between children and adults as normal, and it enables the offender to have power over the victim throughout the molestation. When the offender loses interest, pictures of the victim are often used as blackmail to ensure the child’s silence, and when these pictures are posted on the Internet, they become an enduring and irretrievable record of the victimization and a relentless, shame-inducing violation of that child’s privacy.” (See: www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/191213.pdf)

Gentile is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 14, 2022, in Superior Court, with Judge Jacquelyn Duffy presiding. Gentile faces a maximum term of 5-years in state prison and will be required to register as a sex offender for life. The case was investigated by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office and the Arroyo Grande Police Department with the assistance of the District Attorney’s Office Central Coast Cyber Forensic Laboratory. This week-long trial was prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Danielle Baker, who is assigned to the Sexual Violence and Child Abuse Unit.

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Police Blotter



• **July 31:** Someone found something sometime around 10:22 p.m. somewhere in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd., and now some police officer has hold of it.

• **July 31:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to the 300 block of Trinidad and took a report for a suspected case of alleged domestic violence and possible child endangerment.

• **July 31:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 1:50 p.m.at City Park in the 700 block of MBB. Logs indicated the 30-year-old annoying flesh monkey was busted for suspicion of being smashed on drugs.

• **July 31:** Police responded at 1:30 p.m. to a report of some squit running amok in City Park. Logs indicated they contacted a Kern County man who was allegedly a tad twisted and who had eight bench warrants back home. He got checked into the Parkinson Plaza.

• **July 31:** Police responded at 12:30 p.m. to a thrift store in the 300 block of Quintana, where some mangy mutt apparently burglarized the Good Flea.

• **July 31:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:31 p.m. in the 200 block of Surf. Logs indicated the driver, 43 had a suspended license, which led to the discovery of drug paraphernalia that earned him a ride to the pokey. His passenger, a 37-year-old woman allegedly gave police a fake name and got arrested too once they discovered the little fibber's real identity, for as mama said, it never pays to lie.

• **July 31:** Police took a report in the 600 block of Bernardo of theft from a vehicle. No word on whether the car was left unlocked, but that's the way to bet.

• **July 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:17 p.m. in the area of Main and San Joaquin. The 29-year-old driver was cite-released for suspicion of driving fizzesucked. A sober friend picked him up.

• **July 29:** Police responded to the 2200 block of Nutmeg to take a counterfeit checks report.

• **July 29:** Someone found something at Hwy 1 and Atascadero Rd. Police didn't say what it was but they plan to destroy it.

• **July 29:** Police responded at 12:30 p.m. to the 300 block of Zanzibar. Some scalawag broke into a locked vehicle and stole some unnamed treasure. Police have no clue who.

• **July 29:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 9:14 a.m. at Rite Aid on Quintana. The 33-year-old apparent Illuminutty was nicked for suspicion of being high on drugs and later released on his own recognizance.

• **July 29:** Police responded at 3 a.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated a 41-year-old mulish hombre was arrested for violating a stay-the-hell-away order.

• **July 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:23 a.m. in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. The driver, 29, was cited for a suspended license and sentenced to a short term of misery.

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• **July 28:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow out and about at 9:20 p.m. at Radcliff and Little Morro Creek Rd. The swagman had a bench warrant, got another one and was sent along his merry way.

• **July 27:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 11:42 p.m. in the 1500 block of Main. A 59-year-old naughty boy was tossed into the dungeon for allegedly driving spanked.

• **July 27:** At 11 p.m. in the 900 block of Main, police contacted a man with a bench warrant, but only cited the scofflaw and released him.

• **July 27:** Police responded at 1:33 p.m. to a recently closed auto shop in the 300 block of Quintana and arrested a suspicious 32-year-old fellow for allegedly being stultified.

• **July 28:** Police responded at 6:47 a.m. to the 400 block of Sicily and took a man into protective custody under a 5150 — danger to himself or others — and sent to County Mental Health for a few days.

• **July 26:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 3:46 a.m. in the 1900 block of Main. Logs indicated the chap had a felony warrant and was hauled in. At the jail he was allegedly discovered to have illegal drugs on him and got a double dose of trouble in this week's example of why they call it dope.

• **July 25:** Police responded to the 2900 block of Dogwood for a report of two cars being vandalized. Logs indicated the victim's 50-year-old apparently jilted ex-girlfriend is suspected of the dastardly deed, which might explain the “ex” part.

• **July 25:** Police responded at 9:23 a.m. to the 2500 block of Laurel where someone broke out a vehicle window and stole some tools that they will never use.

• **July 24:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 11:30 p.m. in the 1700 block of Main. Logs indicated the 37-year-old scofflaw had four “misdemeanor, active and confirmed warrants,” which apparently earned him a night or two, Ok maybe 10 nights in the hoosegow.

• **July 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:45 p.m. at Pacific and Napa. Logs indicated the driver, 37, had a suspended license and when he got searched, allegedly had suspected illegal drugs in his pocket. His passenger, 64, had a felony warrant and the two amigos shared a cab to the County lockup.

• **July 24:** Police responded at 10:48 a.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Surf. Logs indicated a fellow having a really bad day was contacted and placed in a 72-hour hold with County Mental Health.

• **July 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:33 a.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. The 37-year-old driver was nicked for driving thick as a tick, cited and released to a sober adult, spared the Hwy 1 walk of shame.

• **July 23:** Police stopped a vehicle on Main Street driving with no headlights at 11 p.m. A visiting 52-year-old dim bulb was popped for suspicion of driving lit, another case of arriving on vacation and leaving on probation.

• **July 23:** Police contacted a familiar fellow at 9:37 p.m. in the 2600 block of Main. The 35-year-old rapscallion had just one bench warrant and so was cited and released to no doubt come back when he's got a half dozen or so.

• **July 23:** A citizen in the 2400 block of Nutmeg reported some tool broke into his or her vehicle. No word on what booty got pinched.

• **July 23:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 1:09 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 30-year-old sneaky Pete was arrested for suspicion of trespassing and possession of drugs, which explains a lot.

• **July 23:** A woman called police at 11:19 a.m. from the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd., and said some opportunistic thief stole her purse out of her car.

• **July 22:** A citizen in the 300 block of Orcas St., told police that someone stole their firearm. No word on the destructive capability of the weapon.

• **July 22:** Police responded at 8:34 p.m. to a domestic disturbance in the 3000 block of Panorama. Logs indicated a 41-year-old Piojo was tossed into the gaol for suspicion of making criminal threats. He chilled in the cooler.

• **July 22:** Police responded at 8:17 p.m. to the 900 block of Embarcadero to investigate a vehicle vandalizing by some no good wharf rat.

• **July 22:** Someone found something somewhere on Elena St., misplaced by some sneetch. Police have it now, whatever that something was.

• **July 22:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:50 a.m. at Morro and Beach. Logs said the driver didn't have a

license and now doesn't have a car either.

• **July 20:** Police were called at 7:55 p.m. to the 1200 block of Embarcadero where a woman was apparently having a moment. No arrest was recorded.

• **July 21:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 9 p.m. on Kennedy Way. Logs indicated the driver, 45, had a suspended license and is now doomed to spend eternity in line at the DMV.

• **July 21:** Police contacted another model citizen with a warrant at 8:35 p.m. on MBB at Piney Way. He was cited and released to catch again in about 30 days when he'll have two bench warrants.

• **July 21:** Police contacted an apparently nefarious woman, 53, at 11:30 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana who had a felony warrant. Still, she was cited and released.

• **July 20:** Someone turned in a license plate off a trailer that he or she found someplace.

• **July 20:** At 9 p.m. in the 300 block of Surf, police contacted a 46-year-old woman who had three bench warrants. She was released with her fourth disappearance ticket. Previously, at 8:42 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana, a 29-year-old fellow with one warrant got another ticket to ignore.

• **July 20:** At 8 a.m. Sierra Vista Hospital phoned MBPD to report they were treating a patient with critical injuries possibly from elder abuse. Officers responded to the 2000 block of Koa to investigate.

• **July 20:** Police contacted a regular customer at 1 a.m. at Main and Beach. The 30-year-old hooligan had two warrants and was hauled to the nick.

• **July 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at just before midnight at MBB and Piney Way. The 33-year-old soused driver got nicked for driving whetted.

• **July 19:** Police contacted some suspicious fellow traipsing down the 900 block of Main at 11:15 p.m. Logs indicated the apparent swizzle stick, 29, was arrested for suspicion of possession of drugs, paraphernalia, four bench warrants and of course probation violation. Explain that one to the judge.

• **July 19:** Police were called at 6:22 p.m. to the 2000 block of Greenwood to see about a person who had made suicidal statements to family members. He or she was taken for a 72-hour mental health hold.

• **July 18:** At 4:34 p.m. at City Park, police contacted another citizen of the year, 61, who had some warrants. He was of course cited once more and released to find another day.

• **July 19:** At 12:31 p.m. police towed off an offensive vehicle parked too long in the 300 block of Luzon.

• **July 18:** Police responded at 9:12 p.m. to a disturbance at Tide and Mindoro. Logs indicated they arrested an 18-year-old woman for suspicion of being stewed and arrested a 20-year-old apparent buttinski for suspicion of obstructing officers and resisting arrest.

Hold that thought. I'll be done napping when dinner is served.

Photo by Cat Noir CC

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Photo and Story by Neil Farrell

After a quick check pass photo, Executive Director, David Parro, took the club members on a tour of the Noor Clinic in SLO. He led the ensemble through the suite of examination rooms including new eye care facilities.

Winterbottom explained, as the board members trickled in for a dinner meeting, that they hold six "autocross"

Porsche Club of America is headquartered in Columbia, Md. See: [www.pca.org](http://www.pca.org) for more information, and locally, see: [ccc.pca.org](http://ccc.pca.org).



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'Murder on the Orient Express' Premieres in Morro Bay



Cast of 'Murder on the Orient Express' Top row from left: Randall Lyon, Patrick McCoy, Gregory DeMartini, Matthew Babcock. Bottom row from left: Victoria Culman, Laura Richie, Heather Babcock, Sarah Smith, Sharyn Young. Not pictured: Rosemarie Lagunas Photo by: Janice Peters

By the Sea Productions, Morro Bay's live theater company, presents the Central Coast Premiere of Agatha Christie's classic mystery, "Murder on the Orient Express," opening August 12. While there have been two film versions of this story, it wasn't until 2017 that Ken Ludwig adapted it for the stage, and this will be its first local production.

Christie's beloved character, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, is nearing the end of his long career as he rides the elegant train, only to find himself investigating murder on board. Played with mustachioed flair by Gregory DeMartini, Poirot has a unique assortment of passenger suspects to question: charming Frenchman Monsieur Bouc (Patrick McCoy), outspoken American Mrs. Hubbard (Victoria Culman), Russian Princess (Sharyn Young), Swedish missionary (Rosemarie Lagunas), Hungarian Countess (Laura Richie), Scottish Colonel (Matthew Babcock), British nanny (Sarah Smith), American secretary (Heather Babcock) and train conductor (Randall Lyon). As he reviews the evidence, Poirot finds himself fighting with his own conscience about the solution.

"This is a stellar cast and the audience will be in for a delightfully entertaining evening, whether they are Agatha Christie devotees or just fans of live theatre," said Director Sandy Bosworth.

"Murder on the Orient Express" performs weekends from August 12 through September 4, with shows on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. By the Sea Productions is located at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay. Tickets are available online at bytheseaproductions.org or at the door, and reservations are recommended. Photo ID and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are required for admittance. For more information, call 805-776-3287.

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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

SLO Food Bank Reveals New GleanSLO Logo



The SLO Food Bank has a refreshed logo for its volunteer driven GleanSLO program.

SLO Food Bank staff and gleaning volunteers came together to celebrate the rollout of the GleanSLO logo at FirstFruits Farm in San Luis Obispo on Aug. 2. The farm is nonprofit that has been a vital partner of SLO Food Bank since 2014.

GleanSLO is a food rescue program that organizes volunteers to collect leftover crops from farmer's fields, local gardens, and the backyards of community residents.

Gleaning is the act of harvesting the remaining produce of crops that were not economically efficient for the farmer or gardener to harvest themselves. We extend that definition to include harvesting crops from neighbor's backyards and rescuing produce from local farmer's markets.

"GleanSLO is a beloved program of the SLO Food Bank, and with this rebranding, we honor the incredible people, farms, and mission that come together to rescue food and increase the health of our community," said Garet Olson, CEO of SLO Food Bank. "The new GleanSLO logo demonstrates SLO Food Bank's continued commitment to supporting this impactful program as a key component of our critical mission to alleviate hunger."

All collected produce is distributed into the community through the SLO Food Bank's programs and network of agency partners.

Since GleanSLO became a program of the SLO Food Bank in 2011, More than 2.5 million pounds of nutritious, fresh produce from local fields and backyards has been rescued.

Additionally, GleanSLO rescued over 315,000 pounds of local produce in 2021, which pro-

vided more than 262,000 meals. Close to 260 sites donated harvests in 2021, including farms, gardens, and backyards.

State Parks has New Kid Line

The Central Coast State Parks Association has clothing perfect for the little ones in your life.

Through collaboration with the small business Me O My Earth, CCSPA has released a brand new line of youth apparel to highlight western monarch butterflies! Pieces are made in the U.S. with custom art. Each piece also comes with a hangtag detailing how you can help save the beloved monarch. Sizes range from 3 months to youth large.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3znKVQI>.

Cambria Chamber Seeks Input and Volunteers

Before you know it the holiday season will be here, and Cambria celebrates with good cheer.

Plans are underway for the annual Cambria Hospitality Night activities including music, entertainment and festivities. The Cambria Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee meets monthly to plan and go over new ideas. Business owners or employees are welcome to work with the Marketing Committee in the planning and events.

If you are interested, contact Lorienne at the chamber at 805 927-3624.

Volunteers are needed for the 2023 three-day annual Art and Wine Festival. Pick your time and day(s) and join the fun. Volunteers receive a free ticket to Saturday's wine tasting event at the Vet's hall. Fill out a volunteer form at <https://bit.ly/3oOLKfj>.

Keep Informed About Power Shutoffs

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers and non-account holders can now sign up for notifications for any address they care about to stay informed about Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). High winds can cause tree branches and debris to contact energized lines, damage our equipment and cause wildfires. As a result, PG&E may need to turn off power during severe weather to prevent wildfires. This is called a PSPS.

Readers who signed up to receive these alerts prior to June 2022 will need to re-enroll for each address to continue receiving these notifications through June 2023.

To sign up for alerts for any address that is important to you or a loved one, visit [www.pge.com/addressalert](http://www.pge.com/addressalert). Alerts are accessible in multiple languages by automated

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*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



Start training for the 29th Annual American Field Service Pinedorado 5K Fun Run at Coast Union High School, 2950 Santa Rosa Creek Road, Cambria. The race follows the Pinedorado Parade route on Saturday, September 3. On site registration is at 7 a.m. and the race begins

at 7:45. The cost is \$25 and there is a free t-shirt first 30 entrants.

Proceeds benefit CUHS American Field Service (foreign exchange student organization) to provide scholarships to local students and support hosted students. For more information, contact Sharon Bisso, SLO County AFS volunteer, at (805) 801-1132 or go to davidlbisso.com/5k-funrun.html.

Join a communitywide Climate Party to celebrate local progress on climate action. On Saturday, August 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the City of San Luis Obispo and community partners are hosting a fun and free family-friendly event at Sinsheimer Park, where attendees can enjoy live music, food and beverages for sale, and kid-friendly activities. Learn how you can take action on climate from:

- SLO Climate Coalition
- R.A.C.E Matters SLO
- ECOSLO
- San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD)
- Bike SLO County
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLO-COG)

Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit to this event. There will be ample bike parking on site.



The Morro Bay White Caps Community Band will perform live music at the South T-Pier of the Embarcadero in Morro Bay on Saturday, August 13 and August 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

During intermission the audience will continue to be entertained as the Morro Bay White Caps New Orleans style Jazz Band performs. This is a free event to the public.

Brunch is back on board the Chablis in Morro Bay at 1205 Embacadero. Celebrate August 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a two-hour cruise on the waterfront. The event features fresh coffee, waffles, fruits, homemade pastries, an optional bottomless Mimosa and more.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$65 per person and can be purchased at chablisrides.com. For more information, call 805-772-2128.



The Cayucos Lioness Club is holding a Home Tour of four beautiful Cayucos homes with a limo service taking groups to and from the homes. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

Wine and appetizers will be provided. The event is Sunday, September 11 from approximately 1- 4 p.m. The Sea Shanty is the event sponsor. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available at the Sea Shanty, Schooners, and Duckies as well as by contacting president@cayucoslioness.org.

The Los Osos Library added a new event. E-Device Class is Wednesdays from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Bring your device to the library at 2075 Palisades Ave. and Diana will do her best to answer any questions you have.

At Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, 751 Palm St., on August 13 from 8 to 10 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The 30 voices of Resonance present this concert celebrating 10 years as an ensemble, with a look back at some of the group's favorite pieces from the past decade, a few new ones, and a special performance including Resonance alumni singers. 781-8220 Tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$20 for students and can be purchased at https://slotickets.evnt.events.

Events Continued on page 12

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Community

Events and Activities From page 11



August 1 was the National Birthday for Shelter Dogs, known as Dogust, and Woods Humane Society is celebrating by throwing a month-long birthday party full of surprises for shelter dogs and cats throughout the month. The festivities include a \$10,000 match birthday fundraiser that will double each donation made to the organization to help twice as many homeless pets.

To donate to the Dogust Double Your Donation fundraiser, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org). To view animals currently available for adoption, visit [www.WoodsHumane.org/Adoptions](http://www.WoodsHumane.org/Adoptions) and look for the “fee-waived” symbol next to an animal’s profile to determine if their adoption fees have been waived. To see the shelter’s birthday surprises for the animals this month, follow Woods on Facebook and Instagram. Woods is also open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. They are located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, and at 2300 Ramona Rd. Atascadero.

Explore the Natural Shoreline at Morro Strand State Beach takes place Thursday, August 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. Join California State Park Volunteer Sharon to walk Morro Strand State Beach to explore the wrack. Find and identify items left behind by the tide and learn about the fascinating “castaways” and their relationship to each other and the environment.

Meet at the Morro Strand State Beach Campground Kiosk, off Yerba Buena Street and Highway 1 in North Morro Bay. Wear sturdy shoes and sun protection; bring water and binoculars if you have them. This is a one-mile walk.

The Eucalyptus Story: Guided Walk at Montaña de Oro State Park takes place Friday, August 19, from noon to 2 p.m.



Join California State Parks Volunteer Faylla to learn about some of the 1200+ species of Eucalyptus and how to identify them using some of the local species. Then find out about the Eucalyptus in Montaña de Oro State Park and why Alexander Hazard planted them. Lastly, hear about the pros and cons of Eucalyptus here and throughout the world.

Meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, 1.6 miles from the front entrance to Montaña de Oro State Park. Some uphill walking required. This is a one-mile walk.



Join us at the San Luis Obispo Library for an exciting, live concert from the “First Lady of Country Soul,” Petrella and her band, Mixed Influence. Sat. August 14 from 1 to 2 p.m. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Petrella has opened for legendary performers such as The Spinners and Gladys Knight.



Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street, Morro Bay, presents Unlocked and On and Off the Wall through September 19. There is an artists reception on August 14 from 2- 4 p.m.

Unlocked: During this exhibit, artists were asked to emancipate themselves from artistic boundaries and unlock creative freedom! Inspired by the freedom of captivity, this exhibition focuses on the power of dreams, love, forgiveness and the power of letting go! Liberate your artistic boundaries and set your creative spirit free.

On and Off the Wall: This exhibit features a variety of artistic mediums and styles from traditional and contemporary paintings to thought provoking sculptures.



San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St., San Luis Obispo, presents Neal Mendoza: Pretty Rubbish from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In his exhibition, Mendoza gives form to environmental issues. His mixed media work uses absurdity as a reaction to the path of growing consumption that society is following at the expense of a sustainable future. For more information, call 805-543-8562.

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WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

By Debbie Black

## RV Camping in Your Own ‘Backyard’ Hearst San Simeon State Park Campground



Camping with views to the Santa Lucia Mountains.

Second in a series featuring local campgrounds, clever camping gear and gizmos, tried-and-true hacks, secret bikes, camp recipes, camping with pets and kids, things to avoid, and things you won’t want to miss. Come camp with us in our own backyard.

In less time than it takes to pack your RV and round up the kids and the dog, you can drive to Hearst San Simeon State Park Campground. Its name is longer than your drive! Instead of being on the road in traffic, you’ll be sipping a cool beverage in your lounge chair at your campsite. Smart you! Who wouldn’t want more time relaxing and

less time behind the wheel?

This is one of our favorite local get-aways, especially from October through April when the crowds have thinned and the serene, beautiful setting is all ours (or yours). If you’ve sped past this campground with disinterest, you’ve missed a close-by vacation spot with nice campsites, easy access to the beach, wonderful hikes, good star-gazing on clear nights...shall I go on?

Kids will love camping here. And they’ll be sound asleep by 8 p.m. after riding bikes around camp, searching for moonstones on the beach, participating in

the Junior Ranger Program, hiking with you, looking for satellites, chasing ground squirrels and scaling some good climbing trees.

Hiking is a must-do. Choose from the San Simeon Creek Trail Boardwalk to the beach or the longer inland trails featuring wetlands, meadows, pine forests, and grassy knolls with spectacular views of the ocean and mountains. Your dog can’t join you on the camp trails except the boardwalk (the trails often have ticks and foxtails anyway). Nor can she/he go with you to the beach, which has been a huge bummer for Chase, our gonzo golden retriever with an frenzied water obsession. But just today we discovered the perfectly legal dog trail and beach access starting at the north end of Lone Palm Drive (across the highway from camp)—akin to the Estero Bluffs trail. Eureka and halleluiah! Now there’s a contentedly worn-out dog under our RV dinette as I write.

The park has two camping areas: Creek (lower, by the beach) and Washburn (upper, one mile inland). Both are dry camping only—no hookups. But there are water spigots throughout, plus a water fill-up for RVs and a dump station (fee). All campsites have a fire ring and picnic table. Maximum vehicle length at both is 35’. When making reservations ([www.reservecalifornia.com](http://www.reservecalifornia.com)) note the campsite’s pad length to make sure your rig will fit! Check websites like [www.campsitephotos.com](http://www.campsitephotos.com) to view photos of each campsite. Need solar? Check which sites are too shady. Cell service: none in Creek, one bar in Washburn, two at entrance station, or by highway. WIFI: in front of amphitheater using ParksWIFI.

Creek campground has paved roads and medium-sized campsites with level asphalt pads. Sites 1-35 are more open and breezy with ocean and valley views. Sites 36-119 have more trees, shrubs, privacy and less wind, but no long views. Clean restrooms with flush toilets. Hot coin-operated showers (bring quarters). Creek campground has good proximity to the beach via two short trails—one by campsite #107 and the other at the boardwalk trail. At the beach, you can surf-fish for perch, sunbathe, picnic, beach comb, or fly kites.



A frustrated Chase before we found a dog-friendly swim spot.

Regarding surfing, husband Garth says you can usually expect closed-out beach breaks, best for boogie boarding. But to surf you’ll need to walk about a half mile south to a break called ‘Exotics’—a left-breaking rock reef that may be working on a south swell.

Washburn is a primitive campground with an energetically loyal fan base—embracing the more isolated plateau location with drop-dead gorgeous views of the Santa Lucia range and some views to the Pacific. The 68 campsites are larger than Creek but more open and exposed. The gravel roads and pads are fairly level. There are well-maintained pit toilets but no showers—you have to go down to Creek camp to shower. There’s a mile-long paved road up to Washburn from Creek. To get to the beach, hike down the foot trail or along the road, or drive down. Many hikes start at Washburn trailheads. We’ve found the serenity of Washburn is best experienced in the less-crowded off-season. We have our favorite sites, just as we do down in Creek campground.

Do yourself a favor—try Hearst San Simeon State Park Campground. Now is a good time to make a reservation for calm, sunny January ([www.reservecalifornia.com](http://www.reservecalifornia.com)). We’ll see you there!

For the extended article with more info on Hearst San Simeon State Park Campground, go to [www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard](http://www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard). Next up: Morro Bay State Park Campground.



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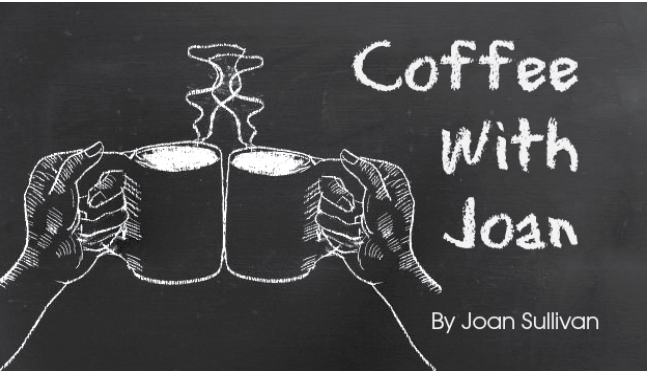


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Labor Day



Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated to recognize the American labor movement and the work and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. The three-day weekend falls on the first Monday in September and has been celebrated for over 140 years.

The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize contributions that were made to America's prosperity.

First proposed by Matthew Maguire, a machinist, Labor Day was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland in 1887.

During World War II, Rosie the Riveter, one of the most recognizable national symbols, became the most famous labor icon in U.S. history. The artwork was part of an advertising campaign to get women to join the workforce during a shortage in factories and other positions while men were overseas fighting the war.

Oregon was the first state to make it a federal holiday.

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Morro Bay Ironman Event Set for May 2023

By Neil Farrell

It's official. The date for the Morro Bay Ironman Triathlon 70.3 has been set by the Florida company that puts on these athletic endeavors all around the world.

The IRONMAN Group, announced Aug. 2 that Morro Bay will play host to its newest professional triathlon on May 20, 2023, with online general registration open now, see: [www.ironman.com/im703-morro-bay](http://www.ironman.com/im703-morro-bay).

"We are thrilled to bring the excitement of IRONMAN 70.3 racing to this unique and beautiful central California community," said Tim Brosious, Northwest Regional Director for The IRONMAN Group, based in Tampa, Fla. "With the longstanding history that triathlon has in this region, we know our athletes will enjoy the stunning scenery, beautiful weather and friendly community here in San Luis Obispo County."

The IRONMAN 70.3 Morro Bay triathlon will take athletes on a 1.2-mile swim in Morro Bay Harbor, before heading out on a 56-mile bike course through vineyards with ocean views through the rolling hills of SLO County. A 13.1-mile run will culminate the event, as athletes will be greeted by the finish line along the Embarcadero.

Morro Bay Mayor John Headding was excited by the City's new partnership. "On behalf of the City and our community, we are excited to welcome IRONMAN to our community," Mayor Headding said. "Morro Bay is the perfect host for this iconic endurance event with our nice

weather, proclivity for outdoor activity, and one of a kind waterfront.

"We hope the thousands of athletes who participate in the IRONMAN 70.3 Morro Bay triathlon enjoys their experience here and avail themselves of our wonderful restaurants, shops and overnight accommodations. Good luck to all the athletes in 2023 and beyond!"

The City, the local tourism board, and IRONMAN signed an agreement for the City to host events in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Executive Director of Visit Morro Bay, Michael Wambolt said, "The IRONMAN 70.3 triathlon is a world class event and we are honored to bring it to our community in Morro Bay, a community that appreciates outdoor recreation and nature exploration year-round.

"Morro Bay is the perfect backdrop for an IRONMAN 70.3 triathlon, as it offers an adventurous landscape, an abundance of wildlife viewing, and hands-on maritime experiences that athletes and their families can enjoy while in town for the triathlon."

General registration for the 2023 IRONMAN 70.3 Morro Bay triathlon is open now. The Morro Bay event will "offer qualifying slots to the 2023 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in Lahti, Finland." That tidbit should signal that top athletes from across the world will attend this debut event.

Organizers will need a lot of volunteer help to put the event on and are expected to send out calls for volunteers as the event nears next year.

Page 2 of the Coast Bayliner, a publication for  
Baywood Park dated June, 1960  
See the rest of the paper on our website, [esterobaynews.com](http://esterobaynews.com)

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**LETTERS TO EDITOR**

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**Cashing A Check?**

By ALBERT G. CALL  
Chief Criminal Deputy

Many problems are encountered in the prosecution of a person who passes a bad check.

Most frequently encountered is the inability of the victim to identify the person who gave him the check.

This is especially true when a check is cashed where there are several employees who cash checks. The solution to this, is for the person who cashes the check, to initial it.

Another problem we encounter is when the merchant accepts a post dated check.

By this we mean, the person cashing the check puts a future date on the check or tells the merchant to hold the check till some future date.

In the eyes of the law, this informs the merchant that there is not sufficient funds in the account to cover the check.

In such cases no crime has been committed, it is just a civil obligation and the merchant must recover through his private attorney.

If a merchant must take a check, be sure and get suitable identification from the person. This should be in addition to credit cards, lodge cards, identification cards issued by insurance companies, the license number of his automobile and the make of the vehicle.

To be continued in next issue.

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Community



Chamber Corner  
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Chamber of Commerce

Costa Gallery Celebrates Two Years

Growing up in a Portuguese dairy farm family, Michael Costa saw his parents and immigrant grandparents work hard to provide for the six children in his family. That strong work ethic and uplifting energy served Michael well when he decided to open Costa Gallery two years ago this month, in July 2020, during a global pandemic.

While other galleries and businesses were closing their doors, he bet on himself and this creative community, investing his savings. A photographer himself, he invited other artists to show their work.

To ensure the gallery's survival through lean times, he works three other jobs while running the gallery four days a week. That's serious commitment to providing a non-pretentious, neighborhood gallery for Los Osos, where anyone can walk in, feel welcomed, and find a "gift under fifty" (dollars).

Costa Gallery, so named to honor his family, is beloved by customers and artists alike. When asked for advice to someone thinking of starting a new business, he says, "Jump in! Get your feet wet. Accept the quiet days, change things up, try something new. Believe in yourself and don't burn bridges."

Costa also believes that businesses should help build up the community — he welcomes children's lemonade stands out front and other one-day pop ups, usually with the proceeds going to a local charity.



Recently some local children were able to sponsor three Special Olympics athletes with money they earned in front of Costa Gallery. He also values the camaraderie of his fellow artists and the mentorship he's received from Ronda of Baywood's Le Brane Design.

Thank you Michael, for taking a chance on the art community of Los Osos. We appreciate you.

Costa Gallery  
2087 10th Street, Los Osos, CA 93402  
559-799-9632

Pacific Capital Mortgage,  
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It's about home loans but really, it's about supporting local families and individuals achieve a plan for a safe, warm, comfy home and sometimes even fulfilling one's dreams. Pacific Capital Mortgage is a small, local business owned by Kathy Breska, a longtime Los Osos resident. She and her late father started it in 1989, and have been Chamber members since the early 1990s.

With over 6,000 successful mortgages



accomplished, Kathy has a deep knowledge

of what is possible. She loves helping first-time homebuyers and wants folks to know that she truly welcomes their questions. If people are feeling discouraged, especially with interest rates and home prices going up lately, she invites people to contact her, share their situation, and she can help them create a one or two-year plan. She also helps people with refinanced mortgages and using that option, some people have taken equity from their home to pay for a college education or even starting a new business.

Homeownership is great, she says, but it's not always the best choice for everyone, depending on their situation. When

talking with Kathy, one senses her desire to help people understand the risks and rewards of their various choices. She's been in this field a long time, and helps people understand their options, whether that's a mortgage, a refinance, a reverse mortgage, or even something else.

How fortunate we are to have a cCommunity builder like Kathy Breska in Los Osos.

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Cambria Rotary Honored

The Cambria Rotary received honors for best club of its size within its district.

Rotary District 5240 consists of almost 3,000 members in 70 Rotary clubs. The District spans four counties in Central California - San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and Kern County – as well as a Chapter Club based in Guatemala and a Young Professionals Satellite Club in Westlake Village.

At the end of each Rotary year, District 5240 recognizes the accomplishments of clubs that excel during the Club's year in all aspects of Rotary, including community and international service, youth and peace programs and fellowship activities.

The Cambria Rotary was selected as the best medium-sized club (membership of 36-70) in District 5240 for 2021-22. The award was presented to past president Jane Howard at the award ceremony on June 25.

"We made a difference in our community and around the world while enjoying lasting friendships and having an awful lot of fun," said Rotary member Sue Robinson. "Kudos to Co-Presidents Patty Griffin, Christel Chesney and Linda Sherman for



Jane Howard, past president of the Cambria Rotary, with a plaque recognizing the organization as the best medium sized club in its district.

leading our club to a successful year despite the obstacles created by COVID."

For more information on joining the Cambria Rotary, send an email to: cambriarotaryclub@gmail.com.

City Has Community Grants  
Available

The City of Morro Bay's got a pile of money burning a hole in its proverbial pocket, and community benefit organizations can apply now for a piece of the pie.

The City is accepting applications for its community grants program, part of the City budget with \$60,000 available this fiscal year. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday,

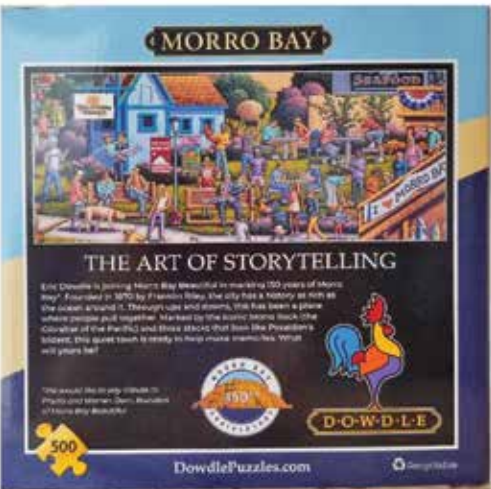
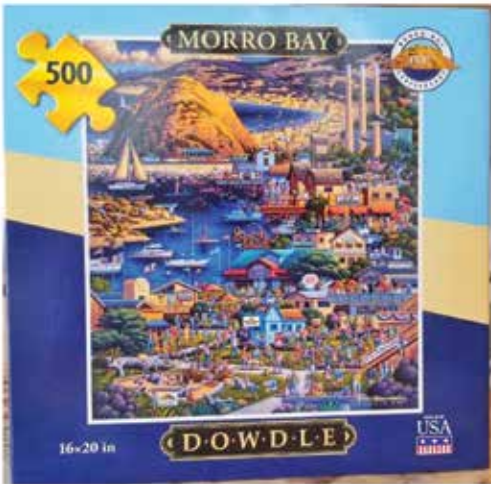
Sept. 2. The applications are extensive, so don't hesitate to get started.

Applications should be turned in at City Hall or mailed, c/o City Manager, Scott Collins, 595 Harbor St., Morro Bay CA 93402.

Electronic applications are available on

Grant Continued on page 16

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



# Letter to The Editor



## Tourism Should Help Support the Harbor Department

Morro Bay gets significant income from tourism. The visitors are drawn to the Bay, the Rock, and the Harbor. The Harbor Department helps the visitors and is responsible to maintain the infrastructure. However, the facilities are aging and in need of major repairs. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT or bed tax) has grown significantly with new businesses and small hotels that now occupy almost every second story on the Embarcadero. It is time the Harbor Fund benefited from TOT. A healthy portion of this income stream should flow from the users to cover the costs of maintaining their unique experience. We all desire safe, attractive, and clean spaces. Keeping them sustained demonstrates respect for the natural environment and guarantees visitors will return. I believe it is time to permanently earmark 5% of the TOT for the Harbor Department.

Barry Branin  
Morro Bay

## Residential, Dead End & Bike Lane – Pick One and Slow Down

I can only image that this meaasage is falling on deaf ears. Small street, no curbs, not the greatest parking and some people feel the need to speed. I'm like the grumpy old man yelling "get off my lawn," but it's getting out of hand. I cornered someone and said, "how would you like it if I hauled butt up and down your street," the said they wouldn't like it at all. All I could do is say "Duh." Even driving downtown Los Osos, trying to pull out of the store and they are doing 50 mph. and I'm looking at a speed limit sign that reads 25 mph. I feel that it is just plain repect for others that makes us drive slower, or a least the speed limit. I see these high speed chases in LA and all that goes through my mind is, just take them out. Rant over.

J. Fillmore III  
Los Osos

**Grant** From page 15

the City website (see: <https://www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/17026/Community-Grant-Agreement-and-Policy-FY-22-23>), and can be returned to: [citymanager@morrobayca.gov](mailto:citymanager@morrobayca.gov).

The \$60,000 has a catch. The money "is to help eligible non-profits who suffered impacts from COVID-19 and programs that positively impact youth services specifically."

Categories are:

- Community and Social Services: Goes to programs and services addressing identified needs, as spelled out in the City General Plan, action, plan, City Council goals, or other policies. Such programs include youth sports and athletics, adult service agencies, health and safety, youth serving agencies, social service agencies and programs, bilingual service agencies, low income service ag4encies, homelessness, and economic development.
- Cultural Arts, including but not limited to: museum, including artistic, historical or scientific displays or education, performing arts — music and theater arts, and fine and visual arts.
- Projects: One-time projects designed to address a significant community need or problem. Funding is for a limited time project.

If you have any questions email City Manager Scott Collins at: [citymanager@morrobayca.gov](mailto:citymanager@morrobayca.gov) or phone (805) 772-6206. Estimated award of grant funds is October 2022.

**Next Gen** From page 1

17th Street Farmstand at 17th and Santa Ysabel. They both attend Teach Elementary School in San Luis Obispo. The Farmstand has a variety of items for sale including fruit, herbs, flowers, birdhouses, and arts/crafts. They keep kid-determined hours, so it is a bit unpredictable, but they are typically "open" weekends for a couple hours in the middle of the day or weekdays from 4:30-5:30.

**Meet the CEOs**

**Estero Bay News:** What do you want to be when you grow up?

**Haley:** A director.

**Asher:** A stunt man or a chef.

**Estero Bay News:** What made you want to make and sell your stuff?

**Haley:** To earn money by helping my mom get rid of the yummy fruit and herbs in our yard, and to meet our nice neighbors!

**Asher:** To earn money for my school camp this fall.

**Estero Bay News:** Do you like owning your own business?

**Haley:** It's great. It makes me happy to sell yum- my things to people who want them!

**Asher:** It's great. I like riding my go-kart up and down the hill to restock the booth with more stuff.

**Estero Bay News:** Are you saving the money for anything?

**Haley:** An upcoming school field trip.

**Asher:** A field trip (and to support my Minecraft



Sister and brother business team Haley and Asher Brown at their 17th Street Farmstand in Los Osos.

habit).

**Estero Bay News:** What is the hardest part of being a business owner?

**Haley:** Being patient when we don't have any customers.

**Asher:** Getting along with my sister and not eating all the apples.

**Estero Bay News:** Any words of encouragement for other kids or adults?

**Haley and Asher:** Have a good attitude and a big smile, and bring a snack so you don't eat all your products.

The next time you are on 17th street in Los Osos, look for Haley and Asher and check out what's for sell.

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Obituaries

Mary Garcia  
1930 - 2022



Mary Perry (Jorge) Garcia passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at the age of 92. She was born in 1930 in Los Osos, California and was the youngest of four children born to Portuguese immigrants Frank and Anna Jorge. She graduated from San Luis High School in 1948. In 1950 she married the love of her life Domingos Garcia Sr. They were married for over 66 years until Domingos's passing in 2017. They raised four children together teaching them that a work ethic and doing the right thing will afford you so much in life.

Mary was an integral part of their farming and ranching business. She was extremely talented, an incredible cook, enjoyed canning and baking. She also enjoyed redecorating the house, gardening and working on garage sales with friends. She loved a good deal, antiques and her many collections of salt dips and spoons. She was a classy dresser and had an eye for jewelry that made a statement. She had a great sense of humor and could be a bit of a jokester. She never missed a good party. She enjoyed being with family and friends, traveling, dancing, playing cards and bunco. She was a member of the Cayucos IDES, Edna Portuguese Holy Spirt Society, Native Daughters of the Golden West and SLO County Farm Bureau Women.

Mary is survived by her children: Bernadette (Ed) Crye, Domingos (Cathy) Garcia, Debbie Deis and Cindy Garcia; grandchildren: Cara and David Crye, Ben (Valrie) Eisele, Joe (Nicole) Garcia and Jenna (Charlie) Tognazzini; great-grandchildren: Ellyn and Marie Eisele, James Crye, Leo Tognazzini and Natalie Garcia. Mary is preceded in death by her husband Domingos Garcia Sr. and her granddaughter Anna Deis.

We would like to thank all the caregivers that helped Mary stay at home as long as she could. We are also grateful to Randy and Marylou Ubay, Kathy and Hannah at Los Osos Residential Care for taking wonderful care of Mary during the final stage of her life.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held on Friday, August 19. The graveside service is at 11 a.m. at the Cayucos Morro Bay Cemetery. A reception will follow in the hall at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Morro Bay.

Thomas Howard Upton  
1956 - 2022



Tom, unexpectedly and sadly, passed away at the age of 66 years on May 19, 2022, at French Hospital surrounded by family and friends. He died of septic shock following surgery for a bowel obstruction, which turned out to be a rectal tumor.

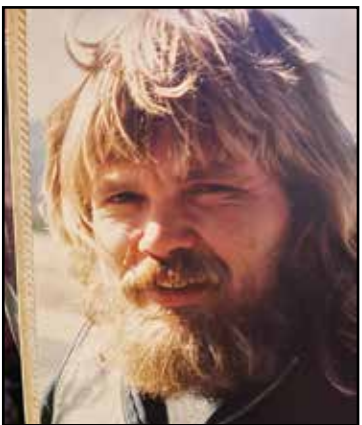
That would have surprised Tom since he felt the trouble was higher up in the GI tract. The surgery did not go well. He was in ICU for two days and we were called to his bedside in the evening after visiting hours and were with him when he passed at about 12:30 a.m. on May 19. He never woke up, actually, he saw Dorothy and Maureen, post-op for a second. He was kept sedated following surgery.

Growing up Tom was athletic and enjoyed sports during his school years. He played varsity football for the Villa Park Spartans, helping the team go all the way to CIF finals in his senior year. Tom graduated from Villa Park High School in 1974 and soon discovered his interest in computers, beginning with the old IBM DOS and ping-pong game. He attended Santa Ana College and transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in computers. This culminated with him working for the County of San Luis Obispo for over 30 years, helping in all aspects of their computer problems.

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 1988, Tom married Maureen. Together they raised their children Brandon, Cole, and Dorothy and moved into their forever family home in Los Osos (1993), where they raised their loving family and became an integral part of the community. Tom loved being a father and was always the first to lend a hand to help anyone in need. Unfortunately, Tom's unexpected passing preceded his daughter's (Dorothy's) summer wedding, but his presence was there and will be with all of his family until they meet again. He went into surgery feeling confident that he would be able to walk his daughter down the aisle on June 25. He was there in spirit.

The memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 14, at 4 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church, in Los Osos. If you knew Tom, we invite you to attend this celebration of life, as our family would love to meet you and share our memories of Tom together.

Paul Tofthøj Jensen  
1955 - 2022



Paul Tofthøj Jensen was born Set. 25, 1955 in Vindinge, Denmark and died May 13, 2022 while living in Morro Bay.

Paul looked like what a Viking would look like if he rode a Harley-Davidson. He had long, tied back, blond hair, a full beard that greyed as he aged, and he wore leather jackets and jeans.

He had a life-long fascination with the Vikings who had inhabited the fjords where he grew up in Roskilde, Denmark. Family lore has it that Paul's first spoken word was "America" followed soon after by "motorcycle."

Early in life he earned the nickname, "Buller," which was the only name he was known by for any Dutch person.

He designed, built, and re-built motorcycles. After living in the desert town of Anza, Paul owned a motorcycle shop in Bishop, Calif. He discovered Morro Bay in 1979 when he and his longtime friend Kurt Carlson first toured the U.S.

He moved to the Central Coast in 2016 and found a job at Morro Bay Appliance where he worked until he retired, and then came back to work part time after retiring at the end of 2021.

Paul had many circles of friends that included car and motorcycle guys and people he talked to all over town, including the homeless men at a park near where he lived.


Paul was bilingual and ambidextrous, and was a mechanical genius, who was able to fix any machine.

One of his proudest achievements came in 2007. He and Kurt brought a 1950 Vincent motorcycle back from a basket case to a running machine. They developed the bike over the next few years and in 2011, they set a new speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Paul was a great reader, had a wry sense of humor, and wrote short stories that reflected his Danish childhood.

Paul Jensen is survived by his son John of Arizona, his mother Gisele, and sister Tatjana and her children, Pernille and Henrik of Denmark. Paul was cremated and some of his ashes were released by Kurt near Morro Rock and some were buried next to his father in Roskilde, Denmark.

Friends of Paul Jensen are planning a memorial celebration of his life from 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the weekly car show in the Front Street Parking Lot on Morro Bay's Embarcadero (by the Maritime Museum). All who knew him are invited.



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Community

T-Pier From page 1

benefit to the community of Arroyo Grande and the State of California.”

• And \$1.5M to make “key replacements and upgrades to Morro Bay’s North T-Pier,” Carbajal said, “which is utilized for Morro Bay’s commercial fishing industry, Coast Guard operations, recreational tourism, and residential communities.”

The T-pier, which got a major repair job just a few years ago, is being eyed for future use in support of the proposed offshore floating wind energy farms being reviewed by the Federal Government right now.

Mayor John Headding said, “From the US Coast Guard to local fishing companies, tourism, and the soon-to-come offshore wind energy industry, this project will have many dramatic positive impacts on safety and our economy locally and regionally. We could not undertake this work at this time without the federal funding secured by Rep. Carbajal.”

Just what is the City being asked to provide for this new energy industry? Harbor Director Eric Endersby told Estero Bay News that they’ve been working with Castle Wind, one of the potential bidders for an offshore wind lease, and they’ve also been contacted by some of the other dozen or so companies that have shown interest in the bidding.

Endersby said they haven’t been handed a list of things the wind industry is seeking, “except accommodation for 60-foot and 200-foot boats; the former for crew transport back and forth on a daily basis, and the latter for larger work efforts that require several days and the boat staying out there and supporting the operations.

“All companies seem to have some version of this; and some sort of land side office space. But nothing is definite yet — they are just getting the lay of the land for now.”

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), which is handling the leasing of the so-called Morro Bay Call Area — a sizable patch of ocean offshore from San Simeon — is expected to auction off three lease sites some time in September.

EBN asked Endersby if he expects all three companies to establish headquarters in Morro Bay? “I would assume all will want O&M ops out of MB because it’s closest and the most protected,” Endersby said.

While he is grateful for Carbajal’s efforts, he’s way short of what he needs to do all the repairs needed on the North T-pier, which dates back originally to World War II when the Navy used Morro Bay Harbor for an amphibious landing training area.

“We made a \$3.8M Congressional request for a major refit of the North T-Pier,” Endersby said, “which included a bunch of needed major and minor structural work and piling replacements, replacement of the fire sprinkler system, replacement of the electrical and water utilities and replacement of the Harbor patrol docks.”

The Harbor department did an engineer’s assessment done on the North T-pier, Endersby explained, which identified a lot of work to be done. “On the pier,” he said, “all of those utilities are very old and degraded and in need of replacement, and there is still a bunch of structural work identified in an engineer’s report.”

Endersby said big jobs like this are normally done in small pieces. “Typically, piers are not replaced in-whole like slips and docks eventually are,” he said, “but historically get major repair and maintenance episodes about every 20 years. The last one was about 10-years ago to the tune of about \$800,000, and I would call it a ‘moderate’ effort, with lots still needing to be done.”

He added, “Carbajal picked up \$1.5M of our request, which will take care of a significant portion of the overall needs, which is funded we will prioritize and execute.”

The Harbor Department, which has always had issues with building up reserves for major capital projects, which end up being put off sometimes for decades, until grant funding can be secured. The department has often worked grants from the California Department of Boating and Waterways, to assist with its big-ticket items.

Whatever the T-pier needs, predates the offshore wind farm idea. “All these needs have been needs since before offshore wind (OSW) came to town,” Endersby said, “but assuming that industry will likely utilize a portion of that pier, the timing is right to get the pier up to snuff in anticipation of that.

Prospects for offshore wind, which has a long ways to go in terms of environmental review and permitting, let alone actual construction, and one of the pluses put forth by BOEM is a company’s willingness to work with the local community and stakeholders, like commercial fishermen.

“Several OSW companies have come to town anticipating some of their operations being based in Morro Bay [likely operations and maintenance “O&M,” and not construction and deployment],” Endersby said, “and come to see what the playing field looks like, but aside from the City’s agreement with Castle Winds to use the old power plant outfall tunnel, there are no agreements nor have we received anything in writing from any company about what they will need or want to do. It’s all still pretty preliminary.”

And having the wind farm companies using the North T-pier is in itself potentially problematic, as the west wide of Embarcadero including the water facilities, is reserved for the use of commercial or sport fishing, as laid out in Measure D, a 1980s voter initiative that rezoned the area.

“I assume OSW coming to town for O&M,” Endersby said, “will have them at this end of the bay because of the piers and deeper, wider channels, which is going to force a community discussion on Measure D.

Measure D says all uses be “primarily for the purposes of serving or facilitating commercial and recreational fishing,” which offshore floating wind turbines clearly are not. Indeed, commercial fishermen have come out strongly against the wind farms.

“In an ideal world,” Endersby said, “that discussion can take place and result in OSW being accommodated AND commercial fishing needs being evaluated, consolidated and better anchored by way of a revised Measure D and/or some other mechanisms like commercial fishing master plans and facilities.”

A timely idea when it was enacted, Measure D halted what seemed like a steady march towards turning all of the harbor facilities into tourism uses, and preserved a portion of the “working harbor” tradition that Morro Bay used to pride itself on.

The law has never been challenged in court and today, with the fishing fleet greatly depleted due mainly to fishing regulation changes, its time may have passed.

“In my opinion,” Endersby said, “as Measure D stands, it really doesn’t do a thing to ‘save’ commercial fishing. You’ve been here long enough to see the changes; the fleet is a shell of its former self, and Measure D has done little to ‘save’ it. Remember the trawlers stacked on both the piers? Look out there now — it’s a ghost town. Obviously heaps of new regulatory and spatial restraints have taken their toll, but it’s also a supply and demand and marketing/market access thing.”

Trying to save a way of life by passing zoning ordinances, isn’t enough when an industry has what commercial fishing has got stacked up against it.

“You can’t codify an industry into existence; lots more has to happen,” Endersby said. “If all those things could be

addressed as part of the OSW/Measure D discussion and some strategic fishery planning could take place, including really addressing infrastructure needs, I think it would do a lot more for the commercial fishing industry than Measure D ever has.”

Rockies From page 1

park.

The mini golf course has been allowed to fall into disrepair. The course under the pole barn was taken out and the concrete slab jackhammered out several years ago after the City caught a handful of boys who made their own skate park under the roof.

Originally, the site was developed by Rodney Miles, an attorney who envisioned a family fun center with mini golf courses and an arcade. He opened the place with some of his clients — Star Wars’ Mark Hamill and rock star Rick Springfield attending.

The City got the property in 2002 at a greatly undervalued price as part of a bankruptcy proceeding. It opened the Teen Center in January 2003. The rear yard was in great shape with two mini golf courses in working order. But they no longer are and haven’t been for a long time.

Carmichael told Estero Bay News that the City over the years has chipped away at the rear yard and all semblances of the mini golf course are now gone, even the iconic sperm whale that used to be the 18th hole.

The whale was being used as a homeless encampment, Carmichael told EBN. And the kids have beat it up quite a lot too, so the City broke it apart and got rid of it. Carmichael said he got “a lot of opposition,” when the whale was harpooned.

Carmichael said the Boys & Girls Club will be doing a site assessment that will include an assessment on the condition of the pole barn, which if still sound, could be turned into a lot of different things.

Carmichael said the Teen Center’s “Rockies Program” had an average of 25 kids attending at any time and after the former Recreation Director, Joe Woods over 6-years ago was let go from the City, the future of the entire department was in question.

Carmichael came here shortly after Woods was let go. Woods’ firing came after a shakeup in the Rec & Parks Department, which included moving park maintenance into Public Works and reducing the Recreation & Parks Department to the “Recreation Division,” a demotion that continues today.

Since Woods’ forced departure, Carmichael said he’s had trouble finding reliable staffing for the Teen Center. And when the Pandemic hit in March 2020, they shut down the Teen Center and it has yet to reopen.

He also said the program never connected with the high school administration; characterizing the relationship as “a struggle.”

With the previous high school administration, he said, there was a stigma that the Teen Center was just a place to sell and do drugs, a stigma they’ve not been able to correct with the high school. But this new beginning for the Teen Center may offer a ray of hope.

The Boys & Girls Club serves kids from sixth through 12th grades, so Carmichael said the City will continue its afterschool program at Del Mar Elementary that serves K-5.


The City Police Department, the Rec Department, Boys & Girls Club and the San Luis Coastal School District, along with an after-school program in Los Osos, are working towards forming a coalition to try and increase attendance at the Teen Center.

One of the issues they will work on is bussing LOMS kids to the Teen Center. Currently, the school bus drops kids off at City Park Downtown, and Carmichael is working on trying to get them to also drop off at the high school.

Boys & Girls Club participation is not free. Carmichael said the dues are \$50 a year and that fee would be eligible for scholarship monies from the Community Foundation of Estero Bay.

Carmichael said he anticipates the new Boys & Girls Club could be opened by the end of this year, depending on what improvements or changes to the site the organi-

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Kevin says,  
"Look  
for the  
**ANT**  
on the  
Door"



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



Community

zation decides to do. The City won't charge planning and building fees, but any improvements will have to first be permitted through the City and pass inspection as well.

Top Dog From page 1

before they reinvented themselves, he had edited sound tracks for more than 70 films, was nominated for best editor for "The Fugitive (1994)," was well known in the industry for his work on "The Fan," "Eraser," "Tommy Boy" and my favorite 'romcom,' "Up Close & Personal." I never thought to ask if editing "Bengi: Off the Leash" might have been when he realized he wanted to advocate for rescue dogs.

Suzanne was an in-demand massage therapist in Santa Barbara, who was often recruited to take care of Hollywood talent. It's how the couple met, but not the life for them. Like Dustin, Pat had a dream to learn the boutique coffee business. They purchased SLO County ranch-land and chose Morro Bay to build their coffee business. Pat "trained with one of Saucelito's best roasters." His goal was to offer the best tasting coffee sourced worldwide from smaller growers and serve unique menu items in an atmosphere relaxed enough to talk business or dog-friendly enough to casually gather with friends in their garden setting.

Once that dream was fulfilled his next dream was to expand business to a premier coffee subscription program that would benefit a cause for rescue dogs. A K9 graduation at California Men's Colony fueled that passion and purpose. Rescue-Me-Coffee was born as the couple left the barbed-wire gates of the prison where they had witnessed a K9 training program that offered life-altering healing for incarcerated men, veterans and first responders.

Check out the Rescue-Me-Coffee video created by Pat that loops all day at Top Dog while the barista is preparing patrons' orders.

In March of 2020, Pat and Suzanne thought they had to close shop, but then barista Mike Nelson, who they had met at that K9 graduation, later hired and encouraged him to create [www.second-chance-dog-training.com](http://www.second-chance-dog-training.com), suggested they stay open until the inventory Suzanne had just purchased was gone. The couple was overwhelmed by loyal customers who planned to be there daily if necessary to keep them in business.

On one of those visits Pat said he had a story for me. Once told, we knew I'd have to hold it until there was an ending. That conclusion happened when Dustin, a seasoned SLO and Santa Barbara paramedic, officially earned his coffee roasting training badge from Pat and coffee bar operations apron from Suzanne on escrow closing day, July 26.

The following is the story how the universe determined Top Dog Coffee Bar's future. On a day like any other day, Pat was taking care of business — schmoozing with customers, remodeling another area of the garden, fixing the plumbing, standing in for the barista, etc. etc. etc.— when a customer stopped and complimented his customer service.

"You race around here nonstop. You're smiling and friendly to everyone. Such a good attitude you project to all around here. Might I ask how old you are?" Pat told him 74.

"Have you ever thought about selling this place and retiring?" Pat told him no because there was too much still to do.

The customer, called Steve, looked into Pat's heart and asked, "If you did sell and were not burdened by your restaurant what would you really want to be doing?"

Pat thought hard and answered, "Hmmm! When I was between films I'd go to Montana, put my waders on and go fishing. Most zen thing I ever did. I'd like a life with fishing in it again."

Steve said, "You need to do it." Pat heard what Steve wasn't saying, "before you wear out."

A couple days later Steve came back with his 15-year-old daughter and wife and pulled Pat aside, "My daughter is so bothered by COVID She doesn't hear me that the world will get better. You have such a good attitude. Might I ask you to talk to her and spread some of your cheer?"

A no-brainer request! Pat is always willing to talk to people about living the good life. He told her, "You are a teen and everything is so important and huge at your age, I understand. I was there once, but believe me, this will pass and you won't even remember most of what is bothering you today. In fact, you might have bragging rights to tell your children how you lived through the year of COVID-2020 and survived the great worldwide pandemic."

Steve thanked him and was confident Pat's words would help his daughter. He asked Pat's address. "No, no, this was done from the heart," Pat said. Steve insisted.

About three weeks later, Pat was roasting coffee at the ranch like he did every night so Top Dog's Rescue-Me-Coffee was always fresh. A rare delivery came to the ranch instead of the shop. "Suze, did we order something I forgot I ordered?" She was stumped, too.

Then he noticed Steve's name and opened the package and almost fell over when he lifted out a 1920s custom fly fishing rod and reel. Steve had included his phone number.

Pat called and said, "Steve, I'm overwhelmed. This had to cost upwards \$3,000. It's beautiful. I love it. I have to know its story though."

Steve revealed, "I'm an art dealer and long ago I traded for several of these. I saved the best and hung it up on the fireplace mantle. My wife and I would look at it and remind each other that someday we would find its proper owner. After you talked to my daughter, we knew we had found its owner. I hope you will make room in your life to go fishing."

Pat and Suzanne had a long talk that night and agreed it was time to move forward. After sleeping on it, they listed Top Dog Coffee for sale, proceeded to purchase their future ranch in Idaho, site-unseen, and soon after the universe sent them Dustin, who told them he'd also had a dream to own a coffee roasting business and had researched the entire area and found Top Dog the best around. Both were destined to move forward with their next lives.

So a postscript for customer Steve! As of July 26, 2022, Pat and Suzanne have officially gone fishing! Morro Bay's loss will leave a big hole in our collective community hearts, but at the same time we wish them peace, health and joy during their next life's chapter.



Suzanne Maury and Patrick Bietz, original owners of Top Dog Coffee Bar.



fostered the Mutt Mitt program now providing doggie waste bags at all Estero Bay beaches and parks. She has an incredible memory for history and regularly participated in activities supporting area museums, SLO Lifelong Learners, Museum Mind Walks, and the SLO County Historical Society.

Mary actively prepared for a retirement she knew she would need to fund herself. Early on, she registered for an apartment at Judson Terrace in SLO where she befriended many new and treasured friends. But her "health club" and "girls' social club" became Sinsheimer Pool. She believed the waters were healing. No matter how much pain she was in with knee, shoulder, heart — she has a pacemaker — breathing problems, Mary has gone to Sinsheimer Pool for water aerobics and warm water exercise, usually at least four times a week regardless of the season. For years she has been a loyal daily listener of "The Dave Congalton Show" on KVEC-Radio and an avid follower of area news, professional golf and worldwide cycling.

She has always loved dogs, travel and eating out whenever she could afford it, historic home tours, crab feeds especially SLO and Morro Bay Rotary's or during the season at Tognazzini's Dockside. She loves her coffee! Saturdays at Blackhorse Coffee or at home enjoying Top Dog Coffee Bar's Rescue-Me-Coffee — naturally, her contribution to support rescue dogs. She was a sought-after dog sitter and walker in Morro Bay. Her fees supported her travel fund. Both had to stop when her health made it too difficult to take care of the pups she loved so much.

Now Mary could use a little help from her friends. Whether a card, visit or financial investment to get back her independence, let her know she's loved and missed. In fact, I suggest we challenge her. If she doesn't use up all the funds donated getting back her independence, then she is authorized to spend the balance on a cruise to somewhere she hasn't been yet. I'm up for a cruise with Mary whenever that might be in her future. How about you? We could all use her endearing 'snarky-get-off-our duffs' attitude to keep us honorable and to inspire us all to do good things.

Bring her cards of good cheer? Mary Leizear C/o Maywood Acres Healthcare, 2641 S. C St., Oxnard, CA 93033.

To donate to support her journey to independence, go to Morro Bay Rotary Club's Web Page: [morrobayrotary.org](http://morrobayrotary.org) and donate by clicking the "Help Mary" button on the left side under her picture.

Request Help From page 1

pendent living. Please go to Morro Bay Rotary Club's Web Page: [morrobayrotary.org](http://morrobayrotary.org) and donate by clicking the "Help Mary" button on the left side under her picture.

Mary touched many friends in diverse circles and professions throughout SLO County. She considered her chance to live on the Central Coast a gift and her second chance. She was an over-achiever working at Morro Bay's Sun Bulletin as well as her executive assistant position to the CEO at the Morro Bay Power Plant before it's closure — without a pension.

When invited to join the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, her advocacy became her passion. For years she worked as club secretary, the glue behind its operations. In 2022 President Tim Olivas recognized her as the Rotarian of the Year particularly for her advocacy coordinating the delivery of fresh fish to the Food Bank and ECHO of Paso Robles, serving on the "Help Us Help Others" quarterly BBQ crew and supporting the Adopt-A-Teacher project at Del Mar Elementary School.

A longtime supporter of the Estuary Program, she

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