

Tour Morro Bay's New Sewage Treatment Plant



A look down at the Morro Bay's new sewage treatment plant's treatment train — tanks, pipes, pumps and compressors — from atop the plant's screen filtering platform. Sewage enters the plant and is piped all the way to the back and uphill, and then gravity moves it from treatment stage to stage.

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's new sewage treatment plant is largely completed and expecting to go online in early October, according to the project's construction manager.

Steve Mimiaga, of Mimiaga Engineering, a subcontractor to the overall project management firm, Carollo Engineers, took an Estero Bay News reporter on a walking tour of the new facility, which is located above the terminus of South Bay Boulevard at Hwy 1.

Mimiaga said they've been running the plant through with the City's clean drinking water since last March, testing the fittings, pumps and tanks, as well as the extensive system of monitoring and computer controls. They plan to

do more testing this month, he said, and the plan, at this point, is to bring in raw sewage piped from the old treatment plant on Atascadero Road — on Oct. 4.

Mimiaga said they've been draining water out of a fire hydrant at the plant. "We are using a lot of water in a drought," he conceded. "We're using potable water for the tests, we have no choice."

The plant site has been a beehive of activity since they broke ground in Spring 2020. But the past month or so, it's been mostly deserted by comparison, signaling the end is nigh for the City's biggest public works project ever.

The plant is a membrane bioreactor, with advanced micro-filtering, which when done with the treatment, will produce wastewater suitable for any reuse, except of course direct consumption, so-called toilet to tap. That's still ille-

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Moving Forward: Smallocal: A Small Business Collaborative Start-Up Based in Morro Bay



Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Program Co-Chair Brad Evans, far right, hosted and officiated the official opening for Foghorn Brewhouse with a ribbon cutting and social mixer for MB Chamber members. Photo by Jody Hollier

By Judy Salamacha

Morro Bay's Brad Evans is the developer and lead collaborator of Smallocal: A Small Business Collaborative. For more than 15 years the concept for Smallocal ruminated and formulated in Evans' dreams and daily activities. And, since mov-

ing to Morro Bay and serving on the board of directors for the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, his ideas have slowly, but deliberately, energized into a plan of action.

Currently, Evans is on a mission to find co-collaborators throughout the Estero Bay area to help him jump-start his emerging, interactive member-developed collective.

Moving Forward Continued on page 17

New Dispatch Center Contract Awarded



Above is a rendering of the County's future 'Co-Located Dispatch Center' in Templeton. The County awarded a design-build contract and completion is expected in Fall-Winter 2024.

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors awarded a contract to build a new Emergency Dispatch Center that will handle police and fire calls for over half the county, and bring a somewhat unwelcomed facility to Downtown Templeton.

Supervisors on Aug., 23 awarded a \$23.4 million contract to Diani Building Corp., a division of A.J. Diani Const., of Santa Maria, to build the "Co-Located Dispatch Facility" project.

The contract includes \$1.5 million contingency fund for a total potential contract amount of \$24.9 million and an overall construction budget of \$25.25 million.

Steve Neer, the County's project manager, told Estero Bay News that the new dispatch center will be built on a site adjacent to the County Sheriff's North Coast Substation, just off Main Street and adjacent to Hwy 101, just before the Main Street exit.

The site is generally called the North County Regional Center, he said. The Templeton site is a change from the original site that was being discussed for a new dispatch center, which had been slated for County owned property on Kansas Avenue.

Neer said the Supervisors decided, "a long time ago to move it to a better suited site." He said they ran into several problems when they started taking a closer look at the Kansas Avenue location, including concerns about blight from the scenic Hwy 1 and poor soils.

"The soil there is an alluvial soil and not suitable for

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Meet Baywood Elementary School's New Principal

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Principal Kirstin May welcomes students on the first day at Baywood Elementary, home of the bears.

A familiar face is at the helm of Baywood Elementary. After 15 years with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, Kirstin Garrison May began her new role as principal. She is looking forward to her first assignment as top administrator.

"The year is off to a great start," May said. "We spent a lot of time over the summer dialing in our systems and procedures to maximize our student safety and site efficiency. We have gotten positive feedback from our community about the strong communication from the site and teachers.

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City Wants to Master Plan the Power Plant

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay residents are being invited to attend a public meeting to discuss writing a master plan for the Morro Bay Power Plant property.

The "Morro Bay Power Plant Master Plan Community Workshop" is set for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14 at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St.

"Come share your input on the future of the Morro Bay Power Plant property," reads the notice released by

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County-Cal Fire Sign
New Contract

Fifth Water Line Breaks
on WRF Project

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors recently inked a new contract with Cal Fire to run the County Fire Department and provide fire and emergency medical services to about half the County.

The County has contracted with the State — first the California Department of Forestry (CDF), which changed it name to Cal Fire about 15 years ago — since 1930, according to a report.

“The services provided include emergency medical response, structural and vehicle fire suppression, hazardous materials spill mitigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and technical and confined space rescue.” Cal Fire also dispatches emergency calls, as well as Morro Bay Fire Department.

Cal Fire runs operations for 16 fire stations, covering some 3,200 square miles.

“These fire stations include nine County-owned facilities, one Los Osos Community Services District owned facility, one Heritage Ranch Homeowners Association owned facility and five State-owned facilities. Fourteen of the stations are staffed 7-days-per-week with full-time staff. Morro-Toro Station 14 and Oak Shores Station 34 remain volunteer stations, with paid call firefighters [(PCFs)] responding to incidents, supported by full-time staff from other stations.

“Two stations, Cambria Station 10 and Shandon Station 51, are staffed under what is known as an ‘Amador Plan,’ where the State pays staffing costs during fire season and the County pays staffing costs during non-fire season.”

The \$25.49 million contract covers from July 2022 to June 2023 and is a \$4.51 million increase over the previous year’s contract, according to the report.

“The increase in the contract,” reads the report, “is primarily due to approximately \$3.9 million to Cal Fire’s benefit rates and to salaries resulting from collective bargaining agreements negotiated by labor and ratified since FY 2016-17. There is also a \$108,992 [12%] increase to operating expenses resulting from the overall increase in costs collectively, including but not limited to fuel and vehicle maintenance.”

The dollar amount might seem high until one considers what it all entails.

“This contract also includes fire protection services provided by way of agreement with the County Fire Department, to Avila Beach Community Services District, San Luis Obispo Regional Airport and Los Osos Community Services District.

“It also includes County Fire dispatch agreements with the City of Cambria, City of San Miguel, City of Santa Margarita, City of Morro Bay, City of Templeton, City of Atascadero and Five Cities Fire Authority. The cost for these services is offset by revenue from cooperative fire protection service agreements with these agencies.”

Locally, Morro Bay pays Cal Fire for its dispatching services, as do the LOCSD and Cayucos, which transfers the proceeds from a special fire tax on property tax bills to the County, with the County General Fund picking up the shortfall.

The County report explained the situation. “Of the total contract for Fiscal Year 2022-23, \$4,101,098 is offset with revenue from existing cooperative fire protection service agreements. The remaining \$21,398,080 is funded by the County general fund, grant proceeds, Prop 172 Sales Tax revenues, fees, and other revenue sources.



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A fifth waterline was struck during installation of new pipelines needed for Morro Bay’s Water Recycling Facility. Photo submitted

By Neil Farrell

The company installing the miles of new pipelines needed for Morro Bay’s Water Recycling Facility or WRF, struck another water line last week while trenching for a new fiber optic communications line up Kennedy Way.

Last Monday, Anvil Builders, the City’s conveyance system contractor broke a water line near the intersection of Kennedy Way and Quintana Road, as the work on the conveyance system nears an end.

“Anvil struck an unmarked water service around 12:30,” said Paul Amico, the conveyance project manager with Carollo Engineering, “while installing a fiber optic line on Kennedy Way near the Community Center.”

That fiber optic line will be a communications link to the City’s new sewer system and will allow the City to monitor the new treatment plant from the Community Center and other City facilities in times of emergency.

This water line break was Anvil’s fifth since it started the roughly 3.5-mile trenching job over a year and a half ago.

“It’s not unusual for the location of water services to be poorly mapped or unknown,” Amico added, “so while unfortunate, the strike wasn’t a big surprise.”

Much of Morro Bay’s underground infrastructure — water, sewer and storm drain lines — predate the City’s incorporation in 1964 and actual mapping of the lines in some areas is rather sketchy, having been laid originally by the County.

Normal practice today is to wrap underground utility lines in a metallic “tracer wire” that can be energized between certain locations, allowing its exact location to be pinpointed with a current detector. If a line isn’t wrapped in wire, its exact location can be tricky to pin down.

Also, many old water lines are actually made of asbestos, which doesn’t show up with a metal detector. However, no modern water lines are made with asbestos, a mineral that was used in thousands of products and applications from the 1920s into the 1970s, because asbestos doesn’t decompose or deteriorate.

Airborne asbestos fibers were linked to certain lung cancers, and it has now been pretty much phased out of use.

Amico confirmed this is the fifth water line to break (plus one sewer bypass line that was nicked down by South Bay Boulevard on day one). A few customers lost water service for a short time.

“There were multiple customers whose water service was disrupted for about 90 minutes,” Amico said, “so by around 2 p.m. most affected customers had water service restored except for the one whose service was broken.”

Demaris Hanson, the City’s Utility Director, said last Tuesday, “We did have a 2-inch water line hit by Anvil near

the Community Center. This did require us to shut water to the neighboring facilities near Kennedy and Shasta until the line was repaired. The line has been repaired and water is back on.”

Amico said it’s not unusual for these kinds of mishaps. “Maybe a little more than I would expect on a normal underground job,” he said, “but again not highly unusual. Comes with digging around in the public right of way.”

Groundwater has also been a sticky wicket for Anvil, as the company hit groundwater seepage on Las Tunas Avenue in a deep pit dug to receive the bundle of pipelines that were directionally drilled under the Roundabout, which itself ran into problems when the giant drilling rig hit a snag.

For months they had to pump out that Las Tunas hole piping the water into a sewer manhole located on the Las Tunas Pocket Park.

Another project manager, Steve Mimiaga who contracts with Carollo to manage the treatment plant project, told EBN during a tour of the WRF treatment plant, that the conveyance system piping is almost all in now and parts are being pressure tested for leaks.

When they are finished pressure testing each segment, he said, they will finish connecting up all the pipes and by Oct. 4, they should be ready to start sending raw sewage to the new treatment plant, which is completed and also undergoing some testing.

Anvil was the low bidder on the conveyance portion and was awarded a \$31 million contract. They’ve had some change orders that have added somewhat to the contract.

All told the WRF project, which was originally estimated at \$126 million is now nearly up to \$160 million, a cost overrun of about \$33 million. However, the City secured two loans that both came with interest rates of under 1%, saving the City an estimated \$55 million in interest costs. So despite the cost overruns, the City has not had to go back to ratepayers for a rate hike, yet.

In the photo, Anvil’s crew inspects the work on the fiber optic line connecting the treatment plant to the community center, which can also connect with other City facilities.

Correction

Last issue’s story about Los Osos CSD exploring alternative water sources misidentified CSD G.M. Ron Munds’ previous position with the City of SLO. He was with the Utilities Department.



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Repeat Bank Robber
Strikes Out

By Neil Farrell

A Paso Robles man was convicted of attempted bank robbery and, coupled with two previous felony convictions, could face a life sentence under the State’s “Three Strikes Law.”



Andrew William Gilbertson

The District Attorney’s Office said in an Aug. 16 news release, “a San Luis Obispo County jury found Andrew William Gilbertson, 47, guilty of attempted robbery, a violent offense. Gilbertson was previously convicted of arson and bank robbery that will lead to a ‘Three-Strikes’ sentence in this case.”

Gilbertson was convicted in a Sept. 1, 2021 attempted robbery of Chase Bank in Paso Robles, according to the release. He at first attempted to exchange “money that was wet and dirty,” presumably for clean, dry bills. Failing that transaction, Gilbertson decided to rob the place.

“When Gilbertson was told that a bank policy prohibited exchanging the money based on the condition of the bills,” the release said, “he then passed a note that had been written on a Chase Bank envelope which read, ‘Give me all the money.’”

Gilbertson threatened the teller, indicating “that he had a gun and showed the teller what she described to be the barrel of a gun pointed toward her that had been inside of one of his bags,” the release said.

Gilbertson had also been convicted in the 2013 robbery of a Bank of America in San Luis Obispo “using a similar note.” That 2015 conviction was his first strike. In 2021, he got another strike with an arson conviction, with this latest conviction strike three.

Judge Timothy S. Covello decided that seven factors in aggravation were true, in support of the three strikes. The findings included:

- That the current crime involved threat of great bodily harm and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness;
- That Gilbertson was armed with or used a weapon at the time of the commission of the crime;
- That Gilbertson has engaged in violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society;
- That Gilbertson’s prior convictions as an adult are numerous and of increasing seriousness;
- That he has served a prior term in prison;
- That he was on probation, mandatory supervision, or parole when the crime was committed; and,
- That his prior performance on probation, post release community supervision and parole “was unsatisfactory.”

The findings will be used at his sentencing hearing, set for an Oct. 27 “to determine the appropriate lawful sentence.” He faces a maximum sentence of 35-years to life in prison.

District Attorney Dan Dow said, “Here in San Luis Obispo County, we will use every legal means to hold repeat violent offenders accountable to the maximum extent we can under California Law. When California’s Three Strikes sentencing law is followed and imposed, like it is here, it sends a strong message to other would-be violent criminals to think twice or perhaps choose another county in which to commit their crime.”

The case was investigated by the Paso Robles Police Department and the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kristin Barnard.



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Cattlegwoman of the Year Named



Sarah Kramer of Paso Robles was named the San Luis Obispo County Cattlegwomen’s Association’s 2022 Cattlegwoman of the Year.

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo’s top cattlegwoman has been honored and formally recognized by the County Board of Supervisors for numerous contributions to agriculture and its various supportive organizations and agencies.

On Aug. 23, Supervisors approved a Resolution recognizing Sarah Kramer of Paso Robles as “the San Luis Obispo County Cattlegwomen’s Association’s 2022 Cattlegwoman of the Year.”

The annual award is given to a local woman who is in or around the agricultural industry and specifically cattle ranching and is also active volunteering with the industry’s organizations.

Kramer has a lifetime of ag experience starting with her birth in Santa Ana, Calif. She grew up in San Clemente where her family is in the ag business. She came to the Central Coast to attend Cal Poly.

She is the granddaughter of a produce broker so she grew up in and around the industry, gaining first-hand knowledge of the machinations of “the work it takes to get fresh produce from the farm to the grocery store,” reads a posting on the Cattlegwomen’s website.

A self-described Orange County beach bum, Kramer chose San Luis Obispo for college. She like most college freshmen didn’t know what she wanted to do in life.

“She came to Cal Poly in 2001,” reads the article, “with plans to return home and work for the family business.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness, with a concentration in marketing in 2005, and the allure of the Central Coast proved too much and plans to return home, dissipated replaced by a new dream.

She hired on at Farm Credit West and quickly moved up the ranks over the next seven years, working her way up to vice president loan officer.

Wishing to become more involved in the community, in 2009, Kramer joined the SLO County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture, becoming vice president and president a few years later.

She joined SLO County Cattlegwomen’s Association in 2011, and has served in multiple leadership roles including second vice president in 2015-16; president in 2017-18; newsletter chair since 2014; and bylaws chair since 2018.

She joined the SLO County Farm Bureau in 2012, and became a board member in 2016; was treasurer from 2019-20; and has served as second vice president since 2021.

She was elected to the board of the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance in 2017 serving through 2020; including as treasurer (2018-20) and Wine Festival Coordinator from 2013-19.

Her list of community volunteerism goes on: Paso Robles Pioneer Day Committee board member since 2016;

a SLO County Ag Education Committee board member since 2014 and treasurer since 2016; a California Mid-State Fair Heritage Foundation member; a Paso Robles High School Agriculture Department Advisory Committee member since 2016; and she is the Ag Finance Representative on the SLO County Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board after serving as an alternate since 2016.

Professionally, she became vice president and commercial relationship manager at Umpqua Bank in 2013, and serves today as senior vice president and commercial relationship manager at Bank of the Sierra.

“Her extensive network in the local agriculture community and financial experience,” reads the Cattlegwomen’s Association citation “continues to make her one of the most sought-after volunteers and board members in SLO County. She says she loves being involved because of the people she gets to work with.”

“The majority of the people in my life today,” Kramer said, “came from me being involved in community organizations. I’ve come to realize that people who are involved are the most fun!”

Kramer takes pride in giving agriculture a voice through her work with the Cattlegwomen and Farm Bureau.

She explained, “People — especially government decision makers — need to see and hear from people whose livelihood depends on agriculture. We need to educate the community as a whole; the general public has no idea where their food comes from or how it is produced, many of them think their food comes from the grocery store.”

Kramer is also involved in teaching kids about the importance of farmers and ranchers. She says her most enriching volunteer role has been with the annual “Great AGventure,” an agriculture education field trip for fourth graders organized by the SLO County Ag Education Committee.

What’s her advice to young people interested in agriculture? “Get involved!” she said. “Remember, if a beach girl from the OC can do it, you can too!”

“Never stop learning! Learn from those who done it before you.

“We might have more technology these days, but the basics of agriculture haven’t changed much. But, the best reason to get involved is the people. The agricultural community is just that, a community!”

Oceano Woman Guilty in Hot Grease Assault

An Oceano woman was found guilty of felony assault with a hot pan of bacon grease after a family argument turned violent.

According to the District Attorney’s Office news release, on Aug. 18 a jury convicted Terri Lee Boyd, 61 of Oceano of felony battery causing serious bodily injury, misdemeanor battery, and misdemeanor assault.

The case stemmed from an October 2019 incident during breakfast.

On the morning of October 15, 2019, “Boyd was cook-

ing bacon and hash browns at her residence in Oceano,” the release said, “when she had a verbal argument with a female family member. The argument soon escalated to a physical assault, with Boyd biting the female victim on the face.

“Boyd then used a hot pan with bacon grease to cause significant burns to a second victim’s face, who was also present during the altercation.”

The Sheriff’s Department responded shortly after the biting and burning incidents and Boyd was arrested. The burn victim was taken to the hospital, treated and released later that day. The bite victim too was treated and released.

The trial was delayed several times by the coronavirus pandemic, the release said, “including a 2-week interruption at the start of jury deliberations. Jury members resumed deliberations and came back with a guilty verdict.”

“We are thankful for the dedication of the jury,” District Attorney Dan Dow said, “who performed their civic duty during this trial in spite of delays caused by the coronavirus.”

Boyd will be back in court on Sept. 8 and a sentencing date will be set. She faces a maximum sentence of four-years and six-months in jail.

Judge Michael Duffy presided over the trial and the case was investigated by the Sheriff’s Department and prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Amy Fitzpatrick.



Terri Boyd

Face Slasher Gets Life Sentence

A Grover Beach man with a long criminal history has been sentenced to life in prison after a vicious attack, slashing his victim across the face with a knife and causing serious injuries.

The District Attorney’s Office said in a news release, that Jeremiah Leo Hernandez, 44 of Grover Beach, was sentenced to life in State Prison with the possibility of parole after being convicted of “aggravated mayhem and assault with a knife involving a single victim.”

The crime occurred at about 1 a.m. last Jan. 24. “Hernandez attacked the victim with a knife,” the release said, “severely slicing his face from his hairline to his lower jaw, inflicting an injury that required extensive reconstructive



Jeremiah Leo Hernandez

Slasher Continued on page 6



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Maritime Family Fun Day Coming

Get ready to have some good old-fashioned fun celebrating all that’s wonderful about Morro Bay. On Saturday October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Morro Bay Maritime Museum, along with numerous local nonprofits and businesses, will transform the triangle lot behind the museum into a Maritime Family Fun Day. Admission is free.

Enjoy sea shanties, sea stories, build a sandcastle, make an otter mask and a fish print, go on a treasure hunt, try the fishing booth, participate in a muffin contest or a chowder contest and ship load more. Stay for lunch and enjoy food by local restaurants and music all day.

For more information, go to morrobaymaritime.org.

First BESS Installed in County Building

The switch has been flipped bringing life to the first battery energy storage systems (BESS) installed at San Luis Obispo County government buildings – at zero cost to residents.

BESS units were installed this summer at the County Public Health Department and Health Agency Administration building in San Luis Obispo. They will serve two primary purposes, banking up to 31 hours of electricity, which can be used during power outages, and also by providing energy during peak demand periods when PG&E grid electricity rates are highest and then recharging during off-peak periods when rates are lowest.

Collectively, the two units are expected to save the County \$800,000 over their predicted 20-year lifespan,



A battery energy storage systems (BESS) installed in San Luis Obispo County at the Public Health Department and Health Agency Administration.

officials said. That money will support community health programs.

The BESS projects were developed by county Public Works staff with Tesla, Inc. and funded through the State of California Public Utilities Commission’s Self Generation Incentive Program.

Estero Bluff Cleanup Sept. 27



Take part in a cleanup at Estero Bluffs with the Cayucos Land Conservancy. Photo submitted

The Cayucos Land Conservancy will once again host the Estero Bluffs Cleanup station as part of the Creeks to Coast Cleanup, formerly known as Coastal Cleanup Day. The countywide event is put on by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo.

The Estero Bluff Cleanup takes place Saturday September 17, 9 a.m. to Noon at Killer’s Surf Spot aka Fig Tree Parking Area at Estero Bluffs State Park.

Show up with gloves, a bucket, debris grabber, if you have one, water and good walking shoes. Attendees will be assigned an area to clean along the 4-mile stretch from North Ocean Avenue to Villa Creek. Organizers will have some supplies on hand, including hand sanitizer and prizes.

Folks will return to the starting point at 11:30 a.m. to weigh and document what’s been collected and identify any areas to be checked by State Parks, Cal Trans or other agency..

The CLC is looking for gift card or treat donations for the event. Anyone interested should contact Malina at hello@CayucosLandConservancy.org.

In conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day and Creeks to Coast Clean up, the Morro Bay Harbor Department is making an effort to clean up a portion of City property below the Bayshore Bluffs known as Oyster Shell Beach. This area has been popular for citizens to store all kinds of watercraft but has become a threat to pollute with debris and unclaimed/forgotten property. For the sake of coastal access the Harbor Patrol is asking for all watercraft stored on this beach to be clearly marked with either a name and phone number or .current DMV Registration.

For a list of all sites that need volunteers that day, go to ecoslo.org/creeks-to-coast.

Slow Down in SLO for Road Projects

Commuters and shoppers keep an eye out and add additional time for roadwork in San Luis Obispo.

The city is doing tree removal near the community garden on Broad Street Drivers should plan for traffic impacts due to lane closures related to this work.

Be driving cautious in Downtown as well. The city has started construction to seal the roadway and improve City streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks in the downtown. This work is expected to be complete before the busy winter holiday shopping season.

For more information about SLO in Motion projects, go to www.slocity.org/sloinmotion.

In completed SLO road projects news, Buckley Road has been extended from Vachell Lane to South Higuera Street, providing what planners say is a more efficient connection from Highway 101 to Highway 227, and improved access to the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport.

This extension is part of the Avila Ranch development under construction just north of Buckley Road and is intended to facilitate vehicle circulation. It also accommodates the future Caltrans campus.

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CHP Makes Big Drug Busts



By Neil Farrell

The Highway Patrol is celebrating a series of huge drug bust on Hwy 99 and I-5 in the Central Valley, sniffed out by the CHP's drug dogs, as big drug busts and multiple arrests continue.

CHP Sgt. Robert Montano of the agency's Central Division in Fresno said in a news release that a CHP canine officer seized 500 pounds of crystal methamphetamine and arrested two suspects on several drug charges in Bakersfield.

At about 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, a CHP officer stopped a 2017 Land Rover for an undisclosed vehicle code violation on Northbound Hwy 99 near the 7th Standard Rd., exit.

"After noticing indicators of criminal activity," Sgt. Montano said, "the officer deployed his canine, which alerted to the odor of narcotics. During a search of the vehicle, the officer found crystal methamphetamine in several cardboard boxes in the cargo area and arrested two male suspects from Fresno who were booked into Kern County Jail on charges of possessing a controlled substance for sale and selling or transporting methamphetamine. The case has been sent to the Kern County Narcotics Task Force."

"Illegal narcotics have a devastating effect on our communities," CHP Central Division Chief Ceto Ortiz, said. "I would like to thank our Central Division Canine Unit for its continued commitment and dedication to removing dangerous narcotics from our roadways."

Though not officially known as "Meth Alley," Hwy 99 has long been a main artery for moving drugs from Southern California into the Central Valley and beyond, with quick trips to the Coast, where the SLO County Sheriff's Department has also intercepted large drug shipments in recent weeks.

The Aug. 16 arrests, "follow two traffic stops by Central Division canine officers on the same day recently that resulted in the combined seizure of 150 pounds of drugs — 92 pounds of cocaine and 66 pounds of methamphetamine," said Sgt. Montano.

Central Division's seven drug dogs and their handlers have, since the beginning of the year, seized 1,384 pounds of illegal drugs, including cocaine, heroin, methamphet-

amine, marijuana, and fentanyl, during their traffic enforcement duties. They arrested 97 suspects on various drug charges and confiscated 17 weapons and nearly \$1.3 million in cash, according to Sgt. Montano.

A double bust on Aug. 11 shows the effectiveness of the drug sniffing police dogs.

"On Aug. 11, at approximately 1:35 p.m.," the news release said, "a canine officer from the CHP's Central Division stopped a 2017 Nissan Rogue on Interstate 5 at Nees Avenue in Fresno County for a vehicle code violation.

"During the contact, the officer noted several indicators of criminal activity and obtained consent to search the vehicle. During the search, the officer discovered 92 pounds of cocaine hidden within the vehicle."

The CHP's SWAT team responded and took over. "The driver, Umar Ovalle, 35, of King County, Wash., was subsequently booked into the Fresno County Jail on charges of possession of cocaine for sale, transportation of cocaine across noncontiguous counties, and possession of a compartment used to transport narcotics."

The busts continued. "Later that day, at approximately 3:15 p.m., a second CHP Central Division canine officer stopped a Nissan Frontier along State Route 99 north of Avenue 24 in Tulare County for a vehicle code violation.

"During the contact, the officer noticed signs of criminal activity and deployed the canine to search the exterior of the pickup. The canine alerted to the odor of narcotics and a subsequent search resulted in the recovery of approximately 66 pounds of methamphetamine on the rear seat.

"The driver, Miguel Oropeza, 32, of Kern County was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Kern County Jail on charges of possession of methamphetamine for sale and transportation of methamphetamine across noncontiguous counties."

The boss in Sacramento is impressed. "I am extremely proud of the work of our canine teams throughout the state, who are working tirelessly to identify drug traffickers and remove illegal weapons and drugs from our communities," CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said. "Our efforts to arrest those using our freeways for dangerous illegal activity will continue."

These big drug busts, as well as similar busts that have occurred on the Central Coast, involve illicit drugs that are said to come from Mexico.

In 2021, some 107,000 people died of drug overdoses nationwide, with the greatest number from Fentanyl poisoning. And another estimated 29,000 people overdosed on drugs but were saved with the prompt application of Naloxone (Narcan nasal spray), which counteracts the effects of opioids almost instantaneously and can literally save the life of an overdosing person.

Combining these two statistics gives a little clearer picture of the drug problem in the U.S., which is amongst the greatest of modern human tragedies.

As a comparison, according to the National Archives, 58,220 U.S. soldiers died in combat over the 11-year span of the Vietnam War.

Community
CLC Seeking Re-accreditation



The Cayucos Land Conservancy is applying for a renewal of accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission to continue to protect open spaces including the pictured Estero Bluffs. Photo by George Lepp

By Neil Farrell

A local land conservancy organization is starting the process for re-certification from a nationwide conservancy organization.

The Cayucos Land Conservancy Board President, Dr. Glenn Oelker, said the organization is applying for renewal of accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

"Voluntary, independent accreditation," Dr. Oelker said, "gives the Cayucos Land Conservancy greater credibility and respect with landowners, donors, public policy makers and other stakeholders. I believe it will enhance our efforts to protect open spaces, wildlife habitat, productive lands and the beautiful landscapes around Cayucos and along our coast."

According to a CLC news release, "Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation. To date fewer than 500 of the nearly 1,700 land trusts in the U.S. have been accredited. The accreditation seal provides the public with an assurance that the accredited organization has the ways and means to protect important natural places and working lands forever."

The CLC formed in 1998 in response to a proposal to subdivide and develop with houses the Estero Bluffs, a Coastal bluff north of Cayucos along Hwy 1. The CLC led the effort to buy and preserve the bluffs, which was put into the State Parks system.

Accreditation is a key accomplishment for success in conservation efforts. "The rigorous re-accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that demonstrate compliance with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices," the release said. "The Standards and Practices are the ethical and technical guidelines established in 1989 by the LTA for the responsible operation of a land trust."

As part of the process, the CLC expects to be asked



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Slashed From page 4

surgery to repair." The assault occurred in the 200 block of Five Cities Dr., in Pismo Beach.

Hernandez' jury found him guilty on July 1 and also found true several aggravating circumstances, which led to the life sentence.

"The jury also found true," the release said, "an allegation that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim during the knife assault. Additionally, jurors made findings that nine factors in aggravation were true that are considered for sentencing purposes. The findings included: the attack was violent and indicates a serious danger to society; Hernandez's prior convictions are numerous and of increasing seriousness; that the defendant has served a prior prison term; and that he was lying in wait when he attacked his victim.

Hernandez' life sentence is "indeterminate" meaning there is no minimum sentence set, so he could serve just a few years or the rest of his life behind bars.

"After a minimum period of prison custody," the news release explained, "the Board of Parole Hearings will conduct a hearing to determine if Hernandez should be released from prison custody. It is impossible to estimate what amount of custody time Hernandez will actually serve in prison."

Judge Timothy S. Covello presided over the case, which was investigated by the Pismo Beach Police Department and the D.A's Bureau of Investigation. Pismo Beach Det. Sgt. Anthony Hernandez and D.A Senior Investigator Michael Hoier were the lead investigators. The case was prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Lindsey Bittner.

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Community

about its future endeavors and CLC Board Member Marty Bettencourt told EBN they have a new focus to report. "The Accreditation Commission does ask that question," Bettencourt said, "and our response is that our focus will be on the Chevron property and completing the Toro Coast Preserve Project."

That project included the Chevron Dog Beach, which was recently acquired and is now part of the City of Morro Bay. Several conservation groups and local governments — the Cayucos Sanitary District, the County and City of Morro Bay along with CLC and the Morro Bay Open Space Alliance among others — were able to purchase the beach and preserve it as an off-leash dog friendly beach, the only one in SLO County.

The Chevron Lands also include the Marine Terminal Shore Plant and hilltop tank farm (since removed) on top of the coastal hills, and stretches far south into an area east of Del Mar Park in Morro Bay, collectively called, "The Toro Coast."

The effort underway now is to buy and conserve those ranchlands. The marine terminal shipped oil out via tanker ship from 1929 to 1999 when it was closed, replaced by a new inland pipeline.

"The Toro Coast project," Bettencourt said, "is still our current conservation interest and effort, along with the very long term goal of the hillside lots above Cayucos. This year we've been beefing up our community education with guided walks, informational emails about flora and fauna of the area."

The Cayucos hillside lots she refers to are a series of "paper lots" on the eastern hillsides from Toro Creek Road to Old Creek Road. The County in the early 1990s declared the soils up there to be too unstable and the hillsides too steep to allow development. The hundreds of lots have over the years gone into tax liens to be sold, with the CLC and County paying the relatively small liens and retiring the lots into open space.

The CLC has articles and events listed on its website, see: www.cayucoslandconservancy.org/blogs/news.

The CLC is inviting the public to support their re-accreditation application. "Comments must relate to how the Cayucos Land Conservancy complies with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices." Email comments to: info@landtrustaccreditation.org.

Comments may also be submitted via mail to: Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila St., Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; or faxed to 518-587-3183. The deadline to comment is Dec. 1.

For more information on the CLC's accreditation, contact Joanne Riester: djriester@sbcglobal.net.

Supervisors Donate \$10,000 to Templeton Football

By Neil Farrell

One local high school football program is getting a significant boost from County Supervisors, and no, it isn't the school by the beach.

Supervisors recently approved donating a total of \$10,000 to the Templeton High School football program.

The monies came out of three Supervisors' community project slush fund with Dist. 1 Supervisor John Peschong giving \$6,500; Dist. 5's Debbie Arnold gave \$2,000; and Dist. 4's Lynn Compton pitching in \$1,500.

According to the staff report, "The Templeton Football Coaches Club raises funds for the Templeton High School Football Program. Funds raised are used to cover the expenses of items needed that are not covered by the Templeton Unified School District."

The money is earmarked to "offset expenses associated with the operation of the Templeton High School Football Program in 2022, including but not limited to new equipment, coaches' continued education, and online streaming."

Under the heading "Results" the report said, "The funds will be used for the Templeton Football Coaches Club's training expenses and the operation and equipment needs of the Templeton High School Football Program."

The California Interscholastic Federation or CIF, the governing body for high school athletics in California, has numerous rules and regulations concerning big donations like this. Estero Bay News contacted CIF HQ in Sacramento. Rebecca Brutlag, the CIF Media Relations Officer, directed us to their Rule No. 805, which reads:

"ANY GIFT, OR TOTAL OF GIFTS, SPONSORSHIPS OR CONTRIBUTIONS, VALUED AT \$500 OR MORE, TO AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM, TEAM OR COACH (sic):

A. Information on any gift, or total of gifts, sponsorships or contributions of \$500 or more yearly to an athletic program, team or coach which is meant to support that program, team or coach must be reported to the governing body or administrative officer responsible for policy development related to athletics.

B. If requested, a record of gifts, contributions or sponsorships must be made available to the Section to which the school belongs and to the CIF. Such a record should include the date and amount as well as a copy of any existing contractual obligations related to the gift, contribution or sponsorship, and a clear record of the disbursement

of the funds.

C. The acceptance and disbursement of any gifts, contributions or sponsorships must also be in accord with school administrative and district policy and as stipulated under the conditions of membership as outlined in Article 2-22.

D. In the case of private schools or public charter schools specifically exempt from such regulations, the Section or State may require the implementation of reasonable administrative review practices and procedures, concerning the receipt and disbursement of gifts, contributions or sponsorships. (Approved May 1998 Federated Council/ Revised May 2008 Federated Council)

So, it would seem that making a big donation to help a school's football program, even by politicians using taxpayer monies, is okay, so long as it's done with transparency.



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Home and Garden Store in Cambria Opens



A selection of items for sale at Terracotta Home and Garden in Cambria.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Norgan on her opening day at Terracotta Home and Garden. The shop is located at 4070 Burton Drive in Cambria, sharing the ground floor with Amphora and Sweet Offerings. They offer gifts, houseplants, decorative items, and a fantastic section of kitchen items, both decorative and edible.

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **Aug. 28:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:47 p.m. for a code violation. Logs indicated they towed away the poor dingus’ car for expired tags, which seems rather harsh.

• **Aug. 28:** Police spied a familiar foe at 2:36 p.m. in the 300 block of Surf. The 46-year-old scofflaw had three bench warrants, but was issued another disappearance ticket and released.

• **Aug. 28:** Police responded at 12:45 p.m. to the 400 block of Harbor where they arrested another vagrant vehicle for parking in one place too long, a hanging offense in these parts.

• **Aug. 26:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10 a.m. in the 900 block of Pacific. Logs indicated the driver, 49, was cited and released for expired tags but his truck got arrested, which hardly seems fair.

• **Aug. 28:** Police contacted more lazybones at 9:24 a.m. apparently in the Creekbed Estates of the 400 block of Quintana. One apparent lollygagger, 50, and a 53-year-old lollygaggerette got cited for bench warrants, apparently not worth the gas to haul to jail.

• **Aug. 27:** Police responded at 1:25 p.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Quintana. A 33-year-old apparent loudmouth was nicked for making terrorist threats of a felonious nature, a case of words really can hurt you.

• **Aug. 27:** Police responded at 11:50 a.m. to a disturbance in the 1600 block of Main. Logs indicated a 32-year-old model citizen was arrested for suspicion of being high on drugs and giving police a fake name, which apparently didn’t fool anyone.

• **Aug. 26:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 9 p.m.



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at Rite Aid in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated he was nicked for suspicion of being moellered in public and hauled to the dungeon to sleep it off.

• **Aug. 26:** Police responded at 3:30 p.m. in the 800 block of Morro for a reported battery. Logs indicated there was no victim as apparently both combatants were “dependent adults,” so Adult Protective Services was called to sort out this mess.

• **Aug. 26:** Police took a report of vehicle burglary in the 3000 block of Beachcomber.

• **Aug. 26:** Police responded at 12:30 p.m. to the 300 block of Orcas St., for a theft report. Logs indicated the victim’s Social Security Number was used to fraudulently open credit card accounts; to which the only defense against is having crappy credit.

• **Aug. 26:** Police responded at 11:51 a.m. to the 1700 block of Embarcadero where they arrested some mope for being on dope.

• **Aug. 25:** A resident on South Bay Boulevard complained to police about his neighbor harassing him and trespassing on his property. Logs indicated officers attempted to serve the fool with a PC 602 letter, advising him to stop trespassing, “however he refused to sign,” logs said.

• **Aug. 26:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8 a.m. in the 1800 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated the driver, 31, got cited for driving on a suspended license. No word on whether his car was arrested.

• **Aug. 26:** At 7:40 a.m. police contacted a wanted man in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd. The 30-year-old was hauled to the gaol for three bench warrants, and won’t the judge be happy to see him.

• **Aug. 25:** At 9:40 p.m. a woman in the 800 block of Main told police about a case of sexual battery, but she didn’t want to press charges.

• **Aug. 25:** Police responded at 4:17 p.m. to the 2900 block of Dogwood where some doggone mutt stole an electric bike.

• **Aug. 25:** At noon police stopped a suspicious vehicle in the area of Main and Dunes. The driver, 50, was cited for talking on a cell phone while driving and driving on a suspended license. His car got towed away.

• **Aug. 25:** Police responded at 9:22 a.m. to a disturbance in the 200 block of Main. Someone was put on a 72-hour timeout for being “gravely disabled,” and a danger to him or her self.

• **Aug. 24:** Police contacted a suspicious looking dude just before midnight in the 600 block of Quintana. The rascal, 31, was nicked for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and a crack pipe.

• **Aug. 23:** Police responded at 6:37 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2200 block of Emerald Circle. A 61-year-old bor-racho was arrested for suspicion of being drunk in public, disorderly conduct and a bench warrant. He was hauled to the Parkinson Plaza and put out of our misery.

• **Aug. 23:** Police responded at 1:48 p.m. to a car crash on Hwy 1 at San Jacinto, as the infamous highway stoplights claim two more.

• **Aug. 23:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to Albertson’s on Quintana to deal with a pest of a fellow. Logs indicated the 29-year-old squit was arrested for a bench warrant and also issued a trespassing warning for the premises, which ought to get rid of him for sure.

• **Aug. 23:** Police responded at 6 a.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Quintana. They contacted a 36-year-old apparent nillionaire and arrested him for suspicion of being stinky in public.

• **Aug. 22:** Police responded at 10:30 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1600 block of Main. Logs indicated they arrested a 30-year-old fellow for a bench warrant, suspicion of disorderly conduct and being smashed in public, which explains a lot.

• **Aug. 22:** Police responded at 5:22 p.m. to the 2000 block of Sunset where a citizen said his innocent car was vandalized.

• **Aug. 22:** Police responded at 1:11 p.m. to a store in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd. A 43-year-old sticky-fingered fellow was jailed for suspicion of shoplifting.

• **Aug. 22:** Police responded at 11:20 a.m. to a car crash in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., as the roundabout claims two more victims.

• **Aug. 22:** Police responded at 7:39 a.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Quintana. A 37-year-old inebriated fellow was nicked for suspicion of being dumb-belled at Anytime Fitness.

• **Aug. 21:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 700 block of Marina for a report of some sinner committing elder abuse. Officers took a report for Adult Protective Services, a potential case of taking the Fifth for breaking the Fifth.

• **Aug. 21:** At 3:21 p.m. police towed off an offending vehicle from Atascadero Road for not giving the DMV its annual pound of flesh. Earlier, at 11:42 a.m. on Hwy 1 at San Jacinto, police stopped a suspicious woman and regular customer. Logs indicated she was cited for an expired registration and police even towed her car off, a potential death sentence for that 2-wheeled menace.

• **Aug. 20:** Police responded at 2:17 p.m. to a car crash in the 1400 block of Main.

• **Aug. 20:** Police responded to the 1300 block of Bolton Dr., where someone’s vehicle was deleted.

• **Aug. 20:** The registration patrol was at it again, this time towing off a vehicle from Elena Street for expired tags, and you wondered how California managed to amass a \$90 billion budget surplus during a worldwide pandemic.

• **Aug. 20:** Thieves were at work overnight in the 900 block of Anchor. Logs indicated several cars were burglarized and one was stolen, an apparent case of eeny, meeny, miny, moe...

• **Aug. 20:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 3 a.m. at Shasta and Anchor. Logs indicated the 30-year-old swizzle stick was allegedly schwacked and was taken to the County B&B to sleep it off.

• **Aug. 19:** Police responded to the 500 block of Downing at 11:30 p.m. for a reported burglary. No word on what booty was pinched.

• **Aug. 19:** Police responded to the 1000 block of Balboa to referee an uncivil dispute.

• **Aug. 19:** The war on deadbeat cars wages on, as another apparent slugabed had his car towed off from Casitas and Nutmeg for parking in one place too long.

• **Aug. 19:** Police responded at 12:30 p.m. to the Morro Dunes RV Park in the 1700 block of Embarcadero where someone had some camping gear walk off in the middle of the night, as the tourist tax is once again levied.

• **Aug. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at noon at Main and Beach for some undisclosed code violation. Logs indicated a 56-year-old scofflaw was cited for s suspended license, but for some reason his car wasn’t towed.

• **Aug. 18:** Someone turned in a Dodge key fob with five keys on it to unlock the mystery.

• **Aug. 18:** A citizen came to the police station to report a double sin case of fraud by false pretense, aka stealing by lying, an apparent offense to the Big Guy upstairs.

• **Aug. 18:** Police responded to the 1000 block of Market where some poor fisherman said some tool stole his rod and reel.

• **Aug. 17:** Police took a vandalism to vehicle report in the 2900 block of Main.

• **Aug. 17:** Someone turned in a bunch of ammunition they were aiming to get rid of.

• **Aug. 16:** Police responded at 8 a.m. to the 300 block of Tulare to conduct a background check, no word on whether the person passed.

• **Aug. 16:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 9:34 p.m. in the 1700 block of Quintana. The 36-year-old schmoe got nicked for a bench warrant.

• **Aug. 16:** Police responded at 3:30 p.m. to the 500 block of Kings where another citizen left paradise for Heaven.

• **Aug. 16:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 1200 block of Hillcrest. Logs indicated a 21-year-old ruffian went to the house and “got into a physical fight over speeding,” also called road rage. A report for assault was sent to the D.A. for possible action.

• **Aug. 16:** A police report of suspected child abuse at a home in the 700 block of Morro was sent to the D.A.

• **Aug. 15:** Police responded at 5:39 p.m. to the 2400 block of Hemlock where someone found a bicycle on their property that didn’t belong to them, also called a Morro Bay felony.

• **Aug. 15:** Police responded at 8:42 a.m. to Morro Rock where some dude said some bogus hooligan broke into his ride while he was hittin’ the waves and hangin’ ten.



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Takin' Care of Business From page 7

“This shop fills an empty storefront AND a great niche in our village,” said Lorianne Schwenk, executive director for the Cambria Chamber of Commerce. “Jacqueline grew up in Cambria and many of us know and love her mother Sandy Selew. She is delighted to be back in Cambria and running her shop in the East Village.”

Stop by and visit with Jacqueline and Sandy and get all the goodies you didn't know you needed.

City of SLO Hiring

The City of San Luis Obispo is looking to hire a highly communicative and collaborative leader to serve as the City's next finance director.

“We’re looking for a leader who is proven to be equally as effective in the technical management and administration of the City’s finances as in their ability to build relationships and develop and inspire staff,” said Nickole Domini, the City’s Human Resources Director. “As the leader of this team, the Finance Director is responsible for training, mentoring, and guiding their team. The Director also serves as guardian of the City’s organizational strategy, generating ideas, and finding solutions to move the City forward.”

The right candidate will earn a competitive salary and benefits package, manage a team of 15 talented and innovative professionals responsible for the preparation and management of the City budget and annual financial statements, administration of the City's treasury and revenue operations, management of the City's fiscal resources, and general accounting functions.

City officials say, the right candidate must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university in accounting, business administration, public administration, economics, or related field and five years of increasingly responsible professional level financial management (budget administration, fiscal operations, accounting, and auditing, etc.) experience, or an equivalent com-

Poly's Demo Day Entrepreneur Event on Sept. 13



Cal Poly junior Matthew Menno pitches his startup Quickie.

The Cal Poly Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) showcases seven startups at its annual Demo Day in-person at SLO Brew Rock and online via YouTube Live on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

The event culminates the CIE's 2022 Summer Accelerator program, an intensive 13-week program that

helps Cal Poly students and recent graduates develop their startup ideas into scalable businesses. Representatives from each startup will pitch their business ideas and present what they've accomplished with the help of dedicated CIE mentors and staff.

“This year’s cohort is coachable, curious, professional and eager to add their own chapters to Cal Poly and the CIE’s history of entrepreneurial success,” said Jose Huitron, the CIE’s director of student innovation programs, who oversees program delivery and mentorship to student-led ventures. “I’m looking forward to Demo Day and the students showing the community what’s possible when you embrace entrepreneurship and innovation to bring ideas to life.”

The summer program provides teams with \$10,000 in seed funding to build their startups, as well as access to mentorship from industry experts and tailored workshops that delve into the details of building a business. Demo Day will give these teams the opportunity to show how hard work and collaboration have prepared them to take their startups into the next stage.

The cohort includes a variety of industries and disciplines, including accessible technologies, menstrual comfort wear, and firearm safety:

Demo Day Presenters

- Cheekies designed a reusable, machine-washable and leak-proof menstrual short that provides comfort and protection during sleep. The startup was created by engineering management graduate student McCall Brinskele and recent industrial engineering graduate Mariana Inofuentes.

- Grip Safe is developing a patented firearm safety device that makes AR-15-style rifles secure for storage, transportation and handling all through an interchangeable grip attachment. The startup team includes founder and CEO Shaun Tanaka, a public policy graduate student, and engineering contractor Dylan DeFazio, a mechanical engineering junior.

- Quickie is a delivery service providing select food, beverages and other essentials to college students within 2 miles of campus via electric scooter and bicycle, in 10 minutes or less. It was founded by Matthew Menno and William Tregenza, business administration juniors.

- Ryde Carpool is developing a social carpool marketplace for college students to buy and sell empty seats in each other's vehicles. The startup was founded by computer science graduate student Emily Gavrilenko, recent experience industry management graduate Johnny Morris, and computer science junior Josh Wong.

- Sustainmade is using technology to reduce the amount of water, waste, transportation and labor needed to grow strawberries. The startup was founded by recent business administration graduate Corrine Cooper.

- **Venture.Rent** is developing software to connect outdoor equipment rental shops and consumers. The startup was founded by Shubh Khandhadia, a business administration senior.

- X-Adapt is creating a compact, capable and intuitive

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 10



THE CENTRAL COAST'S PREMIUM CANNABIS DISPENSARY

Natural Healing Center (NHC) is one of the leading retail cannabis dispensaries in San Luis Obispo county. With locations in Grover Beach, Morro Bay and Lemoore, and new location opening soon in Turlock, C.A. NHC carries a wide variety of cannabis products and provides excellent one-on-one service, senior & veteran discounts, CBD & medically infused products and the best loyalty program. Offering both in-store shopping experiences and express pickup, NHC opened the first cannabis campus, which provides testing, processing, and retail space, as well as operating cultivation sites, and the first and only consumption lounge in Lemoore. NHC's locations are high-end dispensaries, with over 1800 items, including non psychoactive products that don't give the traditional high that cannabis is known for. It is a great place to learn about cannabis and all of its forms and uses. The dispensary hires only the most rigorously educated budtenders and local staff. Their recommendations help customers enjoy the products effectively and moderately to live better and have a healthier lifestyle.

Unlike alcoholic beverages, marijuana has no hangover the next day and may help people actually sleep better. Cannabis can be found in non-psychoactive strains and product formulations and can help with sleep problems, anxiety, PTSD, relieve chronic pain, nausea, calm muscle spasms associated with multiple sclerosis, and gain relief from fibromyalgia. Cannabis is also a well-known anti-seizure medicine that has very useful benefits and can be taken without causing the high from the psychoactive compound, THC. Medically, and socially, people are learning more and discovering the benefits. The barriers are breaking down and preconceived notions are becoming part of the past. Shop an extensive menu of flowers, edibles, tinctures, topicals and much more. Stop by any of the stores for expert consultation advice, service, and recommendations based on your specific needs.

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An advertisement for Depth Perceptions Diving Services. The background is a vibrant blue underwater scene with a scuba diver in the lower left corner, wearing a mask and snorkel, looking towards the camera. Bubbles and light rays are visible throughout the water. At the top center is a logo featuring a red and black scuba mask with a yellow sunburst behind it. The text "Depth Perceptions Diving Services" is written in a white, serif font. Below this, the slogan "There's nothing like experiencing the Ocean from Under the waves!" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the phone number "805.595.3631" is shown in a large, bold, black font. At the very bottom, the address "12322 Los Osos Valley Road Sam Luis Obispo, CA 93405" and the website "www.depthperceptions.net" are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Community

Business Folks Discuss BID Formation



Jocelyn Brennan Bettina Swigger

By Neil Farrell

Local business owners gathered Aug. 30 for a meeting to discuss banding together and forming a business improvement district to promote and maintain the Downtown and Embarcadero districts, the first meeting in what promises to be a long road.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the meeting in Pizza Port's outdoor space brought the author of a feasibility study on the subject, Jocelyn Brennan, President/CEO of The HRM Corp., written after surveys and interviews were conducted with business owners, as well as Bettina Swigger, the CEO of Downtown SLO, which is the only full "Main Street" organization in SLO County.

In the audience of about 40 people were business owners from the waterfront and Downtown, along with City officials, in this latest effort by the Chamber for economic development.

Brennan quickly ran through her feasibility report, how her staff conducted online surveys and in-person interviews with business people to gauge interest in a BID. "You have a great business community here," Brennan, who used to work for the SLO chamber said. The study was to test the waters and see if it's worth putting energy into the

Takin' Care of Business From page 9

mobility device for people with disabilities. The startup was founded by Evan Lalanne, a manufacturing engineering senior.

Demo Day general admission tickets to SLO Brew Rock are \$10. In-person seating is limited. The event will also be live-streamed for those who register for virtual tickets. Register for tickets at [DemoDay22.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

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

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BID formation.

A BID in this instance would be similar to the Tourism Business Improvement District or TBID that was formed about 12 years ago by lodging industry owners. It's a 3% tax on a room night for motels, hotels, B&Bs, and vacation rentals in town. The money is collected through the City and used by the TBID Board, now called "Visit Morro Bay," to promote the lodging industry, essential looking to put heads in beds.

But a BID could be much more. "A BID," Brennan's report said, "is a program of a city, county, or joint powers authority (JPA). In this case the City of Morro Bay, at the request of business or property owners within a certain defined area, levy an assessment on businesses or property owners to fund services or improvements that benefit the self-assessed businesses or property."

"Business owners and property owners form BIDs because they provide localized services," the report continues. "Cities find BIDs helpful because a BID can promote economic development and, increased tax revenue for the city from the self-assessed BID area. They also carry out economic development services by working to attract, retain and expand businesses."

Another possibility is a "Property Business Improvement District" or PBID, which is levied against the landowner. "PBIDs benefit real property within their districts. They offer services that include cleaning public rights of way; sidewalk and gutter maintenance; trash removal; security services; parking or transportation related services; economic development; special lighting; business attraction and retention; planning and zoning; graffiti removal; advocacy; tree maintenance and planting; marketing and promotion; sponsoring special events; and beautification and decorations."

Taking a quick look around Downtown from Pizza Port's yard, reveals bird-soiled sidewalks and benches, and tree debris littering sidewalks, a PBID's functions would seem to be more in line with what Downtown needs.

However, getting property owners, a great percentage of whom live outside of Morro Bay, to agree to what amounts to a property tax might prove problematic, even though both of these BIDs require a simple majority vote of those affected to pass.

Brennan's report shows the results of the online survey's question regarding ranking 1-5 the best way these monies could be spent, with an almost equal numbers for non-peak season events; marketing to promote local businesses; aesthetic improvements; and extra cleaning and maintenance services and no real "priority" indicated.

Swigger took the microphone to talk about her organization, which is responsible for such great events as Thursday Night Farmer's Market and the Concerts in Mission Plaza, both of which bring hundreds of people to the Downtown commercial district.

She became CEO 4-years ago and took over an organization that started in 1975. COVID has been difficult. "The last two years," she said, "have been a little difficult."

Downtown SLO became an official "Main Street" organization in the 1980s and is the only official full Main Street America Organization.

"The Main Street movement," reads the organization's website, "is the leading voice for preservation-based economic development and community revitalization across the country." (See: www.mainstreet.org/home.)

"This would be an interesting thing for Morro Bay to do," she said.

Her organization had been part of the City until 2008 when they uncoupled, a move that gave them "more freedom in creative ideas and do all kinds of things that the government can't do."

Her organization is funded through a \$150 a year fee that's attached to the City business licenses, and only those businesses within the Downtown SLO's district boundaries pay into it. It is not voluntary.

They in recent years have started new programs to directly deliver needed services, for example they have an Ambassador Program" wherein a hired employee roams Downtown sprucing up the streets and sidewalks, helping lost tourists and keeping an eye on the homeless population that inhabit the area. "They're looking after the security, safety and cleanliness," said Swigger. They also partner with organizations like the Children's Museum and advocate for Downtown SLO to be a cultural center as well as an economic center.

She advised the Morro Bay people to pick one thing that they would like to accomplish with a BID. Focusing on that will "put you in position for success," she said.

This first meeting was intended to be an introduction and there were some enthusiastic folks there, including Tim Cowan, owner of Pizza Port who offered to be a contract person in the formation of a committee to further look into the issue. If readers are business owners downtown or the Embarcadero and interested in the subject, call Cowan at 805-457-3818.

An electronic copy of the feasibility study is available on the Chamber website, see: www.morrochamber.org/2022-business-improvement-district-study.

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Morro Bay Rotary Ducky Derby



The 2nd Annual Morro Bay Rotary Ducky Derby fundraiser happens Saturday, October 8 and duckies are now available. You can sponsor ducks for \$10 each by going to www.morrobayrotary.org. Each sucky will have a unique number. The more duckies you sponsor, the better your chances of winning the following prizes:

- \$300 for 1st Place Winner
- \$200 for 2nd Place Winner
- \$100 for 3rd Place Winner

This fun-filled floating Ducky Derby starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 8 at the Galley/Hof Brau Restaurant’s parking inlet on the Embarcadero with the finish line at Tideland Park. The public is invited to view the more than 500 yellow duckies floating in the race along with “Ducky Wranglers” keeping wayward duckies in line. The Central Coast SurviveOars will have their Dragon Boat in the bay along with numerous kayaks, paddleboards and the Morro Bay Harbor Patrol boat to keep the ducks in a row, so to speak.

Winners will be announced promptly at 10:30 a.m. on the stage located directly behind the Morro Bay Maritime Museum during their Family Fun Day that runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Proceeds support the Morro Bay Rotary’s “Help Us Help Others” campaign focused on providing grants to local non-profit organizations who are working to enhance the well-being of the community.

Partners in the project are Central Coast SurviveOars, Morro Bay Maritime Museum, and Eric Endersby and the Harbor Patrol!

For more information, call 805-441-3552

Morro Bay Sings Annual Fundraiser

Enjoy the music of Creedence Clearwater Revival, support Estero Bay kids and have a great night of fun, food and live music as local musicians Jody Mulgrew and El Bracero Social Club perform on Saturday, October 15. The concert is a benefit for the Community Foundation of Estero Bay, celebrating its 12th annual “Morro Bay

Sings.” In addition to live music, the event features dinner, a live auction, and a silent auction. This year’s event also celebrates the 30th year of the Foundation and over half a million dollars given to local youth!

Tickets are \$60 per person and include dinner featuring Tognazzini’s almond wood smoked chicken, tri tip, baked potatoes, salad and bread. The event also features a no-host bar with wine, beer and soft drinks. The price of each individual ticket includes a tax-deductible donation of \$50. Tables for eight are available for \$480 and tables of ten for \$600-this includes two bottles of wine for the table. Tickets can be purchased on-line through the Foundation’s web site at communityfoundationesterobay.org/events, at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay, and at the City of Morro Bay’s Recreation Division (2nd floor of the Morro Bay Community Center).

The proceeds from Morro Bay Sings events are used by the Foundation to assist Estero Bay area children, who would otherwise not be financially able, to participate in organized sports, recreation, and enrichment programs offered in the Estero Bay communities of Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos.

The fundraiser takes place at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, in Morro Bay. The doors open at 5 p.m., with food served from 5:15 to 6:45, and the event concludes around 9 p.m. Music begins at 7:15 p.m., interspersed with live auction sessions, and the silent auction is available from 5 to 8:15 p.m.

For more information about the non-profit Community Foundation of Estero Bay, or to purchase tickets, go to communityfoundationesterobay.org/events, email info@communityfoundationesterobay.org or call (805) 458-4494.

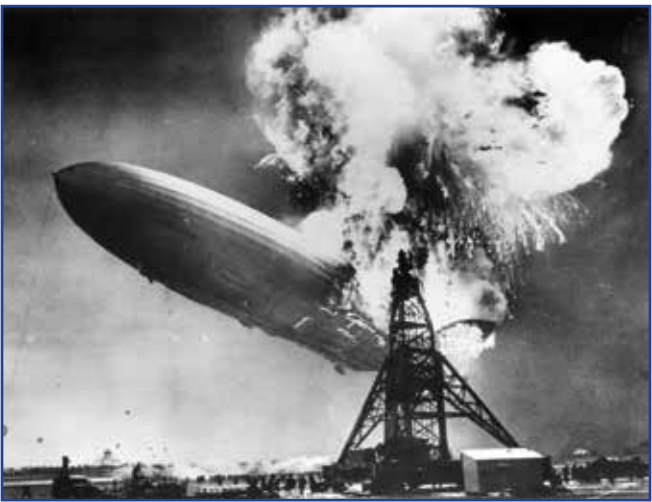


The Hindenburg Disaster

For those of you who might not remember your early school days, I recall a moment in my history that I will pass on to readers of Estero Bay News.

Long before school cafeterias became the normal lunch break for students, I walked home (at least five blocks) for lunch. On the way home I would stop at a bridge over a railroad crossing and watch for any activity that took place.

On May 6 in 1937, I walked the regular route home, and from the bridge I watched a zeppelin move slowly



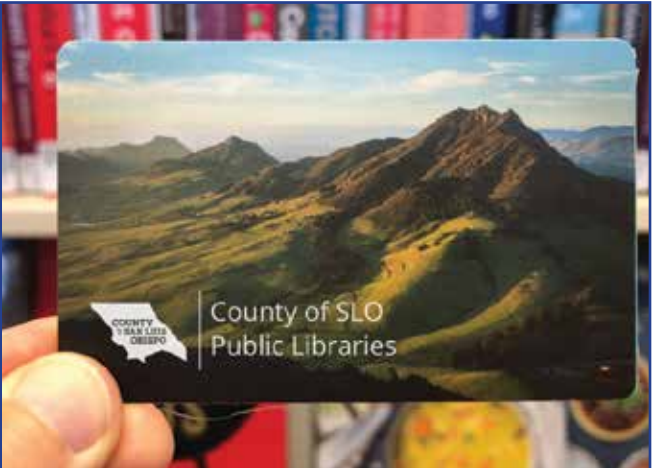
across the horizon.

When I got home I turned on the radio (This was years before television was available.) to listen to my regular shows. To my surprise and shock an announcer, Herbert Morrison, was screaming over the air, “Oh the humanity.” He was witnessing the accident, known as the Hindenburg Disaster, and reporting what he saw as the airship caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in New Jersey. At the time, it was thought everyone on board had died — 35 of the 97 on board died and one person on the ground was fatally injured as well.

Questions remain about how the disaster happened and how it could have been prevented. Was it human error or mechanical?

Adding to the story as it was presented to me several years ago, the engineer who chose the textile that covered the airship was present when the airship exploded. He related to me that his jacket blew off when the airship attempted to land.

Save Money by Borrowing with a Library Card



September is Library Card Signup Month, and the County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries are reminding residents about the value of a library card.

“If you don’t have a card or you haven’t used your card in a while, now’s a great time to discover how much the library has to offer and how much money you could save using the library,” said the library’s engagement and marketing coordinator, Erica Thatcher. “A library card is a tool for success in so many ways.”

By borrowing instead of buying, cardholders save hundreds of dollars. They can shop the library’s online catalog — a collection of hundreds of thousands of new and classic books and DVDs — and request titles to be delivered to their favorite library, or they can browse the shelves in real life.

There are no request fees or overdue fees.

Readers also have access to thousands of free eBooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines through the library’s free Libby, cloudLibrary, and Hoopla services. The library also offers the free online streaming movie service Kanopy.

A library card gives creatives and professionals free online access to LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, and Skill-Share. Adventurers can borrow passes to California cultural venues through the library’s Discover & Go and parks pass programs; foodies can save by borrowing cookbooks or an energy efficient induction cooktop.

“I love to show people how much they can save,” said Thatcher. “According to the online calculator at ILoveLibraries.org a family could save about \$2300 by borrowing three bags of adult books, a few stacks of picture books, and two museum passes, instead of buying.”

Library Card Signup Month is an annual initiative from the American Library Association that highlights the value of a library card in lifelong learning. Visit slolibrary.org for more information about library cards, services, and locations.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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September 8, 2022 - September 21, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News11

Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Would you like a tour of the Morro Bay power Plant and Stacks before they are gone? Have you always wanted to take a flight on a WWII C-47? Are you a bourbon enthusiast that would like a night of very special bourbon tasting? All of these amazing opportunities are featured on the online auction, which is part of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum's fundraiser, Rock the Waterfront. The auction closes at 7 p.m. on October 6. Place your bids at morrobaymaritime.org.

Folks wanting to see even more unique auction items should be at the Rock on the Waterfront fundraiser on October 6 at the MB Yacht Club from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the fabulous hors d'oeuvres, the amazing Gary Ryan on the banjo and Derek Hood mystifying attendees with his magic. Tickets are \$100 per person for non- members and \$90 for members. They are available in person at the Maritime Museum and also online but are limited.

...

As a reminder, the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce presents the reimagined and rebranded 2022 Avocado Margarita Food and Drink Festival Friday, September through Sunday, September 11. This brand-new experience will feature some of the best chefs, bakers, mixologists, musicians, and retail vendors in the Central Coast and surrounding areas. The three-day festival will showcase unique margaritas and gourmet avocado dishes complimented by the picturesque backdrop of Morro Rock and stunning bay views from Tidelands Park.

For evolving, up-to-the-moment information and to get tickets, go to avomargfest.com.

...



Find out if you are putting your household waste in the correct bins curbside and if you are really recycling everything you can. Sometimes this can be confusing. Learn

more about composting at the Los Oso Valley Garden Club's Zoom program on Thursday, September 15, from 6:45-7:45 p.m.

This program includes a series of videos and slides from ECLOSLO, IWMA and other sources covering the following topics:

- What goes in the recycle bin
- What goes in the green waste bin, and
- What goes to the hazardous waste facility

Composting for beginners will also be discussed, along with how to start a worm farm. Attendees will learn how and where to get free top-quality compost in SLO County twice a year.

This is free and open to the public. Send questions via email to info@lovgardenclub.org. The easiest way to join this Zoom Meeting, is to go to

https://bit.ly/3QaQebw or go to zoom.us, and enter the meeting ID and passcode - 811 8110 7063

...



CALL FOR ARTISTS
Faces of the Central Coast
ENTRY DATE: SEPT 20, 2022

The Art Center Morro Bay calls artist to be a part of their upcoming "Faces of the Central Coast" art exhibit, running from Sept. 22 to Nov. 7. Artists working with all kinds of mediums and styles are encouraged to submit their entries during Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Faces can be found along a hillside, imagined in clouds or a reflection from a pool of water. Graffiti, landmarks, horseback riding, ranching, surfing and other local sports are great examples. What's your favorite face of the Central Coast? The exhibit focuses on an artistic representation spotlighting a likeness, personality and mood of people and animals, the face of buildings and the beautiful landscapes.

Artists are invited to submit multiple art forms and pieces. Submission information, fees and entry forms are

located at artcentermorrobay.org. Print entry forms and submit with your artwork on Tuesday, September 20 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

...

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

• **Paws to Read** - Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School Age.

• **Featured Artists** - Through September Pat Watson's art will be on display. Wood Carvers will stay up through September in the case

• **Storytime** - Thursdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.

• **Stay Young with Qi Gong!** - Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Qi Gong is a system for physical, mental and spiritual development that has roots dating back thousands of years in China. It consists of flowing movements and meditations that cultivate life force energy (called qi by the Chinese). The basics of qi gong are not difficult to learn and practice, and are particularly beneficial for older adults. Instructor Devin Wallace was certified to teach by qi gong master Lee Holden. Devin has taught at hospitals, fitness & yoga centers and also does private classes.

• **E-Device Class** - Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10 a.m.

Bring your electronic device in and Diana will do her best to answer any questions you have.

...

The Morro Coast Audubon Society's next Community Program, The Bats of San Luis Obispo County, takes place Monday, September 19 at 7 p.m. It is presented by Bill Haas, director of Central Coast Bat Survey.

California's Central Coast hosts 19 species of bats. All are insectivorous. All are beneficial to local agriculture as agents of pest control — millions of dollars' worth of benefit! None carry (and thus cannot transmit) the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Very few are hosts to the rabies virus. There are no vampire bats on the Central Coast or anywhere in the USA. Our bats live in cottonwood trees, in caves, and in crevices; they roost in bridges, belfries, and barns; they sequester under roof tiles, in attics, and the walls of old wooden structures. Some literally hang out in wind-sheltered porticos, especially stucco-walled entryways, where they dismember,

devour, and digest their prey leaving homeowners the forensic evidence to solve the mystery of their nighttime mischief. Contrary to what many people think, they don't really eat a lot of mosquitos, but they do feast on a pot-

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Community

pourri of scrumptious, mouth-watering exo skeletonized fare that includes Mayflies, moths, and midges. Want to learn more? Bring your questions and a healthy appetite for learning even more about our Central Coast bats.

Join the Zoom meeting at bit.ly/3CRGzUi. All MCAS Zoom Community Programs are free and open to the public. As always, all ages are welcome.

On Friday September 9 at 5:30 p.m., join the History Center of SLO County for their next Carnegie Lecture, "Maria Ascension "Cen" Dallidet and the Legacy of a Founding Family of San Luis Obispo" with Kathleen Cairns.

The spotlight is on the women of the Dallidet family, especially eldest daughter Maria Ascension - known to all by the nickname Cen - as well as her younger sister Rose.

Kathleen Cairns, a member of the History Center's Board of Directors, taught history/women's studies at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and at California State University Sacramento. Before that she was a journalist in Long Beach. She holds a Ph.D. in history from UC Davis, and is the author of six books, all focused on women and California history.

This event takes place in-person at 696 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo and online at bit.ly/3e1tHjP.



and the adjacent park. Admission is free for all ages. There will be BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages for sale and a Family Fun Fair Giant Raffle.

The free events include rock and roll band "Route 66," games for kids, petting Zoo animals, face painting, and soccer shootout. The raffle prizes include a hotel Staycation, Doobie Brothers Concert tickets, Apple 7 watch and many more gift certificates, and gift bags. Raffle tickets are only \$2 each. Family Fun Fair starts



The Cambria Center for the Arts, 1350 Main St in Cambria, is invites the public to the Gallery's next show: John Seed: Paintings from Then and Now. The exhibit will adorn the walls through October 30, 2022.

When he first showed his work in 1984, John Seed was painting large oil paintings with bold, expressionistic subject matter. Now, living in Cambria, he paints small semi-abstract watercolors loosely based on local scenery. Seed's CAA exhibition will feature three large oils, including "Wine and Roses," which was included in his 1984 one-man show at Newspace Gallery in Los Angeles. The exhibit will also showcase a broad selection of Seed's watercolors. There will also be a display of some of the books and magazines he has written or contributed to in his nearly 2 decades as an active art writer.

For more information, go to cambriaarts.org/gallery-exhibits/ or contact the Gallery with any questions at gallery@cambriaarts.org

Attend a One-Woman-Show with Brynn Albanese on Sat, September 10 at 2 p.m. at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, 2220 Snowy Egret Lane. Donations only: Suggested donation of \$20 per adult is greatly appreciated. Some give more and some give less. Kids are free.

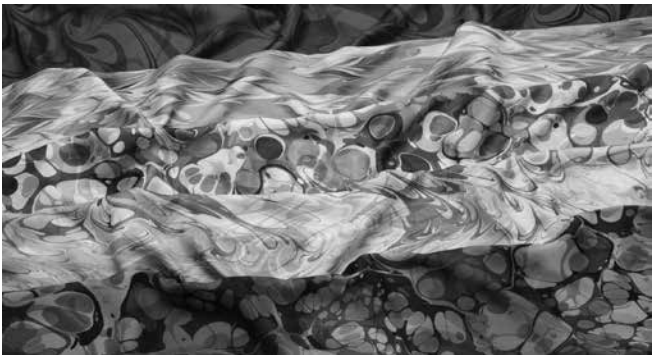
Brynn is a well-known and loved multi genre violinist on the California Central Coast. She has been seen front and center as soloist and concertmaster on numerous Performing Arts Center stages with a wide variety of groups in the area as well as the ever-popular World Music Band, Café Musique. She is the founder and artistic sirector of Cambria's largest concert series, Cambria Concerts Unplugged. Brynn is now a therapeutic music practitioner and end of life doula in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

With a mix of European Gypsy, Latin jazz, classical with a twist, opera covers and a big splash of Celtic, Brynn has created a lively, engaging and interactive show.

Music begins promptly at 2 p.m. For more information call 805-528-0654 or send an email to office@stbenslosos.org.



Morro Bay Art Association presents the workshop Dye-Ming Silk Scarves with Sharon Gellerman on October 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$65 for MBAA members and \$75 for non-members. It takes place at Art Center Morro Bay at 835 Main Street, Morro Bay. Pre-registration is required at Art Center Morro Bay, (805) 772-2504.



The Rotary Club of Los Osos is again having their Family Fun Fair after a two-year COVID-19 pause. The event, from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, September, is an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a day at the park for games, bounce houses, face painting, and entertainment. The event takes place at Los Osos South Bay Community Center



Events and Activities Continued on page 14

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Letters To The Editor

Salvation Over Fear

Politics should be taken out of the science of what was known as global warming, now climate change, without scarring people with fear. I say this because of how the subject has been handled in our past and present from the left, as the future is still in God's control.

As a meteorologist for the last 39 years, I am concerned about how this subject in weather in the form of climate research has been done. In closing I don't have anxiety or worry over this because I know that Jesus Christ will set up a millennium kingdom that will last for a thousand years after the Tribulation and Great Tribulation period. My concern is for the salvation of people over the fear of science.

Scott C. Presnal
Morro Bay,

Events and Activities From page 11

Sharon Gellerman is a local artist who creates one-of-a-kind, hand-marbled, silk scarves and silk tallits. Sharon has a fresh and modern interpretation of the classical art of marbling on fabric. Through experimentation with color, technique and dye, she has refined her style and designs.

Her sense of art has been greatly influenced by memories of Israel and her love of the California Coast. These elements are reflected in the intricate patterns and vibrant colors of her textile designs. These complex designs and skillful use of color make each scarf or tallit a unique and wearable piece of art.

Marbled silk scarves are made by layering colorful dyes onto a solution of water and cellulose. This process allows the dyes to float above the liquid. Using custom made combs or rakes, the layers of color are then manipulated into unique designs. When the fabric is placed on top of the composition and absorbs the dye colors, it transfers onto the silk scarf, creating the marbling affect.

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

Vote 'No' on Harbor Tax

When I first moved to Morro Bay in 1999 the Harbor Dept. was financially very well off.

Now they are saying they are broke and need money badly for repairs. Where did all that money go?

Why weren't they repairing things a little each year? Was it because the Harbor Director kept changing and no one followed the money?

The mayor wants to put a tax on property owners to pay for the Harbor repairs, with no end of the tax stated, and it increases every year. I say NO!!

In the past two Estero Bay News I have read articles about the Harbor Dept. receiving money for repairs. With that money and the money they get each year from leases they could do a lot. But will they??

No, if they can get more money out of increased property tax.

Under most of this council, the cost of living in Morro Bay has increased to the point of it being difficult, if not impossible, for the average family to live here or buy a home here.

Our sewer rates have gone up and with all the change orders (over 75) they will probably go up some more, garbage has doubled, utilities have increased, sales tax has increased and now they want to increase our property tax.

The initiative is B 22, watch for it and vote NO.

Ann Reisner
Morro Bay

Council Contract - Conflict Concerns

At the Aug. 23 Morro Bay City Council meeting, my public comment was interrupted by Mayor John Heading. Ironically, my public comment spoke to the City's lack of transparency in their public process.

Had I not been interrupted or muted, I would have revealed the potential conflict of interest between Mayor Heading and councilmember Jen Ford. As co-owner of the marketing agency Rock Harbor Marketing, Ford provided marketing services for Heading's election and re-election campaigns in 2018 and 2020, respectively.

But evidence indicates that Ford remains involved in Heading's 2022 re-election campaign.

FACT: On Mayor Heading's campaign Facebook page, RHM was listed as its current operator.

FACT: According to Heading campaign filings from Aug. 21, 2021, Heading paid RHM \$450 to host his campaign's domain name through 2022.

FACT: On Heading's 2022 re-election website, evidence within its source code indicates RHM remains involved.

It's unprecedented and improper to have a sitting councilmember provide marketing services for a mayor's re-election campaign. This undercuts any credible claims of independent voting by Councilmember Ford and Mayor Heading. Councilmember Dawn Addis also received services from RHM for her Morro Bay council campaign. There is a financial motive for the council majority to vote with a rubber stamp.

I call on Mayor Heading to end his contract with RHM immediately to eliminate this long-standing conflict of interest.

Aaron Ochs
Morro Bay

What's the Deal M.B. Council?

How much poor behavior can one Morro Bay City Council meeting produce (8/24/22)?

Let me single out one item: an appeal of a super-small, 2-story house on a substandard bluff top lot.

The Planning Commission denied the permit because it required four variances not including a possible fifth exception if the Building Dept. requires a retaining wall. Obviously, what the developer wants doesn't fit the code because it took her four years to negotiate to this point.

Council's decision to allow such an offense to other property owners, neighbors, and tourists (it's on Main, a scenic corridor) was compounded by staff, mayor, and council members refusing to show a picture of the house, how it fit on the lot, and its relationship to adjacent homes. At a public hearing, the Public is not allowed to view what is being voted on?!

Three requests for a picture were ignored. Instead, council members chose to describe it: "quirky," "funky."

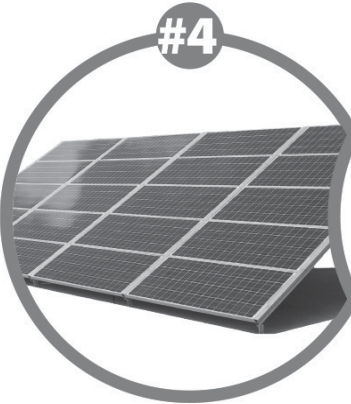
What were they hiding? Get your hands on the staff report. What the house looks like could be classified as a spaceship sitting on the bluff, a building from a futuristic world, or a miniature skyscraper from Dubai (it's between 2 one-story houses).


Time for respectful voices on the City Council.

Betty Winholtz
Morro Bay

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

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Obituary

Arnold Kirkewoog 1928 - 2022



Arnold Kirkewoog passed away on July 24 due to complications of lymphoma. Instead of the 48 hours predicted by doctors, he spent ten days gently drifting away, occasionally opening his eyes to see who was at his bedside, then perhaps reliving his world travels, connecting his electric car to his new photovoltaic system, planting a new crop of tomatoes, planning his next invention, painting local landscapes, and of course dancing up a storm. In these final days he never stopped living fully and deeply, too busy and too inspired to stop for anything.

A first generation only son of Norwegian parents, he struggled in school but as a youngster growing up in San Francisco, Arnold never ceased to educate himself: navigating tug boats, installing sound systems, designing turn signals and seatbelts before they were standard issue.

When he joined the Navy, tests revealed his gifts for science and technology and he was trained in electrical engineering. The experience led him to Livermore and a career at the UC Berkeley "Rad Lab" where he participated in the development of transistor solid state technology, experiments on satellites, fusion research and more.

After he retired and after the passing of his Dutch wife, Margo, of 64 years, Arne resettled into Baywood Park/Los Osos. He quickly became one of the colorful characters of this eccentric community: wearing his Hawaiian shirts and plantation hats, letting his treasured hair grow down to his shoulders, dancing with anyone and everyone. He could be seen BS-ing with the Baywood Navy, listening to music at the Dockside restaurant, buying beers for the local baker, and cruising the Back Bay with camera in hand. Every time he was on the bay he would smile and say "life doesn't get any better than this."

It did get better. He met his best friend Eleanor who introduced him to vegetable gardening, meditation and her amazing group of friends. They explored and enjoyed the Central Coast together. Everyday was an adventure.

In his final decade he visited Norway and reconnected with the extended family of his mother Ellen. Upon his

return to Baywood, he raised a Norwegian flag in his backyard and proudly put on a hand-knit Norwegian sweater over his Hawaiian shirt whenever the fog came in.

And right up to the end, he remained as intrepid, colorful and determined as ever. Just before being hospitalized Arnold had accompanied his Dutch nephew on a hike up Black Hill. And when he was barely able to speak, he motioned for us to come in close for some final words. This followed: "I think I swallowed a magnet." No farewell, no mushy sentiment, just a nod to technology, and his belief that anything can be fixed and improved.

Arnold is survived by his daughter Ingrid who resides in Baywood and son Eric who lives in Portland.

In the memory and spirit of Arnold Kirkewoog please choose one or more of the following and do it with gusto:

- Dance to live music
- Hike
- Tell a joke
- Plant a garden
- Take something apart and put it back together
- Pick up a sketch book
- Volunteer

Reduce Electricity Use Through Sept. 10

California and the West are expecting extreme heat that is likely to strain the grid with increased energy demands.

In many areas of the West, temperatures are forecasted to hit triple digits and break records. In what's likely to be the most extensive heat wave in the West so far this year, the California Independent Systems Operator is taking measures to bring all available resources online. If weather or grid conditions worsen, the ISO may issue a series of emergency notifications to access additional resources and prepare market participants and the public for potential energy shortages and the need to conserve.

The power grid operator expects to call on Californians for voluntary energy conservation via Flex alerts. During a Flex Alert, consumers are urged to reduce energy use from 4-9 p.m. when the system is most stressed because demand for electricity remains high and there is less solar energy available. The top three conservation actions are to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, avoid using large appliances and charging electric vehicles, and turn off unnecessary lights. Lowering electricity use during that time will ease strain on the system, and prevent more drastic measures, including rotating power outages.

Learn more about conserving energy or sign up for text notifications at www.FlexAlert.org. The ISO continues to closely monitor conditions and will provide updates as necessary. To stay current with forecasted supply and demand conditions, and monitor emergency notifications, visit the ISO's Today's Outlook, download the free ISO Today mobile app.

Poly Director of Jazz Studies and Guests to Give Recital



Henry Johnson

Arthur White, Cal Poly's director of jazz studies, presents a jazz recital with guests at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, in the Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center.

White will play saxophone with guest musicians Henry Johnson, guitar; Jo Ann Daugherty, piano; Dale Black, bass; and Thomas Taylor, drums.

The program will feature original compositions by White and Johnson.

White is a Kansas native who spent several years of his professional career teaching and performing throughout the Midwest. He has been at Cal Poly since 2019. More information about White is on his faculty website.

Johnson began playing guitar in his hometown of Chicago when he was 12. His musical roots include blues, gospel, jazz and rhythm and blues. In addition to his hit

Jazz Continued on page 19

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One of numerous reverse osmosis filter trains that put the recycled wastewater through advanced micro-filtering, and will produce water that will be injected into the Morro Creek underground aquifer.

gal in California, Mimiaga said. But the water is good for the City’s plans, which involve piping back the recycled water to an injection well field located on the power plant property. There the water will be injected into the underground Morro Creek aquifer to bolster the supply and throw up a block against seawater intrusion. The Morro Creek wells, located on the east side of Lila Keiser Park, would then pump out the mixture of normal groundwater and the recycled water, and run it through the City’s desalination plant before piping it up to the Kings Street tank farm and blending it with the City’s other sources for delivery all over town.

The plant is spotless, as Mimiaga leads the way through the front gates on a paved road leading through the plant.

The new Administration Building is the first structure one encounters, with a big American Flag waving on a pole by the entrance. The outside has the feel of a new car, but inside it’s a different story.

Mimiaga asks for forgiveness for the condition of the building, which sustained major flooding damage several weeks ago, when on a weekend, a water pipe burst and flooded the entire building, with clean water.

The drywall became soaked and to prevent mold, is being removed and rehung with clean wallboard. The walls are marked with words like “Demo” and instructions



These large storage tanks are part of the wastewater discharge system that will pump unusable water back to the Atascadero Road site and connect with the ocean outfall of the old desal plant at the base of Morro Rock. The water is chlorinated and then de-chlorinated before discharge.

to remove cabinets in one small room so the drywall can be removed. It must truly have been quite a mess, but Mimiaga said readers should not fret, because the contractors, Filanc/Black & Veatch, will pay for the clean up and repairs.

Outside he points out two large canopies under which the department’s vehicles and other large equipment will be stored. A large water tank looms behind. It’s one of the main tanks in the recycling process, Mimiaga said.

The raw sewage will enter the plant and be piped all the way to the far end, where the treatment process begins with screening out inorganics in the waste stream, a process collectively called “gritting.”

Mimiaga explained that there are a series of increasingly finer screens that sift the incoming raw sewage, removing all the things that people flush down toilets. “You’d be surprised,” he said. The fine screen strainer is, “like a spaghetti strainer on a drum,” he said, “This is one of the most important pieces of equipment. Any inorganic materials would be damaging to our membranes.”

The wastewater, now called “black water” for obvious reasons, is sent through a second process involving a well filled with fine screening membranes. The wastewater floods the well and pumps suck the water through the membranes, filtering out the smallest of solids in the process.

Once through the membrane reactor, the water is piped into an “activated sludge Pond” a deep pool of water where the biological portion of the process takes place. “It’s the biggest tank on site,” he said of the two bioreactors with the City expected to just run one side at a time. The activated sludge is actually a culture of microorganisms, which eat the remaining organic wastes in the water. Big compressors — called Bubbles — aerate the sludge ponds constantly feeding the little critters oxygen to keep them healthy.

On this day the pool is full of what looks like pool water, a greenish-blue that might be inviting on a hot day. But when the plant is running, the water will be a chocolate brown, and definitely not something one would want to dive into.

The sludge is the key component in this MBR process. They will have to bring in a live culture from somewhere else, Mimiaga said, possibly a treatment plant in Paso Robles, and grow their own cultures for each tank. “They eat raw sewage,” Mimiaga said, “and we harvest their dead bodies. That’s how we remove the solids.”

The sludge is drained away daily and sent to a series of deep pits, where it will collect until it’s put through a dewatering process, essentially a large conveyor belt that lays out the sludge flat and sends it through a series of rollers, squeezing it more with each turn until the dried sludge is dumped into a container. That will be trucked to the Central Valley where it will be used for fertilizer, he explained.

Once the water leaves the sludge pond, it splits, Mimiaga explained.

Some of the wastewater is sent to chlorination tanks, and then de-chlorination tanks before being piped back to town for discharge into the ocean, using the City’s old desal plant discharge that dumps into the canal at the base of



This is one of two activated sludge ponds and a key part of the treatment process. The water looks green because it was being tested with clean water from a fire hydrant. When filled with sewage, it’ll be chocolate brown and much less inviting. The ponds will be filled with a culture of micro-organisms that are being transferred from a treatment plant in Paso Robles to digest remaining organic wastes.

Morro Rock.

The rest of the water is destined for a separate process to make it recyclable.

The recycled water is disinfected using ultraviolet light and then sent through a full reverse osmosis plant and calcite is added to control the acidity. It’s then piped back to the injection wells at the power plant.

That recycled water, “is highly regulated, sampled and tested every day,” Mimiaga said. He added that ironically, when the water is pumped out again it goes through another RO process along with the Morro Creek groundwater. “It’ll be pulled out and treated again,” he said, adding that the water that is going to be injected into the ground is cleaner than the natural groundwater, which the City has documented, is high in nitrates. “It should improve the quality of the groundwater table,” he said.

He noted that now the recycled water is thought of more as an insurance policy, but in the future could be called upon to provide more and more of the potable water. As for the overall project, he said the conveyance system is 90% done and segments are being pressure tested. They should have power to the two new lift stations within the next week or two, depending on PG&E’s schedule.

He said they are testing the pipes with drinking water too. They are on a tight schedule at this point.

They’ve set a target date of Oct. 4 for when raw sewage will start being sent to the new plant. “When we introduce raw sewage,” he said, “then we’ll have a functioning wastewater treatment plant at that point.”

He said the City has a few months left in its time schedule as ordered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, under the City’s discharge permit.

The City has a three months waiver before the discharge regulations kick in. We should be fully compliant within a few days. Oct. 4 is a big day here.”

The water board ordered the City back in 2003 to bring the old sewer plant up to full secondary treatment standards, in order to eliminate a so-called 301(h) permit under the Clean Water Act. That permit allowed the plant to discharge a mix of primary and secondary treated wastewater, an occasion that only happened a few times a year when Morro Bay and Cayucos flow is too high for full secondary.

Over the past two years the project has been underway, cost overruns have been concerning for just about everyone in town who pays a water and sewer bill.

He said they are at \$76 million for the plant at this point. The original contract was for \$69 million. “The City started this with an estimate of \$126 million,” he said. The project will likely go about \$33 million over estimates, but he points out that the financing came in so low — both a State and Federal loan have interest rates under 1% — that the savings has been enough to cover the overruns and spare any rate hikes.

Mimiaga, after explaining the intricate and extensive control systems and backups, and the countless miles of wiring and conduit that went into the plant, said, “It took about 50 men two years to build,” he said, while also marveling at the genius of electricians who wired the whole



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News

thing together.

And as for the large dirt parking area where the project has staged its construction trailers and where workers parked, it is not part of the plant site. It's owned by the "Shepherd and Seashell Properties" and includes a small subdivision on Teresa Drive. Under the lease agreement and required by the permit, it must be returned to grass-lands when the project is done.

The owners have asked the City to include the property into its sphere of influence in advance of a future annexation. They have also asked the City to change the zoning to allow smaller buildable lots and greatly increase the allowable units.

Mimiaga said the City may plan a grand opening some-time in the future, to allow the people who are paying for it to check out the largest infrastructure investment the town has ever seen.

Moving Forward From page 1



The golden ticket for smallocal collaborators.

It will encourage customer support to augment "buy-lo-cal" promotions for community small businesses. It just happens to be based in Morro Bay — at least for now.

By trade, Evans is a commercial real estate broker, by choice, a career-experienced caregiver for his aging parents, and by avocation, an advocate for small businesses. He co-chairs the Morro Bay Chamber's Ambassador Program, which stays in touch, takes the pulse and echoes the needs of the city's business community, most of which are small businesses.

"Franchise businesses and corporate groups are winning market share," Evans said. "Through the years I've witnessed an increasing competitive disadvantage for our small businesses and wondered how to solve the problem."

He decided to create a method to invigorate trust for local small businesses that would attract new customers and maintain loyal customers. He envisions an interactive collaborative of small businesses reaching potential customers by displaying a recognizable brand that would signal the members' dedication to serve their consumers. The brand, currently designed as a megaphone, would be prominently displayed in the member business' storefront to shout out the business' popularity among locals.

The goal is to position brand loyalty for the Smallocal "mom & pop" coffee business as direct competition for a Starbucks. The dream for Evans is the Smallocal brand will someday signal superior customer service, that feel-good customer service once promoted in the 80s-90s television sitcom Cheers "where everyone knows your name."

"I've collected a paycheck from 46 different small businesses, including my own," Evans said. His career changes were often life's circumstances guiding him to a next career path. "I'm an entrepreneur at heart and always restless to learn by doing."

His diverse experience comes from having worked hands-on in the trenches of several industries. For example, for ten years he worked in ophthalmology healthcare. It has guided his pro-active care-giving support for his father, Dick Evans, who is legally blind and yet worked an entire teaching career before retirement and then became an active docent for the Morro Bay Natural History Museum.

Evans' training and preparedness in health care also made it possible for him to recognize early enough to alert his mother's doctor, that a fall Charlene Evans experienced created a deep knee wound requiring more than superficial physical therapy.

When Brad decided to move closer to his parents he decided to activate his degree in radio/television/film production. He worked in radio advertising and became a familiar voice for area commercials, especially Big Block Realty, where he currently partners in commercial real estate.

He lived in Grover Beach where he developed his strong advocacy for small businesses working with members of various chambers of commerce. At one point he was the board chairman when the Grover Beach Chamber merged with Arroyo Grande Chamber. It was during this time Evans decided to launch an idea he had for a sandwich shop. He called it Stacked. It might not have been one of his better career decisions, although in hindsight a learning experience he wouldn't trade.

Ultimately, his personal health, his parents' continued vulnerable health issues and his father's fall and need for three joint replacements procedures determined his decision to move in with his parents in Morro Bay. His availability and health care skills allowed his parents to stay in the home they loved.

When he joined the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, Brad realized he wanted to reinvigorate his work with small businesses and volunteered to co-chair the Ambassador Program with fellow media sales friend, Ray Riordan. Ultimately visiting and listening to the issues of local small businesses, he confirmed it was time to revive his concept and development of Smallocal.

In the following excerpt from his recently posted first blog for Smallocal. Evan's transparency is refreshing as he admits creating such a concept has definitely been a learning curve while matriculating in the school of hard knocks:

"In 2006 my wife and I opened a sandwich shop in Grover Beach, California. The business was open for six years. The lessons learned from this experience are priceless. There is a saying, 'There are no failures, only life lessons.' I disagree. There are failures. It is what you learn from the failure that creates the lesson. Admitting failures on your part is not easy. Attaching blame to other factors may give a sense of relief, but is an avoidance of truth. The truth is, I failed miserably running that business. As a result, we closed the business, got divorced, and went our separate ways."

Now after years of work experience and advocacy for small businesses, he believes he has some answers to solve this particular puzzle. "I am currently working on my next blog. His website and first blog can be found at <https://imsmallocal.com>.

He added, "There are steps and stages to starting any business and they are usually similar regardless of the business type. However, Smallocal is different in many respects. I am building the foundation for a small business owners' collaborative that is intended to be built and defined in stages by the small business owners who have decided to participate. We, the collaborative, will co-op the vision of creating a community of like-minded business owners who can provide each other with their individual expertise, a variety of skill sets, and promotional support.

"I believe such a collaborative will raise the efficiency of any business and increase profitability from the diverse, interactive resources provided among the participating members. Consumers will have peace-of-mind knowing that each member business has been chosen by other members to join the collaborative because it represents a set of standards that align with the Smallocal's mission."

Evans is interested in discussing Smallocal with other business owners throughout the Estero Bay area. He wants to find others that believe it can work and want to help him build it. More details and contact information can be found on his website or meet-up at any number of Morro Bay Chamber events and Brad Evans will be there.

New COVID Booster Coming



Updated COVID-19 booster vaccines that specifically protect against current variants will soon be available in San Luis Obispo County. The bivalent vaccines provide targeted protection against the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 strains of COVID-19 as well as the original strain. The updated doses will replace current boosters for those age 12 and older.

"Like the flu shot, this booster dose is updated to protect against the strains circulating right now," said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. "Staying up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccine protection, along with getting your flu shot, is the best way to protect yourself this winter, protect your family as we look ahead to the holiday season, and do your part to help protect our community's hospital capacity ahead of a possible winter surge."

Two updated boosters will be available: a Moderna booster for ages 18 and older, and a Pfizer booster for ages 12 and older. Residents may get an updated booster two months after completing the primary series, or two months after receiving a previous booster dose. Current booster vaccines will remain available for children age five through 11 years.

"We all want to enjoy this winter without a terrible surge of COVID-19 and nobody wants our hospitals to be overwhelmed. Boosters and flu shots are among our most powerful tools to make that a reality," said Dr. Borenstein.

Updated booster doses will be available from pharmacies, doctor's offices and mobile clinics in the coming weeks as shipments of these vaccines arrive locally. To schedule an appointment, contact your local pharmacy or health care provider, or visit VaccineFinder.org or MyTurn.ca.gov.

For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit slo-publichealth.org/COVID19. Public health phone.

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News

Dispatch Center From page 1
public facilities,” he said. The soil type meant that they would have to cart off all the soil from the foundation and truck in better-suited soils, a cost that would have made the facility astronomically higher.

But doesn’t the County have several facilities there, namely the Juvenile Services Center, Honor Farm, animal shelter, the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Men’s and Women’s Jails?

“The Sheriff’s Office,” he said, “ran into major issues” with the foundation work on the Women’s Jail, because of the poor soils. And the new dispatch center would have eaten into a County maintenance yard, and as well as a safe parking lot for the homeless that was established right next door.”

The Kansas site also would have meant removing an OES Media Center that was set up to be a media hub during natural disasters.

There were also issues with communications from the Kansas site and a technical working group of OES, County IT, Sheriff’s and Cal Fire analyzed the two sites and chose the North County location as better suited for the dispatch center.

They’ve been working on this project since 2012 with the aim of bringing the Sheriff’s and Cal Fire Dispatching under one roof. Currently, the Sheriff’s law enforcement dispatch center is in the OES Building on Kansas Avenue and fire radio center is at the Cal Fire/County Fire headquarters on Hwy 1 in SLO.

The Sheriff’s Department dispatches its own calls from unincorporated towns, as well as Morro Bay and Arroyo Grande police radio traffic.

In 2016, the Supervisors approved using the “Design-Build” method of project delivery, meaning that the same company, Diani, will both design the facility and build it too. Such a method is supposed to cut down on issues that inevitably crop up over the long duration of these big projects, and to streamline the decision-making process.

With the contract award, Diani will start with its design work and Neer said they should be ready to break ground in Spring 2023, with a completion date sometime in late fall or early winter 2024.

The project is one of three big ticket jobs the County is planning to sell bonds to finance, the others are a new Probation Department Office on Johnson Avenue in SLO, and the rebuilding of the Cayucos Vet’s Hall. Neer said the Supervisors are expected to take up the bond sale issue sometime in November.

The bonds are expected to be repaid out of County General Funds, and not include a specific new tax, so it likely won’t have to be approved by voters.

Two other companies were pre-qualified to bid the project — Bernards of SLO and Anderson Burton Const. of Arroyo Grande but Anderson Burton withdrew before bidding.

“Upon conclusion of evaluation of proposals from Diani and Bernards,” Neer’s report said, “the selection

committee unanimously recommended that the County enter into contract negotiations with Diani. Negotiations with Diani ensued shortly thereafter.”

But the construction contract and its contingency isn’t the whole costs, as there are also \$5.67 million in building and site costs, and \$6.02 million in “soft costs” — i.e. professional services, administration, permits/fees, testing/inspections and more project contingency, for a grand total project budget of \$36.68 million.

The D-B contract is in two phases — design with a budget of \$6.5 million and once the bond financing is in place, the construction phase.

Diani offered several add-ons without additional costs like: upgraded shelters for the Cal Fire mobile command unit, and the Bomb Squad’s truck; an outdoor exercise patio; second floor outdoor patio; a kitchen area; added window shading “eyebrow” devices; added exterior window treatments to “further soften the building exterior;” “park-like” recreational outdoor space and trellis structure at north side of building; and, “board-and-batten style metal trim building wainscoting and gabled roof ends,” among others.

The Templeton site wasn’t without its detractors, namely, the folks in Templeton.

“This project has substantial impacts to Templeton and North County area,” reads a letter to Supervisors from Murray Powell, the Vice Chairman of the Templeton Area Advisory Group, which advises Supervisors on land use issues in Templeton much as the Los Osos Advisory Council and Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council do.

TAAG Vice Chair Powell said, “This project will result in long term irreversible negative impacts to the area’s historical rural character and life style.”

Among the issues Templeton residents raised was concerns about a 160-foot tall radio antenna needed for the center’s radio traffic.

Neer told EBN that the tower will have assorted antennas and radio receivers and transmitters on it and be aligned with similar facilities on top of Tassajara Peak, on the Cuesta Ridge. That’s how they will be able to have communications with Arroyo Grande as well as the North Coast communities. Cal Fire dispatches Los Osos, Morro Bay and Cayucos fire department calls.

TAAG had a few other concerns: “TAAG has focused on the following primary environmental issues associated with this project’s development at its proposed Templeton 101 and North Main Street location.

- Aesthetic impacts of the proposed 140 -160-foot Communication Tower at its proposed Templeton location;
- Exclusion of the County’s existing COC Kansas Avenue SLO operations site from consideration as the location of the new Co-Dispatch facility;
- Proposed Templeton project site’s drainage and potential flooding impacts involving the adjacent Toad Creek;
- Floodplain and existing unresolved drainage and potential flooding issues impacting the Templeton Main Street, Highway 101 area and neighboring private properties; and,
- Effects of the project’s traffic circulation regarding increase in daily vehicle trips (employee and emergency vehicle) that will impact the 101- North Main Street overpass interchange.”

TAAG also complained about some of the impacts the County identified in the project’s EIR, namely, the tower’s adverse visual effect on “existing scenic vistas in a wide area.”

They also argued that the tower’s height would dominate the area and give an “industrial-utilitarian appearance” and lights on the tower, which could be required by the Federal Aviation Administration would “interfere with nighttime views and enjoyment of the nighttime sky from the surrounding community.”

They also express concerns about storm drainage from the site, which is planning to build a catch basin to keep all runoff onsite, but TAAG worried could overflow the existing drainage to Toad Creek, which ultimately drains into the Salinas River.

New Principal From page 1



Kirstin and her family. Photo by Blake at SLOtography

Our students seem happy and are adjusting well to the school year.”

Baywood Elementary has about 350 students in classrooms for preschool, transitional kindergarten and K-5th grade. At different points across those ages, children learn more than classroom curriculum.

“One thing that is a struggle is learning about life balance and discovering what they truly value in their friendships,” May said. For instance balancing video games and being active outdoors. Balancing school with extra-curriculars and sports. Finding out what friends are and how to make good choices.”

In her role, May hopes to bring new programs to the school including the start of elementary athletics for 5th graders with a school flag football team this fall; students will have access to the Innovation Lab with aide and teacher guidance; STEAM Classes for 3rd-5th graders; a garden program with One Cool Earth, and student access to non-traditional classes such as floral design, yoga, and Latin dancing among others.

Returning to campus is the popular “Buddies” program where upper and lower grade classes partner to “establish a strong Baywood culture.” The school is also run as a dual-language immersion (DLI) program meaning students learn in two languages, in this case Spanish and English.

There are inherent difficulties that come with being a principle. May says student discipline is a part of her job she is not as excited about, yet it is necessary.

“It is important to be consistent, fair and look for every learning opportunity available for the student,” she said. “Especially at elementary school, the focus is about making better decisions. It can be time consuming to investigate situations that occur on the playground and make sure students, staff and parents are informed of incidents.”

Beyond education, school administrators and teachers must be prepared to address issues affecting a safe and positive school culture. May’s priorities are school safety, communication, and a supportive community.

“Before school began I visited the homes of our incoming kindergarteners to start to establish our strong partnership with the families,” May said. “They got a special shirt provided by our PTA and a pencil. I got to know the student and family and tell them about our program and answer any questions.”

Additionally, school related messages are sent home weekly and community events are planned for the future to help create an informed and engaged population.

Studying how others learn has always been fascinating to May, which convinced her early on that she would be a teacher. She attended primary and secondary schools in San Luis Obispo before earning her Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies with an emphasis in elementary education and a multiple subject teaching credential from Cap Poly. After teaching at Del Mar Elementary School in Morro Bay for four years, May returned to Cal Poly for her master’s in educational leadership and administration and earned an



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

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

administrative credential. Over the years she also taught at Baywood Elementary and later stepped out of the classroom to help build a robust intervention program and lead a team to help students catch up from distance learning as the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) teacher.

May said that although she is ready and excited to take on the job as principal, she will miss her time in the classroom and the connection that brings with both students and families.

“Watching a student ‘get’ something for the first time, seeing it click, those are the goosebump moments that help to remind me I’m doing the work which is aligned with my life’s purpose,” she said. “I think I’ll miss reading aloud to students the most, crying with them at the end of a good book, matching readers with books and sharing the love of literacy. I’ll still get to do that as principal, but in a different way.”

When asked what she would change about the school district, if she was given a magic wand, her positivity shines through.

“I think we did wave the magic wand — we have an amazing team in place at Baywood. We learned at a staff retreat in August that we have over 385 collective years of teaching experience at over 85 different schools! That just wows me every time I think of it.”

Of course, there is always room for improvement and funding is at the top of that list.

“Many people are excited about the addition of transitional kindergarten to public schools, but what some people don’t know is that it doesn’t come with additional funding,” she said. “We are adding a required grade level which means facilities, furniture, and staffing without the additional money it costs to fund the program. We are excited about TK too, but in an ideal world, we would get the funding to support the mandated program so we don’t have to sacrifice elsewhere.”

Kirstin and her husband, a licensed marriage and family therapist for the County, live in San Luis Obispo with their three children.

Power Plant From page 1

Community Development Director, Scot Graham.

According to the published agenda, at 6 p.m. they will have an overview of the issues and “visioning activity.”

From 6:30-7:30 p.m. they will go over a site map and “circulation connections.”

From 7:30-8 they will talk about design and scale issues; and the meeting will wrap up at about 8.

As has been the case in the past, the power plant has again come into focus for the City, which is in the process of reviewing an application for a 22-acre, 600-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility on the plant property, a project estimated to cost \$490 million.

That permit application is in the environmental impact review stage and promises to be a huge issue once the EIR is done and it becomes a public debate, including for the November City Council elections.

Vistra, the plant owner, has also signed an agreement with the City to tear down the powerhouse building and the smoke stacks by 2028 or pay the City \$3 million. That roughly 9-acre site on the 117-acre larger property, is deed restricted to only allow industrial uses.

The State agency that oversees the site recently closed its investigation of possible contamination of the site, which closed operations in 2014. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) concluded that most of the site is free of contamination but two sites showed low levels of contamination in the soil and groundwater. That’s the same site, a former fuel storage tank farm, where the BESS is being planned.

DTSC’s final report also declared that it does not know if there is contamination of any kind underneath the powerhouse and stacks, and can’t know until they are removed.

This new master planning would be at least the second such exercise for the plant property, though the original one was done by a volunteer citizens group and carried no

legal weight. But the City writing an official master plan for the property would be more binding.

Com.-Dev. Director Graham told Estero Bay News that the master plan is called for in the City’s new General Plan that was just recently approved by the Coastal Commission and is needed in order to be able to redevelop the property at some future time.

Of course the elephant in the room is Vistra’s BESS proposal and this master planning effort will focus on that first.

The “Master Plan will be phased,” Graham said. “Phase 1 will deal with the battery project and land use/zoning change from visitor serving commercial to light industrial. It will also look at other uses for the remainder of the site and what if any constraints the BESS would have on the other uses — basically, it’s a constraints analysis.”

The overall power plant property extends beyond the fenced plant site, to include Lila Keiser Park and Fishermen’s Gear Storage yard next to Morro Creek.

“Those are owned by the power plant and leased by the City,” Graham said. “People could weigh in on those properties at the workshop, but the primary purpose of the workshop is to look at the battery project and remainder of the main site.”

What of Vistra’s agreement with the City to tear the plant down or pay up? Graham said they anticipate the plant is coming down. “The assumption is the stacks and main power building will be demolished,” he said. “Phase II of the master plan will come later when development is proposed for the remainder of the property.”

As for PG&E’s deed restriction, that doesn’t worry the City. “That will be part of it,” Graham said, “but the deed restriction could be removed, so I think everything is on the table.”

The master plan apparently isn’t being done as a lead-in to the offshore wind farms, which will need a lot of room for a maintenance facility. The City just got a \$1.5 million federal grant to address maintenance and upgrades to the North T-pier, which the Harbor Director told EBN was at least in part meant to ready the pier for large work boats servicing the 3- gigawatt wind farm proposed for off the Coast of San Simeon.

“The intake building,” Graham said, “could be something that could be used for O&M of a floating wind farm project.”

And who is footing the bill for this planning effort? “Vistra is paying for it through a reimbursement agreement,” Graham said, “but it is led by the City. We have contracted with Rincon Consulting to do the master plan. Rincon is also preparing the EIR for the BESS project.”

The meeting is being held in person and being taped by AGP Video for broadcast on Charter Cable Ch. 20, the City’s government access channel. It would also be available on slo-span.org. Graham said he wasn’t sure it would be broadcast live, but would certainly be shown in re-runs.

Jazz From page 15

solo recording projects, he has recorded with vocalists Joe Williams and Vanessa Ruben, saxophonist Richie Cole, among others. He has performed with Nancy Wilson, Marlena Shaw, Angela Bofil, Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard, Grover Washington Jr. and other notable artists.

Daugherty, in addition to playing piano, is a conductor, musical director, recording artist, composer and arranger. She is currently touring the U.S. as music director/conductor of “SIX the Musical.” As a solo jazz artist, her most recent jazz trio album, “Bring Joy,” earned a four-star review from Downbeat Magazine and was listed as one of its Best Albums of 2017. She has collaborated with woodwind specialist Victor Goines of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and has led and participated in clinics that focus on jazz and making a life as a professional musician.

Black began playing the clarinet when he was 8 and later became interested in upright and electric bass. In 2008, he moved to from Kansas to Los Angeles, where he has worked with a variety of artists, including Kamasi Washington and the West Coast Get Down, Terence Blanchard, Marcus Belgrave, Terrace Martin, Kenny Burrell and the



Joann Daugherty

late Solomon Burke. Black continues to record and tour and is working on releasing his debut album this fall.

Taylor has spent his life discovering the drums, rhythms and music from all walks of life. He studied classical percussion and music education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He spent 10 years working, playing and teaching with world-renowned jazz educator Jamey Aebersold. That experience gave him the opportunity to meet and perform with some of the world’s most influential jazz musicians. He has shared the stage with Terrell Stafford, Branford Marsalis, Joey Calderazzo, Joe Chambers and others. Taylor is assistant professor at North Carolina Central University. He has written articles for Modern Drummer Magazine and The Music Educators Journal, and he has written a hip hop music appreciation textbook, “Yo’ Check This: Topics in Hip Hop.”

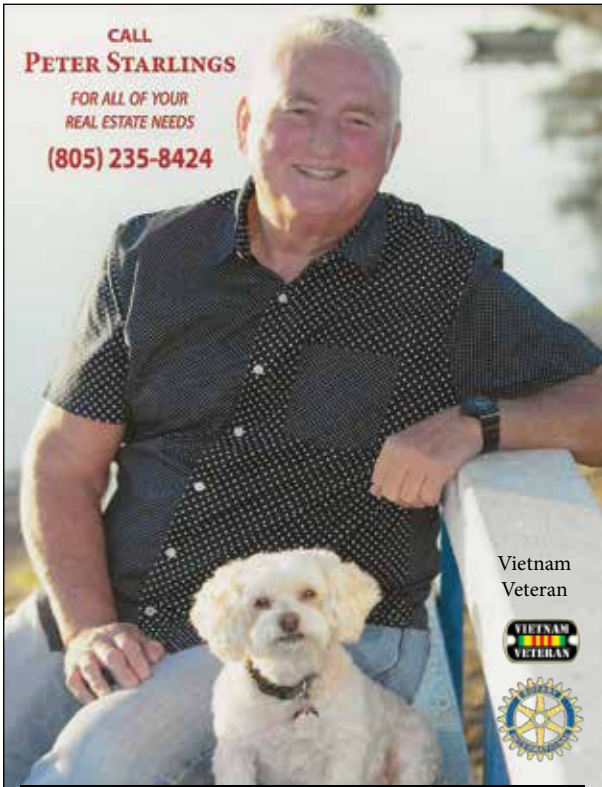
Tickets to the recital are \$20 general and \$10 students. Tickets can be purchased from the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. The Music Department offers a 20% discount to patrons who buy season tickets to four of its events through the Cal Poly Ticket Office.

The concert is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Music Department. For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406 or visit the department’s calendar website.



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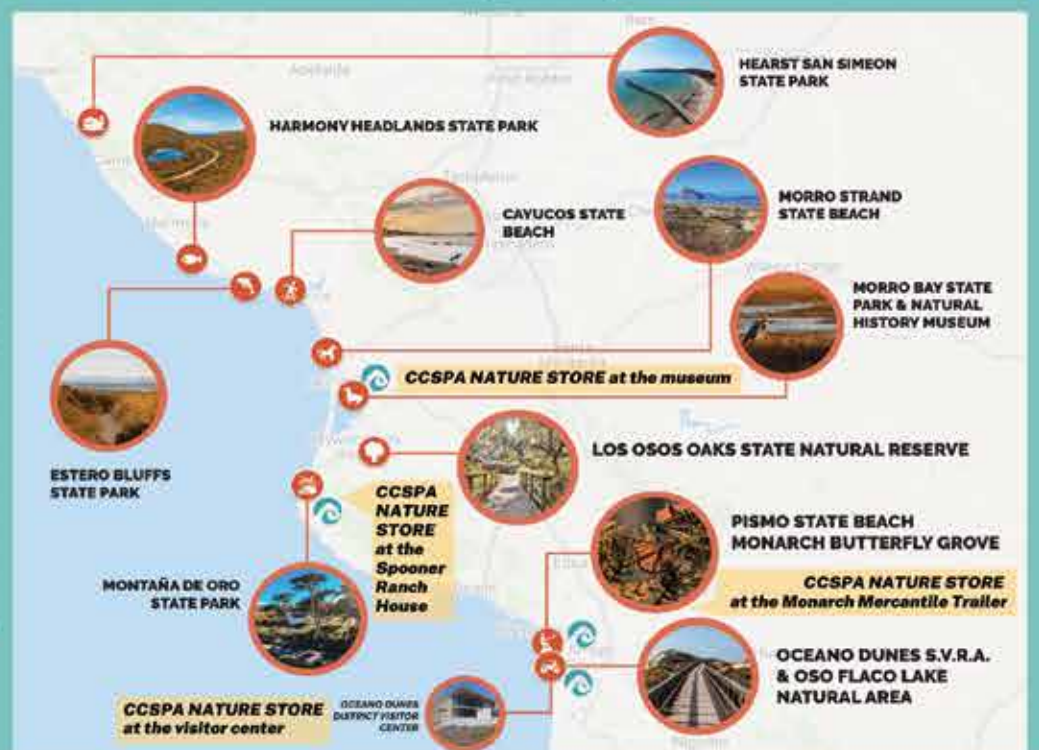
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The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization partnering with the California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County. We fund and support **education, interpretation, and volunteering** in our local State Parks—from Oso Flaco Lake in the south to Hearst San Simeon State Park in the north.

School field trips, campfire programs, guided hikes, western monarch butterfly awareness and preservation, living history programs, and public land advocacy are all made possible thanks to funds generated by CCSPA. To learn more about becoming a CCSPA Friend and how you can support our parks, visit www.centralcoastparks.org/friend.



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We support and sustain efforts to preserve species of concern like the western snowy plover, black oystercatcher, southern sea otter, and more. Conservation programs such as SeaLife Stewards, Sea Otter Experiences, Pismo clam outreach, and habitat restoration also benefit from CCSPA.

CULTURAL AND LIVING HISTORY

State Park historians, archaeologists, interpreters, docents, and volunteers provide a valuable glimpse into the natural and cultural history of our area. Together we can keep our past alive through the art of storytelling. CCSPA helps support living history at the Spooner Ranch House and Northern Chumash and Salinan education at our local State Parks.

GUIDED INTERPRETIVE EXPERIENCES & PROGRAMS

In-person and virtual educational opportunities are offered at all 11 of our local State Parks. Programs and interpretive media like guided hikes, field trips, campfire and Junior Ranger programs, Virtual Mind Walks, pop-up outreach events, informational panels, and more are all supported by CCSPA.

WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY OUTREACH

With their species at a drastic decline since the 1980s, western monarch butterfly outreach and education is more important than ever. We help fund interpretive panels, advocate for the rehabilitation of overwintering sites, and promote the use of native and pollinator-friendly plants to in order to protect and preserve the western monarch.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR INTERPRETERS & DOCENTS

As educators, the work of State Park interpreters, docents, and volunteers is continually evolving, and ongoing training is essential. While California State Parks believes in supporting continuing education for their staff, these are funds that often get cut during tight budgets. With your support, CCSPA can help offset these costs.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS & EXHIBIT UPGRADES

CCSPA funds exhibit upgrades, additions, and programs at the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History, Spooner Ranch House, and Oceano Dunes Visitor Center. We also sponsor multiple traveling exhibits hosted at these facilities in order to expand the interpretive opportunities and topics available. With your support, these locations will continue to provide meaningful, memorable education for the thousands of people who visit each year.

SCHOOL GROUP TRANSPORTATION

CCSPA provides funding towards the transportation costs incurred when school groups travel to our parks for field trips. These trips occur out of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, and the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center at Pismo State Beach and reach over 5,000 students annually.

Support CCSPA's efforts towards western monarch butterfly preservation!



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The Western Monarch Trail follows the migration route of the western monarch butterfly. Sites along this route provide shelter for butterflies during the winter, nectar to feed migrating monarchs and native milkweed to feed their larvae. Signage along the trail identifies crucial overwintering and nectaring locations for western monarchs, providing the public with consistent, up-to-date information on their status, as well as efforts to restore their populations.

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