

## Giving Through Gleaning



A group of food rescuers volunteer at a local farm with GleanSLO to provide fresh produce to people in need.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The number of people in need of food assistance made a sharp increase during the pandemic and has been steady since, yet every year millions of pounds of food are left to rot in agriculture fields.

GleanSLO, under the umbrella of the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County (FBC), collects fresh produce that helps make up the close to 3.5 million meals provided throughout the county. They have taken the concept of food rescue and turned it into a community resource by uniting farmers, health advocates, food providers, backyard gardeners and community volunteers to harvest and donate produce gleanings.

“The amount of people we help shot up immensely in 2021, about 151%,” said Dre Richards, food rescue manager of FBC overseeing GleanSLO. “It plateaued a little towards the end of the year, but now, what we are seeing with inflation kind of running out of control, is that the need is coming right back. It’s coming on strong.”

FBC works with about 100 nonprofit and municipal organizations located throughout the county. These include church pantries, free meal sites, after-school programs, homeless shelters, recovery homes, and women’s shelters. Last year, more than 4 million pounds of food was distributed including over 300,000 pounds of fresh produce harvested by GleanSLO.

“I’m not sure all food banks do this, but we make it a priority to have around half of the food we give out be produce,” Richards said. “It’s directly tied to health outcomes in the community. When people have access to that fresh produce they’re less likely to be struggling with long-term health issues like diabetes. With younger students, having access to fresh produce, they’re able to pay more attention in class. It’s important to the food bank that we have these nutrition standards that we adhere to so that we’re helping the community thrive.”

An increasing number of college students are also reaching out to the FBC for resources.

“We’re finding that the stigma of using food assistance is becoming much less than it was before,” Richards said. “Students are seeing us as being like a lifeline that that they can depend on to help them. It’s sort of normalized.”

In addition to working at field sites, GleanSLO works with produce growers at the farmers’ markets in SLO on Thursday nights, in Baywood and in Templeton. At the end of the market, farmers put produce in crates to be picked up by volunteers.

“We’ve got some great farms that regularly donate to us,” Richards said. “We are very grateful to the farmers that support us and to everybody that reaches out.”

This year about 450 volunteers participated in 244 field harvests, which include farms and backyards.

Feeding those in need is only part of the benefits

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## Voters Elect New Mayor, Councilwoman



By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay voters handed a decisive win to a former councilwoman, picking her over the incumbent, 2-term Mayor, and the City will have an entirely female, City Council for the first time in town history; those were the surprise results in the Nov. 8 General Election.

### An All Female City Council

Business owner and former City Councilwoman, Carla Wixom garnered 59% of the votes (1,793 total votes) to Mayor John Headding’s 40.93% (1,244), according to unofficial election results posted Nov. 9 by County Clerk Elaina Cano.

In the 5-way race for two vacant City Council seats, Robin “Zara” Landrum and Cyndee Edwards were the top two vote getters.

Landrum finished at the top of the list with 1,321 votes (24.82%) with Edwards getting 1,174 (22.06%).

Sarah Robinson was third (1,112, 20.89%); Casey Cordes was fourth (932, 17.51%); and David Durringer fifth (783, 14.71%) in a field that had all first-time political office seekers.

With Wixom, Edwards and Landrum joining the other two women on the Council — Jen Ford and Laurel Barton — it will give Morro Bay its first all-female City Council. (San Luis Obispo also elected an all-female city council.)

### Voting No for B-22

In the other hotly contested contest in Morro Bay — Measure B-22 a parcel tax that would support maintaining harbor facilities — sank like the Titanic, as voters soundly rejected it. B-22’s official title was the “Morro Bay Harbor Infrastructure Act.”

B-22 got just 1,122 (36.42%) “Yes” votes, and 1,959 (63.58%) voted “No.”

B-22 would have added a \$120 per year — \$10 a month — charge to property tax bills and used the roughly \$680,000 that it would have raised each year, to support

Voters Continued on page 18

## Moving Forward: Chenda Lor and SLO Botanical Gardens

By Judy Salamacha

A 2022 déjà vu story of another business able to jump leaps during the world-wide pandemic. This columnist is delighted to repeat myself! If you haven’t been to the SLO Botanical Gardens lately then you really haven’t been there.

Amazing things are happening since Executive Director Chenda Lor was recruited in 2019. She was prepared to transition to a new career as an entrepreneurial life coach until Jill Bolster-White, executive director of Transitions Mental Health, suggested Lor’s talents were a match for the director position soon opening at the gardens.

“The Garden is my passion project,” said Lor. “This job merged my career goals, community service advocacy, and a reason to get up and love going to work every day.” She has described her day-job as a gift to re-gift: “...a beautiful garden — it’s like a blank canvas — to give back to the community by working to build this magical public treasure.”

The master plan is in progress. Projects are in various stages of development. And it is abundantly obvious to her board of direc-



Chenda Lor, the executive director at the SLO Botanical Gardens.

tors, her 24 staff members, 100+ volunteers, a growing list of members and those regular or first-time visitors that something special is happening on the 150 acres visible from Hwy 1 across from Cuesta College.

Just check out the website, www.slobg.org. The events offered are almost overwhelming — certainly something to

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## County to Cloud Seed Over Lopez Lake

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County is trying something new this year, and for three subsequent years, to try and maximize rainfall and hopefully help fill up one of the county’s main water reservoirs.

In October, County Supervisors approved awarding of a 3-year, \$342,000 per year contract to North American Weather Consultants, Inc., (NAWC), a cloud seeding company and consultant for all things weather related based in Sandy, Utah. NAWC does weather work across the Western U.S.

The cloud seeding program will concentrate efforts in

Cloud Seed Continued on page 17

## Short Term Contract Inked for HHW Facility

By Neil Farrell

People who use the household hazardous waste facility in Morro Bay will have a few more months of operations before a major change is needed.

The City of Morro Bay, Cayucos Sanitary District, and County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), inked a 10-year agreement in April 2000 to host a “Household Hazardous Waste” collection facility at the City/CSD, jointly owned sewer treatment plant on Atascadero Road.

The IWMA mans the facility on a drive-thru basis and

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MBHS at  
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Concert Series Will Be Funded

By Neil Farrell

A free concert series begun over the summer and put on by the City and a local non-profit group will get funding after all, which is prompting Estero Bay News to do a follow up article to correct the record.

Last issue's story about the concert series at Tidelands Park reported that the City Council stiffed the group when it asked for a community organizations grant.

Apparently, while it was true the Council refused the grant request for \$10,000 from the Morro Bay Seniors, Inc., City Manager Scott Collins said that didn't tell the whole story. Collins said the Council had already approved \$10,000 for the concerts within the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget.

Collins said the City budgeted \$10,000 and since the council's denial of the grant request, Visit Morro Bay (the latest incarnation of the Tourism Business Improvement District or TBID), which is a separate entity from the City, had approved another \$5,000 in funding.

Collins also said the Seniors group will also be doing fundraising and seeking sponsorships over the next several months. Their leadership along with the City Recreation Division will evaluate the success and future funding needs to keep the concert series going.

"Seniors are seeing how much more is needed after sponsorships and their contribution," Collins said, "and the City is committed to covering it. The concert series is a partnership between the City and the seniors, and it went really well this year and we are all excited to make it a mainstay moving forward."

Putting on free concerts on Thursday evenings in summer that feature local bar bands, wouldn't seem to be much of a tourism draw. So why did Visit Morro Bay step up, considering their purpose is primarily to promote the lodging industry?

Collins said, "Visit Morro Bay Board supported the \$5,000 because it sends a message to visitors about the vibe in our community, and potentially could lead to longer stays in Morro Bay."





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1,200 Acres of Diablo Land Preserved



Map shows the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in blue and the 1,200-acre site that now has a deed restriction over it, in the lower right in red.

By Neil Farrell

The first sizable chunk of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant property has been taken out of play for future development, Pacific Gas & Electric announced on Nov. 2.

PG&E, reads a news release, "has completed and recorded a deed restriction of 1,200-acres of land near Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County, owned by Eureka Energy Company [a subsidiary of PG&E], to preserve the pristine coastline and prevent any future development. The deed restriction also allows for preservation of cultural resources."

The involved property is at the southern end of Eureka's Property, PG&E said, and is about 10% of the total DCPD lands and covers Point Buchon almost in its entirety. The property consists of coastal bluffs, rugged coastline, oak woodlands, coastal plateaus, offshore rocks, and was once the home of the Chumash and Salinan peoples.

Several years ago, PG&E bought a private ranch that was located between the DCPD and Montaña de Oro State Park. In 2007, PG&E started allowing the public to hike the ranchlands, which include a place called "Windy Point."

But the newly protected acreage is far from that area, and includes lands surrounding the historic Point San Luis Lighthouse.

"These lands surround and protect the Point San Luis Lighthouse from encroachment," the news release said, "while preserving recreational opportunities and access to the venerable and historic lighthouse."

PG&E's Vice President of Decommissioning and Technical Services, Maureen Zawalick, said, "For nearly half a century, our team has been stewards of these lands and we have worked with vigor to sustain the environmental quality of the 14-mile shoreline and 12,000 acres of grasslands and forests through a series of innovative best management practices. The land is largely maintained in its natural state." Cattle also graze coastal grasslands on bluff tops throughout that area.

PG&E provides hiking opportunities through two public coastal trails on its DCPD lands — the Pecho Coast Trail and the Point Buchon Trail.

Point Buchon Trail is a 6.6-mile round trip hike accessed through Montaña de Oro (follow Pecho Valley Road until it dead ends inside the park and then start walking southerly). The Point Buchon Trail has been open to the public since 2007.

The Pecho Coast Trail is accessed in Avila Beach with the trailhead near the Port San Luis harbor facilities. There are two, guided hikes to choose from — a 3.75-mile round-trip hike to Point San Luis Lighthouse and an 8-mile round trip hike to Rattlesnake Canyon.

The deed restriction was a special condition of the California Coastal Commission's Coastal Development Permit issued in 2006 for replacement of DCPD's steam generators.

To watch a video of the lands that are being protected, see: [pgemarketing.app.box.com/s/ie3prnmmlajqp-p6abfsws0aaqzso6li](https://pgemarketing.app.box.com/s/ie3prnmmlajqp-p6abfsws0aaqzso6li).

City Amends Climate Change Garbage Contract



By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay recently amended its contract for garbage services, reflecting a change in State Law to address climate change and wasted foodstuffs.

The change in the contract was prompted by Senate Bill 1383, which became law in 2016 and was supposed to address climate change, "by limiting environmental exposure from short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, which is generated from landfilling organic material like food scraps and yard trimmings," reads a report from Janeen Burlingame a management analyst with Public Works. "SB 1383 is the most significant and comprehensive change to solid waste regulations in more than thirty years."

The law sets targets for reducing food scraps in the waste stream going to the landfill "and to reduce disposal of edible food. CalRecycle developed regulations designed to achieve those targets that are to be implemented by jurisdictions around the State."

**The changes include:**

- Adding and updating definitions;
- Identifying SB 1383 activities delegated to the Integrated Waste Management Authority including areas where hauler may be required to interact with or provide information to the IWMA;



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- Augmentation of organics collection and processing services to include food waste (previously food waste placed in solid waste container and disposed of in the landfill);
- Material processing requirements for solid waste, recyclable, and organic materials, including identifying list of approved facilities for processing;
- Container type, color, and labeling requirements;
- Working with City to aid in recovered organic waste products procurement or provision of compost give-away events;
- Updating limitations to scope to provide more clarity on collection and disposal of sludge and grit from current Wastewater Treatment Plant and future Water Reclamation Facility;
- Updating vehicle standards;
- Adding ability for SB1383 cost reimbursement;
- Updating rate setting to incorporate Proposition 218 requirements
- Updating the security bond or letter of credit amount;
- Updating general and AB 939 indemnification to address changes since agreement originally executed;
- Updating and expanding default, remedies, and liquidated damages to more current standards;
- Expanded records, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements;
- Solidified provisions relating to rate-setting procedures and findings pursuant to California Proposition 218.

The changes did not automatically trigger a rate hike. “There is no direct fiscal impact to the City associated with this approval,” the report said, “as the Franchise Hauler’s costs to implement SB 1383 are passed along directly to customers receiving service.”

In essence, garbage customers are supposed to start putting food scraps and wastes in the green yard waste wheelers and the garbage companies are supposed to compost that material.

The garbage company should be expected to return to the City with a proposed rate hike, once it quantifies the increased costs associated with SB 1383, and the City Council will have to hold a Proposition 218 protest vote of ratepayers in order to approve rate hikes.



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Survey on New Police Chief



Morro Bay will soon get a new police chief but first, the City is asking residents to weigh in on what qualities and experience the next top cop should have.

The City will be advertising the position soon and City Manager, Scott Collins will be the one hiring a new chief. But before that lengthy process kicks in, the City has posted online a survey for residents of Morro Bay to give input on the type of officer the residents want to see hired.

“The City is currently in the process of receiving input from our community through a survey on the qualities, characteristics, and experience you hope to see in the next Chief of Police,” reads a news release. “Your feedback is anonymous and will help the City identify the knowledge, skillsets, and suitability for the position, and help identify priorities for the next Chief of Police.”

The survey is at: <https://polco.us/szsnk8>. It takes but a few minutes and is for the most multiple-choice questions.

Current Chief Jody Cox is slated to retire at the end of the year. Collins told Estero Bay News that he was weighing options with filling the position, starting with the survey.

The new police chief will be the seventh to lead the department since 2000, not counting two interim chiefs that filled in while the search was on for a permanent one. They were: Joe Loven, John DeRohan, Tim Olivas, Amy Christie, Greg Allen and Cox.

Loven, DeRohan (and Cox) retired. Olivas left to become Undersheriff and is now retired, too. Christie left to become Police Chief in Pacific Grove and also recently retired, and Allen resigned with no explanations ever given.

Los Osos Water Well to Switch to Monitoring

By Neil Farrell

Los Osos’ concerns over the status of its groundwater basin will get some added monitoring power, after the Community Services District Board approved repurposing an old water well.

The LOCSD Board of Directors voted to change so-called LA 13, located between Ferrell Avenue and 7th Street, according to a staff report.

The “Basin Management Committee” or BMC, is a committee made up of representatives of the three water purveyors — LOCSD, Golden State Water Co., and S&T Mutual, plus SLO County Public Works. It was formed after a court settlement in the mid 2000s ordered that a management plan for the water basin be written and methods developed to halt seawater intrusion into the basin, which is Los Osos’ sole source of drinking water.

The basin has been in a “Level III” state of overdraft since about 1995 and is considered by a County water committee to be among the most imperiled community water systems in SLO County.

“The BMC,” the report said, “is actively looking to expand the groundwater monitoring program in order to improve their data collection capabilities in the lower parts of the groundwater basin. Cleath-Harris Geologists has identified three inactive existing wells that could potentially be modified.”

LA 13 is just the first well to be identified for the switch over. The LOCSD also hired Filipponi & Thompson Drilling Inc., to do the work. How much it will cost was not identified in this report, however, the LOCSD as lead agency, will pay all the bills and then charge to other BMC agencies a pro rata share of the costs.

On another water note, the LOCSD is continuing with a possible project to build a water pipeline from Los Osos down South Bay Boulevard to the Chorro Valley area (Hwy 1 corridor), where they hope to connect to Morro Bay’s Chorro Valley Pipeline, which delivers State Water Project drinking water to Morro Bay.

The LOCSD is hoping to be able to purchase some of Morro Bay’s unused SWP water or tap the County’s nearly 20,000-acre feet a year unallocated allotment of State Water.

That additional source would be used to supplement the groundwater basin and at this time, and be tapped during wet winters when SWP delivers all of its contracted amounts of water. That would relieve some of the pumping

Monitoring Continued on page 4



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# News

## Early Storm Brought Needed Rain



By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay got a good soaking of rain last week in the first big storm to blow through in the newly started rainy season.

Tracy McConnell, the administrative technician at the Fire Department, who tracks rainfall for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said the storm that struck Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 7-8 dropped a total of 0.91-inches of rain, nearly a full inch as measured at the Harbor Street Firehouse.

We also saw a significant rainstorm, remnants of a Pacific Hurricane, stream into our area in mid-September, and drop some good rain for a summer storm.

On Sept. 18-19, McConnell reported, they measured 0.34” of rain, and had 0.07” in a brief storm over Sept. 10-11.

Morro Bay had seen a return in recent weeks of its normal summertime weather — foggy and cold. But to find any measurable rainfall before the September rains, you’d have to go back to April 22, when we got 0.32” of rain, according to McConnell’s records.

City maintenance crews were out in the storm, and made quick work of removing one tree that fell across a roadway. They also did a lot of work before the storm hit.

Dale Simpson, the City’s Maintenance Supervisor, said “Maintenance staff has done significant preparation for the anticipated rains. We have been performing our annual storm drain inspections and cleaning. We have cleaned

**Monitoring** From page 3

in the Los Osos basin, and allow for added recharge from the rain.

State Water is the preferred added source for the LOCSD, because it arrives fully treated and ready to drink.

That potential pipeline project is still in the early, design stages of the development process.

several abandoned encampments that were in storm drain areas.”

Normally, the City would dump a big pile of sand on Atascadero Road across from the old sewer plant, and let citizens fill sandbags in preparation for flooding. Sandbags are sold at the hardware store. But continuing construction on Atascadero Road for the City’s WRF project is mucking it up.

“We do not have sand available currently,” Simpson said. “With the ongoing construction going on down Atascadero Road and especially at our Corp Yard, we don’t want to encourage more traffic in the area.”

The spot where sand is normally piled is currently inaccessible behind temporary fencing for the project’s lay-down area. There’s also a lot of large pieces of equipment moving about on the road, which has Anvil Builder’s crew flagging traffic.

“We currently struggle, at times to get in and out of our shop to perform our duties due to the construction being performed in the area.”

Plus, an 83-room motel is also currently under construction, but when the high school lets out, the area really turns into a traffic snarl.

Morro Bay and in fact all of California has seen below average rainfall since the big storms of Spring 2017, with much of the state in severe drought conditions.

But an early November rainstorm, that also brought snow to the Sierras, could be a good sign that this winter will see a return to more normal rainfall.

“Hopefully, we will see some more rain soon,” said McConnell.

## More Bridge Work in Cayucos

Cayucos is getting more work done on its bridges, with one job Downtown and the other north of town.

San Luis Obispo County Public Works is diving into its bridge maintenance program in November and December, with three big projects in store, two of which are in Cayucos.

The County recently announced that it will be working on the Villa Creek and North Ocean Avenue bridges in Cayucos and the Encina Avenue Bridge in Santa Margarita.

Work on Villa Creek Bridge, located north and east of town off Hwy 1, started in late October and the North Ocean Avenue job that spans Cayucos Creek will be done soon, the County said, so long as Mother Nature cooperates. “Weather permitting, this work should be completed by the end of this year.” Whitaker Construction of Paso Robles got the \$327,755 contract to perform this work.

Traffic will be affected, with flagmen, lane closures and detours expected. “Residents on Villa Creek Road and

Encina Avenue can expect the bridges to be closed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except for emergency access,” the County said. “At North Ocean Avenue, the public, including pedestrians and cyclists, should expect delays of up to 10 minutes and are advised to adjust their travel plans accordingly.

The work is part of the County’s ongoing efforts to shore up old bridges. “This work is required to maintain safe bridge conditions,” the County said, “and to avoid costly repairs in the future.”

The South Bay Boulevard Bridge over Los Osos Creek in Los Osos is another County job that is in the pipeline.

Money for the bridgework is coming from the Federal Highway Bridge Program and the SLO County Road Maintenance Fund.

Cayucos is a couple of new highway bridges underway replacing northbound spans over Toro Creek and Cayucos Creek on Hwy 1, projects funded by Caltrans.

## Warnings Issued for Ocean Contaminants



By Neil Farrell

With the apparent early onslaught last week of rainy weather, the County is advising people to avoid ocean waters — and in Morro Bay’s case, bay waters — for at least a few days after significant rains to give potential pollutants time to clear out.

“The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department,” reads a news release, “is advising the public to avoid ocean water contact during, and at least three days following, significant rainstorms.”

The warning came out on Nov. 8, just as the first major storm of the new rainy season was coming into the area. That 2-day storm would dump nearly an inch of rain in Morro Bay, as measured at Morro Bay’s Harbor Street Firehouse.

While all rainstorms wash pollutants into the ocean

**Contaminants** Continued on page 6

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Deadline Approaching for Lighted Boat Parade

The Morro Bay Lighted Boat Parade takes place on Saturday December 3 starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Morro Bay Embarcadero. Be dazzled as the fishing, leisure and yachting community take to the water in decorated boats with dazzling lights and holiday cheer. For boat entry forms and skipper information go to morrobayrotary.org and look for the “download” section on the right-hand side. Information is also available at the Morro Bay Harbor Office 1275 Embarcadero 805-772-6254. The application deadline is Friday, November 30th by 4:30 pm and the entry fee is \$30. Boats will be judged and cash prizes are \$500 for first, \$350 for second, and \$150 for third. For more information, contact Nancy at 805-235-3733 or rotaryfromtheheart@gmail.com

Roadwork Continues on LOVR

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department continues asphalt-paving work on Los Osos Valley Road from Turri Road to the Los Osos Bridge. Work is expected to be completed by November 22. Expect one-way traffic control and delays of up to 10 minutes during major operations Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This roadwork is part of a year-long asphalt-paving project on roads throughout the county expected to be complete in fall 2023. For the safety of the public and the workers, traffic will be reduced to one-way controls with flaggers and pilot cars.

City of SLO Dolls out Funds

The City of San Luis Obispo earmarked \$300,000 in grants to 21 community programs in 2022-23. Many of the selected programs impact residents, advocates and volunteers throughout the county. The list of recipients includes CASA, Boys & Girls Club, GALA Pride and Diversity, Hospice of SLO County, Leadership SLO and RACE Matters SLO. This Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant program is designed to uplift and support local projects, programs,

or initiatives that contribute to making San Luis Obispo a more welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and safe place for everyone. The City’s Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion manages the program. Grant applications were accepted over the summer and then went through a rigorous review process with the City’s Human Relations Commission, an advisory body that recommends to Council policies on matters concerning social issues affecting the residents of the City.

Santa Margarita Water System Vandalized



As if the drought wasn’t enough, the work of vandals resulted in a huge water loss. On November 7, the San Luis Obispo County Service Area 23 – Santa Margarita water system operator discovered a break-in at the Santa Margarita water storage facility. The storage facility fence was vandalized and the lock accessing one of the water storage tanks was cut providing access to the drinking water supply. “Because it is unknown whether perpetrators tampered with the water,” County officials said in a news release, “as a precautionary measure, the tank was taken out of service and is being drained. It held about 100,000 gallons of water at the time of the incident.” There is a second water tank at the site, so water service to Santa Margarita residents were not disrupted. The State Water Resources Control Board, San Luis Obispo County Health Department, and the Sheriff’s Department were notified of the incident. The County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department is asking reads to contact the Sheriff’s Department at (805) 781-4550 if they have any information regarding this incident.

SLO Transit Route Change

Readers who use SLO Transit should be aware that Rbus Route 2A has changed in a reported effort to provide better future access to businesses, residences, and nonprofit services on Prado Road. A project is underway to relocate the “Prado at Elks” stop to the north side of the street at 40 Prado Road. Currently the stop is across the street. A new stop will also be added on South Higuera near the intersection of Higuera and Margarita to provide more service for passengers. Buses will now stop at the “Higuera at South” stop 20 minutes after the hour. Route 2A now travels south on South Higuera, past Elks Lane, serves the Higuera at Margarita stop, continues down South Higuera, turns right onto Prado Road, serves the Prado at Elks stop, continues to Prado Road, turns right onto Elks Lane until reaching the intersection of Elks Lane and South Higuera, then travels right again onto South Higuera. SLO Transit bus riders can contact Transit Dispatch at (805) 541-2877 or go to www.slotransit.org, or the SLO Transit app, for current service status prior to planning their trip.

Take the Senior Needs Survey

The Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, also known as the Area Agency on Aging, is conducting a “Needs Assessment Survey” for SLO County seniors. It can be filled out at https://centralcoastseniors.org/ by November 30. The data collected will be sent to state and federal agencies that provide monies for local goods and services. The survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. The survey asks questions about current needs, the help you are currently receiving, and possible future needs. It covers such areas as care for a family member, employment, meals, understanding Medicare, affordable housing, legal affairs, home maintenance, transportation, and so on. For more information, call 1-800-510-2020.

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



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Contaminants From page 4

and waterways via storm drains and road runoff, it's the first, big drenching of rain that produces the most concern. All manner of pollutants — road grime, brake dust and dirt, along with microscopic organisms — built-up on the streets after months of dry skies, gets washed into storm drains, which empty into creeks, rivers, bayas and ultimately, the ocean.

Same goes for the local hills, which are used for cattle grazing. Manure too gets washed into waterways. "Rainstorm runoff," the County said, "is known to transport high levels of disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses and protozoa from the watershed and urban areas to the ocean."

There's a myriad of ailments possible with these pollutants. "Such organisms carried into the ocean can cause skin, respiratory, and intestinal problems. Young children, older adults, and people with compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to these waterborne pathogens."

The warning goes out to all ocean and bay users. "Surfers, swimmers and others are advised to avoid contact with ocean water during this period," the release cautioned, "especially in areas close to creeks, rivers, storm drains and other runoff outlets that empty into the ocean."

In Morro Bay, there are about 30 storm drains along the Embarcadero that empty directly into the bay.

Also, the Health Department issued a warning against eating shellfish — oysters, mussels, clams — caught in the same waters to avoid "paralytic shellfish poisoning" or PSP. Shellfish that are farmed or imported should be OK, so long as one is not allergic.

"Dangerous levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxins have been detected in mussels from Humboldt and San Luis Obispo counties," County Health said in an Oct. 28 news release. "The naturally occurring PSP toxins can cause illness or death in humans. Cooking does not destroy the toxin."

"The California Department of Public Health [CDPH] is advising consumers not to eat sport-harvested mussels, clams, or scallops from Humboldt and San Luis Obispo Counties."

Such mussel "quarantines" are routine during the advent of winter weather. "The annual quarantine applies to all species of mussels harvested for human consumption along the California Coast, as well as all bays and estuaries."

However, "This warning does not apply to commercially sold clams, mussels, scallops, or oysters from approved sources," the release said. "State law permits only state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell these products. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters and dealers are subject to frequent mandatory testing to

monitor for toxins." If readers do accidentally eat contaminated shellfish, it won't take long to realize it — PSP is deadly. "PSP toxins affect the central nervous system," the County said, "producing a tingling around the mouth and fingertips within a few minutes to a few hours after eating toxic shellfish. These symptoms are typically followed by loss of balance, lack of muscular coordination, slurred speech, and difficulty swallowing. "In severe poisonings, complete muscular paralysis and death from asphyxiation can occur."

The State Health Department has online resources, if readers want to track the issue and find out when it's safe to eat shellfish again.

You can get the most current information on shellfish advisories and quarantines by calling California Department of Public Health's toll-free "Shellfish Information Line" at: (800) 553-4133. For more information about beach water quality, see the County Public Health Department Beach Water Quality website at: [www.SurfSafeSLO.org](http://www.SurfSafeSLO.org), or call the Ocean Water Monitoring Program hotline at: (805) 788-3411.

Murderer Gets Life in Oceano Slaying

A man has been sentenced to life in prison for the 2019 murder of an elderly Oceano man, the District Attorney's Office said in a news release. On Oct. 29, D.A. Dan Dow said David James Krause, 43, was given a sentence of 30-years to life in prison for the Jan. 24, 2019 murder of 90-year-old Lawrence "Larry" Bross, who was found dead inside his own home.

"An exhaustive investigation by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office ensued," the news release said, "wherein Krause was identified as a suspect." It took some time to gather the evidence and bring charges. "Investigative leads ran thin," the release said, "until April of 2021, when evidence gathered during the investigation was re-examined." A bloody shoe proved to be Krause's undoing. "Mr. Bross's blood, confirmed by DNA analysis, was located on a shoe seized from Krause on Jan. 25, 2019," the



David Krause

release said. "Based on the newly discovered DNA evidence, Krause was arrested and charged with the murder of Mr. Bross." On Oct. 4, 2022, Krause pled guilty to second-degree murder and "elder abuse resulting in death." He also had a previous conviction for residential burglary, which counted as a strike against him under California' Three Strikes Law and effectively doubled his sentence. Bross was a long-time Oceano resident and community activist. "Larry Bross, moved to Oceano full-time in 1988," the D.A.'s Office said, "after serving in the Coast Guard during the Korean War, then teaching high school History and Government for 30 years in Northern California." His daughter, who was not identified in the news release, spoke at Krause's sentencing. "My father was a collector of ideas and people. When he walked the beach he would strike up conversations and invite people to his home, a place where he loved to share his art and wisdom, and that zest for life that he just had. Our home was a place of peace for our family, friends, and strangers alike — and my father, a rock amid the turmoil of life." Bross' son said that his father, "Was the center of our family. He formed the basis of our identity as Brosses. He was living his best life in Oceano in the cabin he turned into a home over a 50-year period. He was active in the community and welcomed family, friends and strangers alike with open arms. In community meetings that I attended after his murder it became clearer to me how important and loved a figure my father was in Oceano."

D.A. Dan Dow said, "Although this sentence will not alter the impact of this senseless crime, it is an important step in the grieving process for the Bross Family. We thank the Sheriff's Office for their dogged determination in solving this crime and striving to keep our community safe. Our hearts remain with the Bross family and loved ones who are suffering the pain of his loss."

The case was investigated by the County Sheriff's Office and was prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Julie Antos.

Sheriff Seeks Answers in Shandon Shooting

Sheriff's detectives are investigating a Halloween Night shooting of a Shandon teenager, who they found laying in the street bleeding from a single gunshot to the stomach. According to an Oct. 31 news release, deputies were called at about 10 p.m. to the 200 block of Camatti St., in Shandon after someone reported hearing shots fired. "When Deputies arrived," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release, "they discovered a 15-year-old male in the street with a gunshot wound to the stomach. The victim was alert and talking."

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News

Deputies administered first aid to the boy and he was airlifted by helicopter to an area hospital. He was listed in stable condition, according to Cipolla.

“Detectives believe,” Cipolla said, “the shooting was an isolated incident and are investigating to determine if this incident was gang related.”

Detectives have no description of any suspects in the case and are asking anyone that has information on the attempted murder, to call Sheriff’s detectives at 805-781-4500.

County Applying for \$1.9M Federal HUD Grant



By Neil Farrell

SLO County is applying for a federal Housing and Urban development (HUD) program aimed at fighting homelessness in rural areas.

The \$1.69 million grant application is being sent to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its “Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Grant Program,” according to a County staff report.

The grant program is supposed to address unsheltered and rural homelessness, and is considered a highly competitive grant program.

“HUD,” the report said, “will award funding to selected communities to implement coordinated approaches to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families.”

The grant is “for new projects targeting efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness.”

The grant is targeting certain types of projects:

- Permanent Housing (PH), including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH);

- Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH);
- Supportive Services Only (SSO) – Coordinated Entry;
- Street Outreach (SSO); and,
- Stand Alone Supportive Services (SSO).

The County Department of Social Services, which is running the grant program and coordinates the County’s homelessness efforts, can keep 3% of the grant for administration costs. The County sought proposals last April from local providers and got one application from Community Action Partnerships (CAPSLO) for a street outreach program.

“The proposed project,” the report said, “would create a county-wide collaborative street outreach project with CAPSLO, the 5Cities Homeless Coalition, the El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO), Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) and the Salvation Army as participating agencies. The project would fund expansion and coordination of street outreach services.”

It was a long road for the proposal to just make it through SLO County’s bureaucracy.

“Staff from the Department of Social Services reviewed the application and determined it met threshold requirements,” the report said. “A non-conflicted Ad Hoc Grant Review Committee then met on Sept. 14 to discuss the application and recommended the application to the Homeless Services Oversight Council [HSOC].”

“HSOC met on Sept. 21 to consider the application and recommendation. The HSOC voted to recommend the Street Outreach Coordination project.”

Under its proposal, CAPSLO proposed to serve 600 “clients” through the outreach at a cost of \$1.64 million, and the County planned to carve out \$50,900 for “planning.” The total grant amount asked for is some \$1.699 million.

If they get the grant, the outreach program would likely start sometime in Summer 2023.

The grant covers three years and the Supervisor’s vote included a provision to automatically approve the second and third years of the grant, without having to go back to Supervisors. The Director of County Social Services would be in charge of the grant monies.

County to Seek \$2.14 Million Mental Health Grant

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors were asked Oct. 8 to try to land a big grant that would go far to address mental health

issues from the law enforcement view.

County Behavior Health sought permission from Supervisors to apply for a \$2.14 million grant from the “Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant” (JAG) program, according to a staff report.

Teresa Pemberton, the division manager at County Behavioral Health, said in the report that the grant would “support law enforcement, drug treatment, and correctional programs, and the establishment of mental health diversion court services.”

If the County lands the grant, it would cover a 36-month period — from June 1 2023 to June 30, 2026.

The JAG program is a federal show that provides criminal justice funding to States and local jurisdictions, according to the report.

It has three focal points — prevention and education; law enforcement; and prosecution, courts, defense and indigent defense.

The County plans to use its grant for the latter, pouring the money into diversion court for mentally ill defendants. It’s a continuing theme at SLO County.

“This is the second State grant,” the report said, “which will braid together funding sources into a comprehensive program to comply with the Assembly Bill 1810 [passed in 2018] mandates for mental health diversion for our county. AB 1810 authorizes the court to grant pretrial diversion for defendants suffering from a mental health disorder if the court finds that the defendant’s mental disorder played a significant role in the offense.” Only county governments in California are eligible for the JAGs.

The County received one of the JAG grants in 2019 and the Probation Department has been in charge of the programs it funds. That initial grant runs out next May 30.

If the County gets this new grant, the report said, the new funding and programs will be overseen by Behavior Health.

“Most of the data for this project,” the report said, “is held within the Behavioral Health Department and an agreement with Probation was made that the application would reflect Behavioral Health as the lead agency.”

That may not be a bad idea to transfer responsibility over this program, as County Probation likely will soon be a little discombobulated when a project to build them a new office building on Broad Street in SLO gets started next year and takes a couple of years to finish

The County will use the new monies to continue with its Mental Health Diversion Court or MHDC. The goal of the diversion court is “to provide a pathway of diversion for those with mental health issues into treatment and community-based services, as opposed to long-term jail stays for

Health Grant Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **Nov. 5:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at the suspect time of 11:32 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana, hangin’ around the Dollar Tree. The 30-year-old misfit had three bench warrants and was taken to jail, a case of no more Chuka-LaBonga for you.

• **Nov. 5:** At 10 p.m. police ran across a suspicious woman, 21, also hanging around the Dollar Tree Store on Quintana Road. She apparently had a pair of bench warrants, which landed her in the hoosegow.

• **Nov. 5:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 12:10

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a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The 65-year-old fellow had two bench warrants and checked into the County B&B, his days of skating over for a while.

• **Nov. 3:** Police contacted an apparent Skint at 10:45 p.m. in the 400 block of Kern. The night owl, 33, had three bench warrants and she was arrested. While being frisked, police allegedly found illegal drugs on her. She was also pushing a shopping cart that didn’t belong to her, a hangin’ offense in these parts.

• **Nov. 3:** At 10 a.m. a 43-year-old woman with a warrant apparently surrendered at the police station on Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated she was cited and released with a second disappearance ticket.

• **Nov. 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:10 p.m. at Kennedy Way and Shasta for some no doubt trumped up code violation. The driver, 34, was allegedly driving full as a tick and got nicked.

• **Nov. 2:** Someone left his or her car parked too long in the 900 block of Allesandro and police arrested the fiendish 2001, Ford Excursion.

• **Nov. 2:** Someone turned in some ammo they were shooting to be rid of.

• **Nov. 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:30 p.m. in the 200 block of Harbor. The 45-year-old driver was popped like a weasel for allegedly driving with a snoot-full of hooch, and for undisclosed illegal drugs police allegedly found on him.

• **Nov. 1:** Police responded at 6 a.m. to a disturbance in the 2000 block of Hemlock. Logs indicated a woman was taken to French Hospital for a 72-hour timeout.

• **Oct. 31:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:24 p.m. at Pacific and Main. Logs indicated the 43-year-old fellow driving had two bench warrants and was also arrested for allegedly driving on a toot.

• **Oct. 31:** Police contacted a suspicious trick-or-treater at 6:23 p.m. on Coleman Drive. The 49-year-old apparent Zhlub was arrested for suspicion of being wasted in public.

• **Oct. 31:** Police reasoned at 5:13 a.m. to a reported trespassing in the 1100 block of Main. They apparently caught up to a suspect, 57, in the 300 block of Surf and arrested the interloper for suspicion of trespassing — hey, at least she didn’t have a warrant, yet.

• **Oct. 30:** Police contacted a suspicious hombre truckin’ down the 200 block of Harbor at 10:38 p.m. Logs indicated officers arrested the 35-year-old model citizen for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal drugs, namely fentanyl the scourge of the 21st Century.

• **Oct. 30:** At 7:18 p.m. police responded to the 500 block of Dawson for a report of suspected child abuse. A report was written and filed.

• **Oct. 30:** Police contacted another suspicious subject at 4:10 p.m. at Albertson’s Market in the 700 block of Quintana. The mope, 45, was nicked for suspicion of possession of dope, possession of dope paraphernalia, being high on dope, and possessing over an ounce of weed, in this week’s shining example of why they call it dope.

• **Oct. 30:** Police responded to Bonita Street for a deceased person call.

• **Oct. 30:** Police contacted a familiar fiend, 69, at noon in the 300 block of Surf. She had two bench warrants and got nicked.

• **Oct. 30:** Police responded to the Creek Bed Estates in the 300 block of Quintana at 8:40 a.m. where they met up with another ol’ chum, 30, who got took to the hoosegow on a bench warrant.

• **Oct. 30:** At 3:12 a.m. police responded to a disturbance in the 2900 block of Atascadero Rd. A 21-year-old woman was jammed up on suspicion of spousal/cohabitant battery.

• **Oct. 29:** Police responded at 9:40 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Embarcadero. A 39-year-old battleaxe got arrested for suspicion of getting rat-arsed drunk and being all disorderly, where the tourists can see you no less. It was her majesty’s second encounter with the Gendarme’s in as many days, as on Oct. 27 in City Park, she was picked up on four bench warrants and of course, intoxication.

• **Oct. 29:** Police contacted a 48-year-old familiar fellow and arrested the scofflaw on a bench warrant.

• **Oct. 29:** Someone found a skateboard and kick-flipped it over to police.

• **Oct. 27:** At 11:37 p.m. police espied a suspicious subject at Albertson’s Market. The 45-year-old apparent lay-about who they arrested for suspicion of possessing dope and dope paraphernalia, and the soup of the day — a bench warrant.

• **Oct. 27:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle for some no doubt trumped up code violation. The woman driver, 41, was arrested for suspicion of having fake registration tags, which the State Vehicle Code considers a hangin’ offense.

• **Oct. 27:** Someone turned in shotgun shells they were aiming to be rid of.

• **Oct. 27:** High school secutiry filed a report concerning suspected domestic violence, apparently told to him by a mandated reporter.

• **Oct. 26:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to a disturbance in the 800 block of Market. Logs indicated it was a case of an uncivil violation of a civil harassment court order. A report was field with the district attorney in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **Oct. 26:** At 8:35 p.m. police contacted some scruffy Philistines at Albertson’s Market. One, 36-year-old fellow had three bench warrants and was cited and released with a future fourth. The other, 27, was nicked for a warrant and naturally, they allegedly found suspected illegal drugs and paraphernalia on him, no doubt stuffed in his Underoos.

• **Oct. 26:** Police contacted another citizen of the year, 35, at 11:17 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. That hombre had an out-of-county warrant but was cited and released, apparently not worth the gas to drive to jail.

• **Oct. 25:** At 11:11 a.m. police contacted someone with mental health issues in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. He or she was taken for a little 72-hour timeout at French Hospital.

• **Oct. 25:** Someone at the police station turned a wallet they’d found at an undisclosed location in town.

• **Oct. 25:** In today’s Lost-Found file — a woman at Alb-ertson’s Market reported a grand theft, apparently having been robbed of some undisclosed treasure. Logs indicated she later found what she’d lost and asked police to lose the report she’d filed.

• **Oct. 25:** Police were called at 10:15 a.m. to the 500 block of Morro for a report of some off-leash, beastly mutt running amok that attacked another dog.

• **Oct. 24:** At 9:38 p.m. in the 500 block of Embarcadero, police contacted a suspicious subject traipsing down street. The 32-year-old swizzle stick was arrested for goin’ on the razzle in public.

• **Oct. 24:** Police took a courtesy report for a vehicle vs. deer collision at 7 p.m. at South Bay Boulevard and State Park Road, presumably filed by the driver, as the deer was no doubt unable to speak for itself.

• **Oct. 24:** Police at 3:30 p.m. were called to the Commu-nity Center in the 1000 block of Kennedy Way for a citizen apparently having a very bad day. He or she was taken for a 72-hour timeout at Sierra Vista Hospital.

Okay everyone, the election is over, let's focus on cats.

Photo by Cat Noir CC

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Community

County Warns of Virus Spread



By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County Health Department is warning residents about a common virus that’s surfaced early locally and is putting people — especially young children — in the hospital.

The County, “is experiencing an increase in pediatric illnesses and hospitalizations due to respiratory viruses,” reads a new release, “particularly respiratory syncytial virus [RSV]. Health officials urge community members, particularly older adults and parents of young children, to take precautions as RSV and other respiratory viruses begin to circulate at higher levels locally.”

Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, said, “While RSV circulates every year, we are seeing an impact that is earlier and more severe than usual and our hospitals are beginning to feel the strain. Older adults and people who spend time with young children should take precautions: wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and consider masking in crowded places.

“No matter your age, stay home if you’re sick, even if

you test negative for COVID-19.”

Dr. Borenstein urged everyone to get a flu and COVID shot. “This reduces your own risk and also helps lift some weight from our local nurses, doctors, and EMS teams, as they care for an influx of patients.”

RSV often causes fever and cold-like symptoms, with most people recovering on their own in a week or two, the County said. RSV can cause serious illness in infants, children under-5, and adults 65+.

The County is also seeing a lot of flu (influenza) cases along with COVID.

The recommendation from the County if you get RSV or the flu is to stay home, rest and drink plenty of fluids.

There are also a myriad of over-the-counter medicines — like Tylenol or Ibuprofen to name two — to help you get through it. The County also recommends getting a COVID test.

If symptoms are manageable but begin to worsen raising concerns, the County recommends going to your doctor rather than an emergency room. The County said to look for warning signs of a severe illness.

“Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unable to drink enough fluids, experiences new confusion, has trouble waking up or staying awake, or experiences other emergency warning signs should seek medical care right away, including going to the emergency room or calling 9-1-1 if needed.”

According to the CDC’s website, RSV can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes; you get virus droplets from a cough or sneeze in your eyes, nose, or mouth; you have direct contact with the virus, like kissing the face of a child with RSV; or you touch a surface that has the virus on it, like a doorknob, and then touch your face before washing your hands.

“People infected with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days,” the CDC said, “and may become contagious a day or two before they start showing signs of illness. However, some infants, and people with weakened immune systems, can continue to spread the virus even after they stop showing symptoms, for as long as 4 weeks.

“Children are often exposed to and infected with RSV outside the home, such as in school or childcare centers. They can then transmit the virus to other members of the family.”

The virus can last for many hours on hard surfaces like a table or a baby crib, but lasts significantly shorter on soft surfaces like tissues and hands.

For more information see: [www.cdc.gov/rsv](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv). County Public Health phone support is available at (805) 781-5500 Mondays-Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Turkey Trot this Thanksgiving



Burn some calories for a good cause. On Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24, at 8:30 a.m. starting either at the Avila Beach Promenade or on Pismo Beach, hundreds of walkers will participate in the San Luis Obispo Turkey Trot

Turkey Trot Continued on page 13

**Weight Loss** From page 9

The study expanded upon Phelan’s previous work, including research into weight regain and the benefits of self-monitoring referenced in the New York Times article “How to Lose Weight and Keep it Off,” based on her January 2020 study in Obesity that used validated questionnaires to identify novel behavioral and psychological strategies among weight loss maintainers in a commercial weight management program.

“Weight regains are inevitable along the journey, and the path to long-term success is not a straight line,” said WW’s Foster. “Results from this study showed that those who resumed their weight loss began efforts after smaller weight regains. Findings also reinforced that building helpful thinking styles and healthy habits along the way can help fuel the journey.”

This research was supported by a grant from WW International Inc.; and Hayes’ work was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

November 25-December 18

*Suite Surrender*

By Michael McKeever

Directed by Kelli M. Poward

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Community

Hundreds Come to a Haunted Downtown

Photos by Neil Farrell

Hundreds of costumed super heroes, villains, space aliens and all manner of ghosts and ghouls flooded Downtown Morro Bay Oct. 29 for the return of the Annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat.

Kids and their parents got into the spirit of Halloween as they hit the local merchants up for candy and enjoyed a mini carnival put on by the City and Chamber of Commerce.

Special features included a haunted house at the Historic Circle Inn Building (sponsored by Gaia's Garden, Legend's Tavern and the Ugly Mug); a Haunted Trolley decorated by the MV Transportation and City crews, and a wickedly-cool haunted house put on by the Police Department and set up in the Pizza Port/Mike's Barbershop parking lot.

And judging from the squeals and screams of the children coming from inside the haunted house, it was a big hit.

Another feature was a concert by the White Caps Band, who also dressed up for Halloween.



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Fri - Sun, Dec 9, 10, & 11: 4:30-7:30PM • Sun, Dec 11: 12Noon -4PM

Fri - Sun, Dec 16, 17, & 18: 4:30-7:30PM • Sun, Dec 18: 12Noon -4PM

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11



Takin' Care  
of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cambria Celebrates the  
Holidays and Hospitality

The Cambria Chamber of Commerce wants to help young children celebrate the holidays. This year is the 75th anniversary of Toys for Tots. The Cambria Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the organizations to bring joy to local children. They welcome your donation of new, unwrapped gifts

at the Chamber office at 767 Main Street on weekdays. But wait, there is so much more. The Cambria Chamber of Commerce's Hospitality Night takes place Monday, December 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. They are having Decorating Contest. - The contest starts on Nov 25th (Black Friday) and runs through Hospitality Night in the case of the Popular Votes. Bev Praver, the Town Crier, will announce the event and the judged winners at the chamber building. As usual businesses can have music, giveaways, or whatever they decide in the shop. Let the Chamber know what you're planning, so they can promote it on their website and social media. There will be music around town as well as a "drive through" of some historic vehicles; Santa and hot dogs at the Chamber offices in the West Village, and Santa will also be at the Historical Society. The fun doesn't end there, 4-H will be at the Pacific Premier Bank parking lot with animals and a training exhibition, and there will be a dog parade as well. Dogs and their humans should meet at Pacific Premier Bank after 4 p.m. The procession is in the East Village at 4:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged. Go to [www.cambriachamber.org](http://www.cambriachamber.org), for all the details or contact the chamber at 805.927.3624.

**Toy Drive for Los Osos**  
Jennifer Doyle, a realtor with C21 Hometown Realty, has put together a toy drive for the community of Los Osos. All new unwrapped toys can be donated at any of the following locations: C21 Hometown at 1054 Los Osos Valley Rd., Central Coast Kenpo Karate at 1034 Los Osos Valley Rd., Kiwanis Club, or South Bay Community Center at 2180 Palisades Ave. They can also be picked up by calling Jennifer at 805-801-0215. If you or someone you know would like to benefit from the drive, let Jennifer know. Toys will be handed out Dec. 23. Call the above number for more information.


**Volunteers needed to ring in the season**  
The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring the bells at numerous Red Kettle locations around San Luis

Obispo County this holiday season, Nov. 26 through Dec. 23. Volunteers are not required to solicit donations – just ring the bell and greet passersby with a smile. Shifts are normally two hours. Volunteering as bell-ringers can be a great holiday project for service organizations, youth groups or even a group of friends, Salvation Army officials say. A group of volunteers can adopt a site for several hours or an entire day. There is no age limit, but kids and teens must be supervised by an adult. The annual Kettle Campaign is The Salvation Army's most important fundraising event of the year. And this year, demand is particularly high. With the cost of food and shelter skyrocketing, the organization is being called on to assist even more families in need. All donations go to help families and individuals in San Luis Obispo County. To sign up for a time and a location near you, call (323) 316-7097.

Want To Be a Santa?



Home Instead's Be a Santa to a Senior program kicks off in SLO County where community members can give a special holiday gift to an older adult who may otherwise go without. "A simple gift can bring such joy to older adults who may not have loved ones to celebrate with," said Matt Galbraith, owner of the Grover Beach Home Instead office. "Through Be a Santa to a Senior, we can help them feel the holiday spirit." This year program coordinators hope to collect gifts for 200 local older adults. To participate, shoppers can look for Be a Santa to a Senior trees or displays at locations around the area. Ornaments featuring the name and desired gift of an older adult will be on display, and shoppers can buy the requested gift and return it unwrapped or in a gift bag to the location with the ornament attached. Ornaments will be available

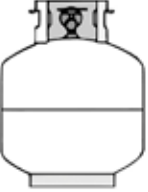


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Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Help keep folks warm this winter. Donate new and gently used adult coats to Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, and San Luis Obispo libraries November 29 - December 10. The Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) Library Outreach Team will distribute to our neighbors in need.

...

“Suite Surrender” by Micael McKeever is By the Sea Productions’ last show of the 2022 season. Directed by Kelli M. Poward, the comedy features two 1940s singing divas starring in a USO fundraiser show. Famous for their long-standing feud, chaos ensues when they are mistakenly booked into the same hotel suite.

Add a pair of bumbling bellhops, a nosey gossip columnist, a lost dog, Navy men on weekend leave, and the overwhelmed hotel manager is trying desperately to have the show go on.

Featured in the frenzy are Kate Kravets and Laura Richie as the divas and David Rousseve as the hotel manager. Also in the cast are Gregory DeMartini, Samvel Gottlieb, Janice Peters, Heather Babcock, Sarah Ruth Smith and Molly Pendley.

“Suite Surrender” plays November 25 through December 18, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay.

...

Reservations at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287. COVID vaccination and masks are recommended. In honor of National Adopt a Senior Pet Month in November; Woods Humane Society is waiving adoption fees for all senior pets (age 7+) this month. The adoption promotion aims to help the shelter’s more mature pets find comfortable, loving homes for the holidays, and for their golden years.

Woods’ senior pet promotion is the most recent of a series of adoption promotions that the nonprofit adoption center has offered to encourage adoptions, remove financial barriers to getting a pet, and help make room to transfer in more animals from nearby over-crowded shelters that are experiencing high numbers of stray and surrendered animals.

through Dec. 8. The gifts will be delivered to local older adults in time for the holidays.

Be a Santa to a Senior trees can be found at the following locations:

- SLO Smiles – 878 Walnut St. in San Luis Obispo
- Home Instead – 180 N. 9th St. in Grover Beach
- Carlock’s Bakery – 1024 Los Osos Valley Road in Los Osos

For more information visit BeaSantatoaSenior.com or call 805-473-5781.

The length of stay for senior pets is typically longer than that of younger animals. That trend has intensified during recent years as the pet industry has experienced a “puppy boom” and an increase in demand to adopt puppies, Wood’s says. In 2021, the average length of stay for these older animals was 20.3 days, which was an entire 7 days longer than that for younger adult animals (13.1 days) and 12 days longer than the length of stay for puppies (8.3 days). In 2022, the average length of stay for senior pets has gone up to 29 days.

To view all of the currently available senior pets at Woods, go to [www.WoodsHumane.org/adopt](http://www.WoodsHumane.org/adopt) or visit in person during daily public hours from 12-5 p.m. (adoption



hours are from 12-4 p.m.). For more information about Woods, go to [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org) or call (805) 543-9316. Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero.

...

The community is invited to the fourth annual Bash Cancer Fest on Saturday, November 19. All proceeds go to the Teddy Bear Foundation to help local kids battle cancer and help support their families.

The event takes place at the Red Barn at 2180 Palisades Ave in Los Osos from 12 to 5 p.m. There will be raffles, food, drinks and live music performances.

The Young Dubliners, Cuesta Ridge, Driftwood Brothers, Surfeza, Dan Waters, Big B and Da Boys are slated to perform,

Tickets are \$20 per person for entry to the fest and kids are free. To make a donation or learn more about Bash Center Fest go to [bashcancerfest.com](http://bashcancerfest.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](http://EsteroBayNews.com).*

The 42nd Annual Central Coast Craft Fair takes place Friday, November 25 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the San Luis Veterans Memorial Building (SLO Vets Hall), 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo. This annual event provides a curated shopping experience where all items are 100% handmade by the crafters, makers and artisans present. The wide selection of handcrafted products features home decor, bath and body products, quilted goods, toys, seasonal decorations, baked goods and treats, art, jewelry, and so much more!

Attendees can support the Spotlight Organization Central Coast Quilts Of Valor Foundation (QOVF) #79001, a nonprofit organization with a mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Fully 100% of the monies collected from the purchase of additional prize drawing tickets will be donated to QOVF.

For more details, go to [facebook.com/events/629526001696842](https://facebook.com/events/629526001696842).

...

Morro Bay Art Association presents The Annual Winter Faire & Juried Craft Show, featuring some of the finest artworks on the Central Coast through January 2, 2023.

This very special holiday event offers a collection of exceptional paintings, photography and fine crafts, spanning a variety of artistic mediums from traditional to contemporary. Crafts include fiber, wood, glass, sculpture, pottery, jewelry and more.

Whether you’re attending this exhibit to observe or to find that perfect holiday gift, you are in for a delight! For more information, contact them at [www.artcentermorrobay.org](http://www.artcentermorrobay.org) or 805-772-2504

Events Continued on page 14

Turkey Trot From page 10

to raise funds for holiday meals.

This holiday season, the SLO Food Bank plans to distribute over 3,000 holiday proteins, including turkeys, hams, and chickens, as well as hundreds of thousands of pounds of other nutritious foods, such as produce and shelf-stable goods. Each month, SLO Food Bank serves over 31,000 neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

“It’s beautiful to see the community come together each year to support hunger relief at the SLO Food Bank Turkey Trot,” said Garret Olson, CEO of the SLO Food Bank. “I’m inspired to see the number of people who show up to walk, fundraise, and raise awareness out of compassion for their neighbors and a commitment to build a healthier San Luis Obispo County.”

There are two in-person options this year, a 2-mile walk along the Bob Jones Trail in Avila Beach or along the ocean by the Pismo Beach pier. Others who opt to participate virtually can complete a walk, run, or hike on their own or with family and friends at a location of their choice or participate in spirit. Register at [slofoodbank.org/turkey-trot](http://slofoodbank.org/turkey-trot).

Each registration comes with an exclusive event t-shirt and the opportunity to fundraise. Fundraisers that reach certain milestones will be eligible for special SLO Food Bank swag.

Anyone who registers and posts a selfie on social media with the hashtag #sloturkeytrot2022 will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of five \$50 Running Warehouse gift cards.

Finally, the top fundraising team captain receives a \$100 Running Warehouse gift card, and the top fundraising individual receives a Beda Biergarten \$50 gift card.

The SLO Food Bank Turkey Trot creates awareness about food insecurity in our community and raises vital funds to provide nourishment and hope to individuals and families during the holidays. The event is presented by Running Warehouse and made possible by the following sponsors: Pacific Premier Bank, Christine Allen Memorial Fund, Richard Lasiewski, D.O. and Kersti Lasiewski, CenCal Health, Mechanics Bank, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, California Coastal Real Estate, Certified Auto Repair San Luis Obispo, Santa Lucia Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star, Glenn Burdette, Guaranteed Rate, KSBY, Dimes Media, The Tribune, and New Times.

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Community

Events From page 13

The following are free events brought to you by the Los Osos Library 2075 Palisades Ave, 805-528-1862. All library programs following 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 -**  
Wall artist TBD through December  
Mosaics by Anne Hodges in the Display 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.**  
(rain cancels)

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 SLO Funny Comedy Show is on November 26 at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall, 209 Surf St., Morro Bay. The hilarity is hosted by David Murphy, David Yates and Amanda Cohen. The show featured Justin Foster with headliner Greg Wilson. There are two shows, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 online pre-sale and \$25 at the door. My805Tix: <https://my805tix.com/e/slofunny-comedy-show-6>



The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble and Dance Troupe will be joined by the Morro Bay High School Choirs and critically acclaimed guest artists for its Fall Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, in Spanos Theatre on campus. A special feature of the concert is a collaboration between the Arab Music Ensemble and the Morro Bay High School Choirs directed by Katie Bravante, a 1999 graduate of the Music Department. The groups will perform an adaptation of Joy Hirokawa's arrangement of "Lamma Bada Yatathanna," a foremost example of Arab art music. The critically acclaimed guest artists featured include Ishmael on qanun (zither), Fathi Aljarrah on kamanja (violin), and Faisal Zedan and Keeth CrowHawk on riqq (tambourine), daff (frame drum) and darabukka (goblet drum). The program features contemporary works and traditional genres with roots in the Eastern Mediterranean, the larger historical Ottoman Empire and the legacy of Andalusia, as well as some of the most celebrated repertoire of Southwest Asia-North Africa. The Arab Music Ensemble is an orchestra and choir with vocal and instrumental soloists. Its membership represents a wide range of majors on campus and professions off campus. The dance troupe has a similar composition and has collaborated with the Arab Music Ensemble since its formation in 2006. San Luis Obispo dance director Jenna Mitchell will lead the dance troupe in the performance of original choreographies that dialogue with the music. Habib, a composer, performer and ethnomusicologist, will direct the event.

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



The Cal Poly Choirs, which include Cantabile, Chamber Choir, PolyPhonics and University Singers, presents the sixth annual "Holiday Kaleidoscope" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center. This year the Cal Poly Choirs will be joined by the Cabrillo High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Cal Poly alumna Jennifer Peterson (Music, '95); and the Central Coast Youth Chorus' Cadence Choir, led by Cal Poly music majors Danna Dumandan and Katelyn Caron. Cal Poly Director of Choral Activities Scott Glysson established the concert in 2017 to showcase and celebrate Central Coast choral traditions and collaborations. The four university choirs and the two guest ensembles will each perform a short selection of repertoire and then will unite for some larger works. A 20-piece student orchestra will accompany the choirs on several pieces and during carol sing-alongs. The evening will include other fun features, such as College of Liberal Arts Dean Philip J. Williams narrating "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). For more information, visit the Music Department's calendar website, email [music@calpoly.edu](mailto:music@calpoly.edu) or call 805-756-2406.



The Cambria Center for the Arts presents a staged reading of an original musical by Michael Kaplan and Jeff Mar, November 18-20. "Foodies" is hailed as a delightfully comedic romp with catchy tunes and relatable characters that will have you tapping your feet and roaring with laughter. Like a great hollandaise sauce, the plot thickens as a fussy eater who hates vegetables is mistaken for the guest of honor at the Paso Robles Food & Wine Festival. When he becomes infatuated with the woman running the weekend, he must try and play the part as best he can, despite the challenges (and heirloom tomatoes) involved. The cast features some of CCAT's favorite performers including Greg Gorrindo, Tara Brinkman, Mark Klassen, Oz Barron, and Sarah Smith. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre has produced a previous Michael Kaplan production, Danny Come Home. And SLORep produced another of his musicals, We're Cancelling Cable. For Foodies, Michael collaborated with Cambria musical director, Jeff Mar, to provide orchestrations as well as Shirley Kirkes-Mar, who contributed choreography to the show. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at [CambriaArts.org](http://CambriaArts.org) or at the door. All seats are reserved. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre is located at 1350 Main St. in Cambria.

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

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#4

#7

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Community  
Letter  
to  
The Editor



Retired Teachers Give  
Back Time and Money

What do retired teachers mean to San Luis Obispo County? More than one might think! For many years or even decades in the classroom, teachers make a difference by being there for their students. When those teachers retire, they continue to give to local communities through their pocketbook and their passion for volunteerism. The week of November 6 through the 12, 2022, was California's 24th annual Retired Teachers Week.

According to figures from the California Retired Teachers Association, retired teachers statewide donated nearly 2 million hours of volunteer service in the past year, valued at almost \$69 million. In addition to their donated time, retired teachers are part of the swell of economic benefits California receives from public pensioners as they spend their pension benefit checks. Division 23 CalR-TA members volunteer at local schools, libraries, polling stations, the Clark Center, The Dana Adobe and Cultural Center, Elephant Seal Rookery at Piedra Blancas, museums, hospitals, homeless shelters, and food banks.

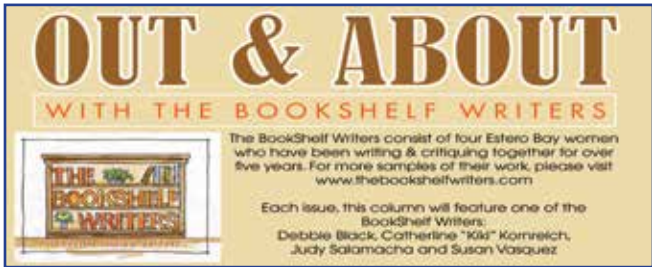
In California, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported 395,520 jobs and \$15.1 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues. In fact, each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$6.40 in total economic activity in California!

Retired teachers will continue to give back — both economically and through our volunteer service. We cared about our students and our communities while we worked as educators, and that caring doesn't stop at retirement. Please join us.

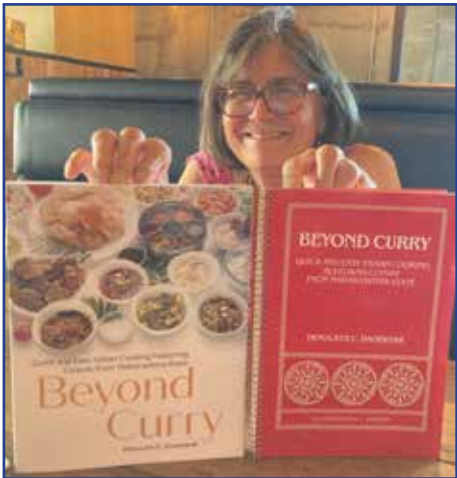
Bruce Badrigian  
President, Division 23, California Retired  
Teachers Association

Letter's Policy

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](mailto:editor@esterobaynews.com)



Hemalata Dandekar:  
Beyond Curry: Quick &  
Easy Indian Cooking



Dr. Hemalata C. Dandekar, the author of "Beyond Curry: Quick & Easy Indian Cooking."

By Judy Salamacha

Cal Poly Professor Hemalata C. Dandekar's publishing career began in 1983 as a fundraiser for the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. She was raised in Maharashtra, India and had saved her mother's recipes. For fifteen years she dreamed of publishing them in a cookbook. While teaching architecture at the University of Michigan, she found her team to make it happen.

Dr. Dandekar first came to America as an exchange student on an American Field Service Scholarship. She was on the fast track at the University of Bombay to earn her degree in architecture when she applied to come to America. She hoped to be placed with an architect, but instead loved her stay with her American family, David and Christine Weisblat, in their Frank Lloyd Wright home. They encouraged her to explore her mother's recipes with them.

"They cheerfully consumed even my early products," she said.

The first edition of "Beyond Curry: Quick & Easy Indian Cooking" was published in 1983 and intended to dispel the mystique American cooks seemed to hold that preparing Indian cuisine was beyond their talents. She explains how her father and aunt taught her that cooking is a fine art seeking always to achieve perfection, but creativity

in the kitchen came from her mother. "Mom taught me that speed and ingenuity are essential attributes of a good cook. I observed her conjuring up meals in short order for unending groups of relatives and friends who would drop by."

Once an American professional, Dr. Dandekar quickly learned to adapt Indian recipes with available Western ingredients and modified featured recipes to save time and cost. She believes successful Indian cooking requires understanding the core ingredients, utensils and gadgets needed, and especially, how to use the appropriate spices.

With current interest in multi-cultural cuisine, she worked through Amazon Publishing to update "Beyond Curry: Quick & East Indian Cooking" in 2021. Modern photography demonstrates what recipes look like when shared with family or guests.

Dr. Dandekar's career would ultimately lead her to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where the "learn by doing" concept attracted her. She accepted the position of department chair for the City & Regional Planning Department. "Michigan was too technical," she said.

After seven years, she knew she wanted to teach students more than manage educators. Her regional planning and architectural design philosophy, which she is now teaching at Cal Poly, is holistic. It begins with the student architect/planner becoming familiar with the story of the individual or community it will serve. Her additional studies of landscape architecture are integrated into the preparation of her students. Functional uses are considered in each design. Sociology and psychology evaluations also integrate all parts of the whole of a project - study, plan, design and then build for livable use.

"It might be called a back door approach," she said. "I believe in listening to the client and designing functions that tell the story of their lifestyle."

Dr. Dandekar's publications also reflect her desire to tell stories. For example, "Michigan Family Farms and Farm Buildings: Landscapes of the Heart and Mind" is as much about families sustaining life on the farm as it is visually showcasing the details of the farms where they live and

Out & About Continued on page 16

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# Obituary

## Liz Curren

### 1944 - 2022



Elizabeth Birge Curren passed away peacefully on Friday, October 28, 2022, due to cancer at age 78. She was at home surrounded by her children and family members, as was her wish.

She was born on October 23, 1944, in Saint Louis, Missouri to Jane Allen Birge and Stanley Julius Birge. Liz attended John Burroughs High School and graduated in 1963. After high school, she went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She then attended Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and Claremont College of Theology in California, earning a Doctorate degree.

She married the love of her life, Michael Curren, in 1973. They moved to Los Osos, California in 1975. Elizabeth worked as a teacher and a librarian over the course of her professional life. She volunteered for many organizations in the community, including the Literacy Counsel of San Luis Obispo County and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. She volunteered at the Literacy Council first as tutor and later as the center director in Los Osos. This volunteer work led The Tribune in 2012 to name her as one of its unsung heroes "dedicated to literacy for all." She believed that, through teaching, one person has the power to change many lives for the better.

She enjoyed hiking, camping and any opportunity to spend time outdoors. There was nothing in life that was going to get in the way of her sense of adventure. She and

Mike went on a backpacking trip together through the Sierras with their son when he was only a few months old. She hiked to the top of Mount Whitney when she was in her early 60s. And, after she had been battling cancer for over three years and was not in the best health, she managed to hike a trail that was at over 10,000 feet in elevation, with the help of her daughter. She found so much joy being in nature.

Her greatest pleasure in life was spending time with her family and friends. She had an infectious smile and made many friends wherever she went. She loved working in the library in Los Osos because it gave her the opportunity to get to know so many members of our community. She felt such gratitude to all of you who have made her life so much richer.

Liz loved children. Her favorite memories in life were those of her childhood and the time spent raising her children. She would always have a crafting project or adventure planned for her children and a book ready to read to them at bedtime. She was a wonderful mother.

She will be deeply missed by her daughter, Jane Michael Curren, her son, David Allen Curren, her daughter-in-law, Naoko Curren, and her granddaughter, Riana Curren, as well as her brothers and sister, nieces, nephews, in-laws and extended family.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life at Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos at 490 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos, CA 93402, on Saturday, December 17 at 3 p.m. A reception will follow the service. Liz wanted it to be a celebration, so no need to wear black.

In lieu of flowers or memorial contributions, please give a hug to your loved ones in Liz's honor.

#### HHW Facility From page 1

is open for collecting HHWs on Saturdays. The original agreement was renewed in 2010, and again in 2020, when it was extended to August 2022., it has been extended informally since that time, under the original agreed upon terms.

Last week, the City Council reaffirmed the arrangement and extended it through February 2023, with two, 3-month extensions available.

The City will look for a spot to move the HHW facilities — which consist of a modular storage unit and a roll-off box — "providing waste collection and proper disposal of

#### Out & About From page 15

work.

"Men to Bombay, Women at Home and A House with a Door" depicts how life changes for families in India as the men are called to work in the urban areas and women maintain home and family in the rural villages.

And yes, I was surprised reading Dr. Dandekar's chapter on spices. She writes, "For those who assume there is a spice called 'curry,' I have disappointing news. The word 'curry' does not even exist in the Marathi language." She explains Western curry dishes combine "hot, aromatic spices" — a combination of spices called "masala" with most packaged with Tumeric.

Dr. Dandekar is not a fan of curry powder. "Tumeric is a wonderful, essential spice in Indian cooking," she said, "however, to bring out its full aroma, it must be cooked to a certain high temperature." Hmmm! More lessons to learn?

I realized how lucky I am. My daughter-in-law, Rena Salamacha, was born into the Indian culture, but it was only recently her mother, Mandy Sahota-Flood, moved to Los Osos. Not often enough, but we celebrate with Indian cuisine. I encourage my readers to check out Hemalata Dandekar recipes for chutneys, potato paratha, samosa, naan - and even chicken curry and many more.



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News

household hazardous waste that cannot be safely and properly disposed of in the trash or in the gutter,” according to a staff report.

One possible new location is the City’s new Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) treatment plant, which has a lot of outdoor space but that decision hasn’t been made yet.

The old plant, at 170 Atascadero Rd., is slated to be decommissioned, and torn down at some point in time. The City and CSD co-own the property and the old plant, and negotiations are underway on how to go about the business of removing the plant and making the land ready for possible redevelopment.

How the two sides will decide the various issues between the agencies, is expected to be the final piece of business between the former partner agencies, who divorced over the City’s plans to replace the old plant.

The initial joint-project, which they’d spent 7 years and about \$2 million developing, was approved by both agencies but appealed to the Coastal Commission, where it was denied by the Commission in February 2013. The Commission in essence demanded that a new plant be built away from the coast to avoid “coastal hazards” like tsunamis, sea level rise, and flooding of Morro Creek.

That denial, which the City Council majority pushed for but Cayucos strongly opposed, was the start of the end for their partnership.

Not long after that fiasco, the City proposed a new business arrangement. Essentially, the CSD would become a “customer” of Morro Bay with zero ownership interest in the new plant, but would still have to pay 40% of the construction costs. Also, Morro Bay would control what was done with the recycled wastewater.

That arrangement was unacceptable to Cayucos, which set out on its own and delivered a new plant, on time and on budget; that is now fully operational and totally independent of Morro Bay and the old sewer plant.

And yet the CSD still owns about 40% interest in the undersea discharge pipeline, the treatment plant and the property it sits on.

How that all shakes out in the end — including the costs sharing ratios for decommissioning — is among the

few remaining unknowns to be answered in this nearly two decades old saga.

Wherever the HHW is eventually relocated, the IWMA is responsible for the permitting, oversight and operations of the facility.

The HHW facility will take in for free things like used motor oil, paints, thinners and stains and pesticides among others, so residents don’t end up tossing them away in the regular trash or worse.

They take these substances in at the HHW facility and a licensed hauler, under contract properly disposes of the hazardous materials.

The Morro Bay HHW collection facility is located at the old City sewer plant at 170 Atascadero Rd. It is open to the public Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and accepts household hazardous waste up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds, or waste materials free of charge.

It is the only HHW facility on the North Coast and one of six such facilities in SLO County.

- The others are at:
- Chicago Grade Landfill, 2290 Homestead Rd., Templeton;
  - Cold Canyon Landfill, 2268 Carpenter Canyon Rd., San Luis Obispo;
  - Heritage Ranch Community Services District, 4870 Heritage Rd., Paso Robles;
  - Nipomo Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 509 Southland St., Nipomo; and,
  - Paso Robles Landfill, 9000 Hwy 46 East, Paso Robles.

For hours of operations and to see what other programs the IWMA runs, see: <https://iwma.com>.

Cloud Seed From page 1

the watershed that drains into Lopez Lake, which provides drinking water for the cities in South County.

Lopez Lake is currently at about 28% of capacity and has just 11,222.8-acre feet. Full capacity is 49,388-acre feet.

The County’s Supervising Water System Engineer, David Spiegel, said the contract will take effect Dec. 1 and they have a window for cloud seeding through the end of March, with an

option to carry on into April, if we get April showers.

But the contract came too late to boost rainfall from the big storm that blew through last week.

‘We did not seed this storm event,’ Spiegel told Estero Bay News. He added that the County had to consider the best time to cloud seed with “what we can afford,” in negotiating the contract.

He said last week’s soaking had some significant rainfall but nowhere near enough to make a dent in the shortage in the lake.

“We’re not likely to see any appreciable bump in the reservoir,” he explained. That’s because the hills surrounding Lopez Lake are bone dry from several years of below average rains, and any rain that fell soaked into the ground instead of running off into the reservoir. “The ground is so dry,” Spiegel said.

He said it takes 9-10 inches of rain over 2-3 months to start seeing the lake level climb.

He said the Lopez Lake area, which is south east of Arroyo Grande, suffers from a bad location. “A lot of the storms we get don’t sit on that watershed,” he said, and most either pass north of or south of Lopez Lake.

This new contract is a first for SLO County, he said. In the past they’ve done seeding from the ground but this new effort will give them an opportunity to seed the storm clouds from the air.

According to the Desert Research Institute, a leader in environmental research, “Clouds are made up of tiny water droplets or ice crystals that form when water vapor in the atmosphere cools and condenses around a tiny particle of dust or salt floating in the atmosphere. Without these particles, known as condensation or ice nuclei, raindrops or snowflakes cannot form and precipitation will not occur.

“Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that improves a cloud’s ability to produce rain or snow by introducing tiny ice nuclei into certain types of subfreezing clouds. These nuclei provide a base for snowflakes to form. After cloud seeding takes place, the newly formed snowflakes quickly grow and fall from the clouds back to the surface of the Earth, increasing snowpack and stream flow.”

Having a significant rain in early November is out of character for the Central Coast, which normally starts getting rain in December or later. The Central Coast normally gets its heaviest rainfall in February and March, sometimes lasting into April and even May on occasion.

NAWC has been doing seeding for the County for several years and this new contract will include aerial seeding.

“An aerial-based program,” Spiegel said, “will complement the existing ground-based program and increase the number of storms than can be directly seeded which will increase precipitation on the watershed.”

The ground-seeding program didn’t do much for Lopez Lake. “The ground-based seeding sites are all located to the south of the watershed,” Spiegel’s report said, “only allowing seeding of storms that are moving south to north. Aerial-based operations will allow storms traveling in all directions to be seeded.

“Costs to add an aerial-based program would be considerably more expensive, however, through the partnership with Santa Barbara County the costs associated with the aerial-based program will be split.”

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Community

Giving From page 1



Volunteers with GleanSLO have helped harvest more than 2 million pounds of fresh, local produce since 2010.

GleanSLO provides, volunteers are also on the receiving end. “Sometimes we are in someone’s backyard in SLO or sometimes we’re going out to a ranch in Arroyo Grande,” Richards said. “The myriad of beautiful scenery that you get to see is a huge benefit for going; it’s a different office every day.” Despite the end of what many might think of as the growing season, volunteer gleaners are still needed. There are plenty of gleaning opportunities for people of all abilities. Farmers who support local food rescue programs have crops such as pomegranates and a variety of squash. A further-reaching benefit of the organization is the environment. Richards said that by keeping food out of the landfill, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. Another benefit is the social network created among volunteer gleaners. “One of the things that I think is overlooked, but is one of the most beautiful things about going out to glean,” Richards said, “is getting to know that network of people

who are interested in food insecurity. There’s a huge social scene around eating, and it’s great to get out there and see other people that are doing the same thing and talk with them about what they’re cooking right now and what’s growing in their garden.”

GleanSLO is growing itself. The non-profit recently opened a hub in North County and is ready to start doing gleans in that area, allowing even more fresh produce to go to distribution sites north of the Cuesta Grade.

If you, or a friend, have extra fruit on your tree or veggies in your garden, consider contacting the SLO Glean program coordinator for inquiries regarding crop donation, scheduling a harvest, questions about volunteering and signing up for a harvest at gleanslo@slofoodbank.org or by calling 805-238-4664.

For readers who want to help but playing in dirt or climbing on ladders is not your thing, equipment is also needed such as harvest bags, foldable harvest crates, clip-pers and extension pole pickers.

For information on all GleanSLO projects and goals, check out GleanSLO.org.



A pomegranate picked during a GleanSLO harvest.

Cambria is unique in SLO County in that it has its own Health Care District, which owns and operates an ambulance service, and a health clinic. Cambria also has a Community Services District that runs the water and sewer systems.

In the Cambria CSD race to fill two seats, Debra Scott came in first with 1,280 (39.69%) and Michael Thomas was second with 1,188 (36.84%). Jim Bahringer finished third (753, 23.35%).

Gibson Winning Fifth Term

In the other local political race, Dist. 2 County Supervisor Bruce Gibson is holding onto a healthy lead over his challenger, Bruce Jones. Gibson had 6,166 (52.79%) of the vote in the redrawn Dist. 2. Jones had 5,513 (47.2%).

Though it would be highly unusual for someone down 5% on Election Day to mount a comeback and win no matter how many votes are left to count, there are thousands of votes still to be counted. If his lead holds up, Gibson will have won his fifth, 4-year term in office.

That would be quite a feat as Dist. 2 was radically redrawn by County Supervisors after the last Census, and Gibson’s strongholds — Morro Bay, Los Osos and SLO — were taken out of Dist. 2 and Atascadero and San Miguel were put in.

School District Races

In the race for Cayucos School District, Trustee Area 1 (TA 1), Kerry Friend leads with 82 votes (44.81%), with Steve Geil finishing second (66, 36.07%); and Chloe Phillips (35, 19.13%) third.

The SLOCUSD had several races as well, with Mark Buchman getting 1,352 (67.94%) to apparently win the seat in TA-4 over Tony Evans (632, 31.76%).

In TA 2, Rob Banfield got 1,312 votes (56.45%); ironically, though his opponent, former SLCUSD trustee, Jim Quesenberry, pulled out of the race weeks before the election but whose name still appeared on ballots, got 1,008 votes (43.37%). (Perhaps a testament to name recognition in elections.)

And in SLCUSD’s TA 1 race, incumbent Marilyn Rodgers leads with 1,897 (61.04%) votes to challenger, Loren Leidinger’s 1,209 (38.9%).

At the Coast Unified School District (Cambria, San Simeon and Cayucos), TA 2 race, Lee McFarland is ahead with 259 (52.11%) votes with Susan Dever getting 237 (47.69%).

Dawn Addis Going to Sacramento

Morro Bay Councilwoman, Democrat Dawn Addis, leads the newly created Assembly Dist. 30 race with 57,788 votes (60.76%) to Republican Vicki Nohdren’s 37,320 (39.24%).

Dist. 30 includes all of SLO County, and Coastal Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Addis’ win makes her the first Morro Bay resident to be elected to the State Assembly.

Addis also carried the SLO County vote with 27,489 (54.18%) to Nohdren’s 23,251 (45.82%).

Election Stats as of Nov. 9

In a report dated Nov. 9, County Clerk Cano gave the status of the election.

“Here is a simple breakdown of numbers as of today,” she said:

- Number of SLO County Registered Voters: 182,291;
- Vote By Mail Ballots Counted Prior to Election Day: 51,200;
- Voters that voted at the polls on Election Day: 6,896;
- Voters that voted provisionally at the polling place on Election Day: approx. 800;
- Voters that returned their Vote-By-Mail ballot at a polling place on Election Day: approx. 22,720 (still processing all the returns);
- Vote-By-Mail ballots received in the mail today: approx. 5,000; and,
- Challenged Vote-By-Mail Ballots: approx. 559 (This includes VBM envelopes with mismatched voter signatures or no voter signature or no ID provided for first time federal voters).

All updates will be posted on the County Elections Office website, see: www.slovote.com.

Voters From page 1

the Harbor Department, which has about \$10 million in repairs and maintenance needs to public harbor facilities.

B-22 was proposed by a group of citizens and needed just a simple majority to be approved, but a strong anti-B-22 movement sprouted up in the weeks before the election.

School Bond Passes Easily

The same anti-tax sentiment didn’t apply to a huge local school bond. The San Luis Coastal Unified School District (SLCUSD) saw its \$349 million bond measure — Measure C-22 — garner 10,027 “Yes” votes (60.69%) with 6,495 (39.31%) “No” votes. C-22 needed over 55% to pass.

The school district — which covers Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay and Avila Beach — proposed C-22 to do extensive remodeling and upgrading at its elementary and middle schools.

A District study had identified over \$500 million worth of needed work on its primary schools but the District Board set the bond for much less, though \$349 million is the largest its ever gotten.

Measure C-22 passed despite a major typo on the printed ballots that was caught right away by the Yes on C-22 campaign committee.

On the printed ballot, the County put a percentage sign (%) in the description instead of a cent sign (¢), a mistake that inflated the expressed cost of the tax increase by a factor of 100.

At 4.9¢ per \$100 of assessed value the tax hike amounts to \$49 for every \$100,000 of a property’s assessed value.

At 4.9% it would be \$4,900 for every \$100,000 of value, a very significant difference but ultimately one that didn’t hurt passage of C-22.

Cano’s office sent out post cards the week before Election Day to all voters in the district explaining the mistake, and it was reported in Estero Bay News and other news outlets as well.

Ironically, while Morro Bay voters soundly rejected a \$120 per year tax hike to support the harbor, they got stuck with a \$245 a year tax hike (for a property worth \$500,000) for the school bond.

Cambria Rejects Bond

The Cambria Health Care District failed to get enough votes for an \$8.5 million bond measure — G-22 — that would have been used to improve the district’s ambulance station and healthcare facility. It would also have replaced a 65-year-old building that no longer meets County codes and standards,

G-22 needed two-thirds of the vote but got just 1,271 (60.9%) “Yes” votes and 816 (39.1%) “No” votes.

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Community

Election Not Over Yet

It should be noted that the County Elections Office has not yet finished the vote counting as of EBN’s deadline on Nov. 10

County Clerk Cano’s crew is expected to finish counting in the next week or so, and present the election results to County Supervisors later this month for certification.

Once that happens, the Morro Bay City Clerk will schedule a special meeting for the change of power ceremony the first meeting in December. The regularly scheduled council meeting would be on Dec. 13, as the council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. However, council members and the mayor’s terms of office officially run through Dec. 8.

Councilman Jeff Heller and Addis along with Mayor Heading will be honored and thanked for their service at that meeting.

SLO Botanical

From page 1  
attract all ages — touring, tasting, playing in the sandbox, or hanging a wish on the wishing tree, or booking space for a public or private gathering inside or outside the gardens.

Next up, for example, is Nature Lights, an “Outdoor Holiday Light and Art Exhibit for the Entire Family” happening Thursdays through Sundays, November 11 through January 8 with three timed ticket options, 5, 6, and 7 p.m. at a nominal donation – contributing to help Lor and her staff build SLOBG.

“But I know I can’t do it alone. The community has to want it and be actively involved to make it happen,” said Lor. “I’ve learned to let my staff do what they do best. And I’ve discovered skills I have to attract people with diverse interests to share another piece of this dream project, together.”

So, who is Chenda Lor?  
Born in Cambodia, her family joined extended family in a suburb near Chicago in 1980 to escape the Khmer Rouge Cambodian genocide. She was 5-years-old and thrived growing up with cousins.

Starting her first job in high school at 15 and keeping it through her second year of college, she learned to manage every department at a home and building business. Proud of her on-the-job-training, she said, “I learned to love building and design all the way through planting the landscaping process.”

At Bates College, MN she studied pre-Med with double science majors in geology and biology and a minor in studio art. Before graduating she added wife and motherhood to her resume ultimately managing to raise four talented children.

In 1997 the young family would buy their first property on Bainbridge Island, WA. Lor managed the homefront while working with the architect, building department, contractor, and sub-contractors to produce the couple’s first of many future building projects – their own home.

Her husband’s family lived in SLO. “After one hun-



The magic when the lights are lit.

dred days of no sunshine, we moved,” Lor said. “I had my fourth baby at Sierra Vista.” And bills had to be paid. “Contracting paid better than medicine so we developed Better Builders.” The partnership business started as a framing contractor and closed as a preferred luxury homebuilder when the 2008 recession impacted the industry.

They sold their home in a week, put their household treasures in a Seatrain and launched a 15-month worldwide family tour from Colorado to 6-months in New Zealand and 6- months in Granada, Spain.

Once home in SLO the kids didn’t miss a grade-level beat, dad decided to matriculate graduate school at Cal Poly and Mom’s journal, written while on tour, transformed into a someday-published manuscript. She also became the breadwinner, collecting the family paycheck from T&S Structural.

Restless in 2019, the SLO Botanical Gardens opportunity presented itself. When asked for a short list of milestones, she offered:

- Relationship building to produce a land use agreement with SLO County, then an MOU for daily operations with SLO County Parks,
- Create the Donor Wall to recognize those that started the gardens and have continued to build the dream,
- Source and train a community board of directors and partners county-wide of like-minded, action-oriented dreamers,
- Design, fund and build the Education Center,
- Once a staff of 2, in 2022 manage 8 fulltime; 8 seasonal and 8 parttime employees plus 100s of volunteers,



Work at the SLO Botanical Gardens for the Nature Nights exhibit.

including Boys & Girls Scouts, a rotating daily garden maintenance crew and wonderfully giving and creative artists,

- Craft the ever-growing magical Children’s Garden,
- Establish programs to attract continuing members and volunteers,
- Launch sustaining fund-raising programs, like Nature Lights, inaugurated in 2022.

Lor is now in her happy place living the single life in Morro Bay while smiling as her children become adults and launch their careers. Her youngest Sarah is at the New York Institute of Culinary Arts, Kayley is a junior at the University of Hawaii, Zander is a wealth management advisor in West Los Angeles, and Mica is teaching in San Francisco. And when she takes time for herself, Mom finds exercise, meditation and freedom surfing by Morro Rock.

All in all, team captain Chenda Lor is more than the coach calling plays from the sidelines. Her career journey taught her to multi-task wearing multiple hats so she is also the quarterback – and she has already proven she can build a winning team to manage SLO County’s community landscaped stadium and playground.

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Remembering Ron Roundy



Ron Roundy, a local artist, realtor and community member, passed away earlier this year. His wife, Erma, hosted a celebration of his life on November 5. The community showed up in force to honor Ron’s legacy.

The street was closed, the music was good, the food was hot and the stories were many. Everyone had a great story to tell about Ron. He would have enjoyed this party.

Photo by Dean Sullivan

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