

Shaky Start-up to City's New Treatment Plant



By Neil Farrell

Seems Mr. Murphy isn't quite done with Morro Bay's new sewer system.

Like a page out of the old adage, "What can go wrong will go wrong," Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project has seemed snake bit from the start, with issues cropping up seemingly every few months, starting early on with a large landslide at the WRF treatment plant site in Spring 2020 shortly after grading work began.

Oops-ies have included — six broken water pipes during construction of the conveyance system including a break on the very first day of trenching; a broken sewage bypass line on day one of trenching; a snag hit during tunneling operations under the Roundabout that cause a several months delay; having to remove many more trees than originally planned along the power plant bike lane; and the most recent being a hiccup in the start-up of the WRF treatment plant.

Slated to begin receiving raw sewage on Oct. 4, the WRF plant has been in testing mode for months and on the 4th, it was supposed to be show time.

But when the sewage started to flow, that's when it hit the fan.

The plan was to bring in a culture of microbes to feed into the bio-digesters, where the actual removal of "solids" takes place.

The little critters (called "activated sludge") feed on

the organic material in the sewage and then die off. The bodies of the microorganisms are pulled out of the tanks and into drying beds.

Eventually, this solid material will be squeezed of water (which is sent back into the plant) and loaded onto a trailer and trucked for disposal on agricultural fields in the Central Valley for fertilizer.

Estero Bay News received a news tip from a reader, who has also been a watchdog on this project, informing us that when the sewage was piped to the new plant, it didn't work.

The tipster said the "activated sludge" that was introduced into Morro Bay's plant, failed.

The tipster also said the plant received some 120,000 gallons of sewage it couldn't treat and he had no idea what they did with it.

Estero Bay News sent the tipster's information to Public Works Director Greg Kwolek for verification. As to the activated sludge failing, Kwolek said that it hadn't yet been determined what caused the incident and they were still investigating.

He said it was true that they were unable to treat the sewage sent to the plant, but they were able to reverse it and send it back to the Atascadero Road sewer plant for treatment.

He disputed the figure of 120,000 gallons being untreated, "We don't have a number at this time," he said.

The sewage, "Was first treated and then discharged to

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Moving Forward: Doug & Jen Little SLOCal Estate Auctions

By Judy Salamacha

If you look around your home, you will probably notice gently used belongings that will never be used again. Maybe you've decided to downsize, found your next home, but dread the packing you'll have to do before the move. Maybe you've lost a loved one, and it's simply too hard—too new—to deal with what you know you need to do. Or maybe you're a collector and have maxed out your storage and need to clean out before you find new treasurers.

Remember, these are your treasurers and if you're overwhelmed by the process and need help, I have a word of caution — do it yourself! Or better yet make sure you find the right professional to help you. I've heard horror stories.

Morro Bay is lucky to have Doug and Jen Little, who own and operate SLOCal Estate Auctions, an online service. They have spent years helping others move forward to a next home, career, or to say bon voyage to treasures they no longer need.

Early in their marriage they lived in Redding and traveled city to city with antique shows. The Littles had assembled trusted dealers they would purchase from



Jen Little and Doug Little own and operate SLOCal Estate Auctions in Morro Bay.

and resell the products. Cayucos has two such antique shows annually.

The Littles, including their son Christian now in middle school, relocated to Morro Bay where they had family when Jen accepted the Director of Tourism position with the City of Morro Bay. Doug opened Junque Love at the prime corner location of Marina Square on the Embarcadero. Doug said they enjoyed finally living in one place — especially a smaller community like Morro Bay.

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Tennis and Pickleball Players in a Match for Space



Third District Sperviosr Dawn Ortiz-Legg at Los Osos Community Park where she spoke with pickleball and tennis players about the need for increased playing space for each sport. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Two different sports are competing for the same win — a place to play. The issue is between tennis and pickleball players and the courts at Los Osos Community Park on Palisades Ave.

The three courts were designed and built with tennis in mind and have been used for that for more than two decades, but the growing popularity of pickleball has created a space issue at the park.

About 60 players of both sports recently met at the courts with SLO County 3rd District Sperviosr Dawn Ortiz-Legg to start a conversation about converting tennis courts to dual-use courts with shadow lines or creating dedicated pickleball courts, the later of which would be a long way out.

"What we're trying to do is optimize the use of existing recreational areas," said Karen Kimura, a pickleball player. "The ultimate goal would be more courts for both. We just want a place to play where we don't have to take the half an hour to set up. We play four days a week, and take a half hour each time to set up and clean up the courts."

For those not in the know, pickleball is described as a combination of badminton, ping-pong and tennis that can be played indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court with a net similar to tennis net. It is played with a hard, plastic perforated ball and paddles similar to those used in

Match for Space Continued on page 26

Caltrans Celebrates Hwy 1 Bridge Funding

By Neil Farrell



Caltrans and local elected officials took a bow and a pat on the shoulder recently when they gathered on Hwy 1 in Cayucos to celebrate funding for two highway bridge projects that combined, cost over \$28 million.

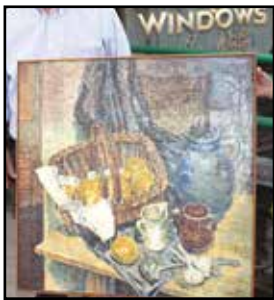
Several months ago, Caltrans contractors began construction on the Hwy 1 northbound bridges over Toro Creek and Old Creek in Cayucos, which are within a couple of miles of each other.

The Toro Creek Bridge was one of the old, original,

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Painting Donated to PWC

By Neil Farrell



A local restaurant owner has given up a treasured artwork to support a local wildlife rehabilitation organization and its mission caring for injured wildlife.

Stan Trapp, owner of Windows on the Water and master leaseholder for Marina Square, donated a painting by noted Cayucos artist, Nico Vandenheuvel to Pacific Wildlife Care and plans are to auction off the oil painting, named "Still Life with Oranges," to support PWC's mission.

Trapp said he bought the painting in 1997 at a show Vandenheuvel had at a former Downtown Art Gallery. The painting has hung in Windows on the Water's dinning room

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Needs
Your Help
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More Money Added to Water Tank Repair Job

By Neil Farrell

Though it would seem a simple enough task — clean and recoat existing drinking water tanks — a project to extend the life of key storage tanks in Morro Bay is getting quite expensive as the scope of the job increases.

The City Council voted to approve Amendment No. 2 in the contract to rehabilitate water tanks at the Kinds Street and Blanca Street tank farms.

The initial contract with Superior Tank Solutions of Rancho Cucamonga, awarded in November 2021 was for \$2.03 million. That was to recoat the tanks on Kings and Elena Streets.

Immediately, the City decided to add work to the contract and Amendment No. 1, for \$326,000, was approved in March 2022, “to better protect the City’s water storage tanks and improve the operability of the City’s water system. Those items were added to the contract with Amendment No. 1 and included tank mixers and couplings, additional maintenance scope, washout and spot repair of Elena tanks, factory rehabilitation of Blanca 3 and 4, and project contingency.”

But the scope of work still wasn’t quite right and the City came up with Amendment No. 2, adding an additional \$441,000 and bringing up Superior’s contract to \$2.8 million.

The City’s overall project budget, compiled over two fiscal years, is \$3.29 million, and if the work gets done at the contracted amount, without further increases, and assuming the contingencies are eaten up, the budget should have some \$208,000 left over.

The second amendment was reached after the City decided that “Blanca 3 and 4 are bolted tanks that are being completely disassembled and reassembled with new panels and gaskets, the City elected to have seismic upgrades and other foundation work done to project the life of the bolted steel tanks and added safety for seismic concerns due to the age of the tanks and foundations.”

Blanca’s Nos. 3 and 4 tanks date back to the 1960s and are “bolted” design tanks that should be replaced in kind over time, the City said in a report.

“However,” the report said, “with the opportunity of rehabilitation, the time is right to have seismic and foundation issues addressed as well. The replacement bolted tanks will be assembled in the same footprint as the existing Blanca 3 and 4 tanks. Blanca 1 and 2 are welded steel tanks in front of Blanca 3 and 4 and will continue to be sandblasted and recoated as planned in the contract.”

Also, the City decided it was also a good idea to improve the “cathodic protection” — anti-corrosion — system on Blanca Tanks Nos. 1 and 2 and the Kings tank No. 2. And that Kings tanks needs more handholds on the exterior.

And like remodeling an old house, the deeper you dig into the job, the more things you find that need repair.

“Kings Tank 2 alone required around \$70,000 in additional scope repairs and patching,” the report said. “The quantity was not fully captured in the design due to heavy corrosion and not begin able to fully scope metal loss of the roof during design.”

So the Council added another \$95,000 in contingency monies for that tank bringing the overall contingency in the budget to \$196,000 or 7% of the contract amount.



Guilty Verdict in Kristin Smart Murder



County Sheriff Ian Parkinson looks down at an enlarged photo of Cal Poly co-ed, Kristin Smart, who disappeared from campus in May 1996 during an April 13 news conference announcing the arrest of Paul Flores in her murder. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

After over a quarter century, the case of a missing and presumed dead Cal Poly freshman has ended with her accused killer being convicted of murder, but his alleged accomplice father being acquitted.

Paul Flores, 44, was convicted of First Degree Murder in the disappearance of Kristin Smart, who was a 19-year-old Cal Poly freshman when she vanished in May 1996.

Her accused killer, Flores, had evaded justice in the case for some 25 years before he was finally arrested for the crime in April 2021. Flores has been living in Southern California — most recently in San Pedro — since shortly after Smart disappeared and he became the No. 1 and only suspect in the case.

Flores was also a freshman at Cal Poly in 1996 and was the last person to see Smart alive, after he offered to walk her home from an off-campus party on what was Memorial Day Weekend.

Smart was never seen again and to this day her body has not been found.

That’s where Paul Flores’ father, Reuben Flores, comes into the story, as he was suspected from the start of having helped his son hide her body and cover up his crime.

Rueben Flores, 81 of Arroyo Grande, was arrested along with his son and charged with being an accessory after the fact to Smart’s murder. He was accused of hiding Smart’s body in a shallow grave underneath the rear deck of his Arroyo Grande home.

Though a thorough search of that crawl space turned up some trace evidence of blood, it wasn’t enough to convict Rueben Flores who was unanimously acquitted.

The father-son were tried in Monterey County, after a SLO judge deemed there had been too much pre-trial publicity — stretching over more than 25 years — for them to get a fair trial in SLO County.

The unusual trial saw both men with their own attorneys, and each with a separate jury to decide their fates.

In the end, a juror in Rueben Flores’ trial said there was not enough solid evidence to convict. That juror also said he would not have voted to convict Paul Flores either.

Perhaps sealing Paul Flores’ fate was the testimony of two women from Southern California who testified that Paul Flores had drugged them and raped them in the years since Smart’s disappearance, which helped the prosecution prove one of its key elements in the case — that Paul Flores killed her while raping her.

The testimony that he’d drugged and raped other women proved key in the circumstantial case, which was marked by a lack of direct evidence — not even a body, which is why Rueben Flores was acquitted.

The trial took three months to conduct, and was presided over by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Jennifer O’Keefe, with jurors coming from the Salinas area.

Smart’s remains have not been found and Rueben Flores, in a news conference after his verdict was read and he was released, didn’t seem inclined to lead authorities to her body. Indeed, doing so now could be a hindrance to any chance his son has on appeal.

District Attorney Dan Dow, who is the third SLO County D.A. in the case, said, “The impact that Kristin’s disappearance and its investigation have had on the Smart Family and our community, spanning a quarter century, is profound. We thank them for the tremendous trust and patience they have placed in the investigation and prosecution of this terrible crime.

“This verdict provides some sense of justice for Kristin, the Smarts, and our community. Today, justice delayed is not justice denied.”

Dow said the conviction was the result of a collaborative effort of more than a dozen local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies over the span of 25 years, fueled by the perseverance of the Smart Family.

Deputy D.A. Christopher Peuvrelle, who tried the two cases, said, “On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County team, we thank the Smart family for their steadfast pursuit of justice for Kristin. Their strength has inspired a community. We appreciate the witnesses in this case who came forward to reveal the truth about what happened to Kristin that cold night in May of 1996.

“Many endured years of guilt, frustration, and anger, yet maintained their dignity and focus on the truth. Lastly, we want victims everywhere to know their voices will be

Correction

In our last issue, Vol 4, Issue 20, we incorrectly said that Matthew Fourcroy chaired South Bay Community Center board. He is the president of the Los Osos Community Service District (CSD) board.

We also had the wrong date for the Needs ‘n Wishes fundraiser. It takes place on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos.



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News

heard and that there are people in the Justice System who will never stop fighting for them.”

D.A. Dow also thanked Chris Lambert, whose podcast “Your Own Backyard,” delved deeply into the mystery of her disappearance and revived the case in the minds of the public, and led to finding more witnesses and building the case that was presented at trial.

“We acknowledge the tireless efforts of Chris Lambert in persistently and compassionately keeping the memory of Kristin alive, through the podcast ‘Your Own Backyard,’” D.A. Dow said.

The guilty verdict was a welcomed relief for County Sheriff Ian Parkinson, who was with the SLO Police Department in 1996 when Smart disappeared. Cal Poly Police brought in the County Sheriff’s Office to help in their investigation and the case has been under the Sheriff’s purview ever since.

Ed Williams was Sheriff when she disappeared, followed by Sheriff Pat Hedges, and now it’s Sheriff Parkinson who finally sees it come to an end, though the search for her body will continue.

Paul Flores faces 25-years-to-life in prison for the first degree murder of Kristin Smart. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 9 at the Monterey County Superior Court in Salinas.

Rueben Flores was released after his acquittal and is a free man who can never be tried again for this crime, which has ensnared his son, likely for the rest of his life.

NEW COVID Dashboard Launched



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

There is an expected rise in COVID-19 cases as we move through fall into winter. President Biden’s administration has warned that the nation could see 100 million infections as more people gather indoors.

Locally, folks interested in County Public Health’s COVID-19 tracking system will notice a change in the details.

The department launched a new tool that they hope will keep people better informed about COVID-19. The data dashboard is at <https://bit.ly/3TXHozV>.

“Public Health’s new COVID-19 dashboard provides our community members with streamlined, relevant information that allows them to track and explore the latest trends,” Public Health Information Officer Tom Cuddy told Estero Bay News. “The dashboard also provides our community members with the right information to make informed decisions to protect themselves and their families.”

This is the first major re-design since the dashboard launched in March of 2020. It shifts the focus from individual laboratory-confirmed (PCR) case counts to wastewater, hospitalizations, deaths, variants, and vaccination trends. It also features easy access to CDC’s Community Levels tracker, which shows each county’s level as low, medium, or high, with corresponding recommendations for masking and other precautions.

The wastewater metric is new and is used for community-level infection trends over time. Cuddy says there are watershed sites City of Paso Robles, City of San Luis Obispo, and South County Sanitation District where monitoring of COVID-19 is conducted at regular intervals. Wastewater monitoring for disease presence is relatively new to the county but has been used elsewhere for nearly 70 years.

“While wastewater cannot detect the number of people who are currently infected with COVID-19, it is an indicator of changes in community-level infection,” Cuddy said. “This means that wastewater testing can be used to detect general trends: whether the detectable amount of virus in a sampling zone is going up, going down, or staying about the same.”

Amongst many other things, wastewater monitoring is unbiased, non-invasive, inclusive, inexpensive, and provides insights into changes in community-level infection.”

Readers should know that positive home test results are not included in the data.

“Only PCR tests performed at Public Health Clinics and health care providers are used,” Cuddy said. “Regardless, testing is a powerful tool to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect others around you. It helps determine next steps to protect your health if you are infected, such as treatment. It can also provide peace of mind before a get-together with someone who is at higher risk for severe illness.”

The new dashboard relies on state and national data sources for big-picture trends but it also includes links to detailed COVID-19 dashboards for Atascadero State Hospital and California Men’s Colony.

Familiar data remains including hospitalizations and deaths, but there is also state vaccinated and unvaccinated data available along with information on what variants are

circling around the area.

Gone are the case number totals by region, which, according to the website don’t provide meaningful data.

“As unreported home testing becomes the norm, individual case counts confirmed by laboratory-based PCR tests—the central element of many COVID-19 dashboards for much of the pandemic, including our local dashboard—are no longer the most meaningful data point for understanding COVID-19 in the community.”

The original dashboard will remain available as an archive. For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit slopublichealth.org/COVID19.

Cuddy says for readers who like to check the dashboard once each week. The largest amount of new recent data is on Friday mornings.

Vaccines and boosters are widely available at pharmacies and health care providers throughout San Luis Obispo County. Community members with questions are encouraged to contact the Public Health phone assistance center at 805-781-5500 Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In other COVID news, county children ages five to eleven can get updated vaccine protection via booster vaccines that specifically protect against current variants (often called “Omicron boosters”). The updated boosters have been available for those age 12 and older since early September.

“Like the flu shot, this booster teaches your body to protect you from the virus strains circulating right now,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “This added protection will help families stay healthy as we look ahead to holiday gatherings and seek to avoid a winter surge.” Two updated booster options are available for this age group: a Moderna booster for ages 6 and older, and a Pfizer booster for ages 5 and older. Like adults, children may get an updated booster two months after completing the primary series, or two months after receiving a previous booster dose. This updated booster replaces the original booster dose.

CalFresh Application Assistance

This November, the SLO Food Bank is hosting CalFresh Application Assistance sites across the county at local libraries. The SLO Food Bank, with the help of the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services (DSS), will be providing one-on-one assistance, including bilingual Spanish assistance, for the community to receive help applying for California’s food assistance program known as CalFresh.

CalFresh provides eligible households with a monthly

CalFresh Application Continued on page 4

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CalFresh Application From page 3

stipend to spend on groceries at their favorite local grocery stores and some Farmers’ Markets. The Federally funded program serves as a front-line defense against food insecurity. During a time when inflation and gas prices are at their highest, it is even more imperative that all eligible community members have access to food resources like CalFresh.

The immigration status of all who apply for CalFresh is confidential. Getting CalFresh will not be counted against you when you apply for a green card. CalFresh also does not count against you if you apply for citizenship. CalFresh is safe to use and won’t impact your status. Parents of US citizens can apply for CalFresh on their child’s behalf regardless of parental immigration status. For more information about CalFresh and immigration status, visit <https://www.getcalfresh.org/en/immigrants>.

For more information about CalFresh and food assistance, go to www.slofoodbank.org/money-to-buy-food.

November 4, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

- Morro Bay Public Library, 625 Harbor St., Morro Bay
- Nipomo Public Library, 918 W Tefft St., Nipomo

November 10, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

- Shandon Public Library, 195 N 2nd St., Shandon

New Animal Services Contract Inked

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council followed its sister cities in SLO County and renewed its contract for animal control services, a charge separate from the debt payments on the County’s recently completed Department of Animal Services building on Oklahoma Avenue.

Police Chief Jody Cox’ report to the Council noted that SLO County Department of Animal Services (DAS) is the only game in town. “This is the only animal control and care service available in the County,” Chief Cox wrote,

“and all other cities in the County contract with the County for this service.”

The City’s DAS contract actually ran out at the end of June, but Chief Cox said the County has extended the terms for the past several months, but now it’s time to sign a contract.

The cost this fiscal year (2022-2023) is \$47,053, which is “consistent with the past two fiscal years,” Chief Cox said.

Future charges will depend on how busy DAS is with calls in Morro Bay. “The County shall compute on an annual basis the fee assessed to the City for services provided under this contract. The County shall use a service-based methodology for determining city service fees.”

So the less the DAS gets called out to Morro Bay, the lower its future fees might be to the City.

At \$47,000, the contract would seem a bargain considering the range of animal-related services provided. Services include:

- Sheltering and medical care of stray, owner surrendered, confiscated, and quarantined household animals (mostly dogs and cats but potentially also including more exotic pets like snakes and rabbits);
- Reunification of sheltered animals with owners or adopted into new homes;
- Receipt and publication of lost and found animal reports;
- Response to calls for service from the Police Department or residents for stray or loose animals, dangerous or vicious animals, bite and neglect/abuse investigations, potential rabies exposure investigations and quarantines, pick up of deceased animals;
- Regulation of breeders and sales of domestic animals;
- Animal-related nuisance investigation; and,
- Enforcement of state and local animal-related laws.

Dealing with animal issues is State Law. “State law,” the Chief’s report said, “requires that the City provide a certain level of animal care and control services within its borders.”

The law enforcement side of DAS’ services include: emergency and non-emergency response of Animal Ser-

vices officers for injured and stray animals; investigative services for animal bites, abuse and neglect; sheltering and quarantine services; dog licensing; animal adoption; and, other services as required either by State Law or the Morro Bay Municipal Code.” The Police Department administers the contract on behalf of the City.

As to future costs, the “service-based methodology” will look at several key points to calculate costs: field services; licensing; shelter operations; and education service.

Calls for service within the City could potentially rise in one specific case, after the City absorbed Chevron Dog Beach, a stretch of Morro Strand Beach north of the North Point Natural Area.

That former private property owned by Chevron, as part of its Estero Marine Terminal, is now publicly owned by the City and the City has vowed to continue allowing dogs to be off-leash there. It’s the only public beach in SLO County where that is allowed.

The City also has a dedicated dog park located within Del Mar Park, where there have been some incidents between the pooches.

And with natural areas like Eagle Rock, Morro Bay State Park, and the dunes, the possibility of wildlife-related calls is high.

Under the contract, either party can terminate it and some services are up for negotiation. “The contract includes a provision for the parties to reopen the contract and address specific issues as needed during the contract term,” Chief Cox wrote. “This provision allows for continued negotiations on various terms that were not able to be addressed in time for the new contract to begin and provide continuous animal control and care services.” He didn’t elaborate on what that might be.

The contract will be in force through FY 2024/25, he said.

As for the costs to the City for its share of the new \$20.4 million DAS shelter, City Manager Scott Collins told EBN that the City’s share is about \$27,000 per year (2.9% of total cost) for 25 years.

This is separate from and in addition to the \$47,000 annual fee for services.

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Environment		I supported increased funding for our maintenance department to decrease waste and trash accumulation
Infrastructure		I supported over \$2 million for other water/sewer and stormwater projects in fiscal year 2022/23
Financial		I advocated for, and the city received, \$14.3 million in state and federal grants for a wastewater treatment facility
Public Access		I supported increased funding for rebuilding and paving our streets, \$500,000 in 2019/20 to \$2.8 million in 2022/23

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

View League of Women Voters Forums

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County partnered with various civic organizations throughout the county to moderate candidate forums this election season. Those forums are now available for viewing on the League’s website lwvslo.org or the their YouTube channel.

The forums include the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (September 28), the 2nd Supervisorial District (September 29), the Morro Bay Mayor and City Council (October 5), the Pismo Beach City Council (October 6), the Templeton Unified School District (October 12), and the Cambria CSD (October 20).

“We encourage voters to view the forums to find out more about the candidates running for these important offices in our county,” League leaders said. “Candidate forums are intended to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the candidates and their views on the issues. At the forums, the candidates answered questions submitted by community members.”

For additional information on these forums contact the League of Women Voters at (805) 242-6990 or candidateforums@lwvslo.org.

The League encourages everyone to register and vote. voters can go to www.slovote.com to check their registration status, register to vote, or change their address. When checking their registration status, voters can sign up for “Where’s My Ballot” to track their ballots.

For more information contact the League of Women Voters at (805) 242-6990 or by email at info@lwvslo.org or go to the website at www.lwvslo.org.

Battery Plant Meeting, Nov. 16

Anyone interested in the proposed battery storage plant in Morro Bay can get more information from the applicants at an upcoming community meeting.

Vistra Energy, owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant property, will answer the public’s questions and present up-to-date information from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

Vistra has applied to build a 600-megawatt, lithium-ion, “Battery Energy Storage System” or BESS, on a currently unused portion of the plant property.

The conceptual plans and renderings show three, 90,000 square foot buildings sited on some 22-acres of the 100-acre plant, where fuel storage tanks used to stand.

The plant tankered in fuel oil, diesel, and kerosene

for several decades mooring the ships offshore just north of Morro Rock. In the mid-1990s, the plant’s former owner Pacific Gas & Electric switched fulltime to natural gas. It was closed permanently in 2014, after former owner Dynegy was merged into Vistra.

Vistra’s BESS project is estimated to cost some \$490 million and could bring an additional \$490,000 annually into the City’s coffers from increased property taxes alone.

The proposal is currently undergoing environmental review, with a draft EIR expected to be released for comments sometime in early 2023.

In the community, opposition to the project has been growing especially on the Internet gossip site, Next Door, with a group of citizens attempting to band together and organize an opposition force.

The main concern at this time appears to be the potential for fire at the BESS.

Bridge Work Could Cause Delays



Folks travelling in Cayucos and Santa Margarita could face road delays. The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works is conducting bridge maintenance and repairs at the following locations:

- Villa Creek Road Bridge (Cayucos)
- Encina Avenue Bridge (Santa Margarita)
- North Ocean Avenue Bridge (Cayucos)

Work on the Villa Creek Road Bridge began in late October and work on the Encina Avenue Bridge and the North Ocean Avenue Bridge is expected to occur in November and December. Weather permitting; this work should be completed by the end of this year.

This work is required to maintain safe bridge conditions and to avoid costly repairs in the future.

For the safety of the public and the workers, traffic will be subject to road closures, detours, or reduced to one-way controls with flaggers as required for each phase of the work. 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.

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. This project is funded by the Federal Highway Bridge Program and the SLO County Road Maintenance Fund. Whitaker Construction of Paso Robles has been awarded a contract of \$327,755 to perform this work.

Update on Gun Buyback Program



Last month, the San Luis Obispo Police Department held “Groceries for Guns,” an inaugural gun buyback program. Community members throughout the county were invited to voluntarily turn in unwanted guns in exchange for local grocery store gift cards.

Just over 200 guns were received during the event: 101 rifles/shotguns, 6 assault style rifles, and 95 handguns. A whopping \$11,900 in grocery gifts cards were distributed.

“In speaking with many of those who brought in unwanted weapons, most had mentioned they had been ‘lying around’ and wanted to responsibly dispose of them,” said Chief Rick Scott. “This was the exact purpose of the program, to give our community members a resource to dispose of unwanted firearms. We know the people that turned these guns in are not the kind of people who would use a weapon to harm another, but they are most likely to not effectively store or take care of these weapons as they need to be to keep them from falling into the hands of someone who will use it in a crime.”

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Paso Bank Robber
Strikes Out

A Paso robes man convicted of a 2021 attempted bank robbery in Paso Robles, has been sentenced to life in prison under the State’s “Three Strikes Law,” the District Attorney’s Office announced.

D.A. Dan Dow announced Oct 26 that a judge had sentenced Andrew William Gilbertson, 47, to 25-years to life in prison for a Sept. 1, 2021 attempt to rob a Chase Bank branch in Paso Robles.

According to a news release, Gilbertson entered the Chase Bank and tried to exchange some wet and dirty bills presumably for clean, dry ones. A bank teller refused to change the bills, citing a bank policy not to take in soiled bills. That was when Gilbertson made a fateful mistake.

Gilbertson, “passed a note that had been written on a Chase Bank envelope which read, ‘Give me all the money,’” the release said.

“Gilbertson,” the release said, “then brandished what the bank teller believed to be a gun from within a plastic bag he held and threatened, ‘I have a gun, who do I need to shoot?’”

Apparently the note proved hit ultimate undoing. “Gilbertson had been previously convicted of robbery of a Bank of America in San Luis Obispo using a similar note in 2013,” the D.A. said.

On Aug. 16, the jury found Gilbertson guilty of the attempted robbery. Judge Timothy Covello, taking into account the fact that Gilbertson was convicted of second degree robbery in 2015 and arson in 2021 and both are 3-strikes felonies, and sentenced Gilbertson to 25-life.

Judge Covello, “also found true seven factors in aggravation which were used at the sentencing hearing to determine the appropriate sentence. The findings included: (1) that the current crime involved threat of great bodily harm and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness; (2) that defendant was armed with or used a weapon at the time of the commission of the crime; (3) that defendant has engaged in violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society; (4) that defendant’s prior convictions as an adult are numerous and of increasing seriousness; (5) that defendant has served a prior term in prison; (6) that defendant was on probation, mandatory



Andrew William Gilbertson

supervision, or parole when the crime was committed; and (7) that the defendant’s prior performance on probation, post release community supervision and parole was unsatisfactory.

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

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

Council Shuffles Deck
at Public Works

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council voted to again shuffle the deck in its Public Works Department, further reworking the Utilities Division’s chain of command begun some 4-years ago.

“In 2018,” reads a staff report by Public Works Director Greg Kwolek, “the Utility Division of the Public Works Department underwent structural changes to move away from compartmentalized operations units to a more nimble, blended operational model.” In essence they’ve created a new job title, “Utility Division Supervisor” setting up the qualifications, requirements, duties and salary for the job.

Utilities used to be comprised of three subset units — water, wastewater and collections — and each had its own supervisor and small crew of operators that only held certificates to be able to work in that field.

For example, to work at a wastewater treatment plant takes a certain certificate (training), same for the drinking water system; so therefore, “a wastewater treatment plant operator would only hold wastewater certificates and would only work at the wastewater treatment plant,” Kwolek said.

“The new model,” he continued, “eliminated these operational units by creating a multi-certificate utility operator classification, where a utility operator was required to hold certifications in all areas and would be called upon to perform duties in those areas. Further, supervisory positions for these units were gradually eliminated through attrition with the exception of the Wastewater Systems Supervisor classification.”

That person was needed to oversee the continued operations of the Atascadero Road treatment plant. With the imminent completion of the City’s Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Project perhaps 2-3 months away, it’s time

for the final changes.

“Now that the old wastewater treatment plant is being decommissioned,” Kwolek said, “the Wastewater Systems Supervisor classification will be eliminated and the employee holding that position, along with other current employees meeting the minimum qualifications, will have the opportunity to compete for this new position.”

Kwolek told EBN that he intends to look within for the new hire.

“We’ll then do an internal recruitment as we have a few qualified candidates for the position,” he said. The Utilities

The new plant requires a new classification of workers. “The new ‘Water Resources Center’ [WRC],” Kwolek said, “which houses both advanced treatment of wastewater and water treatment components, requires a supervisory classification that covers areas of work including wastewater and water treatment.

“The proposed ‘Utility Division Supervisor’ classification achieves this by including oversight and supervision of all day-to-day water, wastewater, and collections operations. This position may also serve as chief plant operator of the new WRC.”

The pay is pretty good. “The Utility Division Supervisor classification annual pay scale,” Kwolek said, “would be \$84,175 to \$102,315. The position would be included in the Miscellaneous Employees Unit and represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620.”

The job, which for the layman would be considered, “middle management” carries a lot of responsibility.

“The position will report to the Utilities Division Manager and will oversee all the Operational Technology Specialist, all Lead Utility Operators, all Multi-Certification Operators, and the Single-Certification Operator positions.”

Last April, Kwolek promoted Damaris Hanson, who has been with the City for over 14 years and was the Environmental Programs Manager, to be the Utilities Division Manager. It was part of a reset for the management team in Public Works that started in 2021 with Kwolek’s hiring to replace Rob Livick, who was retiring.

Last March, Kwolek hired Eric Riddiough as the new City Engineer, and in June he brought in Travis “Dale” Simpson as the new maintenance superintendent.

Probation to Start
K-9 Program

The County Probation Department will soon have a new, four-legged tool in its kit to sniff out nefarious folks violating probation.

County Supervisors recently made a change in accounting on a previously approved item to buy and train a

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News

drug detection police dog to assist probation officers trying to get people to walk the straight and narrow.

The County’s Chief Probation Officer, Robert Reyes, said in a staff report that the department had asked for \$19,000 in the current budget for the K-9 program but apparently took the money from the wrong account.

“In the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget submission,” Reyes said, “Probation submitted a Budget Augmentation Request to implement a Canine Detection Program.”

Supervisors approved the BAR but the expenditure was done under a “Special Department Request” account in the General Fund. Reyes said it should have been under “Capital Outlay” in the general fund.

That would put the future police dog into the category of “fixed assets.” Reyes said, “to reflect the proper categorization of the purchase.”

As for how a detection dog might be a useful deterrent, probation officers conduct site visits to the probationers under their supervision. Having a drug sniffing police dog on hand would naturally aid in the detection of illegal drugs.

Possession of illegal drugs would be a probation violation and land the person back in the hoosegow to serve out whatever sentence they got probation for; plus added time for the violation; and potentially, new charges discovered by the K-9.

Cal Poly Receives \$447,000 Grant

Students studying statistics at Cal Poly could get financial help through need-based scholarships.

The Statistics Department, in the College of Science and Mathematics, has received a \$447,000 grant award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help with financial support and to mentor low-income students to continue their higher education in graduate programs.

The grant is part of a \$5 million funding investment involving multiple West Coast universities through the Pacific Alliance for Low Income in Statistics and Data Science program supported by the NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program.

Financial access has proven to be a barrier for many lower-income and historically underrepresented students in the field of statistics and data science, especially for those who wish to continue with graduate studies.

The Pacific Alliance program aims to broaden the pipeline of graduates with advanced degrees and provide access to not only academic careers, but also positions in industry as senior/leadership level statisticians and data

scientists.

Pacific Alliance will provide sustained financial support, research opportunities and mentoring to students as they transition between undergraduate and graduate education.

“Creating opportunities for underrepresented groups is needed to foster more diversity and equity in higher education and especially in graduate programs,” said Andrew Schaffner, a Cal Poly statistics professor and chair of the university’s Statistics Department. “Highly qualified students with limited financial resources can be dissuaded from preparing for or pursuing graduate studies in statistics and data science because they need to limit their time in school or take on extra employment that distracts them from their studies.”

The three-year bridge program will begin engaging student participants at the end of their sophomore year or following their transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions.

UC Santa Barbara and University of Washington are the lead institutions for the grant, which also includes UC Irvine and four California State University campuses: Cal Poly, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU East Bay and San Diego State.

Of Cal Poly’s funding award, \$360,000 is earmarked for scholarships. Students who take full advantage of the program will get up to \$30,000 distributed over their junior and senior years, as well as in their first year of graduate school, or up to \$10,000 per year.

The additional \$87,000 awarded to Cal Poly will cover costs including the mentoring program, assessment of objectives, annual meetings, and graduate fairs for all program scholars. A live virtual advanced statistics course also will be offered for all Pacific Alliance scholars to take together across their respective campuses.

“With this new NSF funding, we’re able to offer need-based scholarship support and mentoring for motivated students so they may turn their attention to their graduate education goals,” Schaffner said.

Scholars will be matched with faculty mentors and senior graduate students in their respective institutions to provide support for getting engaged in research opportunities on campus and external programs promoting graduate study.

The program will assist students with exploring graduate education opportunities and navigating the application process and will offer exposure to professional pathways, forming a community to improve inclusion and equity.

Cal Poly’s Statistics Department is working with the financial aid office to formalize its application process and expects to provide the first scholarships beginning next fall.

City Getting Grant for Injection Well

Morro Bay’s new sewer system has wrangled another large grant, this time from the State of California via the County.

The County Flood Control & Water Conservation District’s Water Advisory Committee on Oct. 5, approved awarding the City’s Water Reclamation Facility Project (WRF) a \$1.2 million grant that was expected to be finalized and awarded at the Tuesday, Nov. 1 Board of Supervisors Meeting. County Supervisors act as the governing board for the countywide Flood Control District. It will also be submitted to the Department of Water Resources in early 2023 for final approval, according to the release.

If all goes well, the City will bank the money until it’s ready to spend it on an injection well to complete the recycling portion of the \$160 million WRF Project.

The money is coming out of the California Department of Resources’ “Regional Water Management Implementation Grant” program that the City said, “is targeted toward projects that help respond to climate change and contribute to regional self-reliance,” according to a news release from the City.

The City Manager was grateful for the grant. “It is gratifying,” City Manager Scott Collins said, “to receive this \$1.2 million grant award recommendation as we complete construction of key components of the City’s largest-ever infrastructure project.

“Receiving this additional grant funding for the WRF Program was a team effort by the Mayor, City Council, City staff, project team and will help reduce costs to local rate payers for this critical project to develop a local, drought resilient water source for our community.”

Morro Bay’s project, which will be able to recycle highly treated effluent by injecting it into the Morro Creek groundwater basin where it can be used as a block on seawater intrusion; or pumped out again at existing water wells, treated and added to the drinking water supply, scored high in the grant process.

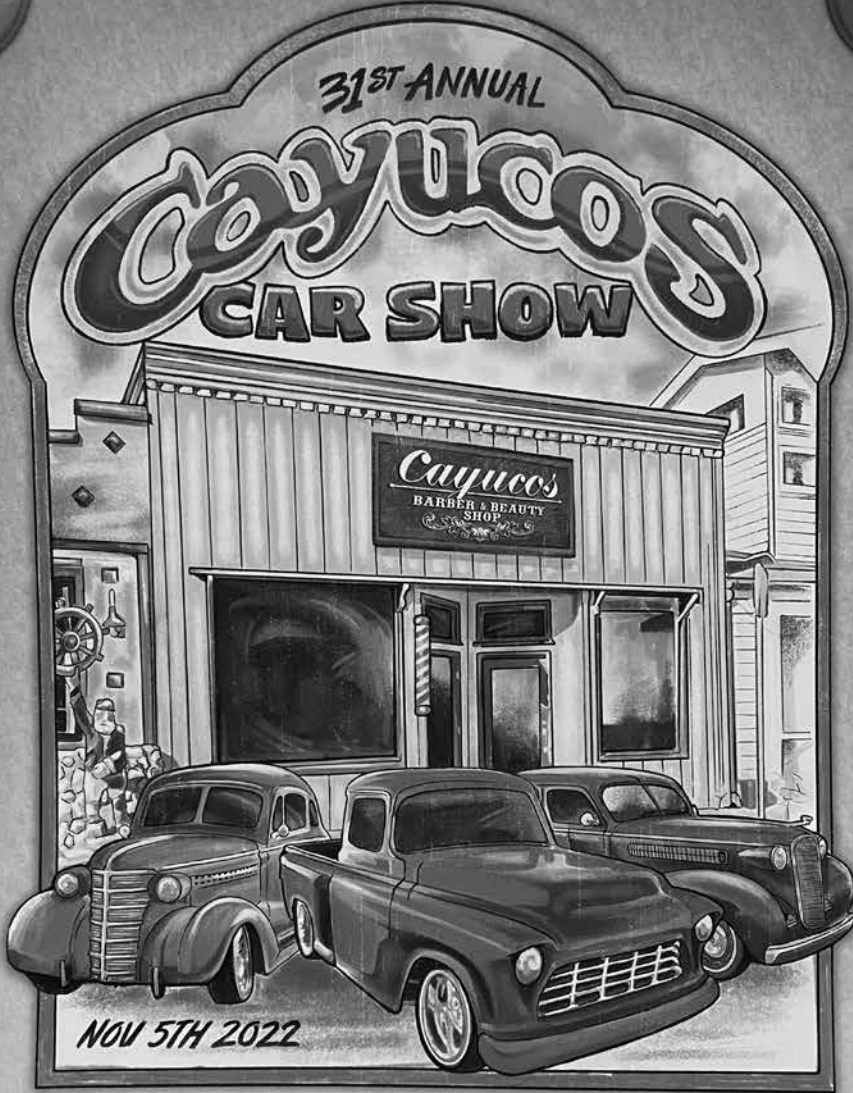
“The City’s project,” the news release said, “received the highest score and is recommended for the largest grant award because it demonstrated an ability to address the most critical needs of the IRWM Region, leverage non-state funds, employ new and innovative technologies/practices, provide multiple benefits, encourage regional approaches, and improve drought preparedness.”

The grant will also allow the City to “provide water to other local water utilities to improve regional water supply reliability and resilience.”

The \$1.2 million will be used to help fund the injection wells

Injection Wells Continued on page 23

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Police Blotter



• **Oct. 23:** Police responded at 10:11 p.m. in the 1100 block of Monterey for a reported assault. Logs indicated a juvenile ruffian was arrested for suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

• **Oct. 23:** Police responded to an assault report at 8:45 p.m. at Albertson’s Market. Police caught up to a suspect, 38, in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the fiend had a felony warrant and then allegedly went all woolly-booger and assaulted an officer before he was wrestled into the iron bar hotel.

• **Oct. 23:** Police responded to Albertson’s Market on Quintana at 2:20 p.m. to deal with an apparently bothersome woman. Naturally the lady, 45, had outstanding warrants and was issued another slip of Charmin and released.

• **Oct. 22:** Police flew over to the kite shop on Front Street and took a report of grand theft.

• **Oct. 22:** Police responded at 9:17 a.m. to the 400 block of Fresno where a citizen had passed away.

• **Oct. 22:** Police contacted a familiar fellow at 8:45 a.m. in the creek bed estates in the 300 block of Quintana. The apparent millionaire, 31, had multiple bench warrants and got arrested.

• **Oct. 22:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 12:43 a.m. lurking around at Main and Morro Bay Boulevard. The apparent night owl, 30, had two bench warrants and spent the night on a cement slab.

• **Oct. 21:** Police responded at 9:30 p.m. for a grand theft reported in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. No word on what was taken but it has to be worth \$1,000, or it could be a farm animal or agricultural product, both of which could be felonies to steal.

• **Oct. 21:** The scofflaw roundup continued at 8:30 p.m. in

the 600 block of Quintana where police arrested a 52-year-old schmoe who had a pair of warrants.

• **Oct, 21:** Police responded at 4:23 p.m. to Piney Way and MBB for a no doubt hairy car crackup. Sorry, no injuries to report.

• **Oct. 20:** Police responded at 3:35 p.m. to the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., for a case of some rapscallion making criminal threats and brandishing a weapon. A crime report was sent to the district attorney.

• **Oct. 20:** Police responded at 3 p.m. to the area of Ironwood and Elena for some apparent glowworm running amok. Logs indicated the fellow, 48, was nicked for suspicion of being high on drugs.

• **Oct. 19:** At 10:45 p.m. police responded to Albertson’s Market for a reported theft. Logs indicated a sticky-fingered customer, 46, was arrested for suspicion of burglary. Logs indicated when police searched her, they allegedly found drugs and paraphernalia, so guess we know where her money goes.

• **Oct. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:15 p.m. at Main and MBB. Logs indicated the 50-year-old driver had a suspended license. He was cited and released to spend eternity in DMV Purgatory.

• **Oct. 18:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 9:18 p.m. at Monterey and MBB. The sneak, 29, had three bench warrants but was given a fourth citation to ignore, and released.

• **Oct. 18:** Police contacted a familiar female at 8:25 p.m. in the 1600 block of Main. Logs indicated the woman, 37, had two warrants but when they tried to issue a fourth and release her, she reportedly refused to sign it, and then tried to fugitate on foot, but got caught and was taken to jail.

• **Oct. 18:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., to deal with a guy making a fuss. Logs indicated the apparently mulish pest, 30, got arrested for suspicion of possessing drugs and paraphernalia in violation of his parole.

• **Oct. 19:** Police received a report of suspected child abuse in the 600 block of Monterey and plan to look into it.

• **Oct. 17:** Police pulled over a suspicious vehicle at 10:07 p.m. at Beach and Market. Logs indicated the driver, 51, was nicked for allegedly driving stoned, and possessing over an ounce of weed.

• **Oct. 17:** At 2:14 p.m. logs indicated police arrested a 35-year-old boneheaded parolee on an undisclosed weapons charge.

• **Oct. 17:** Police took a report of possible suspected child abuse in the 500 block of Bonita.

• **Oct. 17:** A woman citizen out at the Rock called police to say she believes items were stolen out of her vehicle while it was in the shop for servicing.

• **Oct. 16:** Someone found something somewhere in town and handed it over to some officer at the stationhouse, who will do something with it in hopes somebody claims it someday.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 8 p.m. to the 500 block of Atascadero Road for a smash-n-dash crash. No juicy details were available.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 12:14 p.m. to the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated some humanicus dooficus damaged the front entrance to a home and swiped the Ring doorbell camera right off of the wall.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to a reported assault in the 1000 block of Quintana. Logs indicated some apparent monster allegedly “choked victim, covered victim’s mouth and nose, prevented victim from calling 9-1-1 and prevented victim from being able to leave the residence. Visible injuries sustained,” according to the logs. The suspect, 26, was arrested and thrown into the dungeon.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 9:25 a.m. to the 400 block of Napa for a domestic dustup. Logs indicated some mulish fool violated a domestic violence, stay-the-hell-away court order.

• **Oct. 15:** Police responded at 8 p.m.to the 1000 block of Main for a reported disturbance. Logs indicated some dingus, 47, was nicked for allegedly brandishing a firearm.

• **Oct. 15:** Police were called at 7:38 p.m. for a disturbing fellow at Albertson’s Market on Quintana Road. The scofflaw, 36 had four bench warrants and while being arrested they allegedly found a suspected crack pipe in his drawers and added that to his list of woes.

• **Oct. 15:** Police responded to the 1300 block of Bolton at 3:15 p.m. and are now investigating a suspected case of filing a false police report. No word on what the lipspittles’ hoo-ha-ha was all about.

• **Oct. 15:** Police responded at 6:34 a.m. to a reported

assault in the 500 block of Monterey. Logs indicated a 26-year-old model citizen was hauled to the gaol for suspicion of spousal battery.

• **Oct 15:** Police caught up to a familiar nefarious fellow at 1:37 a.m. near the creek bed estates in the 400 block of Quintana. The 53-year-old rookie scofflaw had but one bench warrant, so was issued a second disappearance ticket and released.

• **Oct. 14:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 11:40 p.m. in the 200 block of Surf who was allegedly trespassing. The 35-year-old reprobationer will be turned over to the Probation Department where they know how to deal with such varmints.

• **Oct. 8:** Police stopped a speeding car at 8:34 p.m. in the area of Beach and Main. Logs indicated a juvenile lead foot was cited for speeding, which ought to make mom and dad real happy.

• **Oct. 14:** Police responded at 9:19 a.m. to a traffic crack-up at Radcliff and Main. Logs indicated a skateboard rider was injured, no doubt having zigged when he should have zagged.

• **Oct. 14:** Police responded to the area of South Bay Boulevard and Quintana Road for a reported hit-n-split.

• **Oct. 14:** At 10:51 a.m. police noted that a woman came to the police department to report her 26-year-old son was missing at approximately 11:30 a.m., in this week’s example of warping the time-space continuum.

• **Oct. 14:** At 12:45 p.m. a 25-year-old man tried to turn himself in at the police station for an out-of-county bench warrant, but was cited and released, apparently not worth the gas to haul to jail.

• **Oct. 14:** Police contacted another familiar dodger, 36, who had two bench warrants. While being arrested, during a patdown, police allegedly discovered a suspected crack pipe in his possession, his stash no doubt already up in smoke.

• **Oct. 13:** Police responded at 7:36 p.m. to deal with some bothersome fellow at Albertson’s on Quintana. The annoying flesh monkey had six bench warrants and checked into the County health & beauty spa for a little pampering.

• **Oct. 13:** Police responded at 7:10 p.m. to Albertson’s where they’d eyed some sticky-fingered loon trying to use the help yourself aisle. Logs indicated they recovered the stolen merchandise, which is great, except they now have to throw away whatever it was.

• **Oct. 13:** Police responded at 3:44 p.m. to a brush fire on Hwy 1 at the Main Street on/off ramps. Logs indicated a transient firebug apparently started a brush fire and was burned.

• **Oct. 13:** Police responded to the 1800 block of Ironwood to take a car burglary report. No word on what booty got pinched.

• Oct. 13: Someone turned in miscellaneous live and spent ammunition for destruction, though spent ammo doesn’t really need disposal.

• **Oct. 12:** At 6:50 p.m. police responded urgently to Urgent Care in the 700 block of Quintana to deal with some bothersome squit. The dude, 38, had warrants and was hauled to the nick.

• **Oct. 12:** Police responded at 9 a.m. to the 400 block of Monterey for a disturbance. Logs indicated some 43-year-old Mamaluke violated a domestic violence stay-away order.

• **Oct. 11:** Police responded at 5:24 p.m. to Main and Atascadero Road for yet another fender-bender. No injuries to report.

• **Oct. 11:** At 3:21 p.m. police responded to an old folks home on Teresa Drive for a report of someone making criminal threats, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **Oct. 11:** At 8 a.m. in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd., police assisted the County Probation Department in arresting some plod for a probation violation.

• **Oct. 10:** Police responded at 8:25 p.m. to the 600 block of Ponderosa where an 80-year-of’ Hoss had gone missing. He was later located in town apparently safe if not entirely sound.

• **Oct. 10:** At 12:50 p.m. the high school cop reported an assault involving two high school apparent bullies. A report was sent to the district attorney, so they’re in real trouble now.

• **Oct. 10:** Police responded at 9:40 a.m. to the 2600 block of Main after a theft suspect used stolen credit cards to buy gift cards at Spencer’s Market, also called redneck money laundering.

• **Oct. 10:** At 10:39 a.m. police responded to an uncivil dispute in the 2700 block of Indigo Cr.

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Community

9th Annual Witch's Paddle Scary Fun

Photos by Neil Farrell

Several hundred paddlers took to Morro Bay Harbor Oct. 22 for the 9th Annual Witch's Paddle, a celebration of Halloween and sisterhood. The loosely organized event this year drew hundreds of spectators to the Embarcadero to watch and take photos of the spook-tacular show. This year's paddle was a bit scarier than past events, as a stiff breeze and swiftly moving tidal flow made for some tough paddling and a few of the witch's went for an unplanned swim — no one melted — but it didn't put a hex on the fun.



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Community

Photos by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High School celebrated Homecoming Oct. 21 with seniors Rae Ruane (left) being named Homecoming Queen and Cooper Huss being named Homecoming King. The celebration took place at halftime of the football game between the visiting Templeton High School Eagles and Morro Bay Pirates, which unfortunately, Templeton won due to a relentless running attack.



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Community

Go Fund Me Set Up for Los Osos Resident

A Go Fund Me account has been set up to help Michael Olson, who works at Miner’s Ace Hardware in Los Osos and is battling cancer.

“He has dealt with numerous medical issues over the years, and this diagnosis is another blow he now has to deal with,” reads the page written by Michael’s friend and coworker, Shayla Shannon. “As many of you know, medical care often creates substantial financial strain. Our goal is to help relieve some of this burden for Michael and make sure he can focus on his health without the stress of money looming overhead. He is a pillar in the Miner’s Ace Hardware community, lending his expertise and friendship to coworkers and customers for over a decade. I so enjoyed my time working there with Michael. He is kind, loyal, supportive, funny, and deeply caring.”

Readers might remember Michael from a story Estero

Bay News did earlier this year about him and his cat, Tank, and The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) in Cambria who helped them stay together. A new landlord had a “no pets” rule and Michael faced eviction. Tank stayed at the shelter until he was designated an emotional support animal, and he was able to return home.

“Michael has endured so much hardship over the last few years, and I just want to help him find some peace and comfort amid this new trial,” Shannon said.

All funds collected will go directly to Michael to alleviate the financial burden of his medical costs.

The page has raised nearly \$600 of the hoped for \$10,000. To make a donation, go to GoFundMe.com and search Michael Olson and click on the Help Michael Fight Cancer by Shayla Shannon image.

Michael Olson shown with his cat, Tank.



vote!
November 8

Casey Cordes

for Morro Bay City Council

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- Family & worker-friendly housing policies
- Coastal preservation and protection

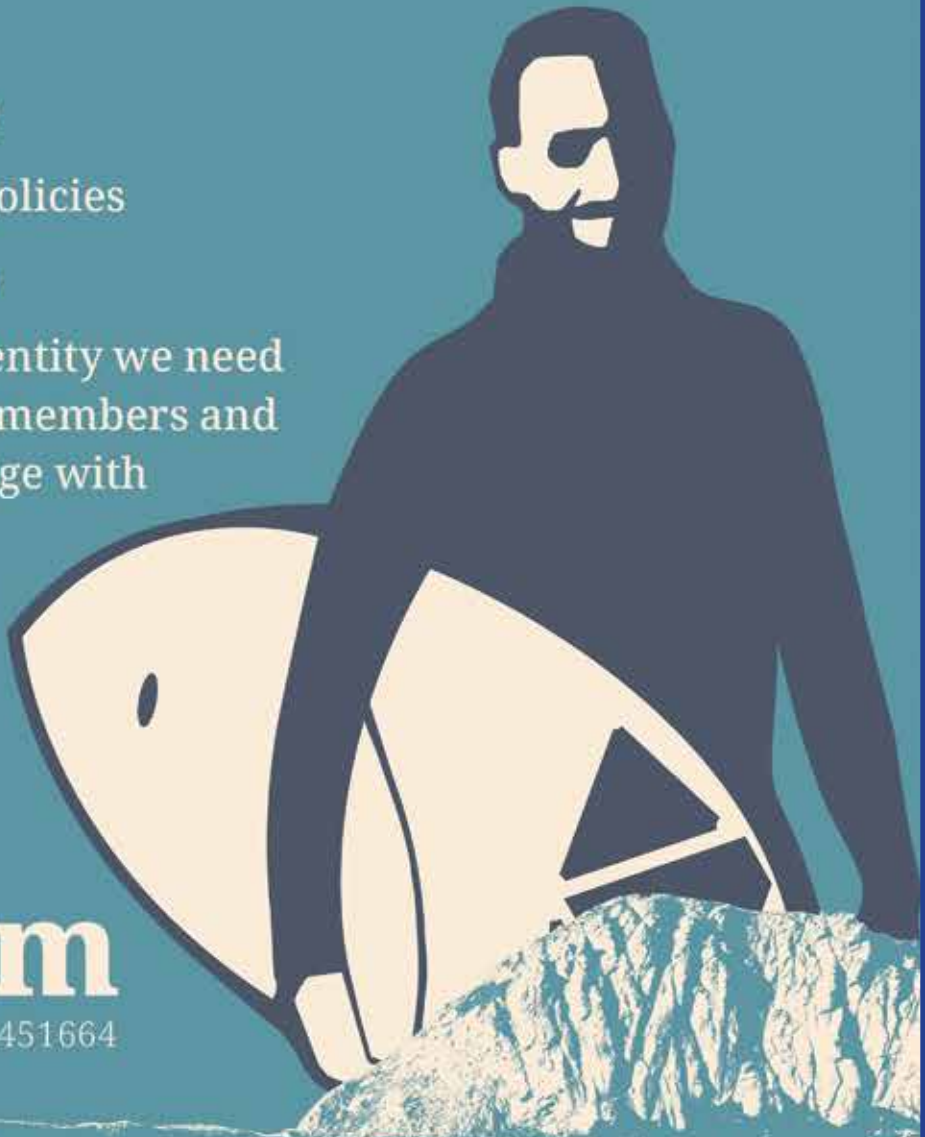
To face these challenges without losing our identity we need better communication. Access to your council members and public meetings that you can more easily engage with from your home.

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visit

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Paid for by Cordes for Council 2022 FPPC#1451664



Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Grant Available for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

The SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) announced grant funding opportunities to help local businesses, organizations, and employers install electric vehicle infrastructure. The incentive funding for these emission reduction projects is from the Community Air Protection Program, which is part of California Climate

Investments (CCI). More than \$867,000 is available in specific regions of SLO County to fund the following eligible emission reduction project categories:

- Electric vehicle charging/alternative Fuel infrastructure projects including, but not limited to:
- Workplaces
- Low-income, multi-family housing
- Municipalities
- Businesses and Non-profit Organizations
- Commercial
- Medical Facilities
- Wineries
- Restaurants
- Supermarkets
- Transit Bus Replacement
- Public School Bus Replacement
- Zero Emission Agricultural Tractor and Engine Replacement

Priority for funding will be given to projects in designated low-income and disadvantaged communities across

SLO County. Application forms and more information can be found online at SLOCleanAir.org/community/grants/caap.

New Gallery Hours at CCA

The Cambria Center for the Arts, located at 1350 Main St. will be open new hours beginning November 4. They are Friday from 12 to 4 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 3 p.m. The CCA said that they are thrilled to have the Gallery open, once again, on Friday afternoons - as it was prior to the pandemic. Also, the Gallery will open later, and close earlier on Sunday. The Gallery's next exhibit is "What Will Remain" with featured Artist Marcie Begleiter. It officially opens on Saturday, November 5, with a reception taking place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The exhibit runs through December 31. Working in and around the boundaries of contempo-

Join your friends & neighbors Vote YES on C-22



San Luis Coastal alumni parents Steve McGrath and Sandi Sigurdson want good schools for their grandchildren Pearl, Penelope and Liam.



For Student Safety & Success

Measure C-22 will modernize classrooms, fix leaky roofs, upgrade AC & heating systems, and add security measures for all 12 San Luis Coastal elementary and middle schools, plus Pacific Beach High School.

Join those who believe our children deserve safe, modern schools:

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Erica Flores	Carl Dudley	Mike Heyl	Patrick McGrath	Tribune	Carrie Trujillo
Baltodano	Robin Dudley	Kristin Horowitz	Sara McGrath	Emma Saperstein	Joyce Tseng
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Amanda BenNaim	Charlotte Erlin	Electrical Workers	David Mitchell	Ellen Sheffer	Alicia Veium
Joe Benson	Don Ernst	(IBEW), Local Union	Morro Bay Chamber	Michelle Shoresman	Eric Veium
Dave Bernhardt	Piper Fedrow	No.639	of Commerce	Michael Simkins	Chip Visci
Brianna Biberston	Daniel Feuerstein	Ali Jansen	Laura Mullen	Sandi Sigurdson	Bob Wacker
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Kim Bisheff	Catherine Fiorello	M.J. Johnson	Stephen Patrick	Andrea Soderin	Ellie Washington
Leah Bodily	Tony Fiorello	Erik Justesen	Jimmy Paulding	Southwest	Jermaine
Michael Boyer	Bert Forbes	Ermina Karim	Linda Pax	Carpenter's Union	Washington
Quinn Brady	Jen Ford	Jake Kaufman	Andy Pease	Deb Spatafore	James White
Mark Buchman	Evelyn Frame	Courtney Kienow	Renee Periat	John Spatafore	Jill Bolster-White
Jeff Buckingham	Emily Francis	Jennifer Knerr	Christie Peterson	Stephanie	Mary Witkowski
Joan Buckingham	Michelle Garner	Kelly Knox	Holly Peterson	Stackhouse	Kara Woodruff
California School	Dave Garth	Nina Taylor Kobliska	Jim Quesenberry	Elizabeth "Biz"	Allison Woods
Employees	Sandy Garth	Laurie Kriet	Christine Robertson	Steinberg	Matthew Woods
Association, SLCUSD	Erica Gibbons	Rich Kriet	Lynne Robinett	Erica A. Stewart	Sharon Young
Chapter	Gregory Francisco	Bryan Krill	Rick Robinett	Bettina Swigger	Ron Yukelson
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Cameron	Erik Gomez	David Kuykendall	Marilyn Rodger	Ben Taylor	
Devin Kuhn Choi	Marisa Gomez	John Laird	Emily Rosten		
Dave Christy	Dorothy Spatafore	Michelle Landis	San Luis Coastal		
Marty Claus	Grant	Audrey Lariz	Teachers		
Diane Clausen	Linda Lewis Griffith	Ryan Lawrence	Association		
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VOTE BY NOVEMBER 8TH

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Community

rary surrealism, eco-feminism, and biomorphism, Begleiter's work explores hidden systems, secret codes, and fantastic micro-organisms; it's an intellectual as well as instinctual response to what is happening in 'nature.' Materials include watercolor, ink, graphite, ceramics and photography.

It's not too late for artists to enter the next show, which is concurrent with the featured exhibit "Small Gems." Small Gems will be limited to 8X8 and 12X12 canvases.

Small Gems was a popular format for CCA's holiday shows in past years, and the Gallery wanted to revive it this year. Any 2-D medium that can be applied to a stretched canvas (unframed, finished on the edges) is acceptable for this show. For more information, please visit our website: <https://cambriaarts.org/call-artists/> or contact the Gallery with any questions gallery@cambriaarts.org

Chamber Celebrates Central Coast Carts



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce celebrated Central Coast Cart Rentals' one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting. The company offers cart and scooter rentals as well as sales and service of street-legal golf carts. Stop by at 1598 Main St. in Morro Bay and tour the city in style.

Check out their website at centralcoastcarts.com. For reservations, call 805-225-5228.

Poly Study on Mothers' Mobile Device Use and Infant Development

A \$2.7 million grant-funded study — awarded to a research team led by Cal Poly Kinesiology and Public Health Professor Alison Ventura — aims to better understand

stand how mothers' use of technology may impact development during an infant's first year.

The federal funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (one of the National Institutes of Health) will support a five-year study involving four university staff and about 20 undergraduate students.

"Maternal Technology Use During Feeding and Infant Self-Regulation and Growth" will look at current uses of digital devices such as cell phones, tablets, computers and video streaming platforms and whether a mother's use of them influences feeding interactions, emotional and social behavior, growth outcomes, and other areas of child development.

During these early stages, Ventura said, babies express themselves through non-verbal cues that mothers learn to pick up on.

"It's really important for caregivers to be attuned to their infants' behavioral cues," said Ventura, whose work since 2016 through the university's Center for Health Research focuses on parent-child interactions during early childhood. "We're interested in better understanding how mother-infant communication may be impacted by mothers' technology use. Does technology use provide mothers with more information and support that benefits their development as a new mother? Are mothers able to multitask when using technology and switch their attention to a baby's needs?"

The study will include 345 participants, from both English- and Spanish-speaking families, in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties. It will use video recordings of mothers' interactions with their infants to analyze and document types of interactions. It also will measure mothers' digital behaviors through an app installed on participants' phones and collect mothers' survey responses about their perceptions and experiences during the study period.

For more information about the study and how to participate, go to: <https://ibabystudy.calpoly.edu/studyinformation>.

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



Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

After a two-year hiatus, HART is happy to announce the return of Wines, Pines, & Felines at the Cambria Pines Lodge. The fundraiser takes place on Sunday, November 6 from 4 – 9 p.m. P Tickets include passed appetizers, a selection of entrees and dessert, wine, and a no-host beverage bar—all while being entertained by the wonderful music of Jill Knight. There will be a live auction with auctioneer Bob Kasper, a large and lovely selection of silent auction items, a raffle, and a door prize—all featuring outstanding offerings generously donated by local restaurants, wineries, shops, supporters, and artists.

Tickets are \$115 per person. Members of HART are eligible for the Member Discount Ticket at \$95 (a free ticket will go to Diamond Level Members.) For more on HART Memberships, go to hartcambria.org/ways-to-help. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (805) 927-7377 or visit HART at 2638 Main Street in Cambria.



The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College hosts the gallery exhibit, "Physicality of Joy," by celebrated Los Angeles-based artist Joshua Aster. The exhibition features bright, complex abstract paintings incorporating triangular grids and artist-made tempera paint. It runs through Dec. 16.

The show displays 25 small and large-scale oil tempera

Events Continued on page 14

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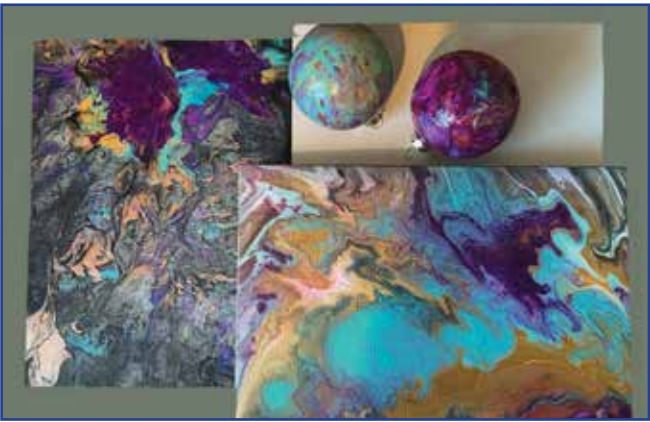
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Community

Events From page 13


paintings, and, according to Aster, is inspired by a flickering and fleeting view of the surrounding world through fluttering fingers. These recent paintings refract memories of domestic space and place through a triangular grid to create blended compositions. The result is a body of formular, honest, vulnerable, and lovely paintings to behold. Admission to the gallery is free. Call (805) 546-3202 for a schedule of exhibits and hours of operation.

The American Field Service and Humankind Fair Trade in SLO are teaming up to raise funds for AFS! A percentage of sales goes to the AFS CA Central Coast Chapter to provide student international exchange scholarships and support Fair Trade artisans. On Saturday, November 5, shop online from home at humankindslo.org or in-store from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at 982 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. Donations may also be sent to AFS USA, 2057 McCollum, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Enjoy the Pour & Pour Workshop on November 20 from 4-7 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay where students learn how to stretch canvas onto stretcher bars. And then, the wine is poured while attendees learn several different methods of pouring acrylic paints to make stunning abstract artworks. No previous knowledge or artistic skills required. Participants will take home two completed acrylic paint poured artworks. Proceeds from this event go toward the upcoming Art Center remodel. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. Join us for an evening full of fun and laughter while we pour our way through this fun filled workshop. The workshop is \$50 for members and \$65 for non- members. Register at artcentermorrobay.org/index.php/products





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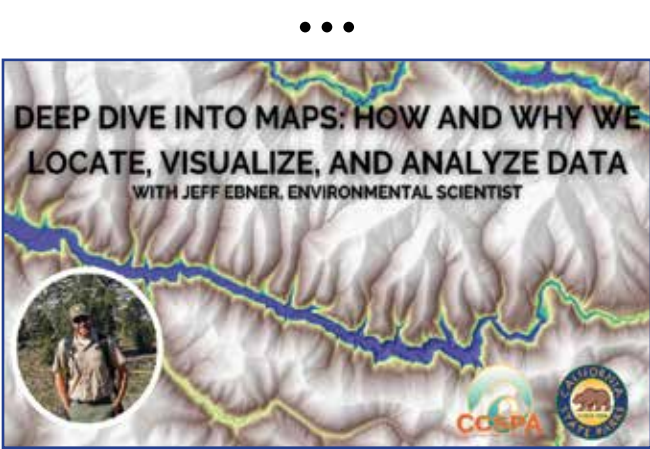
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The next Central Coast State Parks Association Virtual Mind Walk is Deep Dive Into Maps – How and Why We Locate, Visualize, and Analyze Data. Maps have allowed humans to explain and navigate their way through the complex world we live in. Learning from the past and adapting for the future, San Luis Obispo Coast District has been implementing the latest technology and knowledge to understand the spatial world around us. Join Environmental Scientist Jeff Ebner for a deep dive into how maps have changed the way we use and experience our parks on Friday, November 1 at 1 p.m. Pre-registration required at bit.ly/3gOxYZB. Free to join. Click the button below and enter your email address. You will then be sent a link to join the presentation.

Learn how to use beautiful plants to promote the survival of native wildlife with the Los Osos Valley Garden Club. They will view and discuss two recorded presentations explaining why what we plant is crucial to the survival of our local ecosystem--as well as the planet. They will also see examples of native plants that produce beautiful flowers for every season of the year. Join the Los Osos Valley Garden Club via Zoom on Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. for both presentations.

Los Osos Valley Garden Club Zoom Programs are free and open to the public. Send questions via email to info@lovgardclub.org. The easiest way to join this Zoom meeting is to simply go to: <https://bit.ly/3pAKlts>. The meeting ID is 753 644 4586 and the passcode is LOVGC.

The Hollister Institute invites the public to a special “Enjoy Being a Climate Solver” community workshop at 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, November 12, at St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church, Los Osos Valley Road and Clark Valley Road, Los Osos. The program includes presentations and discussions: “Hopeful Solutions to Climate Change” with Don Gaede from the Citizens Climate Lobby, “Reducing Our Carbon Footprints” with Kristen Hazard from ResilientSLO, “Opportunities for Meaningful Action” with Grant Helete from ECOSLO, and “Doing What You Love for a Healthy Planet” with Don Maruska who is author of “Solve Climate Change Now.” Learn what you can do to promote climate health for ourselves and generations to come. Whether you are just exploring climate change or a climate activist, you’ll find resources to support your interests.



The annual California Native Plant Sale is Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pacific Beach High School in San Luis Obispo. Hundreds of native plant varieties for yards and gardens are available. Many are excellent for attracting birds, butterflies and pollinators to your garden. Native plants are adapted to this area - they require less water, pesticides and fertilizer than many common garden plants – and save money. Friendly native

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Committee to Elect Carla Wixom for Mayor2022

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Community

plant gardening enthusiasts will offer tips and advice. Early online ordering is available at www.cnpslo.org. Pacific Beach High School is located at 11950 Los Osos Valley Road in San Luis Obispo at the Target stoplight intersection. The California Native Plant Society, host of the event, is a non-profit organization active in promoting public education about native plants.

...



Morro Bay Art Association presents a free demo in the fine art of needlework with artists, Debra Cobb and Sue Melvin at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street, on Nov. 14 from 3-5 p.m.

Join them for an afternoon of learning about the fine art of needle work. Debra and Sue will cover the history of needle work, type of canvas and fabrics used, variety of threads, needles and other tools. Samples of various needle work techniques, such as needlepoint, cross-stitch, surface embroidery, satin ribbon embroidery, beading, bargello, hardanger, pulled thread, etc. This is the Morro Bay Art Association's monthly meeting and free art demonstration. For more information, call 805-772-2504 or go to www.artcentermorrobay.org.

...

Nearly 300 students will perform at Cal Poly's annual Bandfest at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.



The concert features Cal Poly's wind orchestra, wind ensemble and the Mustang Band in an evening of works ranging from the sublime to the powerful. The combined forces of three groups will open the concert with Stephen Montague's "Intrada, 1631."

The Wind Orchestra's set includes Kim Archer's "Awakenings," Julie Giroux' "Let Your Spirit Sing" and Gustav Holst's "Suite in E Flat."

The Wind Ensemble continues the program with several works to showcase the wind band medium. "Distanced" is part of composer Alex Shapiro's response to the COVID-19 protocols under which many musical organizations continued to meet during the height of the pandemic. "Esprit de Corps" by Robert Jager will offer a celebration of the bond that sustained arts organizations through the struggles of the last several years. Giovanni Santos' new work, "Chavez, 1927" celebrates the life and work of civil rights activist and leader Cesar Chavez.

The Mustang Band concludes the concert with arrangements the group is performing at this fall's football games in Alex G. Spanos Stadium. Along with traditional school songs, the band will perform music by Lizzo and Green Day.

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).

...

LO Cares Ball Drop

A local non-profit that provides services to the underserved in Los Osos is having a fun fundraiser this Saturday, Nov. 5 at Sea Pines Golf Resort, 1945 Solano St. in Los Osos.

Los Osos Cares is having a golf ball drop fundraiser at

the golf course. One golf ball is \$10 or six for \$50. All golf balls will be marked and dropped en masse from a great height onto one of the greens and the ball closest to the hole splits the money with LO Cares (or one could donate it).

For information or to purchase a ball, email: wecarein-lososos@gmail.com. Balls will be for sale at the event, which is slated for 2 p.m.

Sea Pines is also closing out its Fall 2022 season of free "Concerts on the Green" from 2-6 p.m. that same day.

Local favorites DeJa-Vu will perform and there'll be barefoot dancing on the practice green. Bring a folding chair or blanket to sit on. There will be food for sale and Sea Pines has a full bar.

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



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OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



The Bookshelf Writers consist of four Estero Bay women who have been writing & critiquing together for over five years. For more samples of their work, please visit www.thebookshelfwriters.com

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

Walking Steps
(for Health)



A view of Morro Rock during a walk.

By Susan Vasquez

There’s a news article about the health benefits of walking that seems to be everywhere. Have you seen it? Walking for exercise, the article suggests, brings so many good returns that everyone should be doing it.

The information comes from research that charted the daily activity of several hundred people. They counted their steps, the amount of time they spent walking, the pace they walked, and how often they wandered away on their own two feet. The scientists then scrambled all the data together with who was still around at the end of the study and what their quality of life seemed to be.

Based on their new insights, the researchers recommended that for optimal health, everyone who can, should walk at a ‘moderate’ pace for 30-40 minutes several times a week. Is that what I do? I have no idea, but I love quantifying things like this. Normally, I just get a nice feeling out of my walking. Today, I would be testing science.

I re-read the article, grabbed my step counter and a stopwatch and went out the door for my usual walk. I didn’t worry much about the details, since I walk nearly every day at a good pace for a distance I know is plenty. Certainly, after so many years of strolling for pleasure, I have managed to step into some level of good health. When I return home today, I will not only feel refreshed, but will have some research-based information as to why walking always makes me so content.

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The stopwatch timed the work-out. My step-counter counted steps. I walked at my usual pace. The article said to stop either at the 10-second mark, or at the 6-second mark and multiply the number of steps by 6 or ten. Remembering the numbers wasn’t difficult, but remembering which numbers to multiply was. Instead, I decided to walk for 30 seconds and multiply the steps by two – easier and maybe even more accurate.

Ten, 6, 15 steps, 30 seconds, 2. How many steps to make that moderate-level benchmark? I think that the pace was about 3 miles per hour. 30-2-40-10-6-15-3. All these numbers were important, but I had to keep in mind the most important of all – 200 steps per minute is what I remembered reading. Add that to the list of numbers I needed to keep in mind.

But I wasn’t anywhere near that mark, even with my most indulgent computing, which I know was flawed in my favor (18 steps in 10 seconds multiplied by ten doesn’t equal a minute, does it? Or was it 10 steps in 18 seconds?) I continued on my work-out walk a bit perplexed that my usual pace wasn’t adding up to what I’d thought it might.

How could I be so wrong about an activity that I’d invested so many hours doing? I began my walk smug that this outing, at least, would give a pat on my back for all the time I spent getting there. Self-congratulations isn’t always admirable, but we all need a little self-care every now and again, don’t we? I needed this affirmation that walking gives me healthy benefits.

My math was wrong. My counting was wrong. The stopwatch distracted me. But it turns out that none of that mattered, because my recollection of the facts was most wrong of all. When I got back to the house and re-read the article, it told me exactly what was my biggest mistake. Turns out that a moderate walking work-out is 100, not 200, steps a minute.

And that wasn’t the only very, very important item in the research article that I got wrong. The most important piece of the research? The fact that all this moderate-level walking gave people in the research group better memory and less dementia.

Maybe walking for simple pleasure, in my case, is enough.

Susan Vasquez has taken walks in many of the world’s most interesting spots, but especially enjoys her strolls around Estero Bay. She is the author of four books, blogs at One Small Walk, and is a member of the Bookshelf Writers, four Estero Bay women whose writing can be found

OTS Grant to
Fund County Safety
Programs


Do you have a newborn or a toddler that has outgrown his or her car safety seat? The County Health Department just got a grant to bolster its pedestrian, bicycle and car safety programs.

The Health Department announced the receipt of \$292,000 from the “California Office of Traffic Safety [OTS] to continue programs aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. The grants will fund best practice strategies to address child passenger safety and pedestrian and bicycle safety in the county,” according to a news release.

County Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein said, “The Office of Traffic Safety grants will allow us to continue providing education and outreach on the importance of child safety seats, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety with a focus on reaching elementary school children, young adults, parents, and older adults.”

The County has several bicycle programs that will benefit from this money, including:

- Walking field trips that educate youth and older adults on safe walking habits;
- Bicycle helmet inspections/fittings and distributions to those in need;
- Community and school education presentations on safe habits when biking and walking;




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the process with this company exceeded our expectations.
They represented both the seller and the buyers (us) and represented each side fairly.”
— Cayucos Homeowner

DRE 01297036

Community

- Partnerships with health care providers and senior centers to promote pedestrian safety measures to older community members; and,
 - Pop-up events at Cal Poly to promote the importance of visibility on roads, including education about safety equipment (reflective armbands/leg bands, bicycle head-lights/taillights and more) with this equipment provided at no cost.
- As for the child car seat programs, the County has:
- Child safety seat inspection events and education classes;
 - Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) training and recertification courses; and,
 - Child safety seat distribution at no cost for families in need (by referral).

The director of the OTS in Sacramento, Barbara Rooney, said, “Every bicyclist and pedestrian should feel safe walking or riding. Pedestrians and bicyclists do not have the same protections as drivers and passengers. Drivers should slow down and drive like their closest family member or friend is walking or biking.”

If readers would like to check into the County’s car safety seat program they can call (805) 781-1568 or email to: mmejorado@co.slo.ca.us. Inspections are offered in-person or virtually by appointment.

Bike Donations Accepted Now



The SLO County Sheriff’s Office is gearing up for its 33rd Annual Christmas Bike Giveaway in December, and if you’ve got a bike laying around collecting dust, you can donate it and make some girl or boy’s Christmas even more special.

Since 1989, the Sheriff’s Department has held its “Season of Giving” bicycle drive, having inmates at the County

Honor Farm repair and refurbish donated bikes to be given away.

“In that spirit of giving,” said Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla in a news release, “we are currently seeking donations for our Christmas Bicycle Giveaway. This program was created to promote the holiday spirit by giving away refurbished bicycles and new helmets to children in need in San Luis Obispo County. Due to the generosity of those in our community, the program has continued to be a big success.”

Having the Honor Farm inmates work on the bikes, “instills in the inmates a positive work ethic, self-respect, and a sense of worth to the community,” Cipolla said.

And if you thought things couldn’t get crazier, the Coronavirus Pandemic has affected the bike program too.

“As a result of the pandemic,” Cipolla said, “replacement parts and accessories are still in short supply. We are seeking the public’s help by asking for new bicycles, new helmets, or monetary donations for replacement parts.”

The program is for kids, but some of them are adult sized. “We will be accepting adult bicycles,” Cipolla said, “but we prefer children’s bicycles since they are in high demand.”

So if readers know a child up to 15-years old and in need of a bicycle, email: sh-bikereports@co.slo.ca.us to request a Christmas Bicycle Application or see the County Sheriff’s Office website at: slosheriff.org and click on “Resources” at the top of the homepage. Then click on “Forms and Applications” in the drop-down menu.

All applications are due by Friday, Nov. 18 and the pick-up day is set for 9 a.m. Tues. Dec. 13 at the Honor Farm on Oklahoma Avenue.

Cipolla said the Sheriff’s Office “would like to thank the Sheriff’s Advisory Foundation, Rita’s Rainbows, Bike SLO County, The Sandlot Group of San Luis Obispo, and Target for their continued support and donations to the Sheriff’s Bike Program.”

Individuals and businesses can donate children’s bicycles or new helmets in the original packaging, by bringing them to any Sheriff’s Substation — located on 10th Street in Los Osos, and in Oceano and Templeton, or the Sheriff’s Honor Farm located on Oklahoma Avenue off Hwy 1.

To donate some money to purchase bikes, parts or helmets, send a check to: Sheriff’s Advisory Foundation, Attn: Bicycle Fund, P.O. Box 3752, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Tidelands Tunes Troubled

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay and a local senior citizens group recently concluded a co-sponsored, free concert series held on Thursdays in Tidelands Park but the future of the shows is doubtful for 2023.

The “Tunes at Tidelands” concert series was produced by Morro Bay Seniors, Inc., dba Active Adults 55+, with City planning and assistance in the form of a \$10,000 grant.

The final concert in the series took place on Oct. 20.

Oddly enough, though it funded the first concert series, the City Council recently stiffed the Seniors group when it asked for \$13,000 in community grant funding to do another series of shows next year.

City Recreation Services Manager, Kirk Carmichael, acknowledged the Council’s actions but vowed not to give up.

“The City put in \$10,000 for this series,” Carmichael told Estero Bay News, “and because of that, denied the \$13,000 grant request. The City Manager and I spoke with MBSCI about the request and subsequent denial and they understood. I will take a report to City Council soon with the hope of CC approving the funding for the series next fall.”

With a City Council election slated for next Tuesday, and the majority of council seats up for election, the next group of leaders may be more receptive of the Active Adults’ request for funding. But if not, perhaps some generous soul in town could step up to sponsor the events.

Happy Birthday Joan



This week Joan Sullivan, local artist and historian turns 97. Joan moved to Los Osos in 1970 with her son Dean. Joan has written several books on the area including: “All About Baywood,” “Castle Cronicals,” “Los Osos Valley” and “Rounding Up the Ranches.”

Joan is also a columnist for the Estero Bay News and has been contributing articles for the newspaper since it started in 1989. Photo by Dean Sullivan, proud son, Dean.

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Community Letters To The Editor



Save Morro Bay — Vote for Carla, Zara and Sarah

When will it be enough? It’s a question we all need to consider. We live in a quaint, little vintage town, rich in history with a proud local community. We are also the last bastions of an original central coastal town, and we should all consider that moving forward.

By now we all know about the proposed tax on homeowners in MB. We see signs asking people to “save our waterfront” as if anyone opposing B22 doesn’t care about the harbor. But B22 is not going to save anything. The problem isn’t about saving our harbor. The problem is about saving our town.

Remember back in 2007/08, the city instituted a policy of charging a “cost allocation” to the harbor department for administration fees. Administrative fees? What’s that exactly? These fees (taxes) cost the Harbor \$300K+ annually. Where’s the money going? From what I understand, the city can lower the charge, thereby, returning much-needed funds to the harbor, but I guess, with a \$175+ million dollar behemoth sewer plant draining city coffers, I don’t believe the city will be inclined to lower it or lower anything for that matter. Have you seen the condition of our streets?

So instead of holding the city accountable with our

money, we’re pivoting and going after the homeowner. My opposition to this tax isn’t directed toward those proposing the initiative. On the contrary, I know their hearts are in the right place and I agree that the harbor is in dire need, but why are taxes the go-to answer? We’re in the midst of skyrocketing inflation, increased utilities/food/gas, and a sales tax we passed last year, and now we’re hearing “it’s only \$10/month.” Remember when the new sewer plant was “not to exceed” \$126 million dollars?

The problem in this town is our current leadership and the mismanagement of our money. If we have to tighten our belts, why can’t they? It’s time for a change before our town faces ruination.

Personally, I’m concerned with the way B22 is written. It’s divisive. It only taxes the homeowner and many don’t live here. So while some homeowners can’t vote, all voters in MB get to weigh on a tax that affects their neighbor. So, in essence, the only voter who can defend himself against taxation is the one who lives here. Does that seem fair to you? Secondly, this tax will grow. I’ve never seen a tax that doesn’t, have you? To put salt on the wound, the monies accrued in the first year alone won’t even put a dent in the problem. So what are we doing?

Our youth cannot afford to live here, and many of our retired neighbors live on fixed incomes. Folks, we are slowly but surely voting for our own gentrification! It’s time to look at the bigger picture. Big money is waiting on the horizon to swoop in and create another Santa Cruz or Newport Beach. It may take 30 years, but the foundation is being set with our new, mega sewer plant. We are a town with a population of 10 thousand and our sewer plant costs what? They’re not even calling it a water-reclamation facility anymore. See how it works?

It’s easy to see the outside big money behind the incumbents. Have you noticed all the costly, shiny postcards flooding your mail? How does a local compete with that? That tells you all you need to know.

It’s time for a fresh start! Vote for Carla/Zara/Sarah. These ladies love this town and I am grateful they are stepping up. As a former councilwoman and 30-year local

business owner, Carla has the unique experience to help navigate us through these difficult times. Both Zara and Sarah have the same experience we all face as residents. Like you, they would like to pass down to their children and grandchildren, a town they can continue to afford to live in! Save your money - vote NO on B22. Let’s find a more equitable way to save our harbor. Vote YES for new leadership this November! Demand accountability! That’s how we save our waterfront. That’s how we save our town.

*Karen Aguilar
Morro Bay*

Vote for Wixom

I have known Carla Wixom for over 20 years. We served on the City Council together and while we did not always agree on issues, I always respected her informed, thoughtful ideas and opinions. Her love and care for Morro Bay is shown in the numerous community activities she participates in and supports. I cannot imagine a better person to be our next mayor. Carla has my vote.


*Janice Peters
Morro Bay*

Public Health Supports Yes on Proposition 31

Public Health professionals have fought to prevent the deadly impacts of nicotine addiction in every city, county and state for decades. It’s why we support public health interests over tobacco interests and endorse California’s Proposition 31.


Nationally, 13 people die from tobacco-related disease every minute and, despite the tobacco industry being forced to admit the addictive power of nicotine, the industry continues to focus strategies on attracting younger

VOTE YES ON MEASURE B-22 ON TUESDAY



If Measure B-22 does not pass, this seawall at Tidelands Park, along with the rock revetments, piers and slips that the City is responsible for maintaining will not be fixed. Safety will become an issue and some of facilities will become off limits to the public.

When the City Council allocates the city’s limited resources, they will always prioritize maintaining our streets and other capital projects before infrastructure projects in our Harbor.



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Community

users. No other commercial industry has been so persistent in the drive to profit from enticing new, younger people to become addicted.

Four out of five youth who have used tobacco started with a flavored product. Tobacco companies continue to manipulatively attract young users with candy-flavored products like cotton candy, gummy bear, and minty-men-thol. Flavored tobacco products have been a particularly harmful innovation as the flavoring masks the natural, unappealing taste of tobacco, making it easier to smoke more and become addicted.

New electronic smoking devices can also deliver large doses of nicotine. These high doses of nicotine harm young users by both affecting brain development and impacting attention, mood, and impulse control and by putting the youth at even greater risk of nicotine addiction and consequent behavioral complications.

In fact, in September 2022, 34 states and territories won a \$438 million settlement against a major tobacco product manufacturer, JUUL, for marketing its products to underage users. As reported in The New York Times on 9/6/22, 45 percent of JUUL's Twitter followers were ages 13 to 17.

California tried to create protections for our youth by legislating a ban on flavored tobacco products. This legislation passed with broad bi-partisan support in 2020, but the tobacco industry spent millions to delay implementation by forcing it to this expensive ballot initiative.

We stand with commendable health organizations such as the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Cancer Action Network of the American Cancer Society, the California Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We, as a community, can do more to protect our neighbors and our children by voting Yes to Protect Our Kids and voting Yes on Proposition 31 this November.

Penny E. Borenstein, MD, MPH
San Luis Obispo County Health Officer

Vote YES on Measure C-22

By Jay Beck, Quinn Brady and Gregory Francisco Gillett, Volunteer Co-Chairs of Taxpayers for Safe Schools; Yes on C-22

During our campaign for Measure C-22, the vast majority of voters have told us they will vote yes on this local school improvement measure. They see the value and need in rehabbing all 12 elementary and middle schools in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District.

Voters have asked us excellent questions, and we're grateful to Estero Bay News for letting us share our answers about Measure C-22, which is on the Nov. 8 ballot.

What is Measure C-22 and why is it necessary? If 55% of voters say yes, C-22 will raise \$349 million to modernize the district's 12 elementary and middle schools, plus Pacific Beach High School. Many of our schools are more than half a century old.

Despite diligent maintenance, the time has come when roofs, lighting, furniture, and HVAC systems need to be replaced.

What will my child's school get from Measure C-22?

These improvements will be made in every school in the district:

- Air conditioning and state-of-the-art heating and ventilation systems.
- Modernized classrooms, including innovative teaching technologies.
- New roofs, flooring, lighting and furniture.
- Security upgrades such as perimeter fencing and automatic locking doors.
- Rehabilitated play fields, which will be available for community use.

Will C-22 enable more programming for children

beyond traditional school hours?

There will be expanded space for T-K offerings as well as space that can enable more before-school and after-school programming, which will help parents with child-care issues.

Can we trust that all of this will happen?

Measure C-22 requires establishment of an independent oversight committee and regular audits to ensure the money is spent appropriately.

We are highly confident these improvements will be made because we've seen the impressive improvements made possible by Measure D-14, overwhelmingly approved in 2014 to upgrade Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo high schools. Please visit and see for yourself: You will be impressed – and proud.

We believe the school board and the administration will deliver in similar fashion for the elementary and middle schools.

Why doesn't the state pay for this, and why spend money on buildings instead of education?

The state simply doesn't invest in capital improvements other than a few small matching grants. If we want improved schools, then we have to vote for them locally. There's nowhere else to turn.

Updated buildings are essential to educational excellence. Students learn best in clean, safe, modern facilities. Excellent teachers have choices about where they work, and they will choose districts that provide modern classrooms.

Can't the district carve money out of its annual budget for these improvements?

"Carving" would mean substantially reducing teachers and staff while increasing class size. Here's why:

About 85%, or \$102 million of the district's \$120 million annual budget is spent on personnel costs. It would take decades to accumulate the \$349 million that is desperately needed now.

What portion will be spent on modernizing the buildings compared to security measures?

Measure C-22 will rehab all of the school buildings top to bottom, inside and out.

About 95% will be spent on modernizing classrooms, fixing roofs, installing air conditioning, heating systems and other building upgrades.

Safety upgrades like fencing, alarms, locking doors and ADA accessibility are part of the rest. For an idea of what campus fencing will look like, visit Morro Bay High and SLO High to see that it's possible to improve safety yet maintain a welcoming feel to our campuses.

These safety measures and other improvements address needs unimaginable when the schools were built a half century ago, when AC wasn't necessary, when ventilation systems didn't have to deal with infectious viruses, and electrical systems didn't have to handle computers and other technologies.

How will the sports fields be improved?

Fields will be leveled, reseeded/sodded as needed, and water-conserving irrigation installed. Tracks and related facilities will be improved as well. All fields will be open to the public after school hours.

How much will Measure C-22 cost property owners?

The improvements will cost property owners \$49 annually per \$100,000 of assessed value. The county assessor sets the assessed valuation, which is typically much less than a home's current market value.

Why are you co-chairing the campaign?

We volunteered because the needs are real, and because good schools contribute decisively to a community's overall vitality. They help businesses attract and retain excellent employees, the kind who volunteer, engage in civic life and enrich our community.

Measure C-22's improvements will benefit all of us now and for generations to come. Please vote YES on C-22. For more information, go to www.YesonC22.com

Jay Beck is a community banker; Quinn Brady is a community organizer, and Gregory Francisco Gillett is an attorney. All have children attending local schools.

No On Measure C-22

I am voting NO on Measure C-22, a \$349,000,000 bond for the upgrade of SL Coastal school buildings. If it passes, there will be another line item on our property tax statement for some hundreds of dollars to be paid for years. The text of the measure states the amounts are only estimates and might not be the maximum dollar figure.

In 2014 voters approved Measure D, a bond for \$177,000,000, for the same purpose -- the construction and renovation of school buildings, electrical, plumbing etc. (SL Coastal 2014 GO on property tax statements). Since then, I have paid \$1,931.00 for this line item. This tax will go on for another 20 years. Annually, there are also taxes due for the sewer, Cuesta College, and fire services. Together, they amount to thousands of dollars on top of basic ever-increasing property taxes (62 cents of which go to schools).

We are experiencing the worst inflation in 40 years with a recession likely. Those who are fortunate enough to have savings watch their value is plummeting. The poverty rate in Los Osos is 9.3% (U.S. Census data). I am grateful for the Los Osos wastewater system low-income user fee offset program. I don't know how many people qualified, but I know a grandmother who can't afford to stop working and I see some occupied houses that look like they are all but falling down. There are people who have lived in Los Osos for decades who are barely scraping by. What happens to them when they can't any longer?

Recently the Board of Supervisors approved bond sales to fund major construction projects without proposing any new taxes. Sounds good to me.

Alice Welchert
Los Osos

Elect a New City Council

Morro Bay desperately needs a change in City Council and a new Mayor. We are drowning in higher taxes and dubious projects due to a City Council, led by a Mayor who refuses to listen to the concerns and wishes of the local citizens.

Currently the Water Reclamation Plant project is burning through millions of our dollars...for what...a plan to transform raw sewage into safe drinking water...Really? Would you drink it? A far-fetched pipe dream, the State Water Resources Control Board hasn't even developed regulations for such projects.

Next a plan to tear down the stacks to be replaced with the world's largest Lithium Battery Storage Plant constructed on the ocean front Esplanade, steps to the Bay, adjacent to our High School. Dreadful undertaking with potential for a catastrophic fire of epic proportions. Horrible location, another unproven experiment by Council.

Headding maintains that the Council has not been presented with any information nor had any discussions about

Letter's Continued on page 23

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Technically Speaking



Tech Support Scams

Over the past year, we have seen an immense increase in what we refer to as tech support scams. This type of scam has a few different faces, but almost always involves a malicious third party connecting to your computer in some way in order to scare you into paying them to help with a virus or other problem that doesn't exist.

These types of scams can be hard to avoid as they tend to look very real at first, but, as with any virus or scam, there are things to look out for. The first thing to note is that you should never call a phone number that comes up in the middle of your screen no matter what the box it comes up in says. Oftentimes we see these boxes come up and say something like "Your computer is infected! Call tech support now to remove virus!!" and then a phone number. Once that phone number is called, the person on the other end will begin using scare tactics to convince you to pay them an exorbitant amount of money to regain access to your computer. This may work short term, but the second part of these scams is usually placing remote connection software onto your computer so they can control it, giving them potential access to your website logins and other information. Remember that you should never give access to your computer to anyone you don't know or trust.

Other versions of this scam involve pretending to be Microsoft or Apple or another computer or software manufacturer in order to gain your trust. It is important to note that these companies will never contact you out of the blue to connect to your computer or solve a virus issue for you. Additionally, you may sometimes receive emails claiming to be from companies like these or an internet service provider like Spectrum or AT&T, telling you that your account needs your immediate attention and giving you a link to click to sign in. In an event like this, if you are not sure if the email is legitimate or not, it is best to go to the website yourself, rather than clicking their link, and signing in to check on your account.

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





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Adventures with Nature Programs are guided walks and talks facilitated by California State Park Staff and Volunteers. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. These fun, free programs are exploratory in nature, revolving around cultural and natural resources in the coastal California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County. No dogs, please. Rain and/or inclement weather will cancel all outdoor events.

- Oceano's Beavers – Saturday, November 5, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Join State Park Docent Dan to learn about the beaver's physical adaptations, their role in our country's westward expansion, why they were hunted, and their local history. Enjoy an easy paced walk around the Oceano lagoon as we search for evidence and signs of beaver activity.

Meet at Oceano Dunes Visitor Center at the Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano. Dress in layers with comfortable walking shoes. Bring insect repellent and water: binoculars a plus. Moderate walk; 0.5 miles; 2 hours. All ages welcome. No dogs. Spaces are limited. Pre-registration required. RSVP by calling 805-474-2664 and leave a message with your name, phone number, the number of attendees and the date of the program you plan to attend.

White's Point Vista – Saturday, November 5, 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Join California State Park Volunteer Molly at Morro Bay State Park to explore how forces that created the estuary continue to change it today. Enjoy a short walk to view the estuary and learn about the forces that created this watery world that serves as home to marine and terrestrial animals. Learn how you can help conserve the estuary for future generations. Dress for windy weather; wear sturdy shoes.

Meet outside near the entrance to the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, located at 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay CA 93442. Wear closed toed sturdy shoes and dress in layers for the coast. Bring water, camera, and binoculars. Family, moderate, with incline and uneven, rocky surfaces. ½ miles, ½ hour.

Windy Cove Mud Flats and Tide Pools – Tuesday, November 8, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Join California State Park Volunteer Faylla for a walk to Windy Cove below the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Learn about the plants, the mud and the organisms that inhabit the muddy intertidal zone.

Meet outside near the entrance to the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, located at 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay CA 93442. Wear shoes that can get muddy – no loose sandals or bare feet. Dress in layers for the coast. Family, easy, 2 hours.

- Estero Bluffs Rocks – Friday, November 11, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Join California State Park Volunteer Norma to explore the beach and rocky shoreline of Estero Bluffs through the lens of a geologist. Learn about various land formations and see rocks that are thousands of years old that have shaped the coastline.

The distance to the parking area is 1.5 miles from the beginning of the two-lane start of Hwy 1 going north from Cayucos. Look for the State Park sandwich board display sign. See attached map and GPS coordinates below. The walk is along the uneven dirt bluff top trail and then along a sandy shoreline; however, there is a section of the walk where the trail goes down a steep, narrow, sandy incline of about 15 feet from the bluff to the beach. Stable footwear recommended.

Los Osos Oaks Reserve: Guided Interpretive Walk – Sunday, November 13, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join California State Park Volunteer Faylla at the Los Osos Oaks Reserve for a leisurely stroll to explore the shaded trail through an ancient forest. See native plants and learn about the many changes that have occurred over time. Observe evidence of Native American habitation and learn about the history of this area.

Meet at the entrance to the reserve, 1801 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos, CA 93402. Parking lot is 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd on Los Osos Valley Road. Wear closed toed sturdy shoes, sun protection and dress in layers for the coast. Bring water, camera, and binoculars. Family, easy and moderate. 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

Explore the Natural Shoreline at Morro Strand State Beach – Friday, November 18, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join California State Park Volunteer Sharon to walk Morro Strand State Beach to explore the wrack. Find and identify items left behind by the tide and learn about the fascinating "castaways" and their relationship to each other and the environment.

Meet at the Morro Strand State Beach Campground Kiosk, off Yerba Buena Street and Highway 1 in North Morro Bay. Wear sturdy shoes and sun protection; bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 mile, 1-1.5 hours.

Boardwalk to Butterflies to Beach – Saturday, November 19, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

This dynamic guided walk covers many highlights of Pismo State Beach including monarch butterflies and Pismo clams. Join State Park Docent Becky for an easy 1-mile walk starting along the boardwalk trail to Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove and returning by way of the beach. Learn more about the places you visit! Whether you are a long time resident or just passing through, come and discover the plants, animals, history, and ecology of this popular part of the Central Coast.

Meet in the plaza area at the tables by the public restrooms across from Fin's Bar & Grill, 25 W Grand Avenue, Grover Beach. Dress in layers. Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. Other helpful items include binoculars, a camera, water, birding and/or plant books. Easy walk; 1 mile; 2 hours. All ages welcome. NO DOGS. Spaces are limited. Pre-registration required. RSVP by calling 805-474-2664 and leave a message with your name, phone number, the number of attendees and the date of the program you plan to attend.

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Girls’ Tennis team members Freja Kaas and Krupa Patel were named Morro Bay High School Athletes of the Month for October.

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High School’s Boosters Club has named their Athletes of the Month for October, honoring a pair of cross country runners and a pair of tennis players in what will be the last Athlete of the Month honors for the Fall 2022 Sports Teams.

Girls Tennis

Lady Pirates’ Tennis Coach Taylor Bennett has named Krupa Patel and Freja Kaas as her athletes of the month.

“They are fantastic tennis players and scholar students,” said Coach Taylor, whose team was off to Fresno last week to play in the CIF quarterfinals.

Doubles player, Patel’s value to the team is also off the court. “She is hilarious,” Coach Taylor said, “and makes everyone laugh.”

As for Kaas, who plays both singles and doubles and is an exchange student from Denmark, Coach Taylor said she’s “a great tennis player and has a great attitude.”

Cross Country

Pirates cross country Coach Chuck Ogle has named junior Noleena Fahey from the Girls’ Team and junior, Otis Kelly from the Boys’ Team.

“With a strong race at the Roughrider Invitational at Woodward Park (Clovis) on Oct. 14,” Coach Ogle said, “Noleena positioned herself for a big performance at our CIF Championship race on Nov.r 17, also at Woodward.

“Noleena thoroughly enjoys running,” he added, “and has a particular enthusiasm for the sport of cross country. She wants her girls to win a CIF title and talks about it regularly, the veteran leader that she is.”

Kelly is finishing up a strong performance in Ocean League competition.

“Otis finished third overall in the Ocean League mid-season meet on Oct. 1,” Coach Ogle said, “over the rugged Fairbanks course at Cuesta College.” Kelly led the Pirate’s Varsity Boys’ Team to a third place team finish in league, which is quite an accomplishment considering the

competition.

“The league consists of nine schools this season,” coach said, “and, with the addition of Santa Ynez, Cabrillo and Lompoc, looks a lot like the tough Los Padres League of yore.”

Like the old cliché, Kelly “came out of nowhere,”

“Otis is a find,” said Coach Ogle, “he’s a rookie junior, but came to us with a strong background in demanding outdoor activities including mountain biking and surfing.

“For an individual like this,” he added, “cross country can be a good fit; the sport requires determination and a desire to have some adventure outside, as we train and race in all kinds of weather and over varied terrain.”



Cross Country team members Noleena Fahey and Otis Kelly were named Morro Bay High School Athletes of the Month for October.





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News

County Jail Accredited for Medical Services



By Neil Farrell

The County Sheriff's Department is taking a victory lap over the improvements it's made to improving health care for inmates, and earning a national accreditation for their and the County's medical contractor's efforts.

"The National Commission on Correctional Health Care," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release, "has awarded national accreditation to the Jail for demonstrating compliance with NCCHC's nationally recognized standards of care for correctional health services in jails."

"Accreditation," Cipolla continued, "recognizes the Jail's commitment to providing quality health services for the inmate population."

They had to pass a rigorous assessment. "During the assessment," Cipolla explained, "a team of experienced physicians and experts in correctional health care surveyed the facility for compliance with jail-specific standards in several areas such as patient care and treatment, health

promotion, safety and disease prevention, governance and administration, personnel and training, special needs and services, and medical-legal issues.

The Sheriff was happy to see their efforts rewarded. "We have a Constitutional obligation to provide health care to those in our Jail and we are committed to doing so with innovation, excellence and efficiency," said Sheriff Ian Parkinson. "I salute our health care provider, Wellpath, our custody staff, and leadership for their hard work and dedication on behalf of our patients."

For 40 years, Cipolla said, NCCHC's highly respected standards have provided guidance to help correctional health professionals and administrators improve the health of their jail populations and the communities to which they return, increase efficiency of health services delivery, and strengthen organizational effectiveness. Getting accreditation has long been a goal of the Sheriff's Office.

The coronavirus pandemic response, which hit Jails hard, "created its own set of unique challenges to the process," Cipolla said. "However, it was only through a coor-

dated effort by custody staff and Wellpath that made accreditation possible.

Correctional Captain Stephanie Landgraf, who supervises the Jail, said, "This is a great example of the county and the Sheriff's Office commitment to a safe and healthy County Jail that meets the changing and sometimes challenging demands of health care across the country."

The County Jail, several years ago, went through a rough stretch where several inmates died in custody. One mentally ill inmate died after being strapped naked into a restraint chair for 2 days; and others died from existing serious medical conditions. There was also an overdose on illegal drugs at the Honor Farm.

Those deaths prompted the Sheriff's

Department and the County to take a hard look at their operation, in particular the available medical care at the County Jails and mental health care in SLO County.

That led to the old women's jail — which was replaced with a new facility — being turned into a medical center and Wellpath being brought in to run it.

It would appear to have worked, as there have been no reported in-custody deaths at any of the County Jail facilities in several years.

The County Health Agency has also greatly increased available psychiatric beds for the mentally ill, contracting with several out-of-county facilities for available beds on demand. Such contracts are for millions of dollars.

Cayucos Car Show Saturday

The town, "Where the Old West meets the ocean," is going to be full of muscle this weekend when the 31st Annual Cayucos Car Show takes over Downtown Cayucos.

The Car Show runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 and is free to attend. Some 300 cards are expected to be on display with everything from old woody wagons, custom hotrods, classic cruisers, low riders and muscle, lots of muscle cars.

There will be a live band, beer garden, a delicious barbecue and more. Stay for the awards ceremonies, as the many winning cars and owners will drive in to pick up their hardware.

Ever have one of those days when everything pisses you off?

Photo by Cat Noir CC

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Poly Names Off-Campus Housing Support Program Coordinator

Cal Poly has named Sarah Bacio as coordinator of its Off-Campus Housing Support Program, which seeks to help students successfully transition from living on campus to off campus within the San Luis Obispo community.

Bacio will help students identify and secure affordable and safe off-campus housing, assist in identifying resources to assist with housing expenses, and provide opportunities to help them better understand the off-campus housing market.

In her new role, she will also offer a Renter Certification series to educate participating students on various aspects of off-campus housing to improve the renter experience for both students and landlords.

“Every year we hear from students, especially third- and fourth-year students, that securing off-campus housing is one of the biggest challenges they face,” said Joy Pedersen, Cal Poly’s dean of students. “And these challenges have increased dramatically in the past two years. The high cost of



Injection Wells From page 7

tion well component of the WRF Program, which includes purified recycled water pipelines and injection wells to increase recharge to the Morro Basin to reduce nitrate contamination, prevent seawater intrusion and increase the City’s ability to “provide water to other local water utilities to improve regional water supply reliability and resilience.”

The WRF Project is replacing the old sewer treatment plant on Atascadero Road with a new, tertiary treated, 1-million gallon a day treatment plant with advanced micro-filtering (via reverse osmosis) of wastewater for recycling. Unusable wastewater will still be discharged into Estero Bay.

The massive project involved laying some 3.5 miles of conveyance piping from the Atascadero Road plant to the new plant located above the terminus of South Bay

Boulevard. Two new lift stations have been installed along with a bypass collection line running from the Front Street parking lot on the Embarcadero, through the power plant to a new lift station located next door to Lemos Ranch Pet Supply Store. Another large lift station was built at the Atascadero Road plant. Construction has been ongoing since Spring 2020 and the project is expected to be fully completed sometime in early 2023.

The City said the new plat will, “meet State regulations, protect the environment and produce advanced purified water. Through implementation of the WRF Program, the City is the first in the State to relocate its wastewater treatment facility away from coastal hazards and create a new, sustainable, drought-resistant water supply.”

housing and the lack of affordable housing present complex challenges for students.”

Bacio is a graduate of Humboldt State University (now Cal Poly Humboldt) and served in a variety of coordinator and career

advising roles there before joining Cal Poly in 2021 as a coordinator for the Cal Poly Scholars program.

For more information, visit <https://deanofstudents.calpoly.edu/>.

Letter’s From page 19

this “project still going through normal planning stages” and certainly not made any decisions. Heading has already signed a Memo of Understanding with the project developer.

At least one Council Member asserts that “it is almost a done deal”.

Heading is simply playing the Politician, not answering the question fully or truthfully. Motivation for Heading is simply money...it’s not about the money, it’s about the money. Short term funding sources with long term consequences. Time for a change. Carla Wixom for Mayor, she will listen to citizens and take responsible actions and the ‘Home Team,’ Zara Landrum and Sarah Robinson for City Council, bringing transparency and accountability to City government.

The spending, taxing, and questionable projects of the current Council must stop. Vote for these three women, give Morro Bay a chance for the future.

Jim Curnutt
Morro Bay

Dr. Patricia Gordon
Morro Bay

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

Vote Leidinger for School Board

I am a proud Democrat and retired educator. The best choice for San Luis Coastal Unified School District Area One Board of Trustees is not the candidate endorsed by the SLO County Democrats, but rather Loren Leidinger - a parent of a student currently in the district and with twin graduates from the Class of 2022. She’s not registered with any political party—and that’s ok with me.

Loren has spent more than 25 years working in nonprofit organizations to help people improve their lives for themselves

Rule #1

You Can’t Complain if You Don’t Vote!

November 8

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Bridge Funding From page 1

cement bridges dating back to the 1930s and the original Hwy 1. With a price tag of \$17.9 million, the contract for replacing the Toro Creek Bridge was won by Souza Construction, Inc. of San Luis Obispo.

The Old Creek Bridge job, at \$16 million, went to Papich Const., of Arroyo Grande.

Caltrans called a news conference in the construction zone to tout the fact that the money for these projects came from the \$1.9 trillion Federal Infrastructure Bill and SB-1, California's special gas tax that raises money for roads projects.

With Toro Creek, \$1.2 million came from the federal government and \$11.8 million in SB-1 monies, according to a news release from Caltrans' Dist. 5 in SLO.

With Old Creek, \$1.3 million came from President Biden's Infrastructure Bill and \$14.4 million from SB-1's gas taxes. It should be noted, however, that no matter whether from the Federal Government or State Government, all of this money comes from taxpayers.

The construction jobs involve ripping out the old bridges and their supports and footings, tearing up the creek beds with heavy equipment in the process. Both creeks are pretty much dry during the summers but can flow out to sea in heavy winters.

Caltrans Dist. 5 Director Tim Gubbins said, "These bridge projects were able to become shovel-ready because of the availability of federal funds for these regional transportation projects. This funding source is important to advance our work on the Central Coast."

Caltrans spokeswoman, Alexa Bertola, said both projects are scheduled to be completed in Spring 2023, if the weather cooperates. Both jobs have been busy pouring new, reinforced, concrete support columns which when done should all but end the work within the creek beds and move to installing the bridge decks.

Such jobs take years to study, design, review and lastly, fund especially when competing for funding with other projects up and down the state.

"Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds," Bertola said, "including projects that are partially funded by SB-1."

Signed into law in April 2017, Senate Bill-1 was designed to raise \$5.4 billion a year for 10 years in order to address California's numerous road and bridge maintenance problems and trickle down to include local and County level projects too.

Indeed, the City of Morro Bay's 2022 paving contract uses SB-1 monies, along with the City's two sales tax measures — E-22 and Q (total of 1.5% local sales tax)



In the photo from left are: CHP Sgt. Charlie McMichael; Papich Construction Project Manager Keith O'Connor; Dist. 2 County Supervisor Bruce Gibson; Congressman Salud Carbajal; Caltrans Dist. 5 Director Tim Gubbins; Steve Souza, owner of Souza Constr.; Caltrans Dist. 5 Construction Resident Engineer, Rick Silva; Sal Heredia, Structure Representative from Caltrans Dist. 5 Structure Construction; and Carla Yu, Caltrans Dist. 5 Project Manager. Submitted photos



A new bridge abutment has been formed and poured for the new, Northbound, Hwy 1 Toro Creek Bridge.

The SB-1 gas tax — called the "Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program" — set up a new special fund within the Department of Transportation to account for the \$5.4 billion a year.

It added a 12¢ per gallon tax for gasoline (adjusted annually for inflation); half of a 20¢ a gallon increase for diesel (plus inflation); increased vehicle registration fees by \$25 to \$175 a year depending on the value of the vehicle; and initiated a \$100 minimum registration fee for zero-emission (electric) cars.

While the gas and diesel taxes took effect immediately, the registration fee increase kicked in Jan. 1 2018 and the \$100 electric car tax began July 1, 2020.



A new bridge abutment has been formed and poured for the new, Northbound, Hwy 1 Toro Creek Bridge.

Readers are reminded to drive cautiously through all construction zones, especially these two Hwy 1 areas. Northbound traffic at each site has been diverted across the median onto the southbound bridges, in a smooth if somewhat tricky new "S" curve lined with cement K-rails that would no doubt put a serious dent in one's vehicle if they were sideswiped.

If readers would like to know more about SB-1 and see where your tax dollars are being spent, see: rebuildingca.ca.gov.

Woods Humane Society Waives Adoption Fees for Senior Pets in November



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.

"Senior pets can get overlooked due to their age, but these animals have so much character and offer so many wonderful benefits to adopters," says Woods CEO Neil Trent.

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.

Woods says it currently has six senior dogs and cats available for adoption (overall seniors make up about 8% of Woods' pet population) and the length of stay for these 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. 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.

"This increased length, nearly an entire month in the shelter, puts added stress on these animals and restricts our ability to help more pets in need of transfer," says Trent.

To inspire the public to consider adopting an older animal, Woods offers these 4 Great Reasons to Adopt a Senior Pet:

Senior pets are often already house-trained, know basic commands, and are familiar with living with people, which can make for a smoother transition into a home after adoption. Puppies and younger animals, conversely, often require more training and orientation.

While puppies and kittens need a high amount of exercise, seniors are less demanding. A couple of short walks (for dogs) is usually sufficient.

Similarly, senior pets can have lower needs and expectations for play time, mental stimulation, and one-on-one attention than their younger counterparts. This can equate to lower expenses for things like toys, bones, and treats, as well as less time spent swinging a wand toy or playing tug-of-war. A comfortable bed and your reassuring presence are all the entertainment they need.

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News

Treatment Plant From page 1

the ocean from the old plant,” Kwolek said. “No wastewater was discharged that wasn’t already treated.”

What does this mean for the start up of the plant? Kwolek said, “We are currently in the start-up and testing phase of the new plant. Our plan was and still is to remain in start-up phase for approximately two to three months to iron out any wrinkles with the operation of the new plant.

“This is what we are doing and the wisdom of that decision has now been confirmed. As issues come up, we will fix them in coordination with the design-build team, who still has care and custody of the plant.”

He added that the sludge problem has been fixed. The City’s WRF Project is, at \$160 million and counting, the largest, most expensive public works projects in the City’s history.

It is being done on the orders of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which in 2003 ordered the City and Cayucos Sanitary District to upgrade the Atascadero Road plant, which they jointly own. The water board order was to upgrade to full secondary treatment, all the time.

That would allow the water board to remove a so-called “301(h) waiver” a special status and permit under the Federal Clean Water Act.

The old plant was rebuilt to full secondary treatment back in 1983 but over the years, and because of the growth

in tourism for both communities, the flows are such that on a handful of days a year they had to blend the primary and secondary effluent and discharge it into Estero Bay, via an underground pipeline north of Morro Rock.

Having the 301(h) waiver protected the agencies but water boards up and down the coast had been actively forcing upgrades to get rid of these permits, with Morro Bay, Goleta and San Diego being the last three in California. Goleta no longer has the permit and Morro Bay’s new plant won’t either.

That started the City and CSD on an odyssey to meet the RWQCB’s orders, with a fateful stop at the Coastal Commission in 2013, when commissioners unanimously upheld the 14 appeals that were filed against the City’s initial project, sited at the old plant property on Atascadero Road.

The Commission cited several potential “Coastal Hazards” that had to be avoided — in particular future sea level rise caused by climate change.

The ensuing years have seen a divorce of the CSD and the City, with Cayucos building its own treatment plant on Toro Creek Road that went online in Summer 2021.

Forced by the Coastal Commission to find an inland site for the new plant, the City spent several years examining some 30 potential sites, finally settling on ranchlands in the foothills at the terminus of South Bay Boulevard, behind the Casa de Flores senior living home.

have so much gratitude to show their new families. They’ll thank adopters with soulful, loving gazes and the loyal companionship that is the priceless gift of senior pets.

To view all of the currently available senior pets at Woods, visit 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, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

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- State & National School to Watch - *Los Osos Middle School*
- First STEAM Middle School - *Los Osos Middle School*

DELIVERING... Equity & Opportunity

- 1st dual immersion school on the coast - *Baywood Elementary*
- Open enrollment schools, giving students equal access to their school of choice
- Enhanced transportation offerings help students and families access new opportunities
- New district wide elementary youth sports program
- Free Summer Experience program to meet the summer needs of students and families

DELIVERING... Resources

- Worked with our Foundation to build new innovation labs at all elementary sites
- Built a new community pool benefitting the residents of Morro Bay & Estero Bay
- Secured 25% pay increase for our teachers over 3 successful contract negotiation cycles
- Enhanced counseling across the district, including full time elementary counseling
- \$26 million in funding from PGE to offset impacts of eventual Diablo closure
- \$10 million from PGE to endow our district Education Foundation
- \$1 million in additional annual revenue after securing an agreement with neighboring Coast Unified School District to allow inter-district transfers
- \$77 million invested in Morro Bay High School through Measure D, delivering new state-of-the-art learning resources for our students

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-MARIA SLAVIN,
5TH GRADE TEACHER

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News

Painting Donated From page 1

for over 25 years. Windows opened on the top floor at Marina Square in January 1997.

“It’s a great painting,” Trapp said. “We’ve always loved it.” But coming out of the COVID-19 response, which was a difficult time for all restaurants, they decided to give Windows a freshening up that included changing the artwork.

The new artwork features large, dramatic photographic work, some of which his grandson produced, Trapp said.

He commented that Nico Vandenneuvel, who still paints at 93, is a famous enough artist that he wanted to make sure that someone else had the chance to own and enjoy the painting.

As for how much it’s valued at, Trapp couldn’t recall what he paid for it, but surmised it’s probably worth several thousand dollars more now.

Trapp is friends with Kelly Vandenneuvel, who is a co-founder of PWC and rehabs birds of prey. She is also Nico’s daughter-in-law (Kelly is married to Art Vandenneuvel, Nico’s son).

Recently Kelly, Trapp and PWC’s Executive Director, Christine Johnson met at Windows to accept the painting. Johnson said the organization is “extremely grateful for this generous donation from the Trapp Family.”

PWC is currently raising money to support its day-to-day operations at its Morro Bay treatment center on the power plant property.

PWC is the only licensed organization in SLO County certified to work on animals soiled in the wake of an oil spill, like the Refugio Beach spill of May 2015, and Unocal’s Avila Beach spill in August 1992.

They are expected to soon start a major fund-raising campaign to build a new, modern, triage and rehabilitation



Stan Trapp, center, owner of Windows on the Water in Morro Bay, poses with Pacific Wildlife Care’s Executive Director, Christine Johnson, at left and Kelly Vandenneuvel at right, who is a co-founding member of PWC and a wildlife rehabber. The painting in the foreground is by Cayucos artist Nico Vandenneuvel, who is Kelly’s father-in-law, and was donated to PWC by Trapp for a fundraiser. The painting will be auctioned off sometime in early 2023. Photo by Neil Farrell

facility.

The group had a piece of land donated to them, located out by the County Airport in rural SLO. Plans are to build a new, modern, rehab facility on that site and move from the current rehab center located on the Morro Bay Power Plant property.

Trapp’s donated painting will be included in an online auction being organized now and slated for some time in early 2023.

Begun in 1984 by a small group of locals who wanted to do something about sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, PWC is SLO County’s only licensed rehabilitation center that cares for injured birds, mammals, and reptiles.

PWC is a non-profit, public benefit organization, “that is comprised of members, donors, volunteers and professional animal care staff who embrace and support the Mission, Vision, Commitment, and Values of the organization,” according to the PWC website. See: pacificwildlifecare.org for more information about the group.

Match for Space From page 1



Pickleball balls are rapidly scuffed up beyond use on makeshift asphalt courts. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

ping-pong, but bigger and usually made of more advanced materials.

“Pickleball is so easy to learn and get started,” said player Ron Roach. “Anybody can come out here and get a point and have fun — children all the way up to senior citizens. It doesn’t take a high level of skill or level of fitness to do this.”

Pickleball uses a smaller arena; four playing areas can fit on one tennis court. As it is now, the players mark off the space with lines and strings and provide their own net.

“Before we came out,” Kimura said, “we surveyed to find out when tennis players actually are playing and found that most afternoons the courts were completely empty, so we play in the afternoons, so that we’re not interfering with tennis play.”

Over the years, the tennis community has done a lot of work to keep playable spaces for their sport for which the courts are sometimes used for United States Tennis Association matches.

Tennis players raised \$80,000 that went to the SLO County Parks and Recreation Department for the construction of four courts, one of which was completed says Bill Good, a facilities consultant, who is also a tennis player and coach.

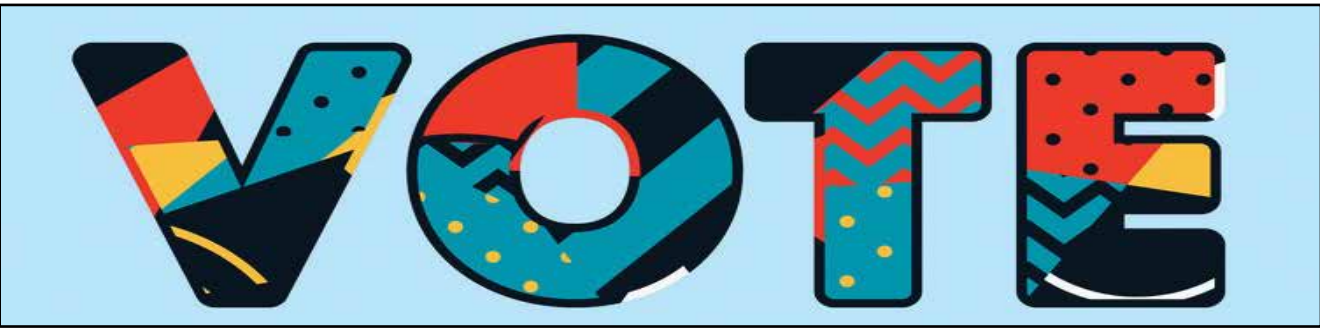
“This is really just an issue of not enough facilities, we don’t have enough courts,” Good said.

They have also installed windscreens, nets, fencing baseboards, and painted the court benches and table among many other maintenance needs.

One complaint from the tennis angle is that pickleball is disruptive to gameplay because of the noise created by whacking the “wiffle ball” back and forth.

“Pickleball is very interruptive of tennis play. When you are dealing with and 80 to 90 or even 100 mile an hour ball, and there’s noise in the background, it just really ruins good tennis. It’s a big deal. The proof is in the pudding with colleges and universities; they do not allow pickleball on their courts.”

Pickleball-court lines, often drawn on with chalk if regulation courts aren’t available, interfere also interfere. Tennis players say it is hard to determine a clean call of in or out, when two lines are competing for the eye’s atten-



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November 4, 2022 12:00 PM– 4:00 PM	November 10, 2022 12:00 PM– 4:00 PM
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The SLO County Parks and Recreation Department provided a storage unit for pickleball equipment at the tennis courts at Los Osos Community Park. Photo by Wanza Good.

tion.

“The local Los Osos tennis community is unanimously against our three courts being used for pickleball,” Good said in an email sent to the County Board of Supervisors among others. “Our huge historical investment in the three local tennis courts should be respected. Despite our complaining, SLO Parks has installed a lockbox at the courts containing all the pickleball nets etc. They also installed an on-court trashcan, we have wanted this forever, but they only did it when the pickleball players started occupying. We are asking for signage at our courts stating only tennis allowed, and specifying no pickleball allowed.”

Tennis players suggest that pickleball be played on courts at Los Osos Middle School, at the Morro Bay courts or even the unused basketball courts at Sunnyside School until designated courts are built.

County Parks and Recs did create a court, of sorts, at the Sunnyside Elementary School basketball courts in Los Osos, but it is on asphalt, which is hard on the body if someone falls and also eats through the balls pretty quickly. Additionally, there isn’t a net, fence or protection from wind.

“At Sunnyside you need to play early in the morning because the wind just takes the ball,” said Ron Roach

Ortiz-Legg met with the athletes to discuss the issue and perhaps come up with an amicable solution. However, the limited playing space, is not likely to change soon. A lack of funding for additional courts is at the crux of the matter.

“I’m going to take this information and perhaps we can sit down and try to come to some possible solutions,” Ortiz-Legg told the crowd. “It’s a matter of two big heavy items. The first one, everybody knows, is budget; budget in regards to Parks and Rec and everything that’s there are what our priorities are. The second thing is that we all really we need to get a full clear message on where things are at right now; all development is held up because of the Coastal Commission in regards to your overall Community Plan.”

Although there is an updated master plan for Los Osos Community Park that includes a long awaited dog park and talks of more court space, plans remain at a standstill until the Habitat Conservation Plan is complete.

That hold up, could be another chance to garner input regarding an increased need for recreational facilities.

“The message I’m hearing, and I’ve met with coaches of little league and the soccer league, we need facilities,” said Los Osos Community Services Board President Matthew Fourcroy noting that Los Osos hasn’t had any new facilities in more than a decade. “What it really says to me is that we need to work towards getting that community plan updated. Get the Habitat Conservation Plan in place, so we can actually go do something.”

For now space will have to be shared, and, hopefully, the two sports groups can rally a compromise.

The tennis courts at 2180 Palisades Ave. are open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For those looking to play pickleball, court times are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 12 to 2:30 p.m. and Fridays starting at 5 p.m.

Moving Forward From page 1

They enjoyed getting to know locals at the shop and building the tourism visitors for the city, many of whom would find treasurers at home and return to bring them to Junque Love to see if Doug might want to sell them. He was also able to stock inventory he already had acquired and continue to keep relationships with his dealer contacts to buy additional inventory.

And then March 2020 happened. When California discouraged tourist travel, the City of Morro Bay had to tighten its budget. The tourism director position became a casualty. Jen had to take a layoff and Junque Love was literally closed by the governor as a nonessential business. And when Doug was allowed to re-open, his employees were 60+ in age, working part-time, so they were considered vulnerable and had to stay home.

“People were moving out of the area,” Doug said. “They were trying to sell their estates, but estate sale businesses, who had been able to help before, could not go into their homes or invite potential buyers to come inside to see what they had to sell.”

Time to pivot became 2020 watchwords. Doug called his friend who owned the franchise SLOCal Estate Auctions, Inc. The corporation advertises throughout the United States. The Littles purchased the exclusive franchise rights for the Central Coast, Fresno and Kern counties areas.

The concept of online estate sales was new to SLO County so the Littles had to advertise locally that their service was available. It didn’t take long before people found out the Littles could help. “We started getting calls from adult children of seniors, who lived in the Central Valley, and even from all over the United States, who needed help with their parents’ Central Coast estates.”

SLOCal Estate Auctions begins with a phone call to Doug and Jen at 805.440-0483 for an appointment to come out and assess what needs to be sold. And they will show up.

Doug explained, “If it is local, we meet the client onsite, or if it is a long-distance relative needing the assessment, we can go in by zoom or Facetime or even send photos to review the estate together and to determine what needs to be done.”

Jen and Doug price each item and/or bundle items in lots to sell. “We know the market and what people want to buy.” Some people will have a large estate, others, a few things that can be packaged with another estate sale clients.

Photos are then placed online at www.slocalestateauctions.com stating the timeframe for bidding, deadlines for pick-up and where to pick-up successful bids. Bidders do need to sign-up one time and then can return anytime during the auction or participate in future auctions. The Littles often have 2-3 auctions going a week. When bidding is closed, the individuals who have the highest bids are reminded where and by when to pick up their successful bids.

The Littles have encountered a variety of estate sale scenarios. Recently District Attorney Dan Dow contracted them to auction items from a large intake of embezzled items. They were first called to catalogue and value the eclectic range of items. A year later, they were awarded the sale and produced all but 1/10% of what they had originally valued all items.

Most clients are surprised how much others value what they are offering. A man moving to Casa de Flores hoped to raise enough from the auction to pay for a month’s rent. They were able to get him enough for six months.

Another man called them in when his wife passed. He had no idea she was hoarding jewelry. They found it in odd places throughout her closet and dressers.

One of Doug’s favorite’s stories is a lady who came to pick-up a bed she had more than earned. She seemed about 40-year’s old and was so thankful. She said, “My daughter and I were homeless, but we were able to just qualify for a place. We haven’t slept in a bed for over a year.”

Another highlight was finding a place for a piano, which in today’s market is hard to sell. When they dusted it off, they found it was a Steinway. The Atascadero Middle School was in need and purchased it for \$700.

They loved the client who decided to sell off his entire large estate and donate all the proceeds to the Chapman House, which had been shuttered during COVID.

Good news!The Littles had sold their Morro Bay home to build the business. They’ve been renting and looking for a new home losing bid after bid on houses they could qualify for. Finally, they found a match. “It needs some work,” said Jen, “but we are here to stay in Morro Bay.”





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News

Los Osos- Baywood Park’s 43rd annual Oktoberfest celebration took place Oct. 30. After a three-year hiatus, we were excited to celebrate our community again, event organizers said.

The morning started off with the fun run at 9 a.m. with more than 200 people. The run benefitted Morro Bay High Athletic Boosters and was sponsored by the Running Warehouse and Movement for Life Physical Therapy.

While the runners were exploring the streets of Los Osos-Baywood Park, all of 2nd street was busy. The annual car show was set up with beautiful cars.

While the shining beauts were glistening in the morning sun, the 50+ vendors worked hard to set up shop on the street. Vendors and Oktoberfest goers were welcomed by the scent of pancakes thanks to the Bay Osos Kiwanians’. The Kid’s Zone sponsored by People Helping People and the South Bay Community Center was a quiet oasis where children were able to do crafts with chamber volunteers and the Los Osos Garden Club, play some musical instruments with the SLO Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo and participate in fun games.

The Beergarden, sponsored by Beerwood, opened at 11 a.m. with ten various types of breweries and wineries on hand to enjoy. The Merrimaker Stage was rocking all day. The Morro Bay High School Cheerleaders performed while the first band was setting up. Jill Knight was the

The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce and the Bay Osos Kiwanis would like to thank the sponsors who made this years Oktoberfest possible

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first musical act of day. All the unofficial dancers made the morning that much better. The lack of sunshine did not stop the Vibe Setters from setting the vibe. The band really let us believe that we’ve got 99 problems but a beer ain’t one. Promptly after the Vibe Setters left the stage the costume contest began! It included Ice, Ice, Baby, a newborn baby goat, loads of dogs, and cute children. The day ended with the Bobby Santa Cruz Family Band. They played a lot

of hits that all generations could sing along with. Laughter, good times, community bonding, and yummy food were shared with all of the people who attended Oktoberfest. Organizers thank each and every person who came out to the event. Don’t worry if you missed it, mark your calendars for the last Sunday in October next year, when Oktobestfest takes over the Los Osos- Baywood Park community again. Thank you to our own South Bay Fire for all their help.

Car Show by The Bay Winners

Best of Show



Julio Ruiz
1965 Chevy Impala

Best Muscle Car



Edmond Perry
1966 Ford Mustang

Best Classic Car



Jerry Wood
1930 Ford Model A

Best Hot Rod



Johnny Mareno
1923 Ford "T" Bucket

Best Import



Gerry and Paula Porter
1992 Nissan Figaro

Best Truck



Rick Gordon
1965 Chevy El Camino

The 15th annual Car Show by The Bay was held in downtown Baywood Park. Entrees went from full mustle cars to classic Rolls Royce. This year the “Best of Show” was dedicated to Bill Lee who helped make Baywood Park a more beatiful place than it already is. Photos by Dean Sullivan

Top 10 Race Times

The Ron Roundy Oktoberfest Run was a successful event. There were more than 250 runners competing and having fun on the scenic 4k mile course. Top finishers approached course record times with Rachel Victor and Spencer Picken bringing in winning finishes to the amazement of fellow runners and spectators.

Women	Men
1 Rachel Victor 22:28.00	1 Spencer Picken 18:58.00
2 Jordan Hasay 22:47.00	2 Rory Smail 18:59.00
3 Isabel Sanchez 23:19.00	3 Aidan Dimick 19:05.00
4 Kaia Hoak 23:30.00	4 Michael Chambers 19:06.00
5 Yvonne Miller 24:02.00	5 Colton Swin 19:11.00
6 Carin VanGale 24:40.00	6 Cayden Hein 19:14.00
7 Erin Arlin 26:55.00	7 Jake Richardson 19:16.00
8 Miranda Velasco 27:26.00	8 Oscar Alfonso Gomez 19:26.00
9 Carly Heltzel 27:27.00	9 Anthony Benitez 19:27.00
10 Kira Abercromby 28:14.00	10 Emanuel Guzman 19:31.00

Thank You Everyone

I just want to say thank you for inviting MBHS Athletic Boosters to be involved in the event. Although I’ve attended many of the past Oktoberfests in Baywood. I had no idea how many people and how much dedication it took to put it on. Huge congratulations to everyone involved! The community spirit and love for Ron was amazing and I hope, healing, for his family and everyone that knew him. Thank you so much for supporting the entire Athletics program at MBHS. We are working hard with Tyler to enable our student athletes to achieve their very best as athletes, scholars and overall good people. The donations of the run fees and the t-shirt money will go a long way to help Tyler and Athletic Boosters reach our goals. Again, kudos for putting on a great event!

Warmest regards,
Julie Mittman
President
MBHS Athletic Boosters Club

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