

Vistra Battery Project Meeting Went Well



Vistra Energy during a public meeting to discuss the company's proposed Battery Energy Storage System. Photo by Neil Farrell

Photo by Neil Farrell

Representatives with Texas-based Vistra Energy are pleased with how a recent public meeting to discuss and explain the company's proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility went, though they were met by some citizens opposed to the project.

Vistra has proposed building a 600-megawatt lithium-ion BESS on 22 acres of its Morro Bay Power Plant property, redeveloping a site on the 117-acre property that used to be a fuel oil storage tank farm. The tanks were removed in 2011 by then plant owner, Dynegy, which subsequently merged with Vistra.

Vistra closed the 1950s-60s-era natural gas, boiler plant in 2014 and after unsuccessfully trying to sell the property for several years, has now proposed the BESS, in

line with the State's clean energy goals.

If the State is going to remake its energy grid with no-emissions power sources — wind and solar — it will need such storage facilities to even out supply-demand issues inherent with that type of a system.

Essentially, wind-solar systems are limited because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun only shines during the day. So the idea is to generate the power when it's available and store excess power to use when the capacity falls off but demand is still high.

The meeting at the community center was set up with various exhibits explaining the project and the science behind it, with an actual battery rack that was identical to the ones Vistra installed at its 300MW facility at the Moss Landing Power Plant.

Residents came armed with knowledge gleaned from

Vistra Continued on page 18

Reflections: Remembering Norm Roberts on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



By Judy Salamacha

For nearly 20 years I have enjoyed meeting so many amazing individuals living in and around our Estero Bay. We all have a story to tell, and you have helped me fulfill a childhood dream to write for our local print publications. You invited me into your homes or places of business to share your personal journeys so that I might share your story with our neighbors.

As I write this, it is the day before Thanksgiving, a family time for those of us lucky enough to have family near to share time together. I'm feeling a bit nostalgic. Traditions have a way of conjuring up fond memories — Mom and pumpkin pie come to mind!

I intended to share a different story this issue, but then I realized Wednesday, December 7 was National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It is a day to recall and to honor the 2,403 Americans who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941.

It was the surprise aerial attack that led the United States to declare war on Japan, thus, plunging our country

Pearl Harbor Continued on page 18

M.B. Police Explorers Bring Home First Place



Morro Bay Police Department Explorer Post 43 Sergeant Will Marvos, Jacob Vasquez, Gerardo "Nico" Lopez, Miguel Salgado Martinez, Victor Perez, and Officer Daniel Palumbo.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

In their first competition since the pandemic, Morro Bay Police Department Explorer Post 43 took home honors at an event held at Mesa Middle School in Arroyo Grande.

During competition, Police Explorers take part in various scenarios that mirror what law enforcement officers from around the country respond to daily. They are then judged by peace officers. The Arroyo Grande event included about 10 teams from lawn enforcement agencies in Visalia,

Explorers Continued on page 17

Holiday Events are Lighting Up

By Neil Farrell



Join all the fun and good cheer at holiday events throughout the North Coast.

Morro Bay

'Tis the season, as they say, and the City of Morro Bay is holding some holiday themed events for the public.

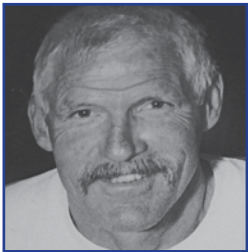
The Annual "Holiday Tree Lighting" will be held at City Park starting at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2. There will be holiday performances, hot cider, cookies, and a visit with Santa Claus.

The free event returns this year after being canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic response, but there's an unforeseen twist.

Holiday Events Continued on page 15

Noting the Passing of a Legendary Waterman

By Neil Farrell



The news that retired Morro Bay Chief Harbor Patrol Officer, Dick Rodgers, had recently died came as a surprise for many Morro Bay residents, even those with roots sunk deeply into the community and the harbor where Rodgers was a legendary waterman and public servant.

This reporter, who somewhat morbidly but faithfully reads the obituaries in the local daily newspaper, had either missed the announcement of Rodgers' passing, or he

Legendary Continued on page 14

Is Diablo
Back?
Page 2



Police
Blotter
Page 8



Strong
Finish
for XC
Page 16



News

Billions Approved to Extend Life of Diablo Canyon

By Neil Farrell

The Diablo Canyon Power Plant appears poised to continue operations for some years to come, as the State and Federal governments step up to help plant owner, Pacific Gas & Electric, keep the electrons flowing and reverse a plan to close the last nuclear plant in California for good in 2025.

Closure Plans Reversed

PG&E in 2018 reached an agreement with opposition environmental groups to end trying to relicense the plant through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and work towards complete closure of the plant.

The company agreed to retire the plant's two reactors in 2024 and 2025 when the licenses expire, in a decision that was applauded by environmentalists who had been fighting the NRC relicensing, but was met with dread by local agencies that rely on the plant's rather big tax profile.

That led to SB 1090, a bill that set up payments to local agencies and put forth a re-training plan for Diablo Canyon's workers. It also launched efforts towards the de-commissioning of the plant, estimated to last decades and cost several billion dollars, and leading to discussions on the future of the plant's roughly 12,000-acre property.

But the realization that the State's goal of a creating an emissions-free energy power grid (by 2045) won't be ready in 2025 to have Diablo's 2,200 megawatt capacity suddenly go dark, sparked a push to reverse the settlement and extend the life of the plant as a base-load support for the grid.

Diablo Canyon's 2,200 MW output is roughly equal to 8.6% of the whole statewide capacity and accounts for 17% of the State's entire clean energy portfolio.

The prospect of rolling blackouts over last summer, during the height of fire season, no doubt aided in moving the train down the tracks.

Government Changes Course

Over the past few months, one-by-one, political figures — from local mayors, to the Governor and Legislature and President Biden's Administration — have gotten onboard with the extension.

In an Aug. 22 letter to the State signed by all of SLO County Mayor's on the State's draft bill on the extension, and addressed to Gov. Gavin Newsom, the mayors listed nine issues that they felt the State must consider with the extension.

The points center around making sure the plant is safe now, and will continue to be run in a safe manner; the duration of the extension — initially proposed for 5-10 years; continuing efforts at building renewable energy sources; and that the millions of dollars that PG&E committed to paying local agencies — for expected losses in taxes — not be "clawed back" by the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) should the plant stay open. That money, they said, has mostly already been spent.

"While the Cities appreciate that the draft language does not contain any claw back provisions, explicit language stating that the CPUC shall not attempt to claw back funds that were sent to local governments as a result of SB 1090 is necessary to offer certainty to the Cities moving forward."

They add that if the plant continues for 10 more years, those payments may longer be sufficient.

New State Law Passed

The State Legislature in September passed SB 846, which put the State's side of the equation into action.

SB 846 allocates up to \$1.4 billion to the Department of Water Resources to be "loaned" to PG&E, "to facilitate the extension of the operating period of the Diablo Canyon power plant," reads the legislative analysis of the bill.

It also created the "Diablo Canyon Extension Fund in the State Treasury and would continuously appropriate moneys in the fund to the department for purposes of



making the loan." The first allocation into that fund was for \$600 million.

The bill also sets up a surcharge on electric bills statewide to cover the loan, and charges the CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) to write plans for the continued running of Diablo, to track the State's transformation to clean energy. The final bill calls for an addition 5 years of operations, but that could be extended as well.

Newsom Blames Climate Change

In a Sept. 2 message before signing SB 846, Gov. Newsom wrote, "Climate change is causing unprecedented stress on California's energy system and I appreciate the Legislature's action to maintain energy reliability as the State accelerates the transition to clean energy. Senate Bill 846 facilitates the actions necessary to keep the option of the DCCP as a statewide reliability asset beyond the current 2024-2025 retirement dates of the plant's two units."

PG&E's CEO, Patti Poppe, said in response to the bill signing, "We are proud of the role Diablo Canyon plays in providing safe, reliable, low-cost and carbon-free energy to our customers and Californians. We will do our part to help the state achieve its energy reliability and de-carbonization goals, while continuing to run one of the top performing plants in the country."

Support from Energy Department

PG&E, under SB 846, was charged with going to the Federal Government to seek more money to support the extension, and find out how that extended licensing process would play out, after the initial application for re-licensing was withdrawn in 2018, subsequent to the closure settlement.

"PG&E filed its first licensing action with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for renewing the operating licenses for DCCP's Units 1 and 2," the company said on Oct. 31. "PG&E must obtain the necessary NRC licenses — as well as other required state regulatory approvals — to operate the plant's two units beyond their current operating licenses, which expire in 2024 and 2025."

In its new application, the company asks the NRC to "designate the appropriate licensing process to follow, as the company withdrew its license renewal application in 2018 based on state energy policies at the time."

Paula Gerfen, PG&E's Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, who is in charge of Diablo Canyon, said, "This request to renew our licenses is another step to help California reliably achieve its bold de-carbonization goals. We will help deliver on those goals while continuing to run one of the top performing plants in the country."

On Sept. 2 PG&E filed to receive federal monies from something called the "Civil Nuclear Credit Program," under the Department of Energy (DOE).

The company said it had been "conditionally awarded" about \$1.1 billion but, "Final award amounts will be determined following completion of each year of the award period, and amounts awarded will be based on actual costs."

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, said, "This is a critical step toward ensuring that our domestic nuclear fleet will continue providing reliable and affordable power to Americans as the nation's largest source of clean

electricity. Nuclear energy will help us meet President Biden's climate goals, and with these historic investments in clean energy, we can protect these facilities and the communities they serve."

So totaling it up, PG&E is in line to get \$2.5 billion to keep Diablo Canyon running years into the future, and has been given a revenue stream on energy bills to continue operations and support the energy grid.

Long Road Ahead

Readers should not think this is a done deal — indeed it's far from it, as the numerous bureaucracies involved have yet to chime in.

"In addition to the need for renewed licenses from the NRC," PG&E said, "the path for continued operations of DCCP past 2025 includes regulatory approvals from such entities as the U.S. Department of Energy, the California State Lands Commission, the California Energy Commission, the California Coastal Commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission."

However, with such heavy hitters and the Governor and President directing events, it's probably a pretty safe bet that these approvals will be forthcoming, despite environmental groups' continued opposition to the plant over spent fuel storage, earthquake safety and inherent safety concerns with nuclear power, and the overarching goal to make California completely nuke free.

Cayucos to Mark Start of Vet's Hall Rebuild



A rendering of the Cayucos Vet's Hall that will be rebuilt in an \$11 million project.

By Neil Farrell

The heart of Cayucos will soon beat again, as the historic Cayucos Vet's Hall — closed since 2016 — is finally ready to be rebuilt in a project that now tops \$11 million.



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News

The Vet’s Hall was the original warehouse for Capt. James Cass’s Cayucos Landing, a shipping port that began in the 1870s and includes the town’s other historic structures — the Cass House (now a B&B) and the Cayucos Pier, which itself was completely rebuilt after falling into disrepair.

The Vet’s Hall is actually owned by State Parks and leased to the County via an agreement that originally dates back to 1944 and includes the pier and beach.

Over the years it has become the heart of the community as a community meeting place and events venue hosting such things as the Annual Seaglass Festival, 4th of July events, the Portuguese Festival, weddings and parties, concerts and local advisory board meetings, as well as the home of Cayucos Art Association Gallery.

It was closed in 2016 after an inspection found numerous structural problems, including a rotted out floor underneath the stage and roof beams that were not properly connected to the walls.

The County closed it and except for a short time when it allowed the art gallery to reopen before being shut down again, it has been unused, however the County did set up large tents behind the Vet’s Hall by the barbecue area for the public’s use.

Culling together the millions it would cost to repair the Vet’s Hall, which as a historical landmark must be preserved in as close to original state as possible, has taken six years, and the County has received several big State grants and coupled with a huge fund-raising effort by local residents, it’s now on the verge of being fixed.

The County is holding a public ground breaking event at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at the Vet’s Hall. And while the start of its rebirth is a cause to celebrate, the work of fund-raising continues and a citizen’s group that was formed to aid the effort is kicking into second gear.

The “Restore Cayucos Vets Hall Committee” had raised and donated over \$400,000 to the County’s project to help with the construction and to act as a local match for grants. It is now looking to raise additional monies to pay for new furnishings that aren’t part of the construction budget.

Committee Chairman, Greg Bettencourt, in an email said, “The Committee began fund raising in October 2021 and in the last year has raised over \$500,000 for the project from well over 500 people and organizations. Recently it pledged \$435,000 of those funds to SLO County to be used for construction.

“Having committed the bulk of its funds to construction the Committee intends to raise an additional \$200,000 to invest in the furnishings and equipment needed for the Vet’s Hall to function and look like the first-class venue and community center it is designed to be.”

He added that the \$200,000 will be used “to purchase

items such as an assisted listening system, portable stage, sound system, benches for the expanded deck, commercial microwave as well as tables and chairs to replace very worn ones kept in storage for 6 years.”

The committee is working with the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County and donations are tax deductible. If EBN readers are interested in helping, see: www.restorecayucosvetshall.org for information.

The Dec. 2 groundbreaking is free and open to the public.

Apply Now for Advisory Boards

Morro Bay voters chose two political newbies for City Council in November’s election and with the New Year just around the corner, there’s a chance for other citizens to get involved with City government by serving on one of the City’s citizen advisory boards.

According to a news release, the City is taking applications now through 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 for seats on advisory boards that are either vacant now or will have their terms coming due at the end of January.

According to the City Clerk’s announcement, board vacancies are coming up for the Citizen Oversight/Finance Committee; Planning Commission; Public Works Advisory Board; Recreation and Parks Commission; Visit SLO County Board of Directors; and Harbor Advisory Board.

The HAB is looking for people to represent recreational boating and a waterfront leaseholder, as well as an alternate to the seat reserved for the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization.

The oversight/finance committee is the board that has first oversight on the Water Recycling Facility (WRF) Project, the City’s \$160 million new sewer that’s wrapping up now after over 2 years of construction.

That committee also goes over the City’s annual budget and the audits of previous budgets.

The process involves the City Council reviewing all applications and then holding in-person interviews, tentatively schedule for Jan. 10 and are televised, and then choosing board members, who serve what are usually 4-year terms on the committees, though some positions may be shorter in duration if someone is replacing a board member that quit mid-term. Though one doesn’t have to attend the interviews, if you’re serious about serving, you should be there.

If interested, call the City Clerk’s Office at 805-772-6568 or email to: cityclerk@morrobayca.gov. Eligibility information and applications are available online at: www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody.

Man Falls from Hwy 101 Overpass

The Highway Patrol is investigating a homeless man who fell from an overpass onto Hwy 101 in San Luis Obispo and was seriously injured.

According to a news release from CHP spokesman, Ofc. Miguel Alvarez, CHP got multiple 9-1-1 calls at noon on Thursday, Nov. 17 of a pedestrian down in the No. 1 lane (fast lane) of Northbound Hwy 1 at Santa Rosa St., in SLO.

Arriving CHP officers determined that the man was a transient from the SLO area, who was on the Santa Rosa Street overpass and “had fallen on the US-101 Northbound,” Ofc. Alvarez said.

Paramedics responded to the scene to treat the man. He was transported to Sierra Vista Hospital with major injuries, but he apparently miraculously survived what has to be a 30-plus foot fall onto a concrete highway. He was also apparently not hit by any vehicles. CHP is investigating the incident.

Missing Los Osos Woman Found

The County Sheriff’s Department announced a positive outcome to its alert and solicitation of public help in finding a Los Osos woman who was reported missing by her family but turned up safe in Southern California.

On Nov. 22, Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release that they were looking for 22-year-old Ysabel E. Moriarty Puig of Los Osos, who was last seen Nov. 20 in Arroyo Grande at about 11 p.m. A family member reported her missing the next day.

Moriarty Puig was last seen wearing a hoodie sweat-shirt and leggings, carrying a Tommy Bahama designer backpack by. The Sheriff’s Office described the vehicle she was driving and said she may have been heading north to Santa Cruz or south to Santa Barbara. But she was much further south when contacted by authorities.

Cipolla, in a follow-up news release on Nov. 23 said, “Moriarty Puig was safely located in Perris, Calif. The Riverside County Sheriff’s Office made contact with Moriarty Puig after a citizen spotted her in that city.”

So what could have been a very serious matter had what appears to be a happy ending for Moriarty Puig and her Family in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

The Sheriff’s Department thanked everyone who phoned in tips including the one that led to her being found.



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cambria Appoints New General Manager

The Cambria Community Services District has a familiar face in a new role as acting general manager. District Engineer, Ray Dienzo, was appointed to the position after John Weigold, IV submitted his resignation last month. Weigold submitted his letter of resignation on November 13 after getting engaged with plans to relocate in Santa Barbara. He thanked the board and staff for the “knowledge and experience” he gained while working with them. The letter also said, in part, “I am very grateful for the time I have spent on our team and the professional relationships I’ve built. It’s been a pleasure working for you, and I hope our paths will cross again in the future. The CCSD Board of Directors unanimously voted in favor of Dienzo.

Poly Incoming Class Most Diverse in its History

Cal Poly 2022 incoming class is again the most diverse in the university’s history. Following the official fall census count, the university confirmed the incoming class includes the highest-ever percentages of women (51.44%); students from partner high schools (20%); first-generation students (16.6%); Asian students (14.3%); and Hispanic/Latino students (24.48%). The class is extremely high-performing, with the GPA of the incoming class of first-time, first-year students being the highest in Cal Poly’s history. For the last five years, each incoming class has been the university’s most diverse ever. “This tremendous progress is the result of intentional and strategic work to make Cal Poly more reflective of the diversity of our state and more accessible to under-represented students,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “This includes eliminating early-decision enrollment, creating more opportunities for students at Partner Schools to come to Cal Poly, starting and continuing to grow the Cal Poly Scholars program and, most recently, adjusting our College Based Fee to provide greater opportunity for first-generation and lower-income students. “However, while Cal Poly is growing more diverse and we are better reflecting California, we still have more work to do.”

Admission to Cal Poly continues to be highly competitive. For Fall 2022, the university received more than 68,000 undergraduate applications, a new record high and up 3.5% from 2021. Over 5,100 first-time first-year students joined Cal Poly in the fall — the second-largest incoming class of such students in campus history.

Work on LOVR Continues

County Public Works began planned asphalt pavement work on Los Osos Valley Road from Turri Road to the Los Osos Creek Bridge on Nov. 7 and expects to be complete by Dec. 9, weather permitting. Drivers should expect one-way traffic control and delays during major operations are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Los Osos Valley Road and South Bay Blvd. Motorists are advised to adjust their travel plans in consideration of the delays, especially during the morning commute. For questions about Los Osos Valley Road, call Jimmy Tomac, resident engineer at (805) 781-4476 or Evelyn Frederic, project manager at (805) 781-5399.

View Redistricting Hearing

The San Luis Obispo County Superior Court hearing on the pending redistricting case against the County of San Luis Obispo previously scheduled for November 4, 2022, was continued to December 2, at 10:30 am in Dept. 5. On December 2, newly assigned Judge Craig van Rooyen will hear evidence on several motions and set future dates for hearings on this case. Judge Rita Federman, who had been the assigned judge on this case, recently recused herself from the matter, which resulted in the assignment of Judge van Rooyen. The live hearing can be watched at <http://bit.ly/3A4lkLF>.

Changes to Human Relations Commission

The San Luis Obispo City Council adopted changes to the Human Relations Commission’s purpose statement and bylaws recently to align with the City’s Diversity

Equity and Inclusion Major City Goals and Taskforce recommendations. Now, the Human Relations Commission is charged with designating diversity, equity and inclusion as a standing priority. Additionally, with accessibility and representation as key tenants of ensuring diverse, equitable and inclusive engagement, the Commission updated their bylaws to allow up to two of the seven members to be residents and registered voters outside of the City, but those two members must still live within SLO County or Cal Poly Campus and be registered to vote in SLO County.

Flu Shot Pop-Ups

The Public Health Department is hosting more pop-up vaccine clinics across San Luis Obispo County to help protect residents from influenza and COVID-19. These events were originally scheduled to end in mid-November but have been extended to accommodate strong interest from residents. These will be the last pop-up clinics for 2022. • 12/2/2022 | San Luis Obispo – UCCE Auditorium (behind the Public Health Dept.) Friday December 2, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. 2156 Sierra Way, Suite C, in San Luis Obispo Updated COVID-19 boosters and flu shots for ages 5+, plus primary series for ages 5+ • 12/6/2022 | Cambria – Santa Rosa Catholic Church Tuesday, December 6, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. 1174 Main Street in Cambria Updated COVID-19 boosters and flu shots for ages 5+, plus primary series for ages 5+ High-dose flu vaccine will not be available at these events; adults age 65+ who wish to receive high-dose flu vaccine may schedule an appointment at a Public Health clinic by calling 805-781-5500. Flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines are also available from pharmacies countywide. To schedule an appointment, contact your local pharmacy or health care provider, or visit VaccineFinder.org or MyTurn.ca.gov. For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit slopublichealth.org/COVID19. Public health phone support is available at (805) 781-5500 Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Send your news, community and business briefs to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Be sure to include the who, what, why, where and when information along with a contact person.



Art in the Garden

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Community

Baywood Elementary Garden Area Upgrade



Participants in the Baywood School Garden upgrade include: (rear, left to right) Erin Sanderson, Baywood PTA member, Jessie Gade, Baywood teacher, Wendy McKeown, Los Osos Valley Garden Club president and (in front) Ella and Liam Sanderson, Baywood Elementary School students

Students at Baywood Elementary School have improvements to the garden area where they can learn about planting, harvesting and possibly eating their work. In the fall of 2021, the Los Osos Valley Garden Club (LOVGC), member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., partnered with Baywood Elementary School PTA member Erin Sanderson and Baywood teacher Jessie Gade. The goal was to enhance the Baywood Elementary School Garden environment. A list of improvements was created that included student seating (benches and tree stumps), potting areas



Tree stumps make a good outdoor setting for students.

(potting table and sink), and watering cans among other things. The joint effort was made possible by a National Garden Club Plant America Grant of close to \$1,000, and additional in-kind donations from LOVGC, Central Coast Landscape Products and Coastal Tree Experts, and the hard work of Baywood School volunteers and garden club members.

As an added bonus, the Baywood School was able to obtain another grant to fund a bilingual garden teacher from "One Cool Earth," a non-profit organization that unites communities and schools to create thriving school garden programs that grow successful students. Thanks to the Baywood School and LOVGC partnership, students will have an even more rewarding and enjoyable gardening experience.



The completed new sink and potting table.

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

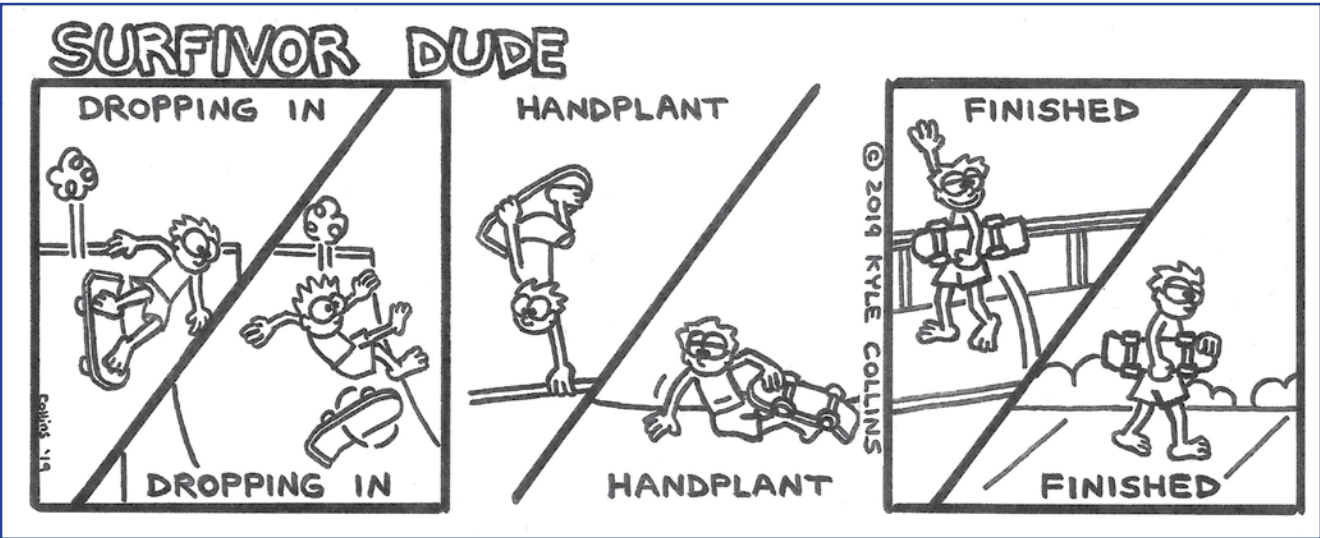
State Parks Kicks of Fundraising Campaign

The Central Coast State Parks Association kick started their year-end "Faces of Wonder" campaign. They pledge to match donations of up to \$5000. "With more than 1 million annual Central Coast State Park visitors, we are fully committed to preserving and supporting our local Parks and need your help," organizers said. "The Central Coast State Parks Association provides funding and support for ongoing access to educational programming in our State Parks." Donations support rotating museum exhibits, informative signage and panels, school field trips and transportation, and insightful tours in order to foster existing and future environmental stewards. To make a donation, go to <http://bit.ly/3VibH5m>. CCSPA also needs community input on the future of their Mind Walk lecture series, which they have been hosting with State Parks virtually since March 2020 due to COVID. These lectures generally happen twice monthly on Fridays at 1 p.m. Prior to COVID, Mind Walks were hosted in person for many years during the winter months. They are considering offering one program per month but alternating between in person and virtual. Answer a short survey about the Mind Walk program at <http://bit.ly/3Opi18E>. Whether you've attended a Virtual Mind Walk before or not, they want your input. Participants that complete the survey will receive a coupon code for the online store

Free Parking in Downtown SLO

Saving money is always a welcome during the holidays. The City of San Luis Obispo offers free parking in three structures over select days. • Every Sunday in December (Dec. 4, 11, 18 and 24) • Dec. 25-26 • New Year's Eve • New Year's Day "We encourage community members to visit downtown San Luis Obispo and shop locally for their holiday gifts, eat locally, and celebrate the holiday season together," said Gaven Hussey, parking program manager for the City

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 6





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Takin' Care of Business From page 4

of San Luis Obispo. “We are offering 12 days of free parking in our parking structures to help support downtown businesses every Sunday in December and on certain holidays.”

Free parking rates are only available in the three downtown structures located at 842 and 919 Palm Street and 871 Marsh Street on the specific dates as noted. Street parking rates will cost anywhere from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per hour depending on where someone parks.

County Boys and Girls Club Wins Award



Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast was recognized for high achievement at the annual Pacific Regional Leadership Conference of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The Sparkplug Award is presented annually at this conference to the Chief Executive Officer of a Pacific Regional Boys & Girls Club organization who has demonstrated exceptional determination, tenacity, spark, and leadership of their club. The recipient is usually relatively new to the CEO position of their Club, which has usually shown significant improvements in their operation and results since the CEO assumed leadership.

Presenting the award was John Miller, Senior VP of Affiliate Relations at Boys & Girls Clubs of America who works with over 1,000 Clubs around the country.

Receiving the award at the evening ceremony held at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach, Michael Boyer, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast recognized his whole team as the true recipients.

“I am truly humbled by this recognition,” Boyer said. “A leader can have a vision but it is just a dream unless the team also sees and embraces that vision. I am privileged to work with an amazing group of professionals. They show

grit, determination, and an unwavering belief in the potential of our members. This award is the result of the countless hours of hard work our team and board put in serving the youth of our community. I am continually impressed that our team rises to the challenge of meeting our ambitious goals, and then goes on to surpass them. I can’t wait to see what we can achieve in the future.”

Since Boyer’s hiring as CEO at the end of 2020, Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast has increased to running 20 Club sites in seven cities on the Central Coast. The organization partners with seven different school districts to offer after school programming at school-based sites and it completed a multi-million-dollar capital campaign to build and open a state-of-the-art Clubhouse in Paso Robles. It has increased service hours for local children by 42% and ended 2021 with the highest level of revenue in its 56-year history. It serves 1,500 households across two counties.

Golden State Water Donates to Operation Gobble

Golden State Water Company donated to the Kiwanis Club of Bay-Osos’ via its annual Operation Gobble outreach program to help feed local families in need.

Operation Gobble has been a Golden State Water tradition since 1990. Over the last 30 years, the program has funded more than 280,000 turkeys. This year, Operation Gobble is expected to feed over 10,000 families throughout its service areas.

“Golden State employees are pleased to support Operation Gobble,” said Ronald Moore, Golden State Water’s Operation Gobble project leader. “The need for this program has never been greater. We are thankful that we can partner with the Kiwanis Club of Bay-Osos so that families and friends can gather together to give thanks over a warm and nutritious meal.”

The Kiwanis Club contributed Golden State’s donation to the food pantry at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos and the San Luis Obispo County Food Bank

“The rising cost of living is making it harder for families to make ends meet,” said Al Strunk, chairman of the Kiwanis Club’s Spiritual Aims Committee. “Golden State Water’s donation will have a measurable impact on families wishing to celebrate their blessings by sharing a traditional Thanksgiving meal with family and friends.”

To learn more about Golden State Water’s community partnerships and philanthropic activities, readers can GSwater.com.

Los Osos Toy Drive Update

Jennifer Doyle, a realtor with C21 Hometown Realty, has added new drop-off sites for the toy drive she put to-

gether for the community of Los Osos. The goal is 200 toys.

All new unwrapped toys can be donated at any of the following locations: C21 Hometown, Central Coast Kenpo Karate, the Kiwanis Club, Ralph’s, Grocery Outlet, the post office, Celia’s Garden Café, Carlock’s Bakery, Starbucks, Edward Jones, Costa Gallery, or Baywood Community Center. They can also be picked up by calling Jennifer at 805-801-0215. Rotary members will also have a donation truck float in the annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 10.

If you or someone you know would like to benefit from the drive, let Jennifer know.

Toys will be handed out Dec. 23. Call the above number for more information.

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.

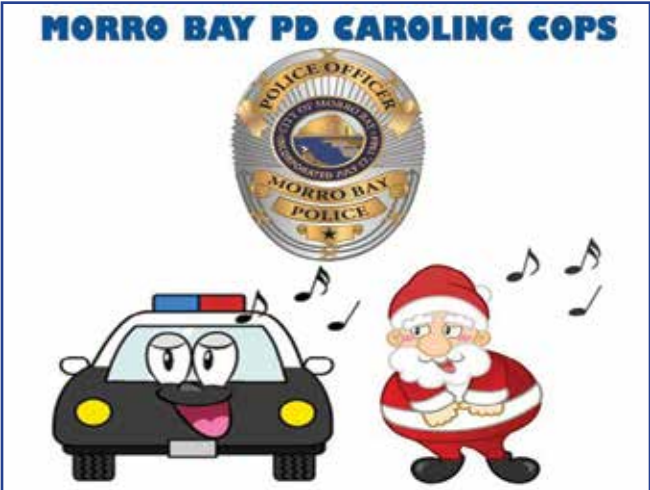
Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

For the 4th consecutive boat parade, the Knights of Columbus will sell hot links, hot dogs and drinks on at the event. The booth opens from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. in front of the Libertine Restaurant, directly across the street from Santa. Monies raised go to local food banks serving the Estero Bay Community.

The annual Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade takes place Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. The theme for 2022 is “Happy to Be Here.”

The route follows LOVR from Fairchild Way to Palisades Avenue. Bay Osos Kiwanis Club will have a pre-parade Pancake Breakfast in front of Bay Auto & Tire. Following the parade, the Needs & Wishes Fundraiser takes place the South Bay Community Center.



Santa and the Morro Bay Police Department are ready to spread some holiday cheer. Monday, December 5th, through Wednesday, December 7th, Caroling Cops will be making our way through the streets of Morro Bay to hand out stuffed toys to the kids, candy canes for all, and treats to Santa’s four-legged friends.

Route Details:

Monday, 5:30 to 9:00 pm, the route will be North Morro Bay starting at Island St. and heading north to the city limits, crossing over to the Beach Tract and then Cloisters.

Tuesday, 5:30 to 9:00 pm, the route will be Central Morro Bay starting at Sequoia St. and traveling south to include Radcliffe Ave. Then Main St. to Harbor St. neighborhood.

Wednesday, 5:30 to 9:00 pm, the route will be South



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Sunday - December 18, 3pm: Christmas Carols at St. Ben's
*A Los Osos tradition. Enjoy carols from the centuries and a lively sing-a-long of familiar carols with the St Benedict's Singers conducted by Scott Glysson and accompanied by Paul Woodring

Tuesday - December 20, 5:30 pm: Blue Christmas
If the holiday season brings up memories of the past, of loved ones lost, or if there are reasons why this year is not especially bright, please join us for a short simple service which acknowledges that Christmas can be a difficult time for many of us.

Christmas Eve - December 24
Carols & Communion around the Crèche - 4:30pm
Sung Festival Eucharist - at 8pm, carols at 7:45PM*
What could be better on Christmas Eve than a warm church decorated with candles, flowers and greenery and all your favorite carols in a joyful service of praise to God?

Sunday - December 25, 10:30 am: Christmas Communion
Quiet Communion Service with carols*
Followed by a light brunch



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
A Place For All People

News

Morro Bay/Morro Bay Hills from Morro Bay Blvd to South Bay Blvd and Quintana Rd.

Thank you to MB Neighborhood Watch and MBPD Volunteers for their continued support of this annual event



The Cayucos Land Conservancy invites you to their annual Holiday Walk on the Bluffs, this year on Saturday December 10 at 1 p.m. Join longtime CLC member and hike leader Mimi Kimball for stories of indigenous people of the central coast, fun facts about marine mammals and coastal geology. This is a perfect walk for all ages. Meet at the Fig Tree Parking area (You can find it on Google Maps.) on Highway 1, about 1.25 miles north of Cayucos proper (past the San Geronimo windmill, past the next hill, large pullout. Look for the CLC banner.

Bring a jacket, binoculars & a water bottle, wear good walking shoes and sunscreen. Hiking sticks are also a good idea.

The walk will take about an hour and a half. No RSVP required.



The Cal Poly Symphony begins its concert season with the Madrone String Quartet at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan

Center. The Madrone String Quartet join the symphony for a collaborative season opener that features side-by-side performances, captivating chamber music and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

Tickets to the event are \$15 and \$20 for the public and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). For more information, visit the Music Department's calendar website, or send an email to music@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-2406.

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for Adults, holds its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 7. Meetings are free and yearly membership is only \$65. Social and sports activities occur year round.



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

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

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

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

Reservations at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287. COVID vaccination and masks are recommended. Pictured are Kate Kravets as Claudia McFadden and the brunette is Laura Richie as Athena Sinclair.

The following are free events brought to you by the Los Osos Library 2075 Palisades Ave, 805-528-1862. All library programs follow current California and County of

Events Continued on page 9

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Recent state legislation has potentially impacted decommissioning and continued operations of Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Attend a webinar with topics including an overview of SB 846 and PG&E's responses to the legislation on December 14, 2022 at 6pm. To see the agenda and submit questions or comments in advance, visit www.diablocanyonpanel.org

Hosted by the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Police Blotter



- **Nov. 20:** Police responded at 8:30 p.m. to the area of Embarcadero and Marina where some sinister scalawag stole a truck. Logs indicated police have no leads in the case.
- **Nov. 20:** Police responded at 6:44 p.m. to the 3200 block of Main for a reported attempted burglary of an apartment, as the gang that couldn't shoot straight strikes again.
- **Nov. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 11:16 p.m. when all good children are in bed, at Main and Surf. A 64-year-old woman driver got nicked for suspicion of driving polluted.
- **Nov. 19:** Police responded at 2:31 a.m. to the 900 block of Morro to tow away an offensive vehicle whose owner hadn't given the DMV its annual pound of flesh in over six months.
- **Nov. 18:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to the 500 block of Fresno after the Department of Justice requested they take a report for a lost firearm.
- **Nov. 18:** Police responded at 3:23 p.m. to a business in the 800 block of Main after some porch pirate stole packages left outside the door by a deliveryman.
- **Nov. 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 11:21 p.m. at Main and Radcliff. A 33-year-old woman driver was tossed into the hoosegow for suspicion of driving schnookered.
- **Nov. 17:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Bay. Logs indicated a 40-year-old felonious

- female was arrested for suspicion of felony domestic violence, felony elder abuse and "damaging a wireless communications device to prevent help."
- **Nov. 16:** One of the town scofflaws was espied at 10 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana. The 36-year-old apparent Moonraker had one felony and two misdemeanor warrants, and the judge will no doubt be happy to see him.
 - **Nov. 16:** At 9:54 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana, police contacted one of their no doubt future hall of famers, 56, who had just one warrant. He was cited and released, soon to have two warrants.
 - **Nov. 16:** Someone found a bicycle in the 800 block of Quintana and gave it to police to ride around.
 - **Nov. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:20 p.m. at the Mobile Station in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the 76-year-old fellow driving was arrested for suspicion of DUI, for as Confucius never said, "Best not to stop for gas when driving gassed."
 - **Nov. 14:** The San Luis Coastal Unified School District asked police to go to the 400 block of Arcadia and cite a kid for truancy, in today's example of why we need SWAT.
 - **Nov. 14:** Police responded at 11:42 a.m. to Miner's Ace Hardware in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., after some apparently sticky-fingered Sleestak stole power tools.
 - **Nov. 13:** At 1:12 p.m. police contacted a suspicious woman in the 800 block of Embarcadero. The 38-year-old apparent rabble-rouser got nicked for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia and engaging in a bit of nincompoopery. It was her second recent run-in with Johnny Law, as on Nov. 9 at 2:11 a.m. in the 1600 block of Main she got nicked on a bench warrant.
 - **Nov. 13:** Police responded at 8:48 a.m. to Morro Rock for a reported crash-n-dash.
 - **Nov. 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:35 p.m. at Sicily and Tide. A 62-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of driving tight.
 - **Nov. 12:** Some scamboogah vandalized an innocent car in the 600 block of Quintana.
 - **Nov. 12:** Police responded at nearly midnight to the 1100 block of Main where presumably a woman said some apparent nodcock stole her purse.
 - **Nov. 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:04 a.m. in the 1400 block of Main. Logs indicated a 40-year-old schwasted fellow was tossed into the hoosegow for suspicion of driving stupid.
 - **Nov. 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10 p.m. in 1300 block of Main. A 36-year-old woman driver got nailed for allegedly driving hammered.
 - **Nov. 10:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd., at 1:15 a.m. The driver, 48, was taken to French Hospital for a bloodletting and then to County Jail to sleep it off.
 - **Nov. 9:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow, 29, at 8 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. Logs indicated he was arrested for suspicion of the unholy trinity — possessing drugs and drug paraphernalia, and being skunked on drugs.

- **Nov. 9:** Police contacted a fellow at 9:08 p.m. at Albertson's on Quintana. The 32-year-old squit had a bench warrant and was issued a new disappearance ticket and released.
- **Nov. 9:** Someone at Rite Aid on Quintana reported losing the license plate off his or her car and was sentenced to a life of misery at the DMV.
- **Nov. 9:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse on Napa Avenue and filed it with Child Protective Services.
- **Nov. 8:** Police contacted a 29-year-old suspicious fellow at 7 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. He had a bench warrant and was issued another citation and released to catch again another day.
- **Nov. 8:** At 1 p.m. police contacted another familiar fellow in the 600 block of Quintana. This model citizen, 30, had five bench warrants and was issued a future sixth and released.
- **Nov. 7:** At 2:40 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana, police cited and released a 40-year-old Rocket Man for alleged possession of illegal drugs.
- **Nov. 7:** Yet another wanted outlaw with a warrant was contacted at 9:47 a.m. in the 500 block of Monterey. He was cited and released, of course.

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

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

Events From page 7



• Paws to Read - Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's
at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School
Age.

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

...



There will be delicious homemade Christmas cookies and hot cocoa will be served after. Hear the heavenly voices and share the joy of the season, and join in singing. For more information, call 805-546-8337.

Show times are Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The show has a run time of 95 minutes with a ten-minute intermission. General admission tickets are \$20 plus processing fees and \$15 for students. Purchase tickets online at tickets.cuesta.edu or at the box office one hour before the performance. Check the web-page for age, visual, and emotional trigger warnings.

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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Obituaries

Betty Kauffman
1933 - 2022



Betty Joan Kauffman was born February 25, 1933, in Las Animas, Colorado, to Earl Oliver Kauffman and Margaret Magdeline Farie s (Doyl e) Kauffman. Her mother’s maternal family, the Doyles, were one of the original families who came over from the East Coast in covered wagons and settled Southeastern Colorado.

During the Dust Bowl Era, when Betty was a small girl, her parents moved from Colorado to California, for a better life, eventually making their home in Santa Maria, California. During that time her younger brother, Robert (Bob), was born. Their family was a close, loving, Christian family, and Betty had a wonderful childhood. She graduated from Santa Maria High in 1951, and remained a faithful attendee of Santa Maria’s Pioneer Picnic, where she would yearly reconnect with her high school friends, until COVID hit.

When she was 16, her younger sister, Valerie, was born. Despite their age difference, Betty and Valerie had a close relationship that continued throughout their lifetime. Betty attended San Jose State University, did well in school, and was very involved with her sorority. She had many friends, several of whom she had lifelong friendships with. After she graduated, she made the Bay Area her home.

Betty taught first and second grade students at Ladera School, in Ladera, CA, for many years, and always remained a teacher in her life — loving to show her great nieces and nephews interesting things in nature, and sharing different cultures she had visited with them. She was very involved in the local theater in the Bay Area, and spent her spare time and weekends performing or skiing, which she also enjoyed, and was a member of the ski club.

Betty went to work at Stanford Children’s Hospital, which she loved, and where she remained until she retired. In 1995, Betty decided to move down to the Central Coast to be closer to her mom, sister, and brother, and

their families. The Morro Bay/Los Osos area was a great fit for her, with all of its nature trails, and flora and fauna; she adored all plants and animals. Betty belonged to many organizations: the Women’s Connection, Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, League of Women Voters, and American Assoc. of University Women — as well as groups centered around her interests: jazz, antiques, dancing, Greek culture, and various Bible study groups.

She genuinely cared about everyone she met, and made friends on all of her adventures. She traveled all over the world: to Europe, Australia, Ireland, Mexico (Mazatlan was her favorite), with one of her favorite trips being hiking in the Swiss Alps. She zip lined in Costa Rica at the age of 80! Anyone who knew Betty, knew she was full of fun and full of life. When her sister Valerie passed away of cancer in 2008, Betty took over as grandmother for Valerie’s kids and grandkids, loving them as her own. Of all of her loves, her family and friends and her Lord Jesus Christ were the closest to her heart. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her!

Karen Elizabeth Eskelin
1942 - 2022





Karen Eskelin left her little piece of heaven on earth to fly free with her earlier departed family, friends, and the hundreds of beloved animals she cared so deeply for on November 15, after several years of physical pain.

During her 30 years in Los Osos, she made many friends and no one was a stranger to her compassion and concern. She was an artistic spirit with an eye for beauty and kind acts, a whimsical sense of humor, and loved nature and all creatures.

May she fly like a song on the wind and remind us to be kind and generous. Special thanks to her amazing caregivers: Jana, Lorraine, Katie, Kailey, Hermila, and Sunny.

Community
Pearl Harbor Artifact
Coming to Veterans
Memorial Museum

RSVP Required
SCAN to learn
more and RSVP




REMEMBERING
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Wednesday, December 7th, 2022
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
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WWW.VETMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS

On the eve of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum will unveil its newly revised WWII Pearl Harbor display with a noteworthy addition to their artifact collection, a piece of the historic USS Arizona, received from the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii.

The Veterans Museum has prepared a 45-minute presentation to share the history through photos and recorded interviews with historians and veterans about the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, the sinking of the USS Arizona and the significance of this artifact. “Receiving a piece of the USS Arizona to display in our museum, is really an honor,”said Bart Topham, Museum president and director. “This small, but poignant artifact from the sunken vessel symbolizes a reminder to all Americans of the lives lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, the event which led the United States to declare war on Japan and enter World War II.”


The USS Arizona still sits where it first sank in Pearl Harbor after being attacked by the Japanese, forty feet below the ocean’s surface, serving as both a memorial and the final resting place for the 1,177 Navy and Marine servicemembers entombed within the ship’s hull. Included in the Veterans Museum display are photos and items honoring veterans from the Pearl Harbor attack and WWII. The artifact from the USS Arizona will now remain on

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We will be hosting the "caroling" group at church on Saturday, December 3rd at 6 p.m. The program lasts 30 minutes, and is **free** and **open to the public!!** After the program, we will be having some delicious homemade Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, etc.



10

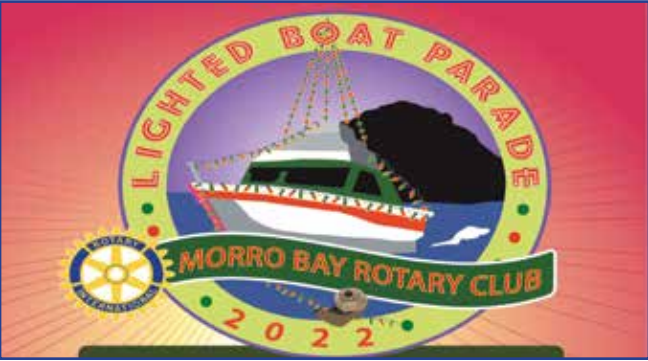
December 1, 2022 - December 14, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Community

permanent display in the Veterans Museum, located in San Luis Obispo.

This history presentation and unveiling takes place Wednesday, December 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., with doors open at 4:30 for Museum tours at 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, suite 102. Onsite parking and admission is free, but an RSVP by December 5th required to attend due very limited seating available. RSVP at <https://form.jotform.com/223061190688154>. Make sure your email and the number in your party are included. For more information about the event, send an email ccvmm.programs@gmail.com.

Beyond their permanent displays open to the public, Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum provides volunteer opportunities and history internships to support the Museum's many programs and services. These include the Veterans History Project, with almost 600 interviews recorded with Central Coast veterans, educational outreach with schools and clubs, a speaker series, a virtual museum program, and a monthly "Central Coast Veteran Spotlight" series. The Veterans Museum also hosts two annual events for veterans and community members in San Luis Obispo on Veterans Day (November) and Memorial Day (May), with new temporary exhibits at each event. Get involved with the Veterans Museum as a volunteer, 2023 member or business sponsor, make a tax-deductible donation, or donate historical items and photos to their collection. Learn more at www.vetmuseum.org.



Congalton Signs New Radio Deal



KVEC radio host Dave Congalton will continue his long-running afternoon talk show for at least another five years. Congalton recently announced on his show that he had signed a new Letter of Agreement with American General Media in early November. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed, but Congalton told listeners that he "got everything I asked for."

Starting on Tuesday, January 3, the popular show also known as "Hometown Radio," will cut back to three hours and run weekday afternoons from 3:05 to 6 p.m. KVEC plans to air "Best of Dave" segments during the 6 p.m. hour. Craig Hill will continue to serve as producer. Congalton said he started thinking about cutting back last August. "I've been doing the four hour format for 20 years and suddenly I started feeling less energy," Congalton told his listeners. "I thought about it a lot during my vacation in September. It came down to this: keep doing the four hour show and maybe do another two years, or cut back a bit

and go for five. I don't want to retire, so it was a pretty easy choice."

San Luis Obispo attorney Stew Jenkins represented Congalton in the American General Media negotiations. The veteran broadcaster marks his 31st anniversary with KVEC on January 6, 2023 with special guest Jimmy Paulding, new District 4 county supervisor.

Cambria Rotary Gives to Those in Need



The Rotary Club of Cambria recently presented a check for \$1,000 to help the non-profit Compass Zambia with its efforts to improve the lives of people through education.

Members of the Rotary Club of Cambria recently donated to help people in need in both Africa and here at home in San Luis Obispo County.

During a recent meeting, the Club heard a presentation by Paula Van Zyl, of the non-profit Compass Zambia. She has dedicated her life to help people in need. Paula moved to Africa in 2003 and then Mwandu Village in 2005. They have built 199 homes for those most in need in the village with the help of volunteers.

In 2007, the organization turned their attention to education. With the help of donors, they have sponsored more than 35 students through college, and many now have good paying jobs and a chance at a good future.

In 2017 they started working on a community school and started classes in 2019. There are now more than 300 students from pre-school through 4th grade, but their work is not done. Work is being done to build an additional building for 5th grade students.

Cambria Rotary was proud to present Paula with a check for \$1,000 to help Compass Zambia reach its goals.

The Club also donated \$500 to the SLO Food Bank with a check to help families and individuals during this holiday season following a presentation by Branna Still.

Still shared with the Club that 26 percent of households in SLO County do not earn enough to afford an essential cost of living and 1 in 6 children may experience food insecurity in the US this year. The SLO Food Bank serves over 31,000 individuals each month, 28% are children and 25% are seniors.

Compass Zambia is a non-profit organization de-

Cambria Rotary Continued on page 12

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Cambria Film Festival Passes on Sale



Actors Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka star in "Our (Almost Completely True) Story," which will play at the February 10 Cambria Film Festival Welcome party and screening.

The Cambria Film Festival returns for its sixth year February 8-12, 2023, bringing independent films from around the world to Cambria — all with a focus on romance, romantic comedies, and the complexities of love. Passes are now on sale at CambriaFilmFestival.com. This year's festival includes more than 60 films, three parties, and multiple filmmaker talks.

- Programming highlights include:**
- Opening Preview Reception and Film on February 8 featuring *Fire of Love* – a stunning documentary that has been wowing film festival audiences around the globe since its premiere at Sundance earlier this year.
 - Filmmaker Welcome Reception and Film on February 10 featuring *Our (Almost Completely True) Story*—a rom-com inspired by the real-life romance between actors Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka. Both actors will be in attendance.
 - More than 50 independent short and feature films divided into 15 competition programs—selected from nearly 400 films submitted from filmmakers in 52 different countries.
 - An annual awards night gala on February 12 featuring music, food, drink, clips of winning films—and the filmmakers themselves.
 - Plus additional screenings of films not in competition at both Moonstone Cellars club members lounge and at the Cambria Memorial Veterans Hall, local film premieres and

Cambria Rotary

From page 11
signed to support its sister organization Home for Aids Orphans located in Mwandia, Zambia. Their goal is to help the community by improving the lives of those who live there through various projects such as building homes for families who have been displaced by the ravages of aids, community school development, sponsoring students to advance their education, and helping with various projects that arise within the village.





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the opportunity to stream competition shorts after the live festival.

The Cambria Film Festival celebrates stories of love that connect us.

“In our first five years, we have showcased nearly 300 films from over four dozen countries,” says Dennis Frahm, director, Cambria Film Festival. “We have featured independent, student, and veteran filmmakers — and welcomed scores of filmmakers to spend time with film lovers in our small town. The Festival is a film experience that bonds us through a world of stories.”

The three Festival Pass options currently on sale at Early Bird prices are:

- All Access Festival Pass for \$119, regular price \$149. Offers access to all films, all Gala night events and parties, all filmmaker talks and a complimentary pass to the post-festival encore streaming of the shorts program.
- Film Pass for \$59, regular price \$79. Offers access to all films and talks, as well a complimentary virtual pass, but does not include the three Gala night events.
- Virtual Pass for \$25. Offers streaming access to all competition shorts and other selected programming from February 12 - 20.

Full scheduling and individual screening tickets will become available in early December. This season, most films will be shown in the newly refurbished Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main Street, Cambria, CA. Updates include a new sound system, larger screen, improved lighting, and an additional screening room.

At its 2023 close, the Festival will announce the following awards:

- The Nancy Green Founders Award for the Best of the Fest
- Best Feature Film
- Best Short Film
- Best Documentary
- Best Animated Film
- Audience Awards for Favorite Feature and Favorite Short

Festival winners receive cash awards. The Festival also provides attending filmmakers a complimentary two-night

hotel stay in Cambria or San Simeon.

For more information about the Festival, visit www.CambriaFilmFestival.com.

Letter To The Editor

Give Credit to the WRF



I read with dismay the front-page article by Neil Farrell in the last issue of the Estero Bay News about the City's new treatment plant. Mr. Farrell has been a critic of the facility from the beginning. He takes glee in writing about the problems encountered in building it. I doubt it is legitimate journalism to base an article on “a news tip from a reader” without verifying it. Especially when the claims made by the unnamed reader are disputed by the City's Public Works Director. Start-up problems were anticipated, and there is a planned three-month testing period to identify and resolve them.

And shame on the editors for burying the good news about the plant on p. 7 (City getting a \$1.2 million grant for the injection wells). In awarding the grant, the State Water Board said the Morro Bay project received the highest score and was awarded the largest grant 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.”

WRF critics love to point out that the plant itself will cost more than originally planned. Yes, it will. However, the overall project cost (the plant plus debt service) is less than anticipated. Citizens will not experience an increase in the

November 25-
December 18

Suite Surrender

By Michael McKeever Directed by Kelli M. Poward

Comedic chaos ensues when two feuding divas are booked into the same hotel suite!

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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

RV Camping in Your Own ‘Backyard’: El Chorro Campground

By Debbie Black

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



View of Cerro Romauldo from El Chorro campground

Please don’t make our mistake of underestimating this campground. For decades, we drove right past El Chorro Regional Park Campground (across Hwy1 from Cuesta College) with little interest in camping there. Speeding by at 65 mph (okay, maybe more like 75), all we saw was a dry, open campground that looked rather unappealing to us.

\$41/month surcharge on their water/sewer bills to pay for it, thanks to the low-interest loans and grants that the City has received.

I hope to see more balanced and objective reporting from the Estero Bay News in the future.

Marlys McPherson
Morro Bay

Then my visiting sister and her husband invited us to join them camping at El Chorro. We reluctantly agreed. Since then, we’ve camped at El Chorro more times than I can count—at least three times per year (even Christmas)—which is in keeping with our philosophy that camping close to home has its advantages. It takes us a whopping fifteen minutes to drive from our house in Cayucos to our campsite.

El Chorro truly surprised us. Besides the exposed, primitive campsites we saw from the highway (Bishop Loop) there are two more loops of campsites hidden from view—Chumash and Romauldo Loops. Both have full hookups, trees and privacy. Romauldo is the most quiet, and sits at the back of the campground. Chumash has a small open meadow surrounded by nice campsites with fabulous views of the Morros.

All the campsites are a good size. The asphalt pads (gravel in Bishop) are level to moderately sloped. If you need a pull-thru site, there are only two with hookups (Romauldo #9 and #13). The other pull-thru sites (no hookups) are in Bishop Loop. Maximum RV length is 40’ but not all sites can accommodate that length so double-check your site when making reservations. Maximum people/cars per site is the usual 8 and 2, respectively. All sites have a picnic table and firepit/grill. You can usually get firewood from the camp hosts. One restroom serves the entire camp with clean bathrooms and nice hot showers (\$1 in quarters). No dump station but you can dump at Morro Bay State Park (\$10 credit card only).

A semi-secret and pretty memorial garden sits behind Romauldo Loop. A short trail (near campsite Chumash #13) takes you to a lovely bridge crossing the creek to the day-use, dog park, Botanical Garden, playground, ball fields and hiking trails. Cell reception in camp is generally 2 bars on Verizon.

This campground is perfect for: golfers (there’s a connecting path to Dairy Creek Golf Course); hikers (lots of places to hike); kids (awesome playground and rock climbing structure); dog lovers (El Chorro Dog Park is the prettiest I’ve ever visited and our dog’s favorite); nature lovers (SLO Botanical Garden is right there!); thrill seekers (Gladiator Paint Ball is across the highway); and lastly, those who just want to relax, read and snooze. For foodies: take a break from camp food and treat yourself to the full bar, delicious menu, live music and beautiful setting at The Siren El Chorro (at the Dairy Creek clubhouse).

The campground tends to be fairly quiet, even when full. Some evenings you might hear the crack of a bat and cheering from the softball fields during adult softball season, or muted gunfire and troop drills at Camp San Luis across the highway. Occasionally, you can faintly hear the public shooting range if the breeze is blowing from the west. There’s always road noise in Bishop Loop from highway traffic on that concrete section of pavement, like the



Across the bridge and back up to camp

clackity-clack of a steam train. For reservations, go to www.slocountyparks.com or call SLO County Parks at 805-781-5930, Option 4. You can make reservations two days prior or up to a year in advance. New 2023 fees per night: Primitive sites \$25-\$31; Hookup sites \$40-\$45; Dog fee \$3.50; Extra car \$13; Reservation fee \$10. I consider these fees very reasonable for such a lovely campground with so much to offer (yes, I’m now El Chorro’s biggest fan). Kudos to County Parks for providing this beautiful, well-maintained regional park right in our own backyard.

And currently through January 8, your family (and dog) can experience Nature Nights at the Botanical Gardens—a magical outdoor light and art exhibition. Go to www.slobg.org for times and tickets.

Bringing El Chorro to your attention is a bit like sharing a list of good babysitters. But I’m lucky to live on the Central Coast where there’s an abundance of wonderful campgrounds to share. So, I won’t be selfish. And hopefully I’ll see you in camp!

For the extended article with more info on El Chorro Campground (including my rating of individual campsites), please go to www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard. Next up: Local Campgrounds for Family Reunions

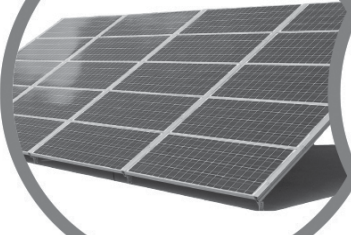
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December 1 - 31

Tree Lighting
December 9

Annual Holiday Parade
December 10



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Community

Legendary From page 1

slipped away quietly, which is probably apt for a man who never sought the spotlight for himself.

The news came to this reporter from a City employee, Recreation Supervisor Kirk Carmichael. He and I had been chatting about a recent reunion celebration the City held for the Junior Lifeguards Program, which Carmichael said he and another retired Harbor Patrolman, Jim Kroll, began some 30-years ago.

Carmichael emailed the following notice, culled from the City Manager Scott Collins' most recent newsletter and headlined, "Passing of a Morro Bay Legend."

"Lastly and most importantly," Collins, who came to Morro Bay just a few years ago and never worked with Rodgers, wrote, "we would like to remember and honor former Morro Bay Chief Harbor Patrol Officer Dick Rodgers, who recently passed away.

"Dick was a tremendous waterman, expert boat operator, intuitive emergency responder, and courageous leader. Before working for the City, Dick worked in the commercial boat-building industry in Morro Bay, in addition to tending hard-hat commercial abalone divers in the heyday of that industry.

"In the mid 1970s, Dick took a job with the City of Morro Bay back when the Harbor Patrol was a division of Public Works, both occupying the same small building that still houses the Harbor Department today."

Collins makes note of the heroism displayed regularly by Rodgers, as well as all Harbor Patrol Officers, who come to the rescue of those in need of assistance — from swimmers and surfers that get caught in riptides, to boaters whose vessels break down at the harbor mouth.

"Dick worked during some of the most historical incidents the Harbor Patrol faced," Collins wrote, "including the devastating 1988 South T-Pier Fire, and the 1983 capsizing of the San Mateo whale watching vessel by 20-foot breaking waves in the harbor entrance with 23 school children and nine adults aboard. All were successfully rescued due to the heroics of Dick, his fellow officers, and the Coast Guard."

Among those on duty that day was former Harbor Patrol Officer Jerry Mendez. They were aided by numerous citizens at the little North Jetty Beach where they rushed the rescued victims, who waded into the water to help offload the school kids and the other victims.

In the end, the only fatality that day was the Captain of the San Mateo, who suffered a heart attack during what was to become known as "The San Mateo Incident," which helped solidify the harbor bar's reputation as among the most treacherous on the West Coast.

This reporter interviewed Rodgers in October 1993 for the fifth Anniversary of the 1988 South T-pier Fire, which killed two people and severely damaged the South T-pier, and burned some 13 boats that were tied to the pier that morning. It was an electrical short that sparked the most spectacular blaze in town history.

True to his humbleness, Rodgers said he got called in early that morning and remembered driving down Hwy 1 looking at a huge plume of black smoke rising high into the air, and thinking — to paraphrase — 'What boat is big enough to cause a fire that huge?'

Dick Rodgers — along with Kroll — was the backbone of a harbor department that had service as its first priority and earned a reputation up and down the West Coast of being among the best, most helpful harbor patrols to the boating public. But for Rodgers, who apparently never took a vacation or a sick day, it all came to a stop in lightning fashion.

"In 1995," Collins wrote, "Dick had a stroke and was unable to return to work, and for many years thereafter could be seen hiking across town to and from his North Morro Bay home with a backpack full of stones to rehabilitate himself physically."

The Stroke left him partially paralyzed on half of his body and affected his speech. Soon after the stroke, he got a Doberman puppy and for years thereafter he was seen daily walking that dog on a leash all the way into town where he would help his late-wife Pat at her business, Gold Tree Jewelers. (As the dog grew up, people would joke that the dog was taking Dick for a walk.)

Long-time resident Nancy Bast, who used to have the Wash-n-Fold Laundromat on Dunes Street, sent Estero Bay News a memory of Rodgers. "What a shock it was to

learn of Dick's stroke, it just wasn't fair that a human being of Dick's worth, and seemingly healthy, should suffer such incapacitation!

"But he didn't let the stroke keep him down — once back on his feet, he walked to town every day with his backpack on, determined to get his mobility back, always greeting people with a smile and good humor, practicing talking to people to re-train his speech.

"What we didn't know is how determined to recover his strength and endurance he was by filling his backpack with rocks!"

Rodgers often stopped by the Laundromat to chat. "Often times on his rounds walking in town, he would stop by my Laundromat to haltingly 'chat,' never in embarrassment, always with humility."

She added, "As far as Dick's work in the harbor, it's doubtful there will ever be anyone to match his care, humanity and management of the harbor."

Soon-to-be retiring Harbor Director Eric Endersby, who worked under Rodgers as a reserve officer and ultimately became his replacement as Chief, said of his old boss, "Dick definitely came from the mold 'When ships were made of wood and men were made of steel.'

"A true gentleman and courageous leader, Dick spoke more with his actions than his words, whether it was helping save 23 school children in the infamous San Mateo capsizing incident, leading his Harbor Patrol team by example and donning his trademark blue coveralls fixing a broken deck board, or hiking relentlessly back and forth across town after his stroke with a backpack full of stones to regain his strength."

His skill piloting a boat was unmatched. "Dick was a tremendous waterman and boat operator," Endersby said, "and involved in countless boat and surf rescues before the advent of GPS navigation and cell phones — when things often had to get done by intuition and the seat of your pants. If you were in trouble on the ocean, you wanted Dick on the other end of your radio."

He was a man who made you happy to go to work. "I am very proud to have served under Dick Rodgers while I

was a Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer," Endersby said, "and forever humbled to have been chosen to replace him some 25-years ago."

This reporter met Rodgers in 1992, when I became a reporter for The Sun Bulletin and charged with filling a section front of the newspaper with "waterfront news."

But my favorite memory of Dick Rodgers wasn't connected to the water at all. Around 1993 or '94, a trio of the Oakland Raiders came to town — including Hall of Fame player and then-coach Willie Brown — to play a charity softball game against the police department.

I was leaning against the backstop taking photos when Dick Rodgers came up to bat wearing a uniform of blue jeans and a white T-shirt with a big stogie cigar in his mouth. He took the cigar, tossed it onto the dirt near where I was standing and got into the batters box.

First pitch, he rips one between the outfielders that rolled to the fence. Dick flew around the bases like a man on fire, sliding into home plate in a huge cloud of dust — SAFE! — an inside-the-park home run.

As the crowd cheered, Dick got up, casually walked over and picked up the still lit stogie, stuck it back in his mouth and walked back to the dugout, as if he did that everyday.

The crowd went crazy, and if I recall correctly, I noted that incredible play in the story in the paper's next issue.

I apologize that this tribute to a local legend doesn't contain the normal obituary information about Dick, as I was unable to find any mention of his passing online and have lost touch with his son Larry.

Endersby summed up his service with the City: "Dick started with the City on Oct. 1, 1973, and became Chief Harbor Patrol Officer on July 8, 1986. He had a stroke in 1995, and used 2-years of sick and vacation time while recovering, but was never able to return to work. He separated from the City on disability retirement on June 10, 1997."

He shares the sentiments of many. "Godspeed and rest in peace, Dick; your actions and exploits will go unmatched, and we will miss you."

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Community

Holiday Events From page 1

The pine tree that the City planted specifically for this celebration died and had to be cut down. It is the second, official City holiday tree that has died and been cut down.

The original pine tree was 50-plus years old and stood about 40-feet tall. This newer one was about 15-years old and about 15-feet tall. This year, the City is rigging up an artificial tree for the occasion using the park's flagpole.

The Annual "Breakfast with Santa" is moving to a new location this year and is set for 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Ver's Hall, 209 Surf St.

Tickets are \$10 a person and you'll be treated to a pancake breakfast with a hot cocoa bar cooked up by the Kiwanis Club and a trip through The Elf Workshop with lots of fun activities — crafts and gift making, cookie decorating, face painting, and a mini gingerbread house station.

Santa Claus will also be on hand for photos with the kids.

You must pre-register for the event, see: https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/morrobay/home?online-SiteId=0&from_original_cui=true. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 3.

And the local Women for Fisheries and Commercial Fishing Organization will be erecting their crab pot Christmas Trees on the Embarcadero.

The Rotary Club of Morro Bay is putting on the Annual Lighted Boat Parade starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in Morro Bay Harbor.

There will be a free concert by the Morro Bay White Caps Band on the South T-pier starting at 5:30 and there will be coffee, hot chocolate and other goodies for sale as a Rotary Club fundraiser.

Also, the Rotary's Santa's House featuring Santa Claus himself will be set up at the Giant Chessboard Park on the Embarcadero starting Friday, Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m. Bring your little ones to sit for photos with Santa.

Subsequent days are: Dec. 3, 4:30-7; Dec. 4 noon-4 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10 from 4:40-7:30 p.m.; Sunday Dec. 11 from noon-4 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, Dec. 16-17 4:30-7 p.m.; and Sunday Dec. 18, noon-4.

The Lighted Boat Parade is among the most popular events all year in Morro Bay and if Readers are planning to attend, get there early to find a good viewing spot. Most anywhere on the Embarcadero is a good spot as the boats glide up and down the harbor. Bring a chair to sit on and dress warmly, as it's liable to get cold. Rain cancels.

Entry applications are available online at: www.morrobayrotary.org or email to: rotaryfromtheheart@gmail.com.

Call the Harbor Office at 805-772-6254 for information or call Nancy at 805-235-3733.

As a note of caution, the Lighted Boat Parade could be postponed one week, if it rains that day. A decision will be made on whether to proceed or postpone by the harbor director on Saturday.

If that happens, and it has in the past, the parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 — weather permitting.

As of Monday, the National Weather Service forecast called for a 40% chance of rain Saturday night (Dec. 1), with low temperatures in the upper 30s to mid-40s. So readers should at least count on it being a chilly night.

Los Osos

Los Osos has several fun Christmas events in December sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

From Dec. 1-25 is the "Light Up Los Osos Business and Home Decorating Contest." Decorate your Los Osos/Baywood Park home or business (both?) with the theme, "Happy to be Here." (Think of the song, "A Few of My Favorite Things" from The Sound of Music for inspiration.)

The contest begins Dec. 1 and once you sign up, your home or business will be added to the contest map so that the community can drive by and enjoy what you've created. Judging will take place on Christmas Eve and winners will be announced the week after Christmas. To sign up online see: lobpchamber.org/event/2022-light-up-los-osos.

On Friday, Dec. 9 from 4:30-8 p.m. is the Community Tree Lighting, at the Red Barn at the Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave. There will be caroling and snacks, as they decorate the Christmas Tree. Bring the whole family and maybe an ornament to put on the tree, too.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 10 starting at 10 a.m. is the 34th Annual Christmas Parade, with this year's theme "Happy to be Here."

Bring a chair to sit on as local organizations, businesses and agencies parade down Los Osos Valley Road from Fairchild Way to Palisades Avenue.

The Bay-Osos Kiwanis Club will have a pre-parade pancake breakfast in front of Bay Auto & Tire (across from Grocery Outlet).

If readers want to enter the parade, go to: lobpchamber.org/event/2022-happy-to-be-here-christmas-parade for an application. There are several categories: musical, equestrian (bring a pooper scooper); vehicles; walking; children; bicycling; and other. The entry fee is \$25.

After the parade is the Annual Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter Fundraiser at the Community Center on Palisades.

Shop for great toys and enjoy the show with all proceeds going to support the homeless shelter in San Luis Obispo.


This family event is designed to bring the community together. Activities include crafts, cookie decorating and a Santa movie on the big screen. Bring a toy for a child in need.

And from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at the South Bay Community Center is the Holiday Fun Fair and Toy Drive, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The Rotary Club of Los Osos and People Helping People.

The Holiday Fun Fair is looking for more booth participants and sponsors.

Holiday Events Continued on page 16


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December 1, 2022 - December 14, 2022 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 15

Cayucos

The Cayucos Chamber of Commerce is bringing back its Christmas celebrations including a Downtown Open House, Santa’s House and a tree lighting.

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. is the Christmas Tree Lighting at the corner of D Street and Ocean Avenue. The event features carolers from the Cayucos Community Church and Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving with a fire department escort. Children are invited to visit with Santa.

Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. is the annual guided walk on the Estero Bluffs Trail. Meet at the fig tree off Hwy 1 about 1.5 miles north of town on Hwy 1.

Also on Dec. 10 from 5-8 p.m. is the Christmas in Cayucos Open House with businesses on Ocean Avenue Downtown open for evening shopping, treats and merriment. Activities include shopping, visits with Santa at Santa’s House free horse-drawn carriage and wagon rides, and a crafts workshop for the kids.

Sponsors include Dale Kaiser Real Estate, Schooners Restaurant, SIM Real Estate, Highway 1 Vacation Rentals, Shoreline Inn, Mechanics Bank and Cayucos Pharmacy.

Cambria

The Cambria Christmas Market returns. Shop with artisan vendors, take photos with Santa, enjoy live entertainment, and taste traditional German food and drink at this charming outdoor festival with over 2 million Christmas lights!

Gates open at 5 p.m. and close at 8:30pm. Allow 2-3 hours to view the Market and Lights. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25 and can be purchased at eventbrite.com under Cambria Christmas Market. Tickets are \$10 more at the door. Children under 5 are free. For more information, go to CambriaChristmasMarket.com.

The Cambria Chamber of Commerce’s Hospitality Night takes place Monday, December 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

They are having Decorating Contest. - The contest starts on Nov 25th (Black Friday) and runs through Hospitality Night in the case of the Popular Votes. Bev Prayer, the Town Crier, will announce the event and the judged winners at the chamber building.

Santa and hot dogs at the Chamber offices in the West Village, and Santa will also be at the Historical Society. The fun doesn’t end there, 4-H will be at the Pacific Premier Bank parking lot with animals and a training exhibition, and there will be a dog parade in the east village as well. Dogs and their humans should meet at Pacific Premier Bank after 4 p.m. The procession is in the East Village at 4:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged.

Go to www.cambriachamber.org, for all the details or contact the chamber at 805.927.3624.

MBHS Boosters Salute Winter Athletes

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay High School Athletic Boosters Club has named its MBHS Athletes of the Month for December, as the school’s athletics wind down Fall 2022 play and new sports open play for the winter season.

Booster’s Club President, Ken Hotaling said, “As the school transitions into the new athletic season, the MBHS Athletic Boosters would like to honor students that participate in “Winter” sports. This month’s winners are Jessica Chavez of the Girls Soccer team; and Christopher Carreno Diaz and Josh Failia of the Boys’ Basketball squad.”

Girls Soccer



Varsity Girls’ Soccer coach, Kim Wishon, said, “Jessica Chavez was nominated by her team as captain to lead this year’s girls varsity pirate soccer team. As a senior she is already signed to play in college at the University of Redlands in Southern California. “Last year she was awarded MVP, Platinum Pirate and was one of the Top 3 goal scorers on the team.”

Coach Wishon said Chavez is a rock on defense. “Jessica is a solid and steady presence in our defensive line,” Coach Wishon said. “Her style of play is steady, consistent and raises the bar for her teammates. She puts in 110-percent effort and is a true team player.”

Her sportsmanship is at a high level. “She is a positive, quiet leader,” Coach Wishon said, “respects her coaches, teammates, opponents and officials. She plays fair and has the grit and determination to win. We look forward to another great season with Jessica!”

The Girls Soccer season starts Dec. 2-3 at the Back

Bay Invitational in Newport Beach. The girls then travel to Bakersfield to compete in the prestigious, Garces Tournament, Dec. 9-10 and with a home opener Dec. 13 hosting Templeton. JVs start at 4:30 p.m. and Varsity at 6.

They start Ocean League play Jan. 3 hosting Mission Prep.

Boys Basketball

First year boys’ basketball coach, Kevin Russell, praised his two team leaders and Athletes of the Month — Christopher Carreno Diaz and Josh Failia.

“Josh has been the glue holding our ship together,” Coach Russell said. “He is our student manager who has been working hard behind the scenes.”

“Chris demonstrates selflessness on a daily basis and has contagious positive energy.”

The Boys’ Team will be hosting the Harding Invitational Tournament this week, Dec. 1-3 with teams from SLO County and the Central Valley competing in the annual holiday tournament.

The Pirates will start League play Jan. 3 at Paso Robles and then travel to Santa Maria on Jan. 6 before their home league opener on Jan. 9 against Orcutt Academy. JV game tips off at 5 p.m. and Varsity at 6:30.

Cross Country Finishes Third in Ocean League

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High School’s Cross Country Teams had strong finishes at the CIF Central Section Finals Meet held Nov. 17 at Woodward Park in Clovis and one of the Lady Pirates took home some hardware.

Coach Chuck Ogle said the road to CIF was a tough one this year.

On Nov. 10, “Both varsity squads finished third at the Ocean League Finals,” Coach Ogle said, “it was a real showdown this year with nine teams in the league.” The Ocean League Finals were held at Cuesta College’s Fairbanks Course.

On the Boys’ Team, junior Otis Kelly led the charge for the Pirates, making a strong challenge to win the race but finishing second in 17-minutes 48-seconds and earning First Team All-League honors.

Senior Michael Carbajal was a close fourth and also earned First Team All-League, the coach said. Sophomore, Eli Waldman earned Second Team All-League.

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

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Morro Bay High junior, Annabelle Wieck, competes in the CIF Central Section Finals Nov. 17, taking 37th place in the race.

For the Varsity Girls' Team, Noleena Fahy had a great race and finished fourth in league while setting a personal best time of 22:03, beating her previous best by 1:26. Fahy too earned First Team All-League.

At the Central Section Finals on Nov. 17 the teams had good showings and Fahy earned a CIF individual medal when she finished ninth overall.

"Our Girls were ranked ninth in CIF Div. 4 heading into the meet," Coach Ogle said, "and raced to a fourth place finish. It was Morro Bay's best result in the Central Section since bringing home the Div. 3 Runner-up trophy in 2018." Top-2 teams made it to the State Finals Meet and the Top-8 individual finishers (apart from the top teams) also qualify for State. "Noleen was one spot away from qualifying as an individual," Coach Ogle said.

The other Lady Pirates finished further back in the pack but some set personal records for the Woodward Park Course. Junior Annabelle Wieck was 37th in 23:06.78; sophomores Rheanna Dunton and Antonella Salemi were 41st and 42nd respectively with Dunton's 23:17.18 time just 2 seconds from her personal record (PR).



MBHS junior, Otis Kelly sprints to the finish at the CIF Central Section Finals on Nov. 17. Kelly led all Morro Bay runners with a 22nd place finish. Photos courtesy MBHS



A collage of photos of the MBHS Cross County Teams at CIF.

Salemi's 23:19.59 was her PR for that course, Coach Ogle said. Freshmen, Astrid Barnett-Davis finished 65th in 24:28.86, which was also her PR at Woodward.

On the boys' side, the Pirates finished seventh as a team and again Kelly led the field finishing 22nd in a personal best time of 17:50.41. Carbajal was a close 24th in a season best time of 17:53.96 at Woodward Park, which is also where the State Finals Meet is held.

Waldman too had a PR time of 18:39.84 for 47th place. Sophomore, Jack Walker was 3-socionds shy of setting his PR at the course, finishing 94th in 19:58.78.

Three freshmen finished out the Pirates' scoring squad. Gabriel Pascual was 107th in 20:20.99 in his best Rookie Effort; Brendt Miranda was 127th in 21:13.93 for another PR and Dominic Holst ran his PR too clocking 21:17.48 and taking 128th.

In Print and On Line



www.esterobaynews.com

Explorers From page 1

Santa Maria, Santa Rosa, Stockton and Kings County. Post 43 brought home first place in the crime scene investigation scenario where they were dispatched to a burglary but upon arrival the suspect was gone. The evidence, however, was there, and the team worked together to collect fingerprints, determine what happened, and make reports.

"We are proud of their hard work and what they have accomplished," said Commander Amy Watkins with the Morro Bay Police Department. "Their skills were tested as they competed against explorer posts associated with much larger agencies including two California CHP posts. They worked hard and received compliments from many of the judges commending our explorers for their professionalism, desire, and willingness to learn from each experience. We are happy with the success and the trophies they won however, we are even more proud of the way they represented themselves and the Morro Bay Police Department."

The team also took fourth place in crisis negotiation, fifth place in medical aid, and fifth place in vehicle search. Other scenarios, based on real-life events, included suspicious person calls, active shooter, felony traffic stop and domestic violence incidents.

Exploring is a program devoted to career learning, development of life and leadership skills, and community service. The team meets every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. to learn and hone their skills.

In competition, explorers interact with witnesses, search suspects, fill out reports, log evidence and, hopefully, solve crimes. They have to be familiar with penal codes and police procedures.

"This is a team event that is mostly studying," said MBPD Officer Daniel Palumbo, explorer advisor. "There is a lot of buildup before the actual event, and then they get one opportunity on the spot. During the actual competition, we have no part in it. If we speak to them at all, they disqualify the whole team."

Now, post pandemic, the team hopes to compete in at least three events a year. In 2023, Post 43 plans to participate in EXCON Las Vegas, a one-day competition with over 500 young men and women from across the southwest United States testing their skills in basic police procedures.

Outside of competition, explorers assist Morro Bay Police at multiple community events such as the Fourth of July celebration, the Thanksgiving community dinner, and Caroling Cops. Explorers also raise money by working at the Cruising Morro Bay Car Show and annual Harbor Festival. Explorers study many areas of police work including law, ethics, tactics, community service and train in field-work such as building searches, weapons training, weapon-

Explorers Continued on page 19

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Vistra From page 1

At the meeting, several wore T-shirts being made by the main opposition group that said — “No BESS Lithium Battery Storage Near Morro Bay Beaches & Neighborhoods.” Others carried protest signs that said “Safety First; No Batteries By The Bay.”

Yeager, who was stationed by the battery rack, went into great detail about the fire suppression system employed with that particular set up, explaining that it's designed to prevent overheating and the batteries catching fire.

Yeager also said that while that particular rack is like the ones they're using at Moss Landing, battery technology is a fast changing industry and by the time their Morro Bay project is ready to be built, they may switch to a different system.

At the meeting, Vistra was grilled by residents and while some may have gotten their batteries a little heated, the overall atmosphere was civil. Vistra thought the night went well.

"Vistra is very pleased with the turnout and results of



A few people showed their opposition to the Battery Energy Storage System during the meeting.

“Attendees got to personally ask questions of Vistra staff directly overseeing the proposed project in a conversational format and see an actual battery rack with modules and learn how they work.”

The City has also begun a process to write a master plan for the power plant property.

It's unclear at this time, what properties or how much more the City will get from Vistra in the final development deal that will likely be reached, should the project move forward. Duke Energy, which proposed replacing the old plant with a new one, had committed to paying the City a minimum of \$2 million a year, and also deeded over several waterfront properties, including the 0.9-acre Triangle Lot where the Maritime Museum now sits, along with a boat storage yard that brings revenue to the Harbor Department.

But the recent city council election saw three people — Mayor-elect Carla Wixom and new Councilwomen-elect Zara Landrum and Cyndee Edwards — who expressed some wariness about the BESS project.

The old power plant used seawater for cooling steam and thus was coastal dependent. Duke's project proposed to continue with that, which ironically in the end proved to be the project's undoing.

If readers are interested in the project, they can get information online at: www.morrobayenergystorage.com. And if readers are interested in the opposition, a Facebook Page has been started on the matter, see: www.facebook.com/groups/846697739839607.

Does Vistra plan on more public meetings? Weeks said they are. “Providing accurate information and informing the community is very important to Vistra. Yes, we will be

The BESS is one of at least three proposed energy storage proposals that are being sited near Morro Bay, plus the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is in the process of auctioning off three large areas of ocean about 30-miles of the Coast of San Simeon for offshore, floating wind turbines that are designated to have 3-gigawatts of power generating capacity. That power is tentatively slated to come ashore at Morro Bay and connect with the energy grid at the old power plant.

A Canadian company, Hydrostor, is proposing a 400 MW, "Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage" plant, on farmland at the base of Hollister Peak.

And another company is pursuing a hydroelectric storage facility for the hills above Whale Rock Reservoir.

Pearl Harbor From page 1



The USS Arizona Memorial & Battleship Missouri

officially into World War II. The day of remembrance was officially established in 1994 when President Bill Clinton signed the joint resolution. Over the years, five of our country's most visited valor memorials dedicated to WWII are at Pearl Harbor Memorial Park - the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Oklahoma Memorial, the USS Utah Memorial, parts of Ford Island and Battleship Row.

So, in memory of National Pearl Harbor Day let me re-introduce Norm O. Roberts. I met Norm and Marilyn, his wife for over 40 years, at a Cayucos Seniors Monthly Potluck, which are still held the second Wednesday of each month at noon, but now at St. Joseph's Church according to President of the Board of Directors, Adrian Hurtado, himself a USAF Retiree.

My mother, Patricia McKaye and her good friend, Arley Robinson, decided I should get to know the people of Cayucos if I was going to write for the local media. They believed the best way to get to know folks was to break bread with them once a month. Those were treasured times I rarely missed that generated numerous published stories. I was writing for the Sun Bulletin at the time this article was published December, 2007. I hope you believe





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- Planning Commission
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TENTATIVE INTERVIEWS

Interviews are tentatively scheduled on January 10, 2023. Applicants should be present at the interview to be considered by the City Council.

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as I do that by learning more about one of the men who lived to tell the tale is an appropriate way to remember and honor those we lost in Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

Norm Roberts: Trapped Alive On the Oklahoma

Pearl Harbor Day is this Sunday. And something remarkable is happening in Hawaii. The last of nine memorials will be dedicated to honor the fallen Navy and Marine heroes lost at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The USS Oklaboma had the second highest casualty list with 429 lost, but it took 66 years to finally site a memorial on Ford Island. Morro Bay's Norm Roberts survived in 1941 and will return again to remember friends lost.

"I'm not sure how many of us are left, but I'll be there for the dedication," said Roberts. He didn't start attending the reunions until the 25th anniversary. He and wife Marilyn have attended every 5 years. Typically, as many as 2,000 veterans of Pearl Harbor would gather. This will be a special year to return to specifically remember the USS Oklaboma - his ship, buddies and experience.

"My friend Paul Goodyear has been working on this project almost since Pearl Harbor happened. It's been a long time coming." A website, www.ussoklaboma.com, has a complete history of the ship from 1914 when commissioned to 1941 when it was taken down. Commentary by those who lived it, photos of the men lost, and video footage is intermingled to document the times.

Roberts' story is not on the website, but he's written it down and shares it when asked. He was one of the 32 men rescued after being trapped below for at least thirty-six hours.

He recalls they were in their bunks when the call came to "take cover" then two minutes later it was "man your battle station." Six men made their way to the emergency radio room next to the steering room, when the ship was hit by four torpedoes and began to roll. The emergency lights and communication went out so they decided they better get out. "We went up the ladder to go through the carpenter shop, but they had already abandoned ship and left the hatch dog-down from the top. We had no way of escaping."

They returned to their battle station. The ship had now turned over as far as it could go, "so basically we were sitting on the overhead." He said he and his buddy Roiland tried to open the hatch, but the pressure wouldn't allow it. They had no lights or even flashlights. They would light matches knowing it would use oxygen.

"We got all the dogs secured except one," said Roberts. "Then we laid back hoping to be rescued. We would pound out code, but never receive an answer because there were too many people pounding outside on the hull of the ship which was out of the water."

Roberts said they knew rescuers were trying to help them. Later he discovered that they were afraid to use a torch to cut holes fearing they would burn those trapped alive. They diligently kept pounding to reach the trapped men.

Meanwhile, Roberts could hear gunfire and knew when the USS Arizona exploded. Time became critical when water started pouring into their battle station.

After about 36 hours and just in time their hatch opened. They could see light coming into their compartment. Fifteen

minutes later and their compartment would have completely been filled with water.

They were taken to the hospital ship Solace and given showers to clean up and brandy to calm down.

Seaman First Class Roberts knows he was one of the lucky one's who was able to put the war behind him and focus on life, career and family at home... Thanks, Norm Roberts, for being our Central Coast ambassador in Hawaii for the dedication to lives lost on the USS Oklaboma, a tribute for centuries to come each Pearl Harbor Day.

There was more content in this originally published story about Norman Orlando Roberts, 1919-2008, much of which was also published in his obituary. Roberts was a radioman in WWII, honored in 2008 along with the other survivors at Ford Island in Hawaii. In his civilian life he worked up to foreman for Pacific Telephone for 25 years in San Jose. He and Marilyn retired to Montana creating a second career as owners and operators of the Swan Lake Resort for 20 years. They purchased a vacation home in Morro Bay before moving permanently to the area. They were able to travel worldwide together over their 45 years of marriage. Their family included their sons Dale, Dean, Charles and Michael and a daughter, Noreen, plus five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Explorers From page 17



Explorers compete in an active shooter drill among other possible crime scenarios.

less defense techniques, CPR/First Aid, and ride-alongs. Palumbo says the program provides structure and creates community, but it goes beyond that.

"Our explorers will handle the radio traffic for us while we are out on calls," he said. "We trust them to use the radio and, in a sense, represent us out in the field. There is a lot of trust placed on them and responsibility. They see a lot of stuff on the ride-alongs with us where they are representing our agency and are held to the exact same standards as officers."

Each Explorer post is based through local law enforcement agencies and sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Post 43 of Morro Bay is hosted by the Morro Bay Police Department and is a current charter member of the Los Padres Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Morro Bay Police Explorers are looking for students between the ages of 14 and 21 to join their post. Interested candidates should inquire regarding eligibility. For more information or to become a police explorer, send an email to Sergeant Will Marvos wmarvos@morrobayca.gov.

Poly Police Seek Info — Burglary at PAC



Cal Poly Police have reached out to the public for information and tips regarding a burglary at the Performing Arts Center on campus the evening of Nov. 25 that resulted in the theft of more than \$10,000 worth of equipment.

The crime occurred between 6:15 and 7:05 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25. Several microphones and a camera were stolen.

"A security camera in the facility captured footage and images of the perpetrator inside the facility," a news release stated. "Police are continuing to investigate and are asking anyone who might have information to call the Cal Poly Police Department at 805-756-2281."

Additionally, anonymous tips can be made to San Luis Obispo County Crime Stoppers at 805-549-7867 or visit www.slotips.org. Community members may be eligible for a cash reward if the information they provide leads to an arrest and conviction.

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Advertisement for Joel Pace Real Estate, featuring a man's photo and text about property sales and services.

Advertisement for Hofbrau, featuring a logo, a photo of food, and text about hand-carved roast beef and 50th anniversary.

Advertisement for Morro Bay Appliance, featuring a logo, a phone number, and text about dryer vent cleaning and appliance services.



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