

## City to Limit Bus Riders

By Neil Farrell



In the latest irregularity owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the City of Morro Bay, which prides itself on running its own local bus service, is limiting the number of passengers that can ride the same bus at the same time.

“Effective April 15, 2020,” reads a news release from acting Public Works Director/Finance Director, Jennifer Callaway, “Morro Bay Transit will limit the number of passengers in the vehicle to no more than four riders at one time. This will allow the bus operator and passengers to continue practicing proper social distancing while providing lifeline transport services for those in need.”

Callaway said the new passenger limits are designed to further support guidance on battling the virus from the Federal Centers for Disease Control that include social distancing to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Asked what led to this, Callaway explained that initially ridership on the 14-passenger buses was low but had increased in recent days to where they could no longer maintain the safety zones for the

drivers or other passengers.

“Per CDC guidelines for social distancing,” she said, “the first row of seats were blocked off to provide proper distancing between riders and the drivers on March 21. Ridership has been monitored closely since the shelter-in-place order went into effect to determine if service needed altering to respond to ridership changes in relation to maintaining proper social distancing for the protection of riders and drivers.”

Last week, the Federal Transit Administration advised transit agencies to take actions to reduce the likelihood that employees and riders contract or spread COVID-19 as per OSHA and CDC guidelines. Callaway said that included wearing face coverings, social distancing, frequent hand washing, facility and vehicle cleaning and other measures “to the maximum extent practicable.”

She said before the shelter-at-home orders, ridership was slipping as people were already staying home to avoid the virus. Ridership dropped to 1-3 passengers an hour. “These numbers,” Callaway

**Riders** Continued on page 14

## City Shakes Up Public Works Department

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay’s Public Works Department is in the midst of a shake-up, as the former department director has been given a new job and his duties split up amongst City Hall brass.

The City Council approved a change that saw Public Works Director Rob Livick step down from the department head job and be rehired as City Engineer, a position that hasn’t been filled for about a decade.

The change is a huge drop in salary for Livick, who has been Public Works Director since 2010 (originally he was director of Public Services), as the top salary level for director is \$157,335 and Livick’s City Engineer salary will start out at the top level of \$123,748.

The difference comes to some \$33,500 a year, saving the General Fund approximately \$8,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year (ending June 30). Livick didn’t return an email seeking comment.

Livick’s new position ensures a benefits package equal to other mid-level managers in the City and he will be an at-will employee, meaning he can quit or be fired at any time; except that he is guaranteed at least 6 months of employment from March 21, the start date of his new job.

He’s getting a one-time cash-out of vacation, floating holiday and administrative leave, equal to half of what he’s got on the books.

“In the next six months,” reads a staff report from the City Manager Scott Collins, “the City will evaluate the structure and needs of the Public Works Department and determine the optimal structure to best meet the needs of the City.”

Collins named Finance Director, Jennifer Callaway, as the Acting Public Works Director, giving her a 5% increase (about \$2,000) over her current salary for the added work.

“The Acting Public Works Director,” he said, “will oversee duties such as engineering, consolidated maintenance, environmental services and general fund capital projects components of the department.”

Asked if the finance director was qualified? Collins said, “Jen [Callaway] has experience in helping evaluate departments organizational structure. By retaining Rob [Livick] as the City Engineer, we have the coverage of the technical side of the department and Jen can focus on developing the organizational change recommendations that will help me determine how our PW department can perform optimally. I will oversee utilities [with Joe Mueller leading the team] to help shoulder some of the Public Works management duties with Jen.”

The search for a new director will start soon. “We anticipate the process taking about 4-6 months from where we are today

**Public Works** Continued on page 14

## Los Osos Sewer Rate Increase Approved

The San Luis County Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 to move forward with a five-year plan to increase sewer rates in Los Osos.

“This is a horrible time to raise rates especially in a community that is not a wealthy community,” said District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson during the sometimes-heated exchange of the meet-

ing. Gibson represents District 2, which includes Los Osos.

The rate increase was planned to start as on July 1, however, it has been delayed to 30 days after the Proclamation of Local emergency is lifted. That date is yet to be determined.

The proclamation is based around the **Rate Increase** Continued on page 15

## WRF Contractors Seek Local Subs

By Neil Farrell



Contractors building Morro Bay’s new sewer treatment plant are looking for local subcontractors for specific tasks in the \$69 million plant, the major part of a massive, \$126 million overall project.

According to a notice posted on the City’s website, FBV, a partnership between Black & Veatch and J.R. Filanc Construction Company, Inc., is managing the plant construction project, a 1-million gallons a day, tertiary treatment plant with advanced micro-filtering to produce reclaimable water.

The notice lists the scope of work as, “a Corporation Yard Area, WRF Parking Canopy, Water and Collection Supplies Storage Shed, Open Storage Area, Headworks Area, Treatment Area with Vector Washdown, MBR System and BNR Basins, RO/UV Building, Product Water Area with Calcite Contactors, IPR Product Water Storage Tank, IPR and Outfall Water Pump Station and Disinfection System, Residual Area with Sludge Holding Tanks, Safe Settle Tank and Belt Filter Press, Emer-

gency Generator Area, Electrical Building, Chemical Facility, Operations Buildings, Maintenance Building, Operations, site work and associated appurtenances.”

The listing of a “corporation yard” led to some confusion, as a new City corp (maintenance) yard, was a bone of contention with the project going back several years.

The idea was to build a new maintenance facility at a new treatment plant site, so when the old plant is removed, the existing corp yard would be removed as well, freeing up the entire City-owned property on Atascadero Road, about 40 acres to some future redevelopment.

It was the insistence by the City on this aspect that contributed to the Rancho Colina MHP site on Hwy 41 being eliminated from consideration, even though it was one of the least expensive sites the City investigated.

And two summers ago, citizens convinced the City Council to have a team of local experts review its project (the current

**Local Subs** Continued on page 14

## Morro Deli Serves up Delicious ‘Thank You’



Owners of the Morro Deli celebrated their second year in business by cooking up a delicious ‘Thank You’ to the whole community at a free chicken barbecue held Saturday, April 18. The deli, located inside the Sinclair gas station at the Roundabout on Morro Bay Boulevard, gave away 100 hindquarter chicken dinners with garlic bread, French fries and beans. The

deli, which is open normal hours during the Coronavirus shut down, offers up a variety of traditional Mexican foods. Readers are encouraged to stop by for lunch and thank them for the generous gesture. Pictured here from left are Sr. Gerardo Gonzales, Jose Carreon and Miguel Fuentes.

Photo by Neil Farrell



Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Hurrah  
For  
Health Care  
Page 9



Cambria  
Unofficial  
Mayor  
Page 10



# City Council Adopts Eviction, Foreclosure Prohibitions

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council made official its actions to slow the spread of the coronavirus, mirroring actions taken by the Governor to prohibit evictions and mortgage foreclosures, as well as prohibit price gouging during the public emergency.

According to a staff report from City Attorney, Chris Neumeyer, “In December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus [a disease now known as COVID-19] was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death and is easily transmissible from person to person.”

The Federal Centers for Disease Control reported on April 21 that there were over 776,000 COVID-19 (the disease caused by the coronavirus) cases, and more than 41,000 deaths in the U.S.

California Gov. Gavin Newsome declared a State of Emergency for California on March 4 and President Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency March 13.

That same day, the SLO County Emergency Services Director (County Administrative Officer Wade Horton) declared a local emergency and the Morro Bay City Manager Scott Collins followed suit on March 14, with the city council ratifying his actions on March 19.

All of these actions have led to shelter-at-home orders coming down from the Governor’s Office and closure of all non-essential businesses statewide. These were echoed by the County and in turn the City.

March 20, the first full day of the closures, saw the normally busy streets of Morro Bay empty of nearly all

traffic and people, with nearly all stores closed. The cessation of activity was dramatic and more than a bit frightening, causing uncertainty over the unprecedented actions being taken to fight an invisible and deadly enemy from spreading like, well, like a virus.

“Because of these emergency conditions due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic,” Neumeyer said, “many people are experiencing or will experience substantial loss of income as a result of business closures, the loss of hours or wages, or layoffs related to COVID-19, hindering their ability to keep up with rent or mortgage payments, leaving them potentially vulnerable to eviction or foreclosure.”

As part of its emergency orders coming down from the State, the City Council adopted a trio of protections for citizens and businesses — an eviction relief/eviction moratorium; mortgage relief/judicial foreclosure moratorium; and price gouging and profiteering prohibitions — in its actions.

Gov. Newsome on March 27 issued an order that required renters to notify their landlords within seven days of rent being due if they were not going to be able to pay it due to the shutdown of the economy.

And on April 6, the California Judicial Council issued a rule that prohibited the issuance of summons, and the entry of defaults, in unlawful detainer actions (i.e., an eviction), “unless the court finds there is a health and safety reason [e.g., a health hazard],” Neumeyer said.

Newsome’s order is in effect until May 31, and the Judicial Council’s order is in effect until 90 days after the end of the emergency.

Under mortgage relief, the Governor on March 25 got “many major financial institutions to provide mortgage payment forbearances of up to 90 days to borrowers economically impacted by COVID-19.” Mortgage holders are being advised to contact their bank for more information on this.

April 6 the Judicial Council stayed court proceedings on judicial foreclosures, again until 90 days after the Coronavirus emergency orders are lifted. But this just covers court cases, and not foreclosures by a lender that don’t go through the court system.

As for price gouging, the Penal Code § 396 already prohibits price gouging and profiteering during emergencies.

Price gouging is charging more than 10% over the normal price of certain items before an emergency declaration. Those items include food or goods, goods or services used for emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, medical supplies, home heating oil, building materials, housing, transportation, freight, and storage services, or gasoline or other motor fuels for a price of more than 10 percent greater than the price charged by that person for those goods or services immediately prior to the proclamation or declaration of emergency, according to Neumeyer’s report.

The 10% hike limit isn’t absolute, however. If a seller can show that a price increase is due to increased costs to them for labor or materials, then the price hike can be more than 10% above normal price. But the seller must also limit increases to no more than 10% above the new wholesale cost.

Gov. Newsome’s Executive Order N-44-20 (issued March 4) extended the prohibitions on price gouging through Sept. 4, a date that figures in the City’s Resolution as well.

The Governor used the term, “unconscionably excessive price” defined as more than 50% greater than the person paid for the item. If the person made the item and did not buy it to resell, the limit is a 50% markup.

Every item sold above these limits is considered a violation and each violation would be a misdemeanor under the Governor’s orders.

Meanwhile in Morro Bay, the City’s actions included blocking off the public boat launch ramp, blocking Coleman Drive leading out to Morro Rock, and Atascadero Road at the High School, which leads to Morro Strand State Beach, to enforce it’s prohibitions against public gatherings and social distancing directives.

City Manager Scott Collins said they closed the beach parking lots, “Because social distancing measures were often not taking place at the Rock, especially during nice weather, and our local beaches were being used heavily as a get-outside destination, including people apparently treating the current situation as an opportunity to take a vacation.

“So, the closures were done to help encourage social distancing and send a strong message to would-be visitors to Morro Bay that now is not the time to come visit our town.”

The City has even posted the sidewalks on Embarcadero as one-way thoroughfares, with pedestrians walking north on one side and people heading south on the other.

If residents are in need of special help or want to check out the actions of the City and possible resources to help them get through this Pandemic, they can go online to: [www.morrobayca.gov/covid19](http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19) or call the City’s COVID-19 hotline at: (805) 772-6278.

On the County level, see: [ReadySLO.org](http://ReadySLO.org) or call (805) 543-2444 for information coming out of the County Health Department. The County has also set up a tip line to report businesses violating the shelter-at-home order, call (805) 788-2222.

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# Los Osos Man Arrested for Stabbing Neighbor



Matthew Robert Hathaway

Sheriff's Deputies arrested a Los Osos man after he allegedly vandalized his neighbor's home, and then stabbed him repeatedly.

According to sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, April 16, deputies responded to a 9-1-1 call in the 1800 block of 10th St., in Los Osos.

"When Deputies arrived," Cipolla said in a news release, "they discovered the victim, a 34-year-old man, with multiple stab wounds to the shoulder and back. He was immediately transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. The victim was treated at the hospital and released."

The suspected assailant was easily identified, as he was a neighbor. According to witnesses, Cipolla said, the suspect walked up to the house and broke a window, which brought a man and a woman out of the house.

The suspect allegedly assaulted the woman and got into a fight with the man. The suspect allegedly stabbed the man several times before running home, just 2 blocks away on the same street.

Cipolla said deputies and detectives tracked down the suspect, identified as Matthew Robert Hathaway, 28, at his home where he was arrested without incident. He was taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries and then booked into County Jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

The extent of Hathaway's injuries was not disclosed, nor how he was injured. However, in a jail mugshot he sports a stitched-up cut above and through his left eyebrow.

Cipolla said the investigation continues and there are no other suspects in the case.

# State Judges Order Inmates Released From Jail

By Neil Farrell



As if the coronavirus pandemic hadn't cause enough upset in the world, now a California panel of judges wants to issue "get out of jail free" passes to thousands of jail inmates statewide, potentially effecting about 50 here in San Luis Obispo County.

According to a news release from the SLO County Sheriff's Office, "The California Judicial Council has issued an order to reduce jail populations to prevent the spread of coronavirus among inmate populations statewide. The Judicial Council's order affects all of California's 58 counties, including San Luis Obispo County."

The CJC voted April 5, to "cut cash bail amounts to zero dollars for those awaiting trial for most misdemeanors and felonies that are not legally defined as violent." That rule was scheduled to go into effect on Monday, April 13.

Local law enforcement officials are none too happy about it.

"Although the Sheriff's Office is obligated to enforce this new rule, it strongly disagrees with that decision," SLO County Sheriff Ian Parkinson said. "I believe this rule has the potential to reduce the safety and security of not only our local communities and neighborhoods but all across the state."

The Sheriff estimated that approximately 50 inmates now awaiting trial could be released from the County Jail under this new rule. But they're non-violent offenders, right?

"Even though the Judicial Council stipulated these

would be for non-violent felonies and misdemeanors," reads the Sheriff's news release, "there are some notable exceptions, which could constitute a threat to our communities."

"This new zero bail rule is dangerous for our community," District Attorney Dan Dow said, "This order while well intended, has the practical effect of allowing criminals to victimize our communities with impunity. It robs our law enforcement of the ability to arrest and hold people who have committed the following crimes: child abuse and endangerment, trafficking of heroin and methamphetamine to our youth, physical or financial abuse of an elder adult, abuse of a dependent adult, human trafficking for labor, fraud and embezzlement of millions of dollars, obstructing or delaying a public health emergency worker, auto-theft, burglary, and even the jail inmates who are receiving critical mental health treatment to name a few."

The D.A. said the order is bad policy. "This emergency order is bad policy and bad news for the law abiding people in our communities," he said, "who depend on our law enforcement and court system for upholding the rule of law and public safety because it will certainly lead to more crime."

He continued, "Even career criminals are eligible for zero bail and released into our community because there are no exceptions for inmates who are on parole or for career criminals with prior convictions for violent, serious and sex offenses."

Some of these people are themselves a potential virus to society. "Several are now in custody after being indicted by a grand jury for participating in major drug trafficking operations," D.A. Dow said, "selling heroin and methamphetamine outside of the Paso Robles High School. Releasing these individuals on zero bail makes the entire community less safe, at a time when we have enough to worry about without more criminal offenders on the streets in our neighborhoods."

D.A. Dow is going to fight the order. "My office is working vigorously to oppose release on zero bail for inmates we believe are dangerous to release," he said. "We are working closely with the Sheriff's Office to identify which inmates may be eligible for release."

They are taking into account an inmate's health and mental health, too.

"The Sheriff's Office medical and mental health team is working hard to ensure that anyone released who is receiving treatment in the jail will have a plan to continue treatment in the community," D.A. Dow said, "but this is a significant challenge and a risk for the released individuals as well as for the community."

The Federal, State, County and Local responses to the Coronavirus Pandemic have been far-reaching, including

Judges Orders Continued on page 4

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Judges Orders From page 3

orders to shelter-at-home, to close all non-essential businesses, to close parks, beaches, campgrounds and day use hiking trails.

With few people out and about, the Sheriff has upped their patrols. “We want our citizens to see our patrol units out in their neighborhoods,” the Sheriff said, “to reassure them we are doing everything possible to maintain the safety of their communities and to discourage criminal activity, especially in our business community.

“The increase in patrol deputies represents a 75-percent increase over normal patrol deployment since the shelter-at-home order went into effect.” The Department has the manpower to further increase the number of Deputies on patrol if the need arises.

As of April 15, the SLO County Jail had not had a single case of COVID-19 among the inmate populations or jail custody staff.

“Aggressive safety measures have been put into place to protect the health and welfare of the inmates in the County Jail as well as the jail custody staff,” Sheriff Parkinson said.

The Sheriff has a plan and resources at the ready for the inevitable day when the first case hits. The Sheriff even thinks the inmates might be safer from the virus in jail.

“It is our belief,” he said, “that some of the inmates who will be released will be at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 in public than they would have been had they remained in custody at the County Jail.” Some are homeless and can’t shelter at home.

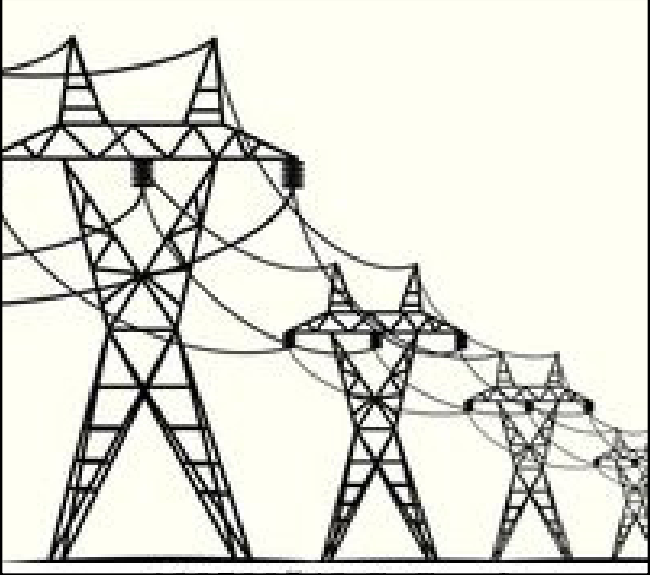
But the decision to release them was made at the State level and is out of the control of County Officials, who are required to comply with the orders of the Judicial Council.

D.A. Dow thinks the order is ironic. “The ultimate irony,” he said, “is in the area of enforcement of the stay at home order. A violation of this crime is only a misdemeanor that is not exempted from zero bail. A COVID-19 positive individual, whether homeless or not, can willfully disobey these orders repeatedly and merely be released on zero bail and given a citation to appear in Court months later.

“Of course, we want to encourage and foster voluntary compliance and a feeling of cooperation amongst the community as we meet this common threat. However, we must be prepared with enforcement mechanisms to protect everyone in the event some do not voluntarily comply.”

“The Sheriff’s Office,” the news release said, “continues to work with the District Attorney’s Office to stay true to our mission to provide service, security and safety to the community in a manner that is protective of victims’ rights and also fair to the accused individuals.”

## PG&E to Maintain High-Voltage Lines



Residents in Morro Bay and Los Osos will be seeing a fascinating sight over the next several weeks, as Pacific Gas & Electric conducts maintenance on its high voltage power lines and towers.

PG&E announced that it would use a helicopter to ferry workers along the 230,000-volt lines at the steel towers conducting maintenance tasks. The work started April 13 and is slated to end May 25.

“PG&E has scheduled essential electrical transmission tower maintenance work,” the company’s news release said, “to include helicopter operations, weather permitting, beginning near Atascadero Road and moving in the vicinity of Highway 41 west toward Morro Bay along one PG&E transmission corridor, then turning south and continuing along a second transmission line near Highway 1 in Los Osos, ending near Benjamino Way in San Luis Obispo.” And, “Work generally will be conducted between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.”

PG&E said they didn’t anticipate any interruptions in electrical service and if there is any change, affected customers would be notified. “Customers within a 2-mile radius of the work zone are being notified by mail and automated telephone messages about the potential for helicop-

ter and/or construction noise.”

The Highway Patrol is going to deal with any traffic controls that are needed in the area of South Bay Boulevard and Hwy 1 but didn’t know at this time when this would happen.

“The health and safety of our customers, our employees and the communities that we serve is PG&E’s primary responsibility,” said Mark Mesesan, PG&E spokesman. “The Governor’s COVID-19 stay-at-home order exempts essential workers in critical infrastructure sectors, including energy.”

The maintenance work won’t just be helicopters and power washers. “Essential maintenance is required to reinforce several transmission tower structures, including adding foundation reinforcements and steel bracing on tower legs. Also, optical ground wire [fiber] requires replacement in order to maintain communication networks used by PG&E and approved competitive local exchange carriers [CLEC].”

## City to Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay will be installing six new electric vehicle charging stations on the Embarcadero, tapping a County grant and its own parking in-lieu fees to pay for them.

The City obtained grants totaling \$26,000 from the County Air Pollution Control District to cover some 60-percent of the overall installation costs of \$47,600. That left the City on the hook for the other 40%, or some \$22,000, which it took out of the parking in-lieu fund paid for by developers who can’t fit required parking spaces on their projects.

The City wants to install two EV charging stations in the parking lot adjacent to the public restrooms at the foot of the North T-pier, and four EV stations in the parking lot

# NOTICE OF INVITING BID: City of Morro Bay - Water Reclamation Facility



**LOCATION OF WORK:** 555 South Bay Blvd, Morro Bay, CA

**DESIGN-BUILDER:** FBV Morro Bay Joint Venture (AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)

**SCOPE OF WORK:** FBV Morro Bay Joint Venture (a joint venture between Overland Contracting Inc. and J.R. Filanc Construction Company, Inc.) will be managing the construction of a 1 MGD water reclamation facility (Project) for the City of Morro Bay. The work consists of a Corporation Yard Area, WRF Parking Canopy, Water and Collection Supplies Storage Shed, Open Storage Area, Headworks Area, Treatment Area with Vactor Washdown, MBR System and BNR Basins, RO/UV Building, Product Water Area with Calcite Contactors, IPR Product Water Storage Tank, IPR and Outfall Water Pump Station and Disinfection System, Residual Area with Sludge Holding Tanks, Safe Settle Tank and Belt Filter Press, Emergency Generator Area, Electrical Building, Chemical Facility, Operations Buildings, Maintenance Building, Operations, site work and associated appurtenances.

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**SUBMIT QUOTES TO:** FBVMorroBay@Filanc.com

**BIDDING DOCUMENTS:** Can be obtained at no cost by contacting Monica Weiss at mweiss@filanc.com or 760-497-0170.

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adjacent to the Lil’ Hut takeout restaurant. Both are on the north end of the Embarcadero business district.

City crews would install the devices, which are charged to a credit card for the electricity pumped into



an electric vehicle. Those fees would be used to cover the operations and maintenance of the chargers.

According to a staff report, “In 2012 there were approximately 51,000 electric vehicles sold nationwide. In 2019 there were over 655,000 electric vehicles sold in California alone, accounting for approximately 46% of all electric vehicles sold nationwide.”

However, as of last October, there were just 21,948 public EV chargers in all of California. The City in 2012 installed two public EV stations — one at the Visitor’s Center on Harbor Street and the other behind City Hall.

In another transportation related matter, the City is also applying for a \$72,000 grant from Caltrans to help prepare a “Local Road Safety Plan” or LRSP, which would be used to help grease the path for future federal highway monies needed to fix roads and other transportation projects.

Federal regulations require that each State have a “Strategic Highway Safety Plan” (SHSP), according to the staff report. “An SHSP is a statewide data-driven traffic safety plan that coordinates the efforts of a wide range of organizations to reduce traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.”

The City’s LRSP would be incorporated into the State’s SHSP and all these plans would likely be necessary for future federal Highway Safety Improvement Projects or HSIPs. So the LRSP becomes part of the SHSP, which is needed for the HSIP of the future.

The \$72,000 represents 90% of the estimated total costs and the City must expend an \$8,000 match.

## City Hires Engineers for ‘OneWater Plan’ Work

The City of Morro Bay has hired a consultant to start tackling some major water and sewer projects, part of its so-called “OneWater Plan.”

The City Council agreed to award an \$815,237 consultant agreement with Cannon Corporation for engineering services — time and materials — plus a 10% contingency for a total of \$896,761, according to a staff report from City Engineer Rob Livick.

The budget for the project, Livick said, will come from the water and wastewater enterprise funds and will not impact the General Fund.

Cannon is to help with projects included in Phase 1 of the OneWater Plan. They are: the Nutmeg Pressure Zone Improvements Project, part of the water system; Collections System Improvements: Main Street and Atascadero

Road, part of the sewer collection system; and Collections System Improvements: upstream LS-1/Beachcomber, also part of the sewer system.

Cannon, Livick said, will complete the engineering and environmental determination for implementation of this first phase of the City’s OneWater Plan for its Wastewater Collection System.

- The proposed services will include:
- Engineering Analysis and Recommendations (Preliminary Design);
  - Geotechnical Engineering Services, Surveying, and Any Necessary Easement/Right of Way Acquisition;
  - Preparation of Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimates (Final Design);
  - Bidding Assistance; and,
  - Construction Support (optional).

The City received three bids for the contract for the sewer system — Carollo Engineers, Cannon, and MNS Engineers. A committee of City staffers — City Engineer Livick, Utilities Division Manager Joe Mueller, Collection System Lead Worker Robbie Victor, and Water System Lead Worker Jeff Cannon.

The team interviewed their top two candidates — Cannon and MNS — in early March and unanimously picked Cannon.

They did the same for the water system projects, with Cannon and Carollo the only two bidders. Again Cannon was picked for these projects.

There are a total of nine projects for the sewer system and some 10 projects in the water system that are included in Phase 1 of the OneWater Plan.

All of the projects are in the North Morro Bay.

## County to Borrow \$31M for New Animal Shelter

By Neil Farrell



County Supervisors have given the go-ahead to borrow up to \$31 million with the sale of bonds to build a new animal shelter and refinance a roads project.

The County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and Public Administrator’s Office was given permission for issuance, sale and delivery of lease revenue bonds not to exceed \$25 million for the new animal shelter and \$6M to refinance the “Vineyard Drive Interchange Project” certificates of participation in Paso Robles.

According to a staff report from James Hamilton, a CPA in the Auditor-Controller’s Office, the bond would be sold sometime in March. Estero Bay News tried to contact Hamil-

Animal Shelter Continued on page 6

## News Briefs

### Protecting Yourself from Fraud

Unfortunately, some are taking advantage of the coronavirus emergency to attempt to get your personal information or money. Stay alert and protect yourself with these tips.

1. Be careful of online sellers who claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, health and medical supplies, when they may not. Be sure to read the fine print.
2. Hang up on robocalls. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from COVID-19 treatments to work-from-home schemes.
3. Ignore offer of vaccinations or home test kits. At this time, there are no FDA authorized home test kits for COVID-19.
4. Don’t respond to texts or emails about government checks.
5. Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation. Research organizations before giving. If someone wants cash, gift cards or for you to wire them money, don’t do it.

### 2020 SLO Triathlon Cancelled

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 on planning major events and social gatherings, the City of San Luis Obispo announced the cancelation of the 41st annual SLO Triathlon that was scheduled to take place on July 26, 2020.

Putting on the half-mile swim, 14-mile bike and over three-mile run requires months of planning and preparation. During the COVID-19 emergency, the City’s primary focus is on providing essential services to protect the health and safety of the community. Given these factors and the importance of ensuring a safe event for participants, community, volunteers, staff, and sponsors the City has decided to cancel the event for this year.

### Cal Poly Named Tree Campus

For the sixth consecutive year, Cal Poly has been named a Tree Campus USA for its commitment to urban forest management, the Arbor Day Foundation announced.

The 2019 award — the foundation honors campuses for their previous year’s commitment — recognizes Cal Poly’s best practices in managing one of the largest and most diverse university urban forests in the nation.

“Cal Poly’s urban forest serves many important functions,” said Christopher Wassenberg, the university’s landscape manager. “It is a living laboratory for students and an environmental filter for our air and water, and it provides psychological benefits to improve our everyday quality of life.”

“Managing our urban forest requires a commitment not only to the urban forest as a whole but also to the value of each individual tree when making management decisions. Cooperation and coordination between many campus entities allows us to make choices that honor the value of trees as our campus continues to grow and evolve.”

Since 2014, Cal Poly has met Tree Campus USA’s five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and student service-learning project.

“If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time,” said Lauren Weyers, coordinator of The Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Campus USA program. “Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Cal Poly is stepping up to do its part. As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you are helping to provide a solution to these global challenges.”

Cal Poly is among 16 California colleges or universities and more than 360 other schools in 47 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., to carry the Tree Campus USA designation. But it stands apart from the rest boasting the largest variety of tree species on a university campus in the nation.

Campus officials have inventoried 6,600 trees and nearly 550 varieties in the campus core alone. The coastal live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is the most common tree on campus, but it also has many exotic and rare species represented. In addition, the campus is home to two national champions listed on the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute’s Registry of California Big Trees.

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5



ton to better firm up when these bonds would be sold, but he was unavailable due to the coronavirus work closures.

County Supervisors last Dec. 10 awarded a contract for the new animal shelter and the County Department of Animal Services headquarters to F&H Const., of Lodi, Calif., for \$15.2 million to design and build it.

The new shelter is planned for County-owned land on Oklahoma Avenue, down the street from the old shelter.

The County's cost estimates have varied greatly as the project has evolved since February 2017 when Supervisors agreed to replace the aged shelter, which has numerous problems including a leaky roof and outmoded kennels and offices.

Originally, the County pegged the construction at \$10.1 million (\$13.2M over all budget) but bidders expressed concern with that hard limit, plus "the current boom in the building market, shortage of labor, tariffs on materials and State-mandated skilled labor requirements," according to a report. One company, Specialty Const., of SLO dropped out of the bidding over the issues.

Breaking down the costs, the County has now budgeted the construction costs at \$15.2 million; \$575,000 "interior hard costs" (furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.); and \$4.4 million in so-called soft costs (professional services, administration, permits/fees, testing, etc.) for a total of \$25M in potential borrowing.

With money pretty cheap to borrow at this time, the County is also rolling into the bond sale some \$5.4M in outstanding costs from the Vineyard Drive project completed in 2018 in order to save some money in interest costs. Those savings would revert back into the County Roads Budget.

How will this be repaid? Each incorporated City in SLO County contracts with the DAS for animal control services, which are mandated by State Law.

Every City and/or County must provide such services including sheltering of stray and homeless pets, rabies surveillance and control, investigation of animal cruelty complaints, the capture and control of dangerous animals, and the resolution of animal related nuisances.

Though Cities are authorized to have their own animal services, none in SLO County do so.

The bonds will carry a 2.88% all-in interest cost with maximum annual debt service of \$1.1 million (based on Jan. 9 market conditions plus 25 basis points).

The refunded Vineyard Drive COPs are estimated to issue at 2.28% all-in interest cost with maximum annual debt service of \$362,000 (also based on Jan. 9 market conditions plus 25 basis points).

The Cities will pay a pro rata share of the costs for the new shelter — minus \$1M the County agreed to pay off the top — based on the actual usage of the shelter.

In essence the more animal services a City requires, the more construction costs it will pay.

It's the same system used to apportion annual costs amongst the Cities with the latest contracts that were signed last December and run from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

The highest annual bills and thus the community that uses the County services the most was Paso Robles at \$310,000 with Atascadero second at \$292,000.

Others are: SLO at \$151,000; Arroyo Grande, \$67,000; Grover Beach, \$62,000; Morro Bay, \$44,000; and Pismo Beach the lowest at \$23,000.

New shelter construction costs would be added to these annual fees, until the bonds are paid off. If readers want to track the project go to: [www.slocounty.ca.gov/AnimalFacilitiesProject](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/AnimalFacilitiesProject).

## County to Replace Emergency Radio System

County Supervisors recently gave the go-ahead on a project to replace the emergency radio communications system, part of a total reconfiguring of the countywide 9-1-1, dispatch system.

The County's so-called, "Public Safety Radio Communications System" provides first responder emergency radio dispatch and transmission services to the County Sheriff, SLO County Fire/Cal Fire, emergency medical dispatch (ambulances), County Office of Emergency Services, the police and fire departments of Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, and other cities and agencies.

It is now 21-years old and while it's performed "flawlessly" according to a staff report, it's obsolete, no longer meets industry standards, and parts and services are getting harder to find.

The County wants to replace the microwave system with a new Internet protocol system. "This upgrade," reads the report, "will position the county to continue maintaining its PSRCS, and to upgrade it as necessary over time."

The new industry standard also eases future expansion and upgrades. And it'll be under warrantee, too.

Costs for 2-way radio hardware and software, as well as a maintenance contract totals some \$6.1 million and will take up to 40 months to buy, configure, test and install, starting this month.

The Radio Modernization Project is linked in time with the schedule of the County's building a new, co-located dispatch center on Kansas Avenue near the County Jail complex.

The new dispatch center will bring law enforcement and fire department dispatchers under one roof. Currently, law enforcement dispatches out of the emergency services building on Kansas Avenue (a.k.a. the "Darth Vader" building) and County Fire is at the Cal Fire Headquarters off Hwy 1 near Highland Drive in San Luis Obispo.

The new \$24 million dispatch center is scheduled to be finished in October 2023. They are projecting the Radio Modernization Project to be done in June 2023, 4-months earlier. The new system will be installed in the new building.

The County is using \$4.2 million from the "Automation Replacement Designation" fund; and \$1.8M from the "Public Safety Radio Communication Designation" in the "Countywide Automation Replacement Fund."

The new equipment will come with 3-years of tech support and the County also wants to hire one, limited term network engineer III added to the Information Technology Department. The position would be a 60-month (5 years) contract.

## New Motel Proposed at Main and San Jacinto

By Neil Farrell



Rendering of the new motel project on North Main Street in Morro Bay.

The Morro Bay Planning Commission was slated to take its first look at a proposed new motel project on North Main Street, the current site of a wildly popular little produce stand.

The proposed 8-room motel is located at 2790 Main St., at the corner of Main and San Jacinto Streets, on a site that has a small parking lot and the produce stand, The Avocado Man, which has only been open a few months but has become very popular very quickly.

The building was originally built in 1962 as a real estate office but for many years it was a small beauty salon. Project applicants are Tim and Allyson Cleath and their architect is Chris Parker of CP Parker Architecture. Plans were first submitted in January.

The project involves an "L" shaped, 2-story, 4,996 square foot new building that fronts San Jacinto with the entrance on Alder Street. In a rendering with the staff report, there is no exit or entrance off Main or San Jacinto Streets.

The building is below the 25-foot height limit in Morro Bay's codes with 2,612 s.f. on the bottom floor and 2,384 s.f. on the second floor.

Amongst the nine parking spaces are one handicapped space to go with a proposed handicapped accessible first floor room, and two spaces that will have electric vehicle chargers, according to the report.

The design includes an outdoor gathering space for motel guests. According to the staff report there isn't much to be concerned about the project, as it is not asking for any variances or exceptions and is even proposing fewer rooms than would be allowed, given the overall size of the lot.

"Hotel rooms require 750 s.f. of land area per room," reads the report, "resulting in a site area requirement for this 8-room hotel of 6,000 s.f. The site size would allow 12 hotel rooms, however, in order to meet the development standards, provide adequate parking and ample landscaped outdoor areas, the proposal is for only eight rooms."

"The project meets or exceeds the development standards and is not requesting any exceptions or variances."

Rooms will range from a small of 325 s.f. to a 750 s.f.

New Motel Continued on page 7

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NASA Selects Poly to Help Develop New Technology

Cal Poly is teaming up with NASA and nine other university teams across the nation to advance small spacecraft technologies that will help pave the way for human and robotic lunar exploration.

“Cal Poly’s CubeSat Lab has a history of collaboration with a number of different NASA centers,” said John Bellardo, who directs the lab — the campus epicenter for the class of small satellites about the size of a loaf of bread. “These awards are further evidence of that. I expect these opportunities to continue into the future.”

Under NASA’s Artemis lunar exploration program aims to return men and women astronauts to the moon by 2024. “SmallSats” — spacecraft that range from CubeSats that Cal Poly helped turn into an industry standard up to larger cousins the size of a refrigerator — will help blaze the trail.

While small satellites mainly operate in low-Earth orbit, those with an altitude of up to 1,200 miles (2,000 km), technological advancements through these collaborative partnerships will more fully realize their potential as they extend the capabilities needed in complex lunar exploration missions.

“As we prepare for the next robotic and crewed missions to the moon, we expect small spacecraft to help forge the path ahead by scouting terrain, prospecting for resources and establishing communications and navigation capabilities in cislunar space,” said Christopher Baker, program executive for NASA’s Small Spacecraft Technology program. “Taking advantage of their small size and shorter development timelines, small spacecraft are increasingly capable as both rapid precursor missions and as cost-effective, in-space infrastructure.”

SmallSats could provide exploration missions with communications relays or navigation services at the moon, similar to role that communications and GPS satellites play around Earth. This capability could play an important role in helping NASA build a sustainable presence on the moon.

The NASA program selected the university teams for its SmallSat Technology Partnerships initiative to mature new systems and capabilities. The technology development projects focus on three technical areas needed for lunar-bound missions:

- Use of small spacecraft to help provide lunar communications and navigation services
- Small spacecraft propulsion for lunar missions and potential return of lunar samples using small spacecraft
- Small spacecraft electrical power and thermal management systems tailored for the distant and harsh environment between Earth and the moon

In addition to Cal Poly, the other selected California schools are: California State University at Los Angeles; San Diego State University, UCLA; and UC Irvine. The remaining universities are: Arizona State University, Tempe; University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; University of Texas, Austin; and Utah State University, Logan.

Cal Poly will participate in a pair of two-year projects, both in collaboration with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. The grants are valued at \$200,000. The first, under the SmallSat Propulsion for Lunar Missions area, will team Cal Poly with UC Irvine for a project titled “Variable Specific Impulse Electrospray Thrusters for SmallSat Propulsion.”

The project will build on existing propulsion technology that uses electrostatic charges to propel liquid droplets to generate thrust. It will further develop and test a more-versatile system capable of operating in either a high-thrust mode when needed, or more efficient low-thrust mode to conserve fuel and save weight. This technology will add mission flexibility to electrospray propulsion systems while keeping within the size suited constraints of small spacecraft.

“Cal Poly will be providing a design for a CubeSat to

test the thrusters, including an electrical subsystem that is capable of powering the thrusters,” Bellardo said. “UCI will be focusing more on the thruster side. Cal Poly will be focused on the spacecraft side.”

The second proposal, under NASA’s Advanced Electrical Power Subsystem and Thermal Management Technology area, pairs Cal Poly with Cal State Los Angeles for a project titled “An Additively Manufactured Deployable Radiator with Oscillating Heat Pipes to Enable High Power Lunar CubeSats.”

Compact CubeSats do not efficiently dissipate heat, yet lunar missions will demand even more electrical power, which produces heat as a byproduct that could damage core components of a small satellite. The equipment needed for longer duration missions far from Earth orbit includes more powerful radio transmitters while simultaneously dealing with the harsh cislunar thermal environment. The grant will fund the development of a deployable radiator with flexible oscillating heat pipes to provide more efficient heat transfer than traditional thermal straps.

“The more power a spacecraft needs, the more heat gets generated — both during power generation and consumption,” Bellardo said. “Radiators are part of the solution to keeping the spacecraft cooler. The technology is applicable to other small spacecraft as well.”

Jim Cockrell, chief technologist for the Small Spacecraft Technology program, said partnerships between academia and NASA “help cultivate the rapid, agile and cost-conscious small spacecraft approaches that are evolving in the university community, as well as increase support to university efforts and foster a new generation of innovators for NASA and the nation.”

Moreover, he added, these relationships will also give the space agency “access to the bright minds who will one day lead the journey of exploration.”

The SmallSat Technology Partnerships initiative has four primary objectives: develop needed SmallSat technologies for NASA; engage university students in real-world SmallSat projects; provide student teams with NASA expertise and facilities; and allow NASA engineers to gain insights into the innovative and rapid development paradigm typical of academia. The program has made five rounds of these awards since 2013. Projects are awarded in amounts up to \$200,000 to the university team for up to two years in collaboration with a half-time NASA collaborator per year.

Managed by NASA’s Ames Research Center in California’s Silicon Valley, the program expands U.S. capability to execute unique and more affordable missions through rapid development and in-space demonstration of capabilities for small spacecraft that are applicable to exploration, science and the commercial space sector. It enables new

mission architectures through the use of small spacecraft while seeking to expand the reach of small spacecraft to new destinations and challenging new environments.

Cal Poly has been at the forefront of small satellite development. CubeSat is a worldwide standard for small satellites originally developed 20 years ago as a collaboration between Cal Poly’s CubeSat Lab and Stanford University. CubeSats give students the opportunity to design, build and launch small satellites into space.

What began as a vehicle for students has been embraced by space agencies, industry, governments and amateur developers across the globe. Hundreds of CubeSats have been launched including nearly dozen built by Cal Poly students.

Bellardo was part of the team that made history last July during the LightSail 2 mission. The Planetary Society, which has partnered with Cal Poly on its two LightSail CubeSats, successfully proved the concept of solar sailing by raising the orbit of the footlong satellite. Bellardo was part of the mission control team that sent radio commands from Cal Poly’s ground station to the craft orbiting 720 kilometers above Earth to unfurl its Mylar sail.

In addition, during the 2018-19 school year alone, the Computer Science professor and his team of 80 students, faculty and staff launched a trio of homegrown Cal Poly satellites and also assisted with the twin MarCO satellites, the first CubeSats to leave Earth’s orbit as a part of the InSight Mars landing mission. The six-unit MarCO pair were briefcase sized satellites that traveled for six months to provide radio relay during a flyby of the Red Planet.

New Motel From page 6

suite that will have a kitchen in it, too.

It becomes the fourth new motel project in various stages of approval in the City.

As for the Avocado Man, never fear, Michael Wolfe plans to move soon to a larger building a few blocks up North Main Street, near the corner of Main and Avalon.

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Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **April 12:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 50, at 5 p.m. in the 200 block of Morro Bay Blvd. The legless lass was stoned off her a\*\*, and in possession of an illegal substance. She was cited and released to go replenish her stash. In a related matter, a man, 62, who was with her was nicked for alleged possession of drugs and paraphernalia, he too was handed a piece of paper and released.
- **April 12:** At 8 a.m. police towed off an apparently abandoned car parked on the sidewalk at Yerba Buena and Hwy 1. At 11:42 in the 2600 block of Main they bagged another scofflaw’s car for expired tags.
- **April 12:** Police responded at 6:15 a.m. to Spencer’s Market for a vandalism report, as the lunatics again try to run the asylum.
- **April 11:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 9:39 p.m. in the 900 block of MBB. The 64-year-old human male was nicked for suspicion of driving skulled.
- **April 11:** Police responded at 4:38 p.m. to a report of people arguing near the entrance to State Park Road. Cooler heads apparently prevailed, aided no doubt by a badge and gun.
- **April 11:** Someone boosted a car from the 2600 block of Elm Ct.
- **April 10:** Police responded to the 1000 block of Main at 9:06 p.m. for somethin’ ya don’t see every day — extortion. Police made note of the matter.
- **April 9:** Police contacted a suspicious man, 40, in the 200 block of Pacific, who was either out late or up early at 6:30 a.m. The apparent early owl or (night bird?) had a warrant. He was issued a new court date to miss.
- **April 8:** At 8:20 p.m. police stopped another suspicious car at Morro and MBB. The driver, 48, had a warrant and was cited and released to go forth and sin no more.
- **April 7:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 7:40 p.m. in the 1000 block of Quintana. The woman driver, 48, was arrested for suspicion of driving baked.
- **April 7:** Police contacted an apparent nillionaire at 6:48

- p.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. The apparently pickled petunia, 57, was arrested for suspicion of being schnuckered in public. She was taken via ambulance to be evaluated and police confiscated her belongings for safekeeping.
- **April 7:** Someone on Driftwood turned in cordless power tools he or she found.
  - **April 7:** At 11:55 a.m. police responded to the City Park bus stop on Harbor for an apparently unruly passenger. Logs indicated a 42-year-old choleric scamboogah was arrested for suspicion of making death threats at the bus driver and police officers. The hot head chilled in the cooler.
  - **April 6:** A citizen in the 3400 block of Main said someone stole the license plate off his boat trailer, proving once again that people will steal anything.
  - **April 5:** An apparent jewel thief struck in the 2800 block of Hemlock. No word on the baubles pilfered.
  - **April 5:** Someone in the 900 block of Main reported a missing person, apparently finished with sheltering at home.
  - **April 5:** Police responded at 12:17 p.m. to the 200 block of Harbor, at the Pleasant Inn. A man and a woman were found deceased in Room 5. No foul play was suspected.
  - **April 5:** A man told police that some scalawag stole his wallet out of his locked vehicle near Hwy 1 and Yerba Buena.
  - **April 4:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 6:46 p.m. in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated he was arrested for suspicion of possessing a crack pipe and meth-amphetamine and the mope on dope went to the hoosegow.
  - **April 4:** A citizen in the 1700 block of Main said some hoodlum stole his or her bike. And on April 1, a bike was stolen out of the 800 block of Napa.
  - **April 3:** At 3:42 a.m. an officer dispatched an injured animal on Hwy 1 at Toro Creek Road, no doubt another victim of the highway to hell.
  - **April 2:** A citizen turned in a wallet he or she found on the ground at Radcliff and Bolton.
  - **April 2:** Police responded at 1:55 a.m. to a turnout along Hwy 1 by Toro Creek Road where a man said three “unknown” assailants had driven him there, then beat and abandoned him in a parking lot at Dog Beach. Police are investigating the rather bizarre case.
  - **April 1:** Some apparent tool stole a power tool from a citizen in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd.
  - **April 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:50 p.m. in the 1800 block of Main. Logs indicated the wheelman, 63, was nabbed for suspicion of driving schmammerged.

- **April 1:** Police responded at 11:30 a.m. to a reported assault in the 800 block of Morro. Logs indicated they contacted a 61-year-old man whom they arrested for suspicion of possession of meth and a crack pipe; and another skunk, 62, got nicked for allegedly being under the influence of drugs, which explains a lot.
- **March 31:** Someone left a set of keys outside the police station, no doubt counting on police to unlock the mystery.
- **March 30:** Police were called at 9:40 p.m. to a disturbance in the 700 block of Morro. Logs indicated they encountered a kootered fellow, 41, who got nicked for being a tad faded in public.
- **March 30:** Police responded at 9:06 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Morro. Logs indicated they arrested a 51-year-old apparent battleaxe for suspicion of inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant. She checked into the Parkinson Plaza.
- **March 30:** City workers at the City’s corp yard gave police three bikes they’d found stored in a storage pod. They have no idea how long the bikes have been there. Police don’t know how or when they got there, nor what case they might be from.
- **March 30:** A citizen gave police a baggie of methamphetamine he or she found at Rite Aid, no doubt dropped by some junkie, but don’t fret, there’s no doubt more where that came from.
- **March 29:** Police responded at 4:47 p.m. to the 300 block of Embarcadero for a report of vandalism to City owned property, a hanging offense in these here parts.
- **March 29:** Police responded at 10:17 a.m. to the 700 block of Pacific for a reported assault. Logs indicated they decided it was mutual combat and declared a draw.
- **March 26:** A citizen in the 900 block of Balboa reported being ripped off. Police have no clues.
- **March 25:** A citizen in the 500 block of Atascadero Road reported a petty theft. A citizen in the 600 block of Elena said his unlocked vehicle was ransacked, but they apparently didn’t find anything worth stealing.
- **March 24:** Police made note of a possible fraud case in the 3100 block of Main. Logs indicated a known suspect, “attempted to facilitate acceptance of funds sent in error through VENMO.” There was no loss reported, so no harm, no foul?
- **March 24:** At 1:50 a.m. police paid a visit on an old friend with two warrants in the 800 block of Piney, and his night got pipped at the post.
- **March 23:** Police responded at 5:46 p.m. to a report of a suicidal subject on Elm Avenue.

Letters to the Editor

Shape Your Future – Complete the 2020 Census

SVS, Senior Volunteer Services, has been servicing SLO County’s aging population for 46 years. That’s why we are pleased to be a trusted partner of the California Complete Count – 2020 Census, and have the opportunity to help reach seniors and urge them to complete the 2020 Census. San Luis Obispo County has a large and growing senior population with growing needs. Without every senior completing their survey, our county loses needed revenue to provide services and resources that reflect the true needs unique to this population.

To slow the spread of COVID-19 Californians are sheltering-in-place, but luckily, all of us can still participate and fill out the 2020 Census. Now you can fill out the census online or by phone. The census website has surveys in 59 languages and can be filled out in 13 different languages by phone.

Invitations to fill out the census have been sent to households across California with a unique Census ID to use when filling out the census. However, if you didn’t receive this in the mail or don’t want to wait, you can visit:

my2020census.gov to complete your census. Instead of using your unique Census ID you can use your physical address. If you’d like to fill out your survey by phone you can call: 844-330-2020 for English, 844-468-2020 for Spanish, or 844-467-2020 for TDD. To learn more about the 2020 Census visit: californiacensus.org

At a time when scams are prevalent there are some facts you should know about the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census will never ask you for: your social security number, financial or banking information, citizenship, or ask for payments or donations. In addition, information you provide is confidential. And lastly, make sure to close your browser after completing and submitting your form.

It’s vital that every person fills out and completes the 2020 Census. Information collected by the census brings necessary and needed federal dollars to California, and also helps determine what kind of resources and services are needed in each community. Federal dollars are used to fund community programs for seniors, children, and families, helps build hospitals and roads, creates local jobs and improves housing. Lastly, it determines the number of representatives we send to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census survey is only 9 questions long, and takes about 10 minutes. It’s amazing that so little time can have such a big impact in our communities. Please don’t delay, complete your 2020 Census survey today!

Linda Loebs  
SVS North County Coordinator

Recycle Right

Recycling properly is most likely near the bottom of everyone’s priorities these days. Yet, I’m compelled to share with my local neighbors one very easy and important step that everyone should know about—there should be no plastic bags in your recycling bin! Anything inside a plastic bag automatically gets thrown away.

Integrated Waste Management Authority specifies that there should be no bags in the blue recycling bin. On my daily walks I’ve seen a great number of bins that contain the big plastic bags with recyclables inside. These items you good-naturedly meant to save from the landfill do go into the landfill when they are inside any plastic bag.

So please help increase the amount of items recycled at our facilities by dumping out your recyclables directly into the blue bin. Thanks folks! (To become more knowledgeable about county recycling, visit <https://www.iwma.com/guide>.)

Kalila Volkov  
Morro Bay

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

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# Community

## Hurrah for our Health Care Workers



Health care workers are among the heroes at this time all over the world. They are working long hours and putting their lives on the line to do what they do best, care for others.

Arroyo Grande Community Hospital (AGCH), French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) and Marian Regional Medical Center (MRMC), which are Dignity Health Central Coast hospitals launch a new program called “Health Care Hurrahs.” It is a social media and internal campaign asking that community members share inspirational photos thanking health care professionals for their tireless dedication during this critical time.

Photos or video can be submitted via social media channels or by email, and will be shared on social media, in internal newsletters and banners, and in team huddles to provide support and encouragement. “This positive outreach also offers a channel for communities to share their appreciation for our dedicated health care teams,” said hospital spokesperson.

Photos can be submitted by emailing [sara.sanjuan@dignityhealth.org](mailto:sara.sanjuan@dignityhealth.org)

## More Overnight Parking Lots Opened

San Luis Obispo County has set up additional safe parking lots for people living in their vehicles during the coronavirus pandemic.

The County already designated the Los Osos Library as a safe overnight parking zone, bringing in hot showers and bathroom facilities, too.

They’ve now added the Coastal Dunes RV Park & Campground (1001 Pacific Blvd., Hwy 1 in Oceano); and the SLO Veterans Hall (801 Grand Ave. in SLO) as safe parking lots.

The sites provide safe, clean spaces for individuals or families to park and sleep, with bathrooms. The sites are open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. If no one arrives by 10, the site will be closed for the night.

Participants must agree to abide by their rules, including physical distancing — staying at least 6-feet away from other people — respectful behavior, and no drug use. Sites are open to vehicles only. No tent camping is allowed.

Sites are subject to change and County staffers are monitoring use and assessing the need to continue these sites and/or establish additional locations. A regularly updated list of sites is available at [ReadySLO.org](http://ReadySLO.org) and 805-543-2444.

For updates on COVID-19 in SLO County, visit [ReadySLO.org](http://ReadySLO.org) or call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903. A staffed phone assistance center at (805) 543-2444 is available seven (7) days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for questions related to COVID-19.

To report a business violating the Shelter at Home order, call (805) 788-2222.



Richard Stuart Otto, a widely known engineer, who developed and named Baywood Park, passed away at the age of 68 in his home in Santa Barbara, March 11, 1966.

Otto was the son of a wealthy Eastern family. He was born in East Orange, New Jersey, March 24, 1897. He was educated in private schools in this country and in France, Germany and Switzerland.

During WWI, he worked with noted military inventor Carl Nordon and later did the engineering for the Nordon Bombsight. It was considered one of the most significant Allied secrets and technical masterpieces of WWI.

About 1920, Otto was sent by his father, a New York banker, on a month-long mission to the court of Chinese warlord, Wu Pei Fu, to discuss a large loan. Otto decided against it.

Otto bought his first 10 lots locally from Walter Redfield for \$165. Redfield was a longtime resident and real estate sub divider in the area. With financial backing from his father, soon after, he purchased all the remaining lots, consisting of about 1,000 acres, in the townsite Town of El Moro (between 1921-22). Otto felt that the names Town of El Moro and Morro Bay sounded too much alike, so he changed the name of the area to Baywood Park and began developing it in 1924.

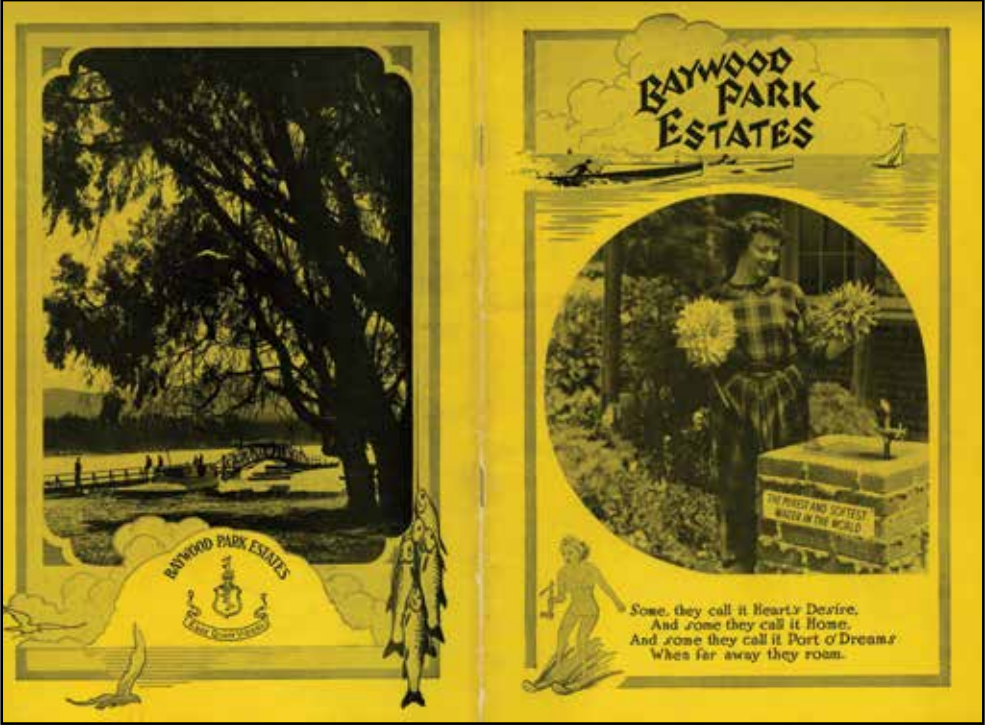
Otto met socialist Upton Sinclair, noted novelist,

at a meeting of the Bellamy Society, in the 1930s. He managed Upton Sinclair’s campaign for governor, devoting all his energies to the famous but unsuccessful EPIC (End Poverty in California) movement. This campaign has been studied by political science students around the world as an example of modern campaign structure.

Sinclair was defeated in 1934 in one of the most famous gubernatorial campaigns in California history and when the campaign was over, Otto bought an 85-foot yacht, Coquet, and lived on it for four years making several trip to the South Seas.

Otto maintained his home on the corner of Seventh Street and El Moro Avenue in Baywood Park for 15 years until he and his wife, Shirley, decided to move to Montecito in Santa Barbara in 1964. He had developed the Baywood Park community years before and had grown many of its Monterey Pines from seedlings he planted in a Los Angeles apartment window box. He personally planted hundreds of evergreen trees, pines and cypress, that line the streets of Baywood Park today. Plans for the development of the Baywood Park Estates into a large and prosperous community were envisioned by the colorful and controversial Otto and over a long period his vision slowly evolved.

Reference” Baywood Park Estates by Richard Otto c 1940



Back Page

Cover

## Technically Speaking



### Ring Getting Hacked and the Weak Link in Cybersecurity

Almost everyone has heard about the recent allegations against Ring doorbell security being insecure and to beware that hackers can infiltrate the common household doorbells security easily and wreak havoc upon its users.

This statement is not only untrue but also very misleading to those less tech savvy. The premise of the allegations

against Ring is that their security protocol is riddled with vulnerabilities and easily slipped past by malicious users. The honest truth of this is that the weak link in the security chain is, wait for it, THE USER. Yes, you heard us right the recent exploitation to go viral of someone getting into another’s Ring doorbell and messing with its users was found to be “hacked into” by a guessed password or stolen account. This means your data is only as secure as your password no matter what the service.

Some services are catching onto users creating not-so-secure passwords and requiring special characters, capitals letters and numbers simultaneously within newly created passwords to ensure users maintain a high standard of security for their data. Another method that Ring has recently adopted as better means of security is what we call two-factor authentication. This is another way of ensuring your security by sending a real time password to your cell phone or email with an expiration countdown so that they can be sure it is you logging into your service.

In short, as long as you are mindful of the integrity of your password, Ring is just as secure as any other service.

Chad Crawford is the owner of QuickTech in Los Osos located at 2121 10th Suite #A. They can be reached at <https://quicktechcomputers.com/> or (805) 806-0165. Send your questions to [chad@quicktechcomputers.com](mailto:chad@quicktechcomputers.com).

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# Community

## Botanical Garden Gets New Lease



The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden will continue to grow for another 20 years after the County and the Garden reached agreement on a new 20-year lease.

The lease closes a door on uncertainty that had been hanging over the Garden for a few years after its lease for a portion of El Chorro Regional Park was nullified by the Federal Government, which originally owned the land.

According to a staff report, the County got title to the 720-acre park in 1972 from the Federal Lands to Parks Program. The County leased a portion of what became El Chorro Regional Park to the Friends of the Botanical Garden in 1994 to start a public garden focusing on the five Mediterranean climates from around the world and on drought-tolerant plant species.

The Botanical Garden began taking shape with various gardens of plant types and species grouped together by geographic origins and in 2006, the County and Friends of the Botanical Garden entered into a 99-year lease. But that didn't fly with the feds.

"However," reads County Parks Director Nick Franco's report, "the quitclaim deed by which the County acquired the land from the Federal Government prohibits the County from leasing the land. This conflict was first identified in 2016 and County Parks and the Friends of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden have been negotiating a resolution to this inconsistency."

With that agreement in effect torn up the two sides had been negotiating over a new lease that would satisfy the Federal requirements and still be sufficient for the Garden to continue to fundraise in its efforts to realize its master plan.

That master plan includes several buildings highlighting the cultures of the various gardens and associated structures, an Educational Center with a catering kitchen, offices, a retail shop, greenhouses and propagation areas and a children's garden.

In exchange for the free lease, the Garden's nursery grows the plants that the County then puts in at other County parks and facilities.

## 'Mayor's' Emails Keep Cambria Informed

By Jill Turnbow

It was in 2006 when realtor, Kim Maston, was elected the unofficial "Mayor" of Cambria. At the time Kim and her husband, Rob, owned a local frame shop and were active in several community organizations. So it was a natural fit for Kim to run for office, so to speak.

For decades the local chapter of the Lion's Club had sponsored a race as a fundraiser for the area Teen Center. Every two years, several residents would seek the "office" by raising money and the one with the largest donation would win. Kim won that year in a landslide. The Teen Center has since closed and the campaigns are no longer needed, so that left Kim the Mayor in Perpetuity, according to the Lion's Club.

But Kim doesn't mind. Though she no longer has to show up for ribbon cuttings or parades, she does retain the informative email blasts, "A Message from the Mayor."

Maston says she started the emails during her "reign"



Kim Matson enjoying one of her favorite activities, before the lockdown. Photo submitted

merely to announce local events, to keep locals informed of what was happening in the community.

"My email list has grown to almost 4000 people," said Kim. "And now, due to our current COVID-19 lockdown, I feel it has become more important to relay updates on our situation and helpful tips. Besides, there are no events happening right now."

Kim is humbled by the responses she gets from her subscribers. She recently received an email from long-time resident, Marian King, who said, "You are, hands down, the best mayor we've ever had. Love your informative emails. Keep 'em comin'."

Many have expressed that they wouldn't know what was going on in town if it wasn't for the mayor's emails. For many Cambrians it is their only source to learn about events, concerts, plays, or fundraisers. Non-profits were quick to start submitting their organization's information. Kim would typically send out emails a couple of times a week, more in the summer months, and now she continues that schedule, despite the lack of events, keeping people informed of restaurant delivery schedules, food bank information, where you can get a free mask, and other information important to the community.

"It's time consuming but it's worth it, I think," she said. "I want to share what I think people need, but in a neutral way. Staying positive and helpful."

Maston also stays active in organizations such as University Women and the Cambria Fishing Club.

Currently, daily life hasn't changed too much for Kim and her husband, "First Guy" Rob. As realtors, they can both work from home and continue to stay on top of the changes in the real estate market. But they are getting a respite as well. "We take walks, and cook a little more, and we're taking moments in the day to sit outside and enjoy the views. Cambria is not a bad place to quarantine."

If you would like to get on Mayor Kim's email list or have an event or information you would like to share, email her at [mayor@Cambrialiving.com](mailto:mayor@Cambrialiving.com).

## The Morro Bay Citizen's Police Academy

By Ruth Ann Angus

### Bias Based Policing

Before signing up to attend the Morro Bay Citizen's Police Academy I saw the curriculum and thought if anything was going to be difficult it would be either the session on the use of force or Firearms Training Simulator/Tactical Scenario Training. I found the use of force class illuminating and serious giving me a different perspective than I think is understood by the common man these days. I knew prior to the simulator training that I would not participate since it would require me to make decisions to shoot someone even though it was only done in virtual reality. Using a gun, shooting anyone, and certainly killing anyone just is not something I can do. As it turned out, I was out of town

on the east coast at a peace retreat the night of simulation training and therefore did not have to even attend to watch others go through that session. Some of the class participated and several chose not to. However, neither of these two classes turned out to be the class that was difficult. The one that did was on bias.

We all have it. It must be something to the common condition of being human. I don't think animals suffer bias. Most people I talk to feel that a law enforcement officer should have no bias, but this is unrealistic and I think, impossible, especially in that career. Those of us who try to practice the principles of nonviolence espouse loving everyone. Yet it is terribly difficult to find love for a murderer, a terrorist, a racist, a sexist, or anyone who renders harm of any kind to another. So how are law enforcement officers trained to have no bias? There are laws and procedures and policies in place, but how do we remove the built in bias we have been taught from our families, our schools, our churches, our society at large?

At the class we learned of the laws and policies and were given a handout entitled "This is Not Your Grandparent's Prejudice: The Implications of the Modern Science of Bias for Police Training" by Lorie Fridell. Well, that's a mouthful of a title, isn't it? So, here is what I learned. The article begins this way: "On August 12th, District Court Judge Shira A. Scheindlin held that the stop and frisk practices of the New York City Police Department violated constitutional rights (Floyd v. City of New York 2013). In reflecting on a key concern in the case — the targeting of racial/ethnic minorities — Judge Scheindlin wrote, 'Unconscious bias could help explain the otherwise puzzling fact that NYPD officers check furtive movements in 48% of the stops of blacks and 45% of stops of Hispanics, but only 40% of the stops of whites. There is no evidence that black people's movements are objectively more furtive than the movements of white people.'"

Social scientists say that bias has changed in our society and today's prejudice is not our grandparent's prejudice. Bias researchers report that prejudice in early times was based on animus towards certain groups and "that a person with prejudice was aware of it." This they call "explicit bias" and racism is an example of this. Scientists go on to say that bias today "is less likely to manifest as explicit bias and more likely to manifest as implicit or unconscious bias. It works below consciousness and manifests even in people who consciously hold non prejudiced attitudes."

The article goes on to say that unconscious bias reflects our expanded scientific understanding of how bias and prejudice manifests in our society. We categorize individuals, we label people and we do so to try to make some sense and order of the world. Then we attach stereotypes associated with their groups.

In policing, this same unconscious or implicit bias can lead to officers perceiving crime in the making when observing young Hispanic males driving in an all-Caucasian neighborhood. It may manifest without crime related evidence with the knowledge of an impending gathering of black college students to be troublesome whereas a same gathering of white college students does not produce this feeling. And it can also lead to officers who become over vigilant with males in low income neighborhoods.

As this article states, the bad news is that prejudice remains widespread. We all have it. And we have it below our consciousness, "even in those of us who eschew, at a conscious level, prejudice and stereotypes." Can we overcome this? Yes. The more we have positive contacts with stereotyped groups, the more we are exposed to information that is opposite of these cultural stereotypes, the more we see clearly and shed our implicit biases. How is this done within our law enforcement institutions? Through constant training and partnerships with community members.

*This is a series on the recently held Morro Bay Citizen's Police Academy that began in September of 2019 and continued for nine weeks. Each article will cover the experiences and knowledge gained by the participants on a variety of subjects including Support Services, Records, Property, Evidence, Use of Force, Narcotics, Traffic, Laws of Arrest, Bias, Range Training, Taser, Budget, Firearms Training Simulator, Drone, Body Cameras, Field Training, Detective, SWAT, and Volunteer Program. Participants also heard from the District Attorney, Fire Department, Harbor Department, School Resource Officer, City Manager, and Police Chaplain.*



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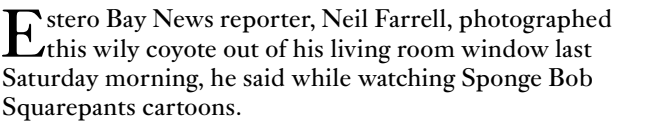
## Five Pirate Cagers Make All League Honors



## Second Team All-League honors went to Morro Bay

The co-Championship this year comes after last year's League Championship, which means the Pirates will be moved up to the Mountain League next season.

Photos by Neil Farrell



Neil said a few days before this encounter, he saw a coyote, perhaps this same one, chase down and catch a squirrel on the hillside, which he applauded because the squirrels are growing fat gorging on the wild bird seed.

12 April 23, 2020 - May 6, 2020 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



Business

Homemade Pizza  
Anyone?



You may have eaten a million of them, but have you ever made a pizza? A Morro Bay pizza parlor is offering a take-and-make pizza box complete with all the ingredients you need for a first class pie.

Pizza Port in Morro Bay is offering a “Bake Out Box” pizza kit you can make at home while riding out the Coronavirus.

According to Pizza Port manager Melissa Davis’ video post on Facebook (See: [www.facebook.com/pizzaportmorrobay](http://www.facebook.com/pizzaportmorrobay)), the boxes contain enough dough for a medium size pizza, cheese, sauce and two toppings of your choice. Cost is \$12.99 and available for pick up at the restaurant, 878 Main St., at the intersection of Main and Morro Bay Boulevard. Call 772-9540.

Davis’ video puts viewers through the paces of kneading and stretching the dough, saucing the pie, adding cheese and toppings and then popping it into the oven, all with the help of her daughter, Stella.

Pizza Port, which also makes hot sandwiches, is also filling call-in orders for pick up in front of the shop.

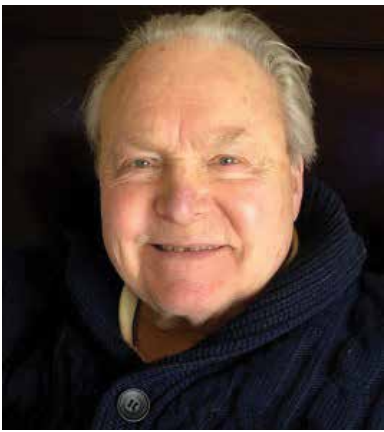
The long-time Downtown eatery is among numerous other Morro Bay restaurants, coffee shops, and delis that remain open, trying to survive the virus shutdown.

Readers are urged to call their favorite restaurants to see if they are filling orders and support local small businesses in this troubling economic time.



Obituary

John Lindemans  
1935 - 2020



Los Osos Loses a Legend

On April 7, 2020 Heaven opened up its pearly gates and welcomed home our beloved John Lindemans.

Johannes Martinus Lindemans was born in Rotterdam, Holland, on December 21, 1935 weighing 13 lbs. His version of the story, “I got up off the table shook hands with the doctor and said, ‘Hello, I’m John’.”

Larger than life at birth, John lived his entire life large. He was “John of all trades; master of many.”

John authored a memoir of his early years titled, “Nazi Atrocities as Seen Through the Eyes of a Little Dutch Boy.” Surviving the occupation shaped John’s incredible journey through life.

After serving in the Dutch Army, he immigrated to the US in 1958, where he set out to live the American Dream.

John’s enormous heart, gave him the incredible power to love. He loved his wife, Jean (Clearly) Lindemans. They met when John was a singer in a bar; seven weeks later they were happily married until Jean’s untimely death in 1989. Jean is remembered as “Mama Bear” to hundreds of Los Osos children who attended Baywood Elementary School. They leave behind their children; Jan Lindemans, Julie Tacker, Janine Lindemans, Jeff and Kathy Lindemans and Johanna Sanders.

John found love again with Paula, who has been by his side since their marriage in 1990. Paula has been a loving stepmom to John’s kids and Oma to Marly and Julien Santamarina, who are looking forward to their own baby in November, Teddy and Clayton Tacker, Jack Edwards, Justin West and Marina Lindemans, Travis Tutt and Brittany Tutt, Megan and Dustin Barnhart and she’s enjoying being Great-Oma to Delilah Jean Lindemans.

John’s American Dream played out; a carpenter by trade, evolving into a cement mason. If he couldn’t buy it, he would build it. If it broke, he fixed it. He was a talented craftsman and made many beautiful things. He built furniture, houses, swimming pools and bomb shelters. His

hobby was restoring horse drawn buggies and carriages – you would often see the family commute to church on Sundays by horse and buggy.

One of John’s dreams became reality when he expanded Trinity United Methodist Church by cutting it in half using a chainsaw, moving half the building 20 feet to the north and reassembling it. Another dream fulfilled was to work at Camp Arroyo Grande shoring up the circa 1897 tabernacle. Additionally, he also built the concrete walls in the Los Osos Community Park playground depicting children at play.

His biggest dream became his legacy — he and Jean bought property in Los Osos in 1968 and moved to the small town in 1971. They later purchased a small farm and over 10 years built a Dutch windmill. From its architecture, scored concrete floors, tile counters, reused telephone pole beams, and grape carved details, John’s artistry colored every aspect of their custom home.

In 1994 John and Paula moved to the Pacific Northwest where he again set out to conquer the American Dream. As principal of Coachman Construction he built 40 homes over the next 20 years. Together they enjoyed entertaining, boating and their membership at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club.

John enjoyed retirement, still crafting; he made models of WWII airplanes he had watched overhead as a child during the war.

Retirement wasn’t always rosy; his heart was broken when he lost his son-in-law, Josh Sanders, in 2012. These men shared much more than their love for Johanna.

John was a teacher and a storyteller and an accomplished vocalist. He had a song to sing for every occasion. Today he can be found singing bass in the choir of angles alongside Jean, Josh and his parents Cornelia and Karel, his sister Jannie and brothers, Karel Lindemans and Art Van Gelooft.

A Celebration of John’s Life is pending and will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made in John’s memory to Operation Smile at 3641 Faculty Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.



John was “The Coachman” and drove his horse-drawn carriage to many local weddings.

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said, “allowed for continued social distancing to occur for the protection of riders and drivers with no need to alter services.”

But ridership began to increase until they had seven riders on the bus at a time. That blew up the social distancing. “Proper distancing could not be maintained as recommended by the CDC,” Callaway said. “To ensure the continued safety of passengers and drivers, the decision was made to limit the number of riders in the bus at one time.”

The limits means some people waiting for a bus might not be able to board, if there are too many passengers, and would have to wait for the next bus, potentially in the rain.

The jump in riders occurred mainly at Albertson’s Market and City Park, the transportation hub for City and regional buses. Callaway said both offer covered bus stops and protection from the weather, should this year’s April showers continue.

“The City has had discussions with MV Transportation’s General Manager about being able to drop off a rider and loop back to a location where a passenger may have been not able to board the vehicle due to there being the maximum number already in the vehicle so that passenger would not have to wait another hour for the bus,” Callaway said.

The limit on riders, the number of which plays a small part in transportation funding, shouldn’t affect the City’s transit monies, though some of the other sources of revenues especially those coming from gas taxes, are somewhat less-certain.

“In discussions with SLOCOG,” Callaway said, “at this point no cuts to current TDA [Transportation Development Act] fund allocations for Fiscal Year 2019/20 are being contemplated; however, this may be revisited in late May, as additional information comes in from the State regarding sales and fuel tax revenues generated after the shelter-in-place order took effect.”

Memorial Day marks the normal start of the trolley service along the Embarcadero and throughout town. Will the trolleys run if the town is still shutdown? “Staff is in the process of evaluating what level of trolley services should be provided,” Callaway said, “given funding availability and the anticipated levels of tourism this summer. This would include looking at altering the days/hours of operation, as well as service level reductions such as combining, eliminating, or altering routes.”

She offered thanks to bus riders for their cooperation. “Morro Bay Transit thanks its passengers for doing their part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing to put space between themselves and others, as well as continuing to practice healthy habits like washing hands for at least 20 seconds, wearing face coverings while out in public, and staying home if feeling sick.”

Morro Bay Transit buses are running a normal schedule and will make adjustments as necessary, “to continue providing basic lifeline services for the public and allow for services that will help promote social distancing and other

individual risk minimization recommendations.”

For information on the City’s efforts to fight the Coronavirus, see: [www.morrobayca.gov/covid19](http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19) or call the City’s COVID-19 hotline at: (805) 772-6278.

**Public Works** From page 1

to hiring a new director,” Collins said. “Part of the organizational review is determining what qualifications we are seeking in a new director. Traditionally, the director position is also the City Engineer. But that might not be what our need is at this time.”

This all had its origins in a Council special study session on Feb. 25 when the Council reviewed a 10-year financial forecast of the City’s overall, long-term financial position.

As part of this, the City is to undergo a complete study of organizational concerns, structures and opportunities for changes. Given the status of the City’s tight finances, made worse by the coronavirus shutdowns, “every department would be analyzed and asked to look at the services they provide and ask, ‘Is this a service that needs to continue?’ and if yes, does the department need to continue to provide the service in the way that we are now?” reads Collins’ staff report.

Collins summarized the current and future challenges and opportunities facing Public Works:

- Completing utility projects, such as the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) and OneWater CIP (Capital Improvement Projects);
- Assessment of the backlog of capital project needs across the City (parks, streets, facilities, etc.);
- Increasing number of mandates from Feds and State;
- Competition for grant funding; and,
- Succession planning.

Collins said he, “believes this approach provides stability for the organization [retaining the skill sets, knowledge and expertise of Mr. Livick] and opportunities for current staff, all while providing the City a cost-effective path to transition and set the PW Department up to address the current and future challenges.”

He sees this as the best of both worlds. “The PW Department will maintain stability by retaining Mr. Livick in the City Engineer position to ensure that new projects get off the ground and that current projects have the requisite engineering oversight and review to be completed satisfactorily [WRF as a prime example],” Collins said.

Callaway will be evaluating the department to “determine its needs and develop a plan to address those needs prior to recruiting for a permanent Public Works Director.

“Part of the review will determine the proper role for

the future Public Works Director, to include determining if the Public Works Director should also be the lead Civil Engineer for the City, as is the current practice.”

He expects it to take up to 6 months to draw up recommended changes and rewrite the director’s job description.

Then, “The City will conduct a recruitment process, which would be available for both internal and external candidates, after this review is completed and the optimal structure is in place, helping to set up the new permanent Director and the Department for lasting success,” said Collins.

It wouldn’t be the first time the Public Works Department has been shaken up in the past several years, as the first change was to move maintenance of parks and City owned facilities from Recreation and Parks to Public Works under a reconfigured, single, “Maintenance Division” and changing the name to “Public Services.”

Another change came when the Planning and Building Department (now Community development) was organizationally separated out from Public Works, though they continue to share an office building.

**Local Subs** From page 1

one off South Bay Boulevard), and try and find savings.

Removing the corp yard portion was one recommendation that the Council took, though it rejected a closer site a former cement plant on Atascadero Road after the Coastal Commission drew the line of acceptable locations at Hwy 1. Nothing west of the highway would be acceptable to the Commission staff, which has insisted a new plant be moved away from the coast to avoid coastal hazards.

“You are correct,” City Manager Scott Collins said when asked about the corp yard, “the big corp yard idea was removed from the project prior to RFP going out, as a cost savings measure. BV-F [Black & Veatch/Filanc] is using the term corporation yard in its generic form: i.e. an area for vehicle, equipment and material storage.

“This will only be for water and wastewater material, equipment and vehicles as previously discussed. No non-water/sewer operation material, equipment nor vehicles will be stored at the WRF site.”

The list of available sub-contracts includes: “curbs and gutters, site concrete, asphalt paving, cast In place concrete, reinforcing steel, masonry, metal framing and drywall, metal fabrication and structural metals, casework, FRP railings and doors, roofing, insulation, flashing and sheet metal, doors, frames and finish hardware, skylights, glass and glazing, louvers and vents, ceramic tile, acoustical ceilings, painting and coatings, toilet partitions and accessories, signage, metal building systems, fire-suppression sprinkler systems, plumbing, HVAC, process piping, process equipment and valves, but not necessarily limited to this.”

Bidding documents are available at no cost by contact-

**Local Subs** Continued on page 15



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News

County Eases Shutdown, Fishing Reopens

By Neil Farrell

With the April 1 start of salmon season now come and gone due to the coronavirus shutdown, there is hope for anglers chomping at the bit to hit the open sea.

San Luis Obispo County issued new guidance for businesses that lessens somewhat the restrictions that came with the order to shelter-at-home, and closure of non-essential businesses. And by this weekend, the City of Morro Bay's public launch ramp should be open again for recreational fishers to go hunting.

On April 20, the County announced it would allow certain businesses to reopen, under the CDC guidance of wearing facemasks in public and social distancing. The change comes on the heels of an announcement by the Governor's Office the day before.

The businesses/services that can join gas stations, liquor stores, cannabis dispensaries, pharmacies, hardware stores and grocery stores in being open for business are, "non-urgent surgery and outpatient practice, construction, dog grooming and recreational fishing," according to the County Health Department's news release. "In each case, participants must follow the County's appropriate physical distancing, face covering and protective personal equipment [PPE] guidelines, which are in line with the CDC and CDPH guidelines."

"Our community can be proud that we have flattened the curve together," County Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein said. "We are now working together to develop a phased reopening plan."

The City had not yet officially followed suit with the County's orders by EBN's deadline, but as the City has been faithfully following the County's lead, is expected to adopt these as well.

Surgeries will resume once hospitals and surgery centers are ready, according to the County, likely within a couple of weeks. As for construction, the County will resume issuing building permits and jobs already underway can get back to work, too.

Pet grooming, the County said, both mobile and in-house, fall under "essential animal care and will resume following the guidance of County Animal Services Manager, Eric Anderson."

Perhaps the biggest impact of these locally is the re-opening of recreational fishing, which had slipped the hook in Morro Bay with the closure of the public boat launch ramp.

Harbor Director Eric Endersby said on Tuesday they were working up some guidelines to put in place for activity at the launch ramp, and would probably be reopened by this weekend.

He knows fishermen "are chompin' at the bit" to go out, especially for salmon. Last year's salmon season was really good and Endersby said indications are that this year will be a good season as well.

The City closed the launch ramp as part of its Coronavirus response, along with about 90% of the businesses in town. They closed beachside parking lots and even designated Embarcadero sidewalks as "One way" thoroughfares.

The County order allows fishing via personal boat or rented boats, with private charters allowed for party boats. That means commercial sport landings — Virg's and Patriot Sportfishing — would be able to book charters, though Endersby said they would still have to figure out the social distancing.

And, "Fishing suppliers may conduct sales through curbside pickup or deliver/shipping," the County said.

Commercial fishermen, who've been hit hard by the closures of restaurants and drop in demand — are working on a plan to sell fish direct from the boats to the public. Endersby said the details were still being worked out but the City has given its blessing, and could soon be in place as well.

It would probably be one central market set up to sell off the boats rather than have people brave the gangways and floating docks. Fish will probably be sold whole, too.

Meanwhile, the County extended the shelter-at-home order for another 2 weeks to mid-May.

As of April 20, there have been 132 identified coronavirus cases in SLO County, 30,333 in California, and 746,625 nationwide.

For updates and questions on COVID-19 in SLO County, see: ReadySLO.org or call the Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903, or their assistance center at (805) 543-2444, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and from 8-4 p.m. weekends.

Morro Bay's efforts were updated in a Facebook video, with Police Chief Jody Cox discussing the enforcement of the shelter-at-home orders, see: [www.facebook.com/watch/?v=513529992862258](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=513529992862258).

The City's coronavirus information is online at: [www.morrobayca.gov/covid19](http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19), or call (805) 772-6278.

**Rate Increase** From page 1

current coronavirus pandemic stay at home order, which has had a huge economic impact locally and worldwide.

"The emergency is both a public health emergency, and in my mind, and economic emergency," Gibson told Estero Bay News.

Residents had opportunity to protest the rate increase, but the required 50% needed fell short with about 18% of votes coming in, Gibson said.

The hike will see rates for a single-family home go up by \$10.42 per month (about 6%) in the first year with future increases of 3% increase per year.

According to a staff report, in fiscal year 2020/21 (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021) overall revenues are forecast at \$6.06 million; operations and maintenance costs at \$3.56M; Capital outlay at \$268,550; and debt service at \$2.2M.

"The costs are not going away," said District 5 Supervisor Debbie Arnold, who cast the dissenting vote. "We are going to be in a dire situation financially here at the county."

According to a County staff report, the sewer service charges were set in 2010 and based on projected operations and maintenance costs before the system was even built. The service charges began in earnest in fiscal year 2016/17 at the 2010 rates and haven't been adjusted.

"Operations and maintenance costs have remained relatively stable over recent years," reads the report, "but current revenues have not been able to cover system needs."

The system hasn't had as much flow as was anticipated, in part because water rates have been going up causing more people to cut usage to save money, and since sewer charges are based water usage, the revenues are falling short.

Due to press deadline, this is a short recap of what happened on April 21.

ESTEROBAYNEWS.COM

Bridge Bear Salutes Essential Workers

Since they were installed in the mid-1990s, people have been dressing the Los Osos bridge bear sculptures for the holidays — like Santa on Christmas, a leprechaun for St. Patrick's Day, etc... — and now someone has dressed the life-sized sculpture on South Bay Boulevard in scrubs and personal protection equipment. There's also a sign that says, "Thank you all essential workers," with a coffee mug that says, "Survivor."

Photo by Neil Farrell



Local Subs From page 14

ing Monica Weiss at: [mweiss@filanc.com](mailto:mweiss@filanc.com) or (760) 497-0170. Closing date for bids is 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 11.

Send quotes to: [FBVMorroBay@Filanc.com](mailto:FBVMorroBay@Filanc.com). Under the City's contract rules, the company must hire as many local sub-contractors as possible and with the plant contract at about \$69 million, there's lots of money to be made for local businesses.

It should be noted that these contracts are just for the treatment plant portion and do not include the other portions of the overall, "Water Reclamation Facility" or WRF.

The City will soon take bids for the needed convey-

ance system; the underground piping that will carry raw sewage to the new plant including at least two large lift stations and more than 3 miles of pipes buried under City streets.

The City won't know these costs until a contract is awarded, though it has been estimated at about \$21 million.

The third portion is the recycling system and that too is getting closer to being ready for final design and eventually bidding. Costs for this portion remain to be seen as well.

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