

Vista Court Flooding Aftermath



By Neil Farrell

An atmospheric river storm Jan. 8-9 left a swath of muddy destruction in one Los Osos neighborhood after a levee on a storm retention pond failed and sent a torrent of goo downhill into some 20 homes on Vista Court, a cul-de-sac in the Vista De Oro subdivision.

Estero Bay News sought out what's happened since that historic disaster.

Storm Drain System is Old

The pond is where storm runoff from the Cabrillo Estates — located uphill from Vista Court — collects through a series of storm drains in the streets. It's an old system and the Community Services District is in charge of the retention pond and the County maintains the storm drains.

"The basin was built in two parts," explained LOCSD

The levee that broke at Vista Court. Photo by Bob Crizer

General Manager Ron Munds. "The west end was constructed in 1972 and the east end where the failure occurred was built in 1994." Essentially, it's a basin within a bigger basin and it was that bigger basin that failed.

Normally with such earthen levees, water tops the levee and erodes it from the outside leading to failure. And once a levee or earthen dam starts to erode this way, it fails quickly. They aren't sure yet if that's what happened here.

In a recent interview, Munds said they were as yet unsure why the levee failed. "We're still waiting for the report from the third party civil engineering firm hired by the insurance company that should answer this question," Munds said.

Pond was Inspected

Everything seemed fine earlier that morning. "Staff did a visual inspection of the basin the morning of Jan. 9,"

Flooding Aftermath Continued on page 18

Residents Warned to Brace for Repeat Flood



Crews prepare to blast and reduce large rocks near the San Luis Obispo/Monterey County line on Highway 1 on March 11, 2023.

By Neil Farrell

On the 28th anniversary of the biggest flood in town history and two months after the worst flooding this century, the City of Morro Bay was warning residents to brace for a repeat.

But the feared devastation didn't happen, at least not to the degree of the big Jan. 8-9 storm. Morro Creek once again became a danger when runoff swelled the creek and overflowed into the Silver City and Silver City West MHPs located adjacent to Morro Creek and left a muddy mess at several Main Street businesses when the waters receded.

The flooding ran through the park fairly quickly causing some damage and leading to the evacuation warning by the City of Morro Bay especially for homes sitting above the creek bank.

"Due to the rising waters and heavy rain," reads a March 10 news alert from the City fire department, "an evacuation warning is in place for residents of Silver City RV Park and Silver City West RV Park, and an evacuation order for residents within those parks whose homes back up directly to Morro Creek."

The Rodeway Inn, which is a few blocks north on Main Street, offered discounted rooms for Silver City evacuees in the final days before the motel closes and becomes a drug and alcohol rehab center.

March 10 Dropped 1.65"

Fire Capt. Scott Subler told Estero Bay News that the March 10 storm dropped 1.65-inches of rain (total for March was 2.12" as of March 13). He noted that the same area flooded as in the January storm but it didn't last as long.

"It was just too much water," he said. "That area is at a choke point where Little Morro Creek and Morro Creek come together. There's just too much water."

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Return of the Weed Warriors



The Weed Warriors, part of the Friends of the El Moro Elfin Forest group, have reunited to care for the popular nature spot in Los Osos. Photo by R.D. Bowlus.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Signs of a very wet winter here on the North Coast are evident as spring approaches. The hills are green, the lakes are filled to levels not seen in years, and un-

wanted plants are abundant. Weeding was likely the chore everyone hated as a kid, but for one group of volunteers, it is time to put on the work gloves, grab some gardening tools and protect a local treasure.

After a two-year COVID hiatus the

Weed Warriors Continued on page 17

Morro Bay Girl, 12, Publishes First Novel

Photo and Story by Neil Farrell



A Morro Bay writer has accomplished what many aspiring wordsmiths have not, getting a novel published. And what makes the feat so much more impressive, is that she was grade school age when she started her historic tale.

Sophia Wilke, 12, recently celebrated the publication of her first novel titled, "Rose's Faith-Testing Adventure," which her mom, Hillary Wilke and father Andrew Wilke say is "a beautifully written historical fiction novel; taking place in the 1870s on the prairie. It is historically accurate with beautiful family values and sweet characters."

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Multi-Modal Study Explained

By Neil Farrell



The County has clarified what a study of Los Osos Valley Road will entail and the role the public will play in planning the future transportation needs.

Jake Hudson, a transportation planner with SLO County Engineering explained that the Los Osos Valley Road Multi-Modal Corridor Study, which County Supervisors recently increased funding for by some \$150,000, will take all the various transportation-related studies and plans and bring them together in one document.

He explained that over the years various projects have

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New
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County to Build New Horse Barn

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County recently completed a new animal services shelter and office building to accommodate the usual small animals it takes in and adopts back out.

Now it's time to do something for the bigger animals they occasionally take in.

Supervisors recently approved the 10th change order on the new Department of Animal Services HQ, adding in provisions to have the contractors construct a new equestrian (horse) barn and accompanying corrals.

Change order No. 10 would add some \$298,000 to the over \$15.28 million construction contract for F&H Construction of Lodi bringing the overall DAS building contract up to \$15.83M.

The previous nine change orders had added over \$550,000 to the project, which is located on County-owned land at the end of Oklahoma Avenue, just down the way from the old DAS shelter.

The Supervisors were also asked to release some \$781,800 (5%) of the original contract that was being held back. F&H's deal was for a design-build contract meaning the company both designed and built the new facility, which opened last September.

The project has taken several years to get done. Built in 1975 on an old circa-1940s U.S. Army and Camp San Luis Obispo landfill, DAS had made some improvements to the structure over the years to keep it going. But in April 2015, County Supervisors decided to go ahead and replace the building instead of keep pouring money into it. A year later, the board authorized that a new DAS building be built using the relatively new design-build method of delivery.

Doing the project required first that all the various agencies that contract with the County for animal services agree to a funding scheme. Every city in SLO County contracts with DAS to enforce laws pertaining to the welfare and treatment of animals — both pets and livestock.

The agencies will split the costs for the new shelter based on how many calls for service they have on an annual basis. County Supervisors agreed to take on more of the burden after Paso Robles and Atascadero hesitated to participate in the new shelter, first wanting to explore how much it would cost to provide the same services. Eventually, after Supervisors agreed to take on more of the debt, the two towns signed on to the agreement and the project was allowed to move forward.

In December 2019, F&H was awarded the D-B contract and it was substantially completed last August. DAS moved in last September and the grand opening was held soon after.

Under its original contract F&H had listed a new equestrian barn as one of three potential additions it could do if funding was available. The initial construction contract was actually completed under budget and some of that extra money will go towards the equestrian barn.

The barn is needed to properly house the livestock — mostly horses — that are occasionally taken in by the County.

The new shelter includes some long walking paths that meander across the meadow at the site, where volunteers work with the dogs that come in preparing them to be adopted out.

The County has already ironed out the scope of work and the schedule with F&H on the equestrian barn that will include “site grading, concrete mat slab, pipe rail fencing, a 4-stall equestrian barn, and minor site improvements. With this change order, the total contingency used on the project will be 5.5% of the contract value, which is within what is expected in a design-build contract,” reads the County’s report on the matter.

The DAS building is the latest of several big projects the County has undertaken out there over the past several years. They’ve also expanded and remodeled the Juvenile Services Center; built a new Women’s Jail and Jail Medical Facility; and a new 1.2-megawatt, 6-acre, solar farm was

also built out there next to the new DAS building.

The solar farm will help lower electricity costs for a dozen County facilities — Maintenance Bldg. 1200; the Main, West and Women’s Jails; Juvenile Hall; jail trailer (a medical facility); Honor Farm; Sheriff’s Detective and Storage Buildings; the fleet garage; Information Services; Emergency Operations Center; and Department of Animal Services.

The County had also built a safe parking lot for homeless people who stay in RVs or vehicles on a vacant lot next to the old DAS building, but the County is now planning to phase out that facility.

F&H has some 250 days to complete the new equestrian barn facility.

State Eases COVID Rules



The State’s COVID-19 isolation guidelines have changed and anyone who may have caught the virus now doesn’t have to isolate for so long.

According to a news release from the San Luis Obispo County Health Department, “Members of the general public with COVID-19 who feel well, have improving symptoms, and have been fever-free for 24-hours may leave isolation after five days, followed by a period of strict masking. A negative test is no longer needed to exit isolation.”

The State’s new orders went into effect on March 13 and will override the County’s “order to isolate” issued last November. The change is one of many issued by the California Department of Public Health “following the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. With these updates, most State requirements related to masking and vaccination will be replaced with recommendations,” the County said.

County Public Health Director, Dr. Penny Borenstein said, “While COVID-19 continues to take a toll on our community, we have more tools than ever to protect ourselves and each other.

“Most adults can now get prescription medicine to treat COVID-19 at no cost. We have updated booster vaccines and widely available at-home testing. If you need help accessing any of these tools, I encourage you to contact your doctor or our Public Health team.”

According to CDPH, beginning April 3, “masks will no longer be required in indoor high-risk and health care settings. This includes health care, long-term care, and correctional facilities as well as homeless, emergency, and warming and cooling centers. CDPH’s recommendations for facemasks for individuals was unchanged.

According to CDPH the mask guidelines include:

- Wear a mask around others if you have respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, runny nose, and/or sore throat;
- Consider wearing a mask in indoor areas of public transportation such as in airplanes, trains, buses, ferries, and transportation hubs such as airports, stations, and seaports;
- When choosing to wear a mask, ensure your mask provides the best fit and filtration — respirators like N95, KN95 and KN94 are best; and,
- If you’ve had a significant exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, wear a mask for 10 days.

On April 3 the State will no longer require vaccination for health care workers including in adult care, direct care, correctional facilities, and detention centers.

Beginning March 13, a COVID-19 positive person may end isolation after five days if they feel well, have improving symptoms, and are fever-free for 24 hours, with less emphasis on testing negative.

The State Public Health Officer’s order, formerly

known as “Beyond the Blueprint,” will be updated to align with the isolation and quarantine recommendations and includes an updated definition for a confirmed COVID-19 case.

On April 3, CDPH will rescind an order “that required hospitals statewide to accept transfer patients from facilities with limited ICU capacity as needed. ICU capacity has not been limited during recent COVID-19 surges after the broad use of vaccines and treatments.

Also being rescinded on April 3 is an order “that required providers to ask patients for their email addresses and/or mobile phone numbers when receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. New legislation requires that California healthcare providers who administer vaccines to enter information about patients, including telephone numbers and race and ethnicity.

New Laws to Be Aware Of

With the changing of the calendar to 2023, Californians again have a slew of new laws to be wary of. The Highway Patrol recently release summaries of some of the new laws that they will be enforcing on California’s roads.

- One new law concerns police officers and their employment requirements. Police officers and trainees are still authorized to work in the U.S. under Federal laws and regulations, however, California now does not require them to be U.S. citizens or even to permanently live in the U.S.
- A new law specifies who is legally allowed to sell used catalytic converters to auto recyclers, and requires the buyers to keep records on the year, make, model and a copy of the vehicle title where the cat came from. This is intended to cut down on catalytic converter thefts by going after the unscrupulous scrappers who buy them for the precious metals they contain.
- A new law changed the penalty for people who drive

Corrections

Last issue we mixed up the name of Morro Bay’s new Water Resources Center, confusing the Water Reclamation Facility Program with the Water Reclamation Center.

Also, the name of the new restaurant in the old Otter Rock Café space on The Embarcadero is Kickers.



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News

recklessly. Drivers involved in so-called “sideshow” activity, racing or speeding over 100 mph and which result in a fatality, can now be charged with vehicular manslaughter.

• Another new law dealing with reckless driving expands the area where exhibition of speed and street racing are not allowed to include parking lots and off-street parking facilities.

• A new alert system allows law enforcement to put out the word on social media, radio and TV whenever an indigent person has been kidnapped, abducted or reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances. The so-called, “Feather Alerts,” would use the same notification system as the CHP’s AMBER Alerts Blue and Silver Programs.

• A new law lets law enforcement agencies request the CHP to activate a “Yellow Alert” system whenever a fatal hit-and-run crash has occurred. The law also encourages local news media to disseminate the information contained in a Yellow Alert.

• A new law requires the Attorney General’s Office to create an online reporting system for third-party online marketplaces to report listed items suspected of being stolen. The information would be available to local police and the CHP’s Organized Retail Crime Task Force to help with investigations.

• The State has attempted to increase safety for bicyclists. Like the move-over or slow-down law that requires motorists to slow down and give riders a wide berth, this new law provides increased protections to bicyclists by requiring vehicles passing or overtaking a bicycle in the same direction, to move over to an adjacent lane of traffic, if one is available, or slow down and only pass the bicyclist when safe to do so.

The law also permits Class 3 e-bike riders “to use approved bicycle paths and trails, bikeways, and bicycle lanes. The law prohibits local governments from requiring bicycle registration and allows local authorities to prohibit any electric bicycle on an equestrian, hiking, or other recreational trail.”

• The CHP will work with other traffic safety stakeholders to develop statewide safety and training programs for electric bicycle riders. The training program will consist of electric bicycle riding safety, emergency maneuver skills, rules of the road and laws pertaining to electric bicycles, and will be posted on the CHP’s website in September 2023.

• And in what has perhaps been the most widely publicized change in the law, a new law prohibits peace officers from stopping pedestrians for certain “pedestrian-specific” violations like crossing a road outside of a crosswalk or better known as jaywalking, “unless there is an immediate danger of a crash.”

The law would appear to put the onus on the pedestrian to at least look both ways before jaywalking.

Hazardous Waste Facility Reopens

A local hazardous waste facility is back up and running after being flooded out in the big January storm.

The Morro Bay Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the old sewer treatment plant at 160 Atascadero Rd., opened back up on Saturday, March 11 after the storm of Jan. 8-9 overflowed Morro Creek and flooded over a square mile of Main Street from Radcliff to Atascadero Road and down Atascadero Road through the City corp yard and old sewer plant. Both City facilities were flooded.

The flooding swamped equipment stored in the corp yard along with several vehicles owned by City workers that were parked across the street. It also swamped several pieces of heavy equipment owned by Anvil Builders, the company that put in the City’s new conveyance piping system for the Water Reclamation Facility Project.

Operated by the County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA), the facility accepts household hazardous wastes, such as old paints, used motor oil, solvents, pesticides, and other items regularly found around the house that are dangerous to keep stored. It’s one of six such HHW drop-off facilities scattered throughout SLO County.

All of the HHWFs accept up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of waste materials free of charge.

Household hazardous wastes must be disposed of at designated locations and times. Household hazardous waste should not be disposed of in the trash or in the gutter.

Hazardous waste disposed of in the trash poses a serious threat of injury to trash collectors and landfill operators. This kind of waste also creates environmental problems when disposed of improperly. For these reasons, disposal of hazardous waste is regulated and improper disposal is illegal. The penalties can be substantial.

There are five other household hazardous waste facilities in San Luis Obispo County besides Morro Bay’s. They are: Chicago Grade Landfill 2290 Homestead Rd., Templeton, call: (805) 782-8530 for information; Cold Canyon Landfill 2268 Carpenter Canyon Rd., SLO, call: (805) 782-8530; Heritage Ranch CSD, 4870 Heritage Rd., Paso Robles, call (805) 782-8530; Paso Robles Landfill, 9000 Hwy. 46 East, Paso Robles, call: (805) 238-2028.

These facilities do not accept radioactive, medical waste or explosives, the IWMA said. There are separate programs for proper disposal of batteries, CFLs, fluorescent tubes, mercury thermostats, medicine, needles and sharps, and paint. Empty containers may be discarded with the trash. For more information on proper disposal call (805) 782- 8530.

No Citations in Shoulder Tap Sting

By Neil Farrell

Teenage drinking is still a major problem in the U.S. and local police joined a statewide effort to bust people who purchase hooch for kids, however, none of the people here who were approached by underage decoys got cited.

According to MBPD Sgt. Nicole Taylor, on March 11, MBPD joined the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), and took part in a statewide “Shoulder Tap” operation. A shoulder tap is when an under-aged police operative (decoy) asks an adult (presumably a stranger) to purchase alcohol for them. If they agree, they can be cited and fined up to \$1,000 and 24 hours of community service.

“This enforcement operation,” Sgt. Taylor said, “is designed to create awareness about the dangers of underage drinking throughout California and keep communities safe. The Morro Bay Police Department was one of 77 police departments statewide who participated in the operation.”

She said Morro Bay and ABC agents tried the shoulder tap with 10 different people at five locations in town. None of the people the decoys approached was cited.

“The 10 people contacted by our minor decoy,” Sgt. Taylor said, “all refused to purchase alcohol for the minor so therefore no one was issued a citation. In two locations, the clerk recognized the minor’s actions and made contact with the minor asking them to leave.”

Morro Bay has just 16 so-called “off-site “ retail liquor licenses, which typically are held by gas station/mini marts, grocery and drug stores, as well as liquor stores and wine tasting rooms. Essentially it means a person can purchase alcohol and take it with them from the store, as opposed to liquor licenses for places like restaurants and bars, where one is served alcohol but cannot leave the premises with it.

How it works is “a minor under the direct supervision of law enforcement stands outside of a liquor or convenience store and asks customers to buy them alcohol. The minor also indicates they are underage and cannot purchase alcohol.”

MBPD Chief Amy Watkins said, “Underage drinking harms our community. Preventing the sale of alcohol to minors will help to increase public safety and make our roads safer.”

The head of ABC, Director Eric Hirata, said, “We conduct these operations to keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth. By preventing underage drinking we can

Shoulder Tap Continued on page 4



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Flores Gets Life for Kristin Smart Murder

By Neil Farrell

The man who was perhaps San Luis Obispo’s most infamous murderer has been sentenced to life in prison in the culmination of a case that took over a quarter century to bring to justice.

Paul Flores, 46, was sentenced to 25-years to life in prison for the 1996 murder of Cal Poly freshman, Kristin Smart, who was last seen with Flores leaving an off campus party on Memorial Day Weekend.

The case was unsolved from the time of Smart’s



Paul Flores

disappearance to until last October, when a jury in Monterey County found Paul Flores guilty of murder. His father Ruben Flores, who is over 80-years old, was acquitted of aiding his son in covering up the murder — an accomplice after the fact — in his trial, which was held concurrently in Monterey County Superior Court in Salinas.

That’s where the trial was moved to after the defense successfully got a change of venue, claiming that the case had gotten too much pre-trial publicity — actually over 25 years worth.

The story of Smart’s disappearance, for which Paul Flores was always the prime suspect, was never entirely out of the public spotlight and was a lingering heartache over her family, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and the dozens of law enforcement investigators. It was arguably the biggest unsolved murder in SLO County history.

In recent years, the case took on renewed interest because of a podcast, “In Your Own Backyard,” by free-lance journalist, Chris Lambert, that ran from 2016-19 and focused on the case.

The podcast was credited by the County Sheriff for opening up new avenues of investigation, finding new witnesses, and the building of a better circumstantial case against the younger Flores through a number of women who testified they’d been drugged and raped by Flores.

Smart’s body has yet to be found, so the murder case was based on circumstantial evidence.

Lambert’s podcast (see: www.yourownbackyardpodcast.com) played a large part in finally getting both Flores men arrested and facing trial. And while Ruben Flores was found not guilty, his son is going to State Prison, provided that a motion for a new trial made by the defense, is ultimately unsuccessful. The initial motion was denied by the trial judge before sentencing.

SLO County D.A. Dan Dow said after the sentencing, “Today, our criminal and victim justice system has finally delivered justice for Kristin Smart, for the Smart family, and for our San Luis Obispo County community. We thank the Smart Family and our community for the tremendous trust and patience they placed in the investigation and prosecution of this terrible crime.

“We recognize the jury for their focused attention to the evidence and the Sheriff’s Office for their tireless effort in building this case. Today, justice delayed is not justice denied.”

Putting together a successful prosecution was the work of more than a dozen local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies over the span of 25 years, the D.A. said, but most importantly, the perseverance of the Smart Family.

Their strength and determination serve as an inspiration to us all,” said Deputy D.A. Christopher Peuvrelle, who prosecuted the case and has since left SLO County for a position in the Monterey County D.A.’s Office. “After nearly 27 years of unspeakable anguish, the Smart Family has finally seen their daughter’s killer sentenced.

“The prosecution team is grateful for the support of the entire San Luis Obispo community during the case. The community stood together, never gave up, and supported us to see that justice was done. We hope that victims everywhere know that there are people in the justice system who will stand up to make sure their voices are heard.”

Peuvrelle and Assistant Chief Investigator for the SLO County D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation, James “J.T.” Camp were the main prosecution team. Now retired County Sheriff Senior Deputy, Clint Cole, was the lead investigator. The prosecution team included Paralegal Rebecca Cripe, Victim-Witness Assistance Center Assistant Director Beth Raub, Witness Coordinators Eloiza Basinger and Kellie Navarro, Deputy D.A. Crystal Seiler and others.

The D.A.’s Office also thanked Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni and her team “for providing physical and technical support throughout the trial, which was held at the Salinas Valley Courthouse in Monterey County.”

But while the drama of the arrest and trial are finally over, the one unanswered question remains — where is Kristin Smart’s body? Which is, unfortunately, a question that may never be answered now that Ruben Flores is free and his son heading to prison.

Machine Gun Found in Grover Drug Bust



Photo shows the guns and drugs reportedly seized by the Sheriff’s Department in a March 16 search of a Grover Beach home. Included is an Uzi machine gun in the center. Photo courtesy SLO Sheriff’s Department

Sheriff’s deputies arrested a Grover Beach couple on drug and weapons charges including possession of a machine gun.

Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla said in a news release that the Sheriff’s Special Operations Unit on March 16 served a search warrant at a home in the 1100 block of Grand Ave., Grover Beach and discovered a trove of alleged illegality.

“During the search,” Cipolla said, “detectives seized 163 grams of methamphetamine, 158 grams of fentanyl, two Glock-style ghost handguns, an UZI fully automatic machine gun, and a 12-gauge shotgun.” The Sheriff’s Department said the drugs were worth \$6,700. The homeowners were arrested. A “ghost gun” is one made from a DIY kit that has no serial numbers and is untraceable.

An Uzi is an automatic fire compact rifle developed by Israel in 1950 and used by warring factions across the globe ever since. According to a Wikipedia post on Uzis, “From the 1960s through to the 1980s, more Uzi submachine guns were sold to more military, law enforcement and security markets than any other submachine gun ever made.” It has been exported to over 90 countries since being designed by Israeli Army Major Uziel “Uzi” Gal in the late 1940s.

The Sheriff’s Department investigation led to the arrest of Brett Douglass, 46, and Jacquelyn Douglass, 56 of Grover Beach on suspicion of being a felon in possession of a firearm; possession of a machine gun; felon in possession of a firearm; possession of a controlled substance while armed; possession for sale of a controlled substance; and selling controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a school, Cipolla said.

Grover Beach Elementary School, Cipolla said, is located some 493-feet from the Douglass’ home that was searched.

After their being booked into County Jail, Cipolla said a judge granted a bail increase and now both have bail set at \$250,000.

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Shoulder Tap From page 3
increase the quality of life in our communities and reduce DUIs.”

Sgt. Taylor said, statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a much higher risk of being involved in a crash than older drivers. About 25 percent of fatal crashes involve underage drinking according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.”

This operation was funded by ABC’s Alcohol Policing Partnership program and the California Office of Traffic Safety through NHTSA.

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

March Storms
Recovery Information

The County of San Luis Obispo Office of Emergency Services has posted recovery information for the public on their RecoverSLO.org website for those in need of assistance following the recent storms.

This includes how to re-enter your home if you experienced damage, cleanup and recovery resources, and information regarding financial assistance. As a reminder for those who experienced water intrusion in their home:

- Wearing protective clothing, check your home for any hazards or structural damage.
- Look above for any tree or electrical hazards.
- Check for any gas leaks.
- Document damages and contact your insurance company.
- Dry out your home as quickly as possible to reduce mold.
- Remove debris.
- Remove damaged drywall and flooring.
- Assess submerged appliances.

There is a location on RecoverSLO.org for the public to report any damages sustained to homes, which will help determine the amount of damage to the county. This information will be used to pursue recovery funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) known as Individual Assistance.

Addis Appointed to
Ocean Protection
Council

Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) was recently appointed to the Ocean Protection Council by Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood).

The Ocean Protection Council was created by the

California Ocean Protection Act (Senate Bill 1319), authored by former Senate pro Tempore John Burton (D-San Francisco) in 2004. The mission of the council is to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

“Protecting our state’s ocean and coastal resources is an obligation of each generation of Californians,” Addis said. “I’m honored and thankful that Speaker Rendon has appointed me to this council to ensure that California prepares for and reduces the dramatic impacts of climate change on our oceans and coast.”

The council consists of the secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the secretary for Environmental Protection, the chair of the State Lands Commission, and two members of the public appointed by the Governor.

Elected in 2022, Addis represents 200 miles of California central coastline, from the Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County border in the south to the eastern coast area of Santa Cruz County in the north.

Spring Kittens and
Puppies at Woods



As many prepare for spring break vacations, Woods Humane Society is preparing for a flood of spring kittens and puppies in need of shelter by hosting a Spring Shelter Break adoption promotion from through April 2.

All adoption fees will be reduced to \$50 (plus license fees for dogs and puppies) to encourage adoptions and help make space for the hundreds of animals it expects to take in over the coming months.

“As temperatures warm, unaltered dogs and cats begin reproducing, which results in a deluge of young animals in need of food, shelter and medical care,” said Woods Interim CEO Emily L’Heureux. “From April through December, we will take in around 800 kittens or more, many of whom are newly born, sick and in need of round-the-clock care.”

All animals have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, licensed, and treated for parasites. Adoptions also include a voluntary 30 days of pet insurance and a free wellness exam at a local vet clinic.

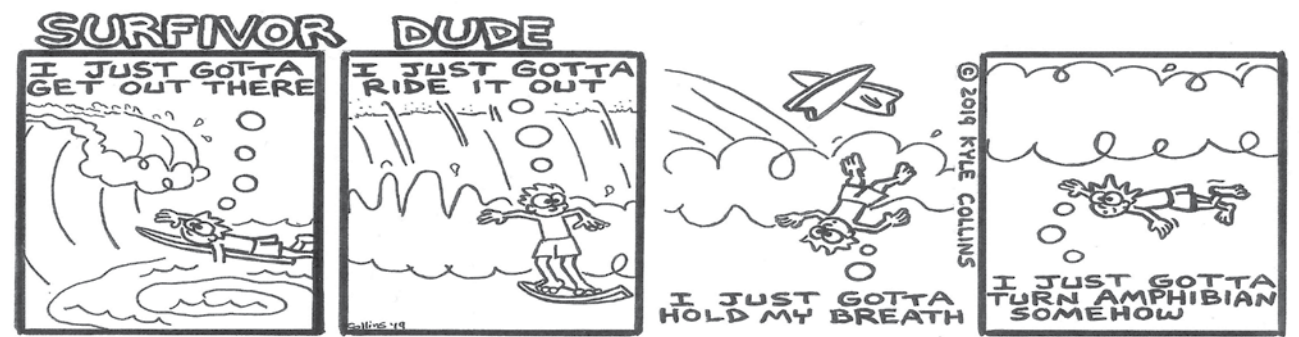
Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero and is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

Tax Help at
Los Osos Library

Need help doing your taxes? The Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave, offers free tax preparation assistance with United Way - Sundays March 26, April 2, April 16. No income limits are imposed, but fees may apply depending on the schedule prepared. No appointment is needed.

All library programs follow current California and County of San Luis Obispo health guidelines. They can be reached at 805-528-1862.

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



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Community

Reckless Driver Spun Out, Arrested

A Watsonville man was arrested after a car chase on Hwy 101 from Paso Robles to San Luis Obispo that forced the Highway Patrol to blow out his tires and send the car into a spin.

According to a news release from CHP Ofc. Miguel Alvarez, at about 3:20 p.m. Tuesday, March 7 CHP dispatch received multiple 9-1-1 calls about a vehicle traveling recklessly southbound on Hwy 1 through Paso Robles. The white Infinity sedan was reportedly swerving all over the roadway with a right front tire that had disintegrated and the car was riding on the rim.

Multiple CHP units responded to the call and the Infinity sedan was spotted on Hwy 101 at the San Anselmo Road turnoff in Atascadero. CHP officers tried to pull the car over but the driver refused to stop and “continued to drive recklessly in an attempt to evade CHP officers,” Ofc. Alvarez said. The chase continued over the Cuesta Grade and into San Luis Obispo where officers brought the matter to a deflating end.

“A successful spike strip was deployed near the bottom of the Cuesta Grade,” Ofc. Alvarez said. Blowing the other three tires slowed the car down enough so officers could force it to spin out — called a “pursuit intervention technique” — and ended the pursuit near the Broad Street exit.

The driver, identified as Luciano Lopez of Watsonville, Calif., was arrested on suspicion of felony evading and driving under the influence of a drug, according the news release.

Convicted Molester Gets Life

A convicted child molester has been sentenced to life in prison after being convicted in February on multiple counts.

The District Attorney’s Office announced last week that Marco Antonio Navabarrera, 37 of San Jose, was sentenced by Judge Craig B. van Rooyen to 142-years and 8-months to life in prison for sexually abusing two minors between 2015 and 2019.

On Feb. 16, Navabarrera was convicted on eight felony counts of sexual abuse of a minor. His victims, now 9 and 16-years old testified in his sentencing hearing how the crimes affected them.

“One specifically described how their childhood was



Marco Antonio Navabarrera

stolen from them by the cruel acts of molestation at such a young age,” the D.A.’s Office said in a news release, “and over a 7-year period. The foster mom to one of the victims told the judge that her son, ‘would not be [the defendant’s] victim, he would be a victor.’”

Judge van Rooyen handed down the maximum penalty under the law telling the defendant, “You are a serial predator, you destroyed the family; you will face the consequences.”

District Attorney Dan Dow said, “We applaud these young survivors for speaking out and having their voices heard. We hope that their courage to report and testify and the resulting long prison sentence will encourage other victims of all ages in our community to report and seek help from law enforcement.

“We will hold child predators accountable and when they are convicted, we will do everything legally possible to remove them from society so that they cannot victimize a vulnerable child ever again.”

This case was investigated by the County Sheriff’s Office, the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation and the Child Abuse Interview Team. Deputy D.A. Kristin Barnard of the Sexual Violence Unit prosecuted the case.

Arrest Made in Halloween Shooting

Sheriff’s investigators arrested a young man they said was involved in a shooting in Shandon last Halloween.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, Sheriff’s detectives arrested Jesus Contreras, 19 of Shandon, for a shooting that occurred Oct. 31, 2022 in Shandon.

“Deputies were called to the 200 block of Camatti St.,” Cipolla said, “for a report of shots fired. When deputies arrived, they discovered a 15-year-old male in the street with a gunshot wound to the stomach.”

The teenage victim was “alert and talking,” and deputies administered first aid. The victim was taken to a local hospital and survived his injuries.

The investigation led to Contreras and he was arrested last week without incident.

He faces charges of suspected assault with a deadly weapon, and inflicting great bodily injury. Cipolla said the shooting is believed to be “gang related” and their investigation is continuing.

Supervisors Award Toro Creek Bridge Contract

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors have awarded a contract to design a new bridge spanning Toro Creek on the eastern portion of the roadway just off Hwy 41.

On Feb. 28, Supervisors voted to award a \$414,600 contract to Mark Thomas & Co., of Irvine Calif., to design

the so-called, “Toro Creek Road at Toro Creek Bridge Replacement Project.”

The contract includes a contingency of \$41,400 for a total of \$456,100 design budget.

“The primary purpose of this bridge replacement project,” reads a report from Dan Van Beveren of County Engineering, “is to improve public safety by replacing the existing bridge on Toro Creek Road with a new bridge that will accommodate a standard roadway width and will adjust the current roadway alignment.”

The existing bridge, which is about 2.7-miles down Toro Creek Road off Hwy 41 (near the Half Way Station), has rotten timbers and “corrosion at its steel girders. The bridge has been inspected by Caltrans and remains eligible for replacement because it is functionally obsolete, has substandard railings, and exhibits scour issues at both abutments.”

The bridge is one of several on that road that cross Toro Creek, which meanders through the coastal mountains. It’s narrow, with 2-lanes for traffic and room for little else.

The new bridge will be 60-feet long with an improved clear deck width between railings wide enough so the lanes of traffic meet modern County and Caltrans standards.

Toro Creek Road is a somewhat odd path as it runs from Hwy 41 into the hills in a roughly north-west direction until it dead ends on private property. It also heads west from Hwy 1, again winding deep into the mountains where it stops on the other side of the private property, leaving a gap in the middle.

From Hwy 1 the road winds its way through bucolic farmlands and ranches through one of the more rural areas in all of SLO County. From Hwy 41 it winds through heavily forested lands.

Thomas & Company’s scope of work includes selecting the type of bridge to install; designing the bridge including the abutments; designing the roadway direction changes; coordinate with utility companies; analyze the drainage issues; produce construction documents; and permit compliance.

That last one could be troublesome as it is normally difficult to get a permit to work around creeks and streams. Both State and Federal agencies get involved whenever a waterway is affected.

The County will work with Caltrans on the permitting which includes both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

The County said it would need permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Thomas & Co., will help the County navigate these agencies.

When Thomas & Co., is done the County will have final construction contract documents to be able to advertise the project for construction bids. Barring any unforeseen delays, construction is expected to occur in 2026.”

The County said this would be a multi-year project with an estimated cost of \$3 million to \$3.5 million.




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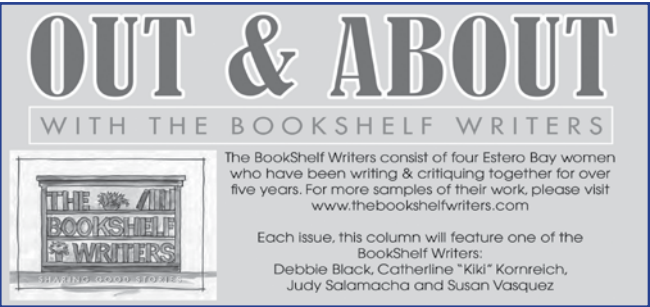


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Community

Meet the Author — Local Writing Community



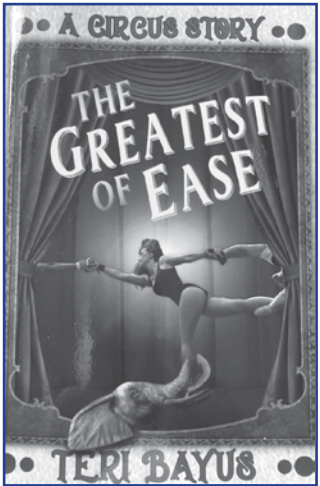
By Judy Salamacha

Are you a writer? Have you ever thought you wanted to publish a book? Do you dream about living the life of a New York Times bestseller? Maybe you love to read and collect books, especially treasured books signed by the author? SLO County is home to many published authors and host to many community events featuring books and authors, including the recently announced 39th Annual Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference (CCWC) on Saturday, October 14 www.cuesta.edu/communityprograms.

Members of the SLO writing community love to meet-up and share tips and experiences with each other, but book launches and signings with our readers is special. For me it was my “aha moment” that I was truly a writer! I had published in newspapers for years, but when asked for my first autograph on my book that was available at bookstores, I could finally admit I was a writer.

Next month offers several opportunities for book-lovers to hang out with authors, buy their book, listen to a reading, ask them questions and even ask for their autograph.

Teri Bayus, author of “The Greatest of Ease: A Circus Story” is on her countywide book tour. She will be at the



‘The Greatest of Ease’ written by Teri Bayus.

Atascadero Library at 2:30 p.m. on April 13. May 26 she’s at the Cayucos Library and May 31 at the Cambria Library. Check out times and other dates at www.teribayus.com.

“All events are free, but you can purchase a personally signed book,” Teri said. “I do a reading, share circus snacks, tell some circus facts, and answer questions.”

Teri is one amazingly talented woman known for a variety of entrepreneurial successes, including being director of CCWC for six years. She hosted and produced the TV show “Taste Buds,” was a food and film critic for local newspapers and taught writing at local colleges. During COVID she decided to focus on publishing. None of us will be surprised when her book covers state New York Times bestseller.

“The Greatest of Ease” is a roman à clef,” Teri explained. “That means, everything is true, but the names and order of events have changed for dramatic purposes. Other examples are “To Kill A Mockingbird” and “On The Road.”

The back cover of her book asks, “Did you ever threaten to run away and join the circus?” followed by “It’s 1980, and Gail has decided to blow off her full college ride and become a trapeze artist.” It tells the story of Gail, aka Teri, breaking into a dysfunctional circus community, looking for love, becoming an under-valued family member as she achieves trapeze artistry, tactics to surviving the life and then ... well you’ll have to read the book.

Teri said, “People seem to love being transformed into the inner circle of the circus.” She admits not many want to try the life she lived, “It’s not an easy life. But everyone is fascinated.”

She has two more books in the works. “I am writing a nonfiction called ‘The Universal Conspiracy.’ It is about how I believe the Universe conspires to make our dreams come true, if we go for it. It is basically all my crazy leaps of faith — 28 businesses owned in 30 years. It will be out in May 2023. Next is a fiction story of two orphans lost and found set in Belize after a hurricane.”

Sunday April 14 at 1pm at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay six authors will entertain. Author/actress Mara Purl will launch her latest book in the Milford-Haven series, “Why Hearts Keep Secrets.” Years ago, while performing at the Pewter Plough Playhouse, Mara fell in love with Cambria then adopted and adapted it as the backdrop for her successful mystery/romance series.



Join author six authors for an event at Coalesce Bookstore.

Purl invited her writer friends to join the festivities. Most of them she met through SLO NightWriters, Central Coast Sisters in Crime and while she presented at CCWC. “Amongst us we have humor, romance, and plenty of mystery!” Mara said.

Anne R. Allen writes “funny mysteries and how-to-write books.” Any novice or experienced writer won’t find better advice than Anne’s weekly blog, Anne R. Allen Writing About Writing.

Tony Piazza is a prolific mystery writer with his other ten fingers tapping out books on Hollywood yester-years, like his time with Steve McQueen during the filming of Bullet.

A retired middle grade teacher, C.S. “Charlie” Perryess loves working with children’s book authors. He has a terrific voice so is often tagged for audio books. Ilona Stone also voices audiobooks and is a classical music host for KCBX. Lida Sideris has a new mystery series, Murder & Other Natural Disasters.

And, if you really enjoy hanging out with writers, October 14 is not that far away. Early-bird registration is currently open for Saturday’s writers conference at Cuesta College. Many of us transitioned from other careers wanting to write and publish. We found our jump-start at CCWC.

Brian Schwartz is the new director. Past president of the Colorado Independent Publishers Association, Brian currently writes the “Local Author” feature in SLO Life Magazine. He’s the author of two books and the CEO of a publishing services consulting firm based in San Luis Obispo. For the past 15 years, Brian has worked with hundreds of authors at www.SelfPublish.org, including several New York Times bestsellers.

City Bus Service a Rainout

With anticipated rains predicted to potentially bring flooding and treacherous driving conditions, the City of Morro Bay canceled its bus service to ride out the storm.

On March 10 the City put out a news release stating that “Due to heavy rain, the current local road closures, and the encouragement for residents to avoid nonessential travel, the City of Morro Bay has suspended Morro Bay Transit service for the rest of Friday, March 10. Service will resume regular operations on Monday, March 13.”

Morro Bay Transit is a service the City provides to residents and visitors that runs on a fixed route and schedule. However, it is flexible for those who need door-to-door service. If readers need a ride somewhere within the City

Bus Service Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **March 5:** Police responded to the 900 block of Pelican Pl., where some scoundrel busted a window on the back door in an apparent botched burglary attempt.

• **March 3:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of Monterey Avenue. Logs indicated an 18-year-old woman was nailed for alleged driving hammered.

• **March 3:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at Main and Radcliff for some unspecified code violation. Logs indicated the driver, 35, had a suspended license, suspended because he'd been caught driving sloshed. The mulish fellow was cited and released on foot.

• **March 1:** Police responded to an address on Piney Way where a citizen told them he'd had a penny delivered to his residence and when he got home, found the package ripped open and the penny missing. No word on what the loss was, though 1¢ might be a likely guess.

• **March 1:** Police contacted a suspicious subject in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 30-year-old rascal had five misdemeanor arrest warrants and was placed under arrest. While being frisked, officers reportedly found suspected illegal drugs and he's in a world of hurt now.

• **Feb. 28:** Police responded to a business on Morro Bay Boulevard for a report of a forged check and grand larceny. Logs indicated the loss was a stinging \$1,800.

• **Feb. 28:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at Elena and Birch. Logs indicated the 39-year-old model citizen was allegedly in possession of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia and naturally, a probation violation.

• **Feb. 27:** Police responded at an unreported time, to an

undisclosed location on Morro Bay Boulevard, where an unreported caller said an unidentified person was missing.

• **Note:** The police logs for the week of Feb. 13-20 were not available for our last edition. We got them last week are running them in this issue.

• **Feb. 19:** Police contacted a suspicious subject somewhere on Main Street at some undisclosed time. The 52-year-old scofflaw had a felony warrant and was arrested. Low and behold he also allegedly had a crack pipe in his pocket (or hidden somewhere), and was also charged with suspicion of possession drug paraphernalia.

• **Feb. 19:** Police responded to Albertson's on Quintana after they reported a persona non grata was inside the store, apparently after previously being 86'd. Police contacted the interloper who was arrested on a pair of bench warrants and hauled to the hoosegow, where, drat the luck, they allegedly found illegal drugs in her possession and added a charge of suspicion of bringing drugs into jail, which while it might sound like a fine way to do time, isn't allowed.

• **Feb. 19:** Police responded to the 400 block of Morro Cove Rd., for a disturbance. Logs indicated they discovered an apparent husband-wife team having a raucous row. Logs indicated the wife, 39, was nicked for suspicion of battery, making criminal threats and being lubricated in public. The husband, 43, was arrested for suspicion of battery, and being toddy stricken in public. Both were checked into the Parkinson Plaza. Adding perhaps a bit of insult, their vehicle was towed away for an expired registration.

• **Feb. 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle on Quintana Road. Logs indicated the lady driver, 25, was cited for a suspended license and released to hoof it home.

• **Feb. 18:** Police responded to a bank on Morro Bay Boulevard for a report of a fraudulent bank account withdrawal, but never fear Uncle Joe will no doubt bail them out.

• **Feb. 17:** Police were called to a business on Quintana Road where presumably a woman said there was apparently a camera in the room where she was getting a wax treatment. No word on who — or what — was being waxed.

• **Feb. 17:** Police responded to Motel 6 for a report of a domestic dustup in progress. Logs indicated they arrested

somebody (not who) on suspicion of inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or co-habitant; child abuse; false imprisonment — kidnapping/abduction; and destroying a cell phone that someone, presumably the victim, was using to call 9-1-1.

• **Feb. 17:** Police responded at an undisclosed time to an unnamed location on Quintana Road for a traffic collision of some undisclosed nature.

• **Feb. 16:** Police responded to a disturbance at 1:25 p.m. in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated some unhappy camper was having a bit of a kerfuffle. He was taken to County Mental Health for a 72-hour timeout.

• **Feb. 15:** Police responded at an undisclosed time to an undisclosed location of Quintana Road for an injury car accident. Logs didn't say who was involved, who was injured, who was at fault, nor much of anything else frankly.

• **Feb. 15:** Police responded at an undisclosed time to somewhere on Atascadero Rd. where they took an apparently troubled juvenile boy or girl into custody for a 72-hour mental health hold. No word on whether this was at the high school, but that might be the way to bet.

• **Feb. 15:** Police contacted a bothersome woman, 39, on Quintana Road making a pest of herself. She got benched for three bench warrants.

• **Feb. 15:** Police responded to an undisclosed location on Atascadero Road for a reported case of someone committing statutory rape, as in having sexual relations with someone more than 3-years their junior.

• **Feb. 14:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow on Quintana Road who was reportedly loitering outside a business to the consternation of the owner. The 38-year-old fellow was rounded up for having four outstanding failure-to-appear warrants.

• **Feb. 14:** Yet another Smurf was discovered, this time on Morro Bay Boulevard, who had a trio of bench warrants. He too was thrown into the dungeon.

• **Feb. 14:** Police responded to the Morro Dunes RV Park in the 1700 block of Embarcadero where some sneaky thief stole a trailer.

• **Feb. 14:** Someone turned over a bicycle they found somewhere on Harbor Street. And a woman gave police a driver's license that she found on Main Street.

• **Feb. 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle somewhere on Quintana Road for some undisclosed code violation. Logs indicated the poor schmoe in the passenger seat, when police ran his name, came back with an arrest warrant. The dumb-luck chap was booked into County Jail.

• **Feb. 13:** Police responded to Ridgeway Court where they took a report of a missing person, who has no doubt been found by now.

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Concert For Save Cuesta Inlet



On April 1, no foolin,' Mother Corn Shuckers an Americana bluegrass band will play a benefit concert for Save Cuesta Inlet at South Bay Community Center, 7-10 p.m. Come on out for a bit of dancin,' enjoy a brew, and time with friends. Tickets can be purchased at My805tix, \$35 or \$40 at the door. A no-host bar if offered with pizza for purchase, water and popcorn free.

Save Cuesta Inlet is a 501 3c organization with intent to purchase a pristine coastal 13-acre parcel, facilitate the protection of the Inlet, and preserve continued access for the benefit of the community and wildlife.

For more information or to make a donation, go to savecuestainlet.org

Who do I talk to about this wet stuff falling from the sky

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

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Utilizing Color Psychology for Successful Marketing

Constance Hart will present Utilizing Color Psychology for Successful Marketing at the South Bay Women's Network meeting on Tuesday, April 4 at the Savory Palette Wine Bar in Morro Bay from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The colors of your logo, business card, website, and social media campaigns are powerful communication tools as they evoke emotional responses from your prospective clients. Colors are always affecting us emotionally and subliminally. You want to be sure your business colors produce responses that align with your intentions and desired outcomes. When you choose your colors consciously, you can tap into the benefits of this powerful communication tool, and your marketing will do some of your work for you. Constance will present an introduction to choosing colors that convey your business effectively.

Constance Hart is the Founder/Developer of Conscious Colors and Color Aroma. She has nearly 30 years experience and is internationally recognized as a color psychology expert. Constance loves supporting women in business with clear inspired guidance. Visit her at ConsciousColors.com.

The Savory Palette will serve finger foods. Wine, Beer and non-alcoholic are beverages available for purchase. For more information, send and email to info@sbwn.org.



Hilary Kitzman Wilkie

California Avocado Commission salutes International Women's Day

A Morro Bay woman was recognized by an organization representing growers farming on about 50,000 acres in California.

In honor of International Women's Day, on March 8, the California Avocado Commission shared profiles of some female avocado farmers to showcase the role of women in the industry.

"As with all farming, women have long been active

in growing California avocados. Many California avocado growers come from multi-generational farming families, and with generational transitions happening, increasingly women are taking on avocado grove management and Ag industry leadership roles," a news release said.

Hilary Kitzman Wilkie was introduced to growing avocados on her parents' beautiful avocado grove in Morro Bay. She received her degree in computer science and then home-schooled four children. In 2016 when her father decided he was getting ready to retire, she and her husband, Andrew, who love the farm and had looked forward to assuming responsibility for it, started learning to grow California avocados. Now they manage day-to-day operations. She is proud that the family avocado farm (Kitzman Fair Haven) utilizes a variety of environmentally responsible practices, including using natural leaf mulch and solar energy.

California Avocado Commission's forecast for this year is 257 million pounds. There was relatively light harvesting in February and volume is expected to ramp up in March with peak availability from April through July.

New Date for Scarecrow Festival Open House

The Cambria Scarecrow Festival organizers are again opening the creative center to the public on March 29. In partnership with the Cambria Chamber of Commerce, they will host an open house from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Scarecrow headquarters in Tin City, Bldg. 2515, Unit K Village Lane Road in Cambria. Best of all, it's free.

Ever wonder how those imaginative and whimsical scarecrows get made and set up each year in the month of October? Now is the chance to find out! Attendees will get a unique peek behind the scenes into the realm of scarecrow creativity. They'll learn how scarecrows are created and get to see where they are kept before they hit the streets of Cambria and San Simeon. Guests will see what it takes to keep this festival going. There will also be music by Sunny Wright and food from The Spot. Cayucos Cellars will be pouring. Door prizes will given away. Plus there will be a special reveal during the event.

"Last year, we held our first open house and it was such a success that we've decided to do it again," said Cambria Scarecrow Festival President Paulla Ufferheide. "Not only is it a great opportunity to see where the magic happens and to find out all that is involved in putting on a festival of this size and type, but it gives people the chance to discover how to get involved with the Festival, either by volunteering or joining our Friends program."

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 10

Bus Service From page 7

they can call a day ahead of time 805-772-2744 from 8-10 a.m., Mondays through Fridays, to schedule a ride for the next day.

Saturday and Monday trips need to be scheduled on the Friday before, according to the City's website. Also, the service is closed on City-observed holidays.

The buses will travel up to three-fourths of a mile off the regular routes to pick someone up.

Meanwhile, G. Sosa Const., of Santa Maria was awarded a \$368,000 contract for the so-called, "City Park Transit Hub Project" that will replace the concrete block bus shelter, and remove some problematic trees, and repair the sidewalks and install a new, modern shelter in the same location on Harbor Street, among other changes.

The company was in the process of demolishing the old shelter when these latest storm blew in from the Pacific.

When work starts in earnest, all of the buses will be diverted to pick up passengers on Morro Bay Boulevard instead of Harbor Street, well away from the construction zone. No changes to the regional, RTA bus schedules have been announced.

Advertisement for NHC (Natural Healing Center) featuring cannabis products, discounts, and contact information.

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Community

Celebrating its 15th year, the Cambria Scarecrow Festival has grown into a community-wide event with hundreds of scarecrows displayed through Cambria and San Simeon. It began in 2009 with just 30 scarecrows. Since then, thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of local residents and businesses, the numbers have grown into the hundreds. Not only has the Travel Channel included it in the top 10 scarecrow festivals in the U.S. and Canada, last year the festival was highlighted in USA Today's 10 Best as one of the "fall festivals worth traveling for."

The Festival is also the subject of the newly released film, "Something to Crow About" that premiered to a sold out crowd at the 2023 Cambria Film Festival.

For more information, go to CambriaScarecrows.com or send an email to info@cambriascarecrows.com.

SLO Symphony New Executive Director



Rachel Cementina

The San Luis Obispo Symphony Board of Directors has named Rachel Cementina the new of executive director of the symphony.

"I am honored to join such a passionate group of musicians, staff and volunteers at the SLO Symphony," said Cementina. "I look forward to serving the community and promoting arts and music education on the Central Coast."

When Cementina assumes the role April 3, she will manage all day-to-day operations and will lead fundraising programs, as well as marketing and community engagement initiatives. Cementina's background includes six years as the community engagement director for the United Way of SLO County, and most recently she served as the director of membership, marketing, and philanthropy for the San Luis Obispo YMCA.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rachel as our new executive director," said Jim Walker, SLO Symphony board of directors president in a news release. "She will bring experience, enthusiasm, great communication skills and a fresh air to our organization. We feel very lucky to have found her and look forward to a successful and invigorating future with her at the helm."

Cementina will oversee the remainder of the 2022-23 Season, which includes the Symphony's fifth and final classics concert of the season "Tchaikovsky and Testimony" taking place on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Performing Arts Center SLO.

For the concert, the Symphony is partnering with the Diversity Coalition of San Luis Obispo to bring the West Coast Premier of William Banfield's "Testimony of Tone, Tune, and Time." With seven short movements, the narration is based upon the speeches of historical African American orator and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. It is scored for two narrators, solo saxophone, piano, harp, percussion, and strings. They will also perform Tchaikovsky's

Symphony Number 4. "I am delighted to welcome Rachel as the next Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony Orchestra," said Andrew Sewell, music director and conductor. "She has a proven track record of commitment to and engagement with the SLO community and I am very excited to begin this new chapter together."

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

Events and Activities

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum welcomes the magnificent tall ship, San Salvador, set to return to Morro Bay from August 11-20, 2023.

As a museum dedicated to preserving maritime history, this ship holds a special place in their hearts. To make this visit an even more enriching experience, they are looking for volunteers to act as docents on the ship and assist at the museum during the visit. Interested parties should be passionate about history and excited to share their knowledge with visitors from near and far.

Readers interested in volunteering, are invited to stop by the museum or reach out online at https://morrobay-maritime.org/contact-us/.

Coalesce Bookstore, 845 Main Street, Morro Bay, hosts Los Osos author Peggy Rothschild and her newest

murder mystery book, "Playing Dead" In this sequel to Rothschild's Dog Wrangler series, Molly Madison is back to solve another doggone difficult murder in her sleepy California beach town. When a dog trainer's body is found, Molly knows it's her duty to put her ex-police skills to use. She can't say no to taking in the deceased's dog either —not with those puppy dog eyes.

The book signing takes place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 1p.m. - 3 p.m.

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and Five Cities Orchid Society present Orchid Fest2023! This plant and art sale takes place Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Chorro Regional Park (3450 Dairy Creek Road, off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo). Parking is \$3 per car, and admission to the event is free.

With the Central Coast of California providing the ideal climate for orchids, and new hybrids that are easier to care for, orchids are more enjoyable than ever. Many varieties flourish on windowsills or sheltered outside areas, and are a delight to behold. This event provides an opportunity to collect new plants and get all of your orchid-related questions answered. Additionally, six of California's talented orchid growers/hybridizers are offering their plants for sale. The SLOBG will sell native plants and will also be joined by orchid plant supply vendors and art vendors.

Additionally, SLOBG and FCOS host a Cake Auction as a fundraising event. They will auction cakes that have been donated by local bakeries and private bakers. This



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Community

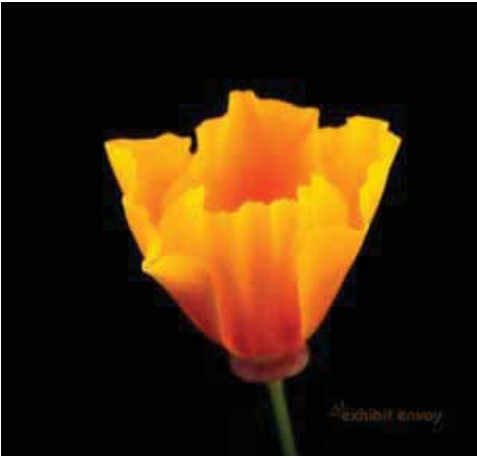
event will be live and enthusiastic, and takes place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 1. For more information, go to slobg.org, or call (805) 541-1400.



The following are free events brought to you by the Morro Bay Library 625 Harbor St. The can be reached at (805) 772-6394. All library programs follow current California and County of San Luis Obispo health guidelines.

- Nintendo Switch - Wednesday, March 29 and April 26, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Master your gaming and fine motor skills with our Nintendo Switch! School Age.
- Cartoon Club - Wednesday, April 5, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Learn how to create characters, draw backgrounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon. Paper, pens and pencils provided — you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.
- Button Making - Wednesday, April 12, 3:00-5:00
- Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker. For ages 8-18.
- Keva Blocks and Geo Mags - Wednesday, April 19, 3 – 5 p.m.

Come to the Morro Bay Library and play with Keva Blocks! Build your own creations and have lots of fun. All ages welcome.



California State Parks in collaboration with the Central Coast State Parks Association has a new exhibition “Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change.” This exhibit opens at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History at Morro Bay State Park on Mar. 24 and runs through Sep. 17, 2023. The exhibit features more than 52 color photographs of wildflowers representing seven of California’s regions, as well as equipment used by photographers in the field, high- and low-tech interactives, and natural history text panels featuring maps and essays focused on California’s landscape and climate change. The exhibition aims to address how climate change and other human impacts affect California’s wildflowers.

An exhibit launch event takes place on Wednesday, Mar. 29 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Natural history photographer and member of the California Native Plant Society, Marlin Harms, will provide a presentation on the unique wildflower flora of San Luis Obispo County at 6 p.m., and the Central Coast State Parks Association will provide snacks and refreshments. The launch event is free and open to all ages. The exhibition will be available to view at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History during open hours from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., seven days a week.

For more information, visit www.exhibitenvoy.org.

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for adults holds its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 5. Meetings are free and yearly membership is only \$65. Social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Meeting follows. Social and sports activities occur year around.



The Cal Poly Music Department will host its 2023 Summer Music Camp from Wednesday, June 28, through Saturday, July 1, on campus.

Applications are being accepted now for the camp, which is open to all California high-school-age vocalists and instrumentalists. Participants will be able to stay in residence halls while they engage in a variety of opportunities, including rehearsing with faculty and students in a choir, concert band or string chamber group; having private lessons with Cal Poly instructors; sampling music classes; spending time with current music majors; and exploring San Luis Obispo and local areas of interest.

Review of applications begins April 1. Applications will be accepted through June 1.

For more information about the camp — including costs, scholarships and the application — go to music.calpoly.edu/summer-camp/ or email music@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-2406.

Join the free webinar “New National Polling Data on Different Approaches to Public Safety in America” April 5 at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Joyce Foundation.

Alternative methods of public safety is a topic of nationwide concern. There is strong evidence that policies that promote interventions in crises with behavioral health services can improve outcomes and reduce the chance for unintended violence. Researchers will present findings from a soon to be released nationwide public opinion poll of likely voters on their views of various approaches to addressing public safety issues. The results are expected to include data on voter’s views on police, crisis response, 911 dispatch, and community violence intervention strategies, among others. The presenters will also discuss the challenges that lie ahead as communities continue to grapple with how to improve public safety while working to minimize the potential harms of the justice system. Registration is required for this event at <http://bit.ly/42ibUd9>.

Events Continued on page 12

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

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Please join us & bring your friends to learn about the SLO Walk and other ways to get involved with ALZ in your community!

Tuesday, March 28
5:30pm-7:30pm

Antigua Brewing Company
1009 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA

RSVP to Karen Ortiz kdortiz@alz.org or text/call 805.539.2094

The Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter invites you join them for the SLO Walk to End Alzheimer's Kickoff Party occurring March 28 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Antigua Brewing Company (1009 Monterey Street San Luis Obispo). Join them and bring your friends to learn about the SLO Walk and other ways to get involved with ALZ in your community! RSVP to Karen Ortiz: kdortiz@alz.org or 805-539-2094.

The 2023 Central Coast Caregiver Conference, for the caregivers of today and the caregivers of tomorrow, will hold sessions led by field experts in dementia care education, brain health research, and learn about aging well in and alongside your community. They welcome those impacted by any form of dementia at any age, as well as those who want to learn more about providing and receiving care. The event is on April 5 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. hosted via ZOOM. Registration is required: bit.ly/alz2023. Contact Laura DeLoye for questions at ladeloye@alz.org or 805-342-0956.



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event on April 4 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Twin Cities Hospital (1100 Las Tablas Road) in Templeton.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 46% of car seats are misused. Certified child passenger safety technicians will check car seats for proper installation. Technicians will also teach caregivers how to install their car seat correctly and provide education about the appropriate seat based on the child's age and size.

California law requires all children under two years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child weighs 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Parents are encouraged to keep children in rear- and forward-facing seats as long as possible. Children who are age eight and older or who are at least 4 feet, 9 inches in height may ride in the back seat of a vehicle in a properly fitted safety belt, though a booster seat is still recommended.

This free event is presented by the Public Health Department and the non-profit Pregnancy & Parenting Support of San Luis Obispo County.



Join the Cougar Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a "Coexisting with Wildlife in San Luis Obispo" event on March 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in San Luis Obispo, 1605 Calle Joaquin.

Dive into coexistence measures for at-home and on the trail—from cougar-proof enclosures and removing wildlife attractants to air horns and safety. Presentations by Cougar Conservancy and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome. For more information, go to CougarConservancy.org/Assistance

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

A Dose of Good Dogma



What to Expect (From your Dog) When You're Expecting

By Lisa Ellman

If you've had a dog in your nuclear family for a while and you have no kids, the common way to see said dog is that of a four-legged child. But what happens to the dog when you decide to bring a human into the world?

From my own experience I've seen two things happen. Either the family doesn't take the time to prepare the dog and the dog ends up rehomed (or surrendered to a shelter), or the family spends the time needed to prepare the dog for the impending arrival because they do not want to have to give the canine family member up. The family has nine months, give or take, to work on acclimating the dog to what will be a new routine, smell, sound and sight. If not properly handled, bringing a baby home may be overwhelming for the dog, causing extreme anxiety, which may lead to new inappropriate behavior(s).

To prepare your dog for the new baby several steps must be taken. Of course, being an animal, there are never any guarantees that subsequent issues will not arise with your dog.

To begin with, ensure that your dog has had basic obedience/manners training and is responsive to you. This includes things like not jumping on people and verbal cues such as "down," "stay," "drop it" and "leave it." Not only will you need these to protect your child, but there may be a lot of activity throughout the house with family coming and going.

Continue to provide leadership, rules and boundaries; don't allow your dog to jump into your lap without permission, your lap will soon contain a baby. If the dog's routine will change dramatically, in terms of feeding, walk or park times, begin establishing the new times ASAP. If your dog has been used to hanging out in the room that will be a nursery, establish a new, safe, quiet place for it to be. Arrange toys, beds, crate in the same positions if possible. Perhaps add a piece of clothing with a familiar scent on it.



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Use this area for an earned time out space for your dog if things become too hectic.

Begin to introduce the new sounds and smells that will fill your home. A CD of baby sounds (cries, coos, etc.), starting quietly and gradually increasing in volume, everyday, maybe when your dog has meals, or give random treats as the CD plays. If you know someone with a baby, borrow some clothing or a diaper, lotion or powder, then add anything that may be used on a regular basis on your own baby.

While your dog is investigating these new scents, be sure to keep it relaxed. Maybe a slow, gentle belly rub or a calming toy. After a few weeks, begin to incorporate the sounds and smells and new routines. Remember to introduce bassinets, strollers or any other different features that will be used. If you have a friend that has recently had a baby, invite them to come over after you've worked with your dog for a few months on all of the previous practices. Keep your dog leashed, but allow them to

be curious and investigate under supervision.

Before your baby is ready to come home from the hospital, or if doing a home birth, place some of the new baby's wrapping or clothing near your dog and provide it with some calm attention or small goodie while it investigates.

Once you and your baby are settled in, be sure not to punish or yell at your dog when near the baby; you don't want them to associate bad or negative experiences with a child. This is where the critical reinforcement of training comes in.

All in all, following these guidelines and ensuring that your dog continues to get your loving attention, along with plenty of exercise, should provide everyone with a positive new baby experience.

Good Dogma has been helping dogs with people problems since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@hotmail.com. Contact information for all offered services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net

White Caps Looking for Band Members



The Morro Bay White Caps Community Band is gearing up for a new concert season. According to conductor Brenda Hascall, the band has really grown in size and sound since last summer. "We've added several new members and can rehearse and perform a wide variety of music. Our members are really enjoying the musical

selections we have this season. We are playing some fun popular tunes by Chicago, the music of Henry Mancini, and even a new arrangement, 'The Theme from Boba Fett,' which I composed. Our rehearsals go by quickly because we are having so much fun making music together." The band is hoping to add even more musicians this season and is especially look-

ing for clarinet players. If you are interested in joining the band the rehearsals are held at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall on Saturday

mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For additional information please visit the band's webpage: www.morrobaywhitecaps.com

New County Health Director Hired

County Supervisors have hired a new permanent Health Agency Director, elevating the interim director to the full time position.

On Feb. 28, Supervisors were asked to approve naming Nicholas Drews to serve as the County's health agency director. Drews had been acting as the interim director since June 2022, according to a report from County Administrative Officer, Wade Horton.

"Prior to his interim role," Horton said, "Mr. Drews worked in the Health Agency for over seven years, both as a program manager and as the deputy health agency director. He played a significant leadership role in the County's response to the coronavirus pandemic as the Emergency Operations Center logistics section chief."

Horton added that Drews was "experienced in leading project teams, executing on organizational and talent strategies, and delivering change management initiatives based on his previous management roles with Deloitte Consulting."

Drews earned a Masters of Business Administration Degree (MBA) from USC's Marshall School of Business, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in philosophy and political science from U.C. Santa Cruz.

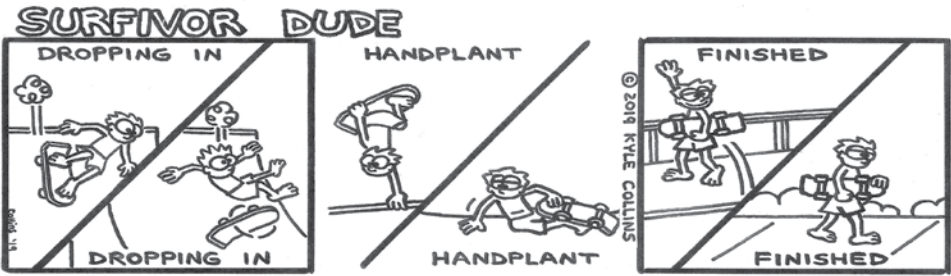
The health agency director job pays from \$197,000 to \$251,000 a year and Drews will start at the low end of the scale — making \$197,000 a year plus benefits.

The Health Agency has several departments including the Public Guardian; Behavioral Health; Administration; Public



Newly named County Health Agency Director Nicholas Drews.

Health and Animal Services. There are several programs and divisions under these main departments in the Health Agency's hierarchy. Among them are the Department of Drug & Alcohol Services, the Public Health Lab, Emergency Medical Services, and Adult and Youth Mental Health Services, among several others. According to the County's website, the Health Agency is the largest department in SLO County with more than 800 employees and an annual operating budget of some \$150 million.



KODACHROME

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WRITTEN BY ADAM SZYMKOWICZ
A STAGED READING DIRECTED BY KATY DORE

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Letter's
To
The Editor



Solutions Needed —
Not Scapegoats

Morro Bayans ... listen up. Our little town is grappling with enormous generational challenges. We need you to get involved, get educated, and work together to find our best solutions.

Our harbor’s infrastructure, much of it built prior to or during WWII, is in dire need of repair. A recent citizen’s initiative intended to provide a steady revenue stream for harbor repairs did not pass.

The condition of our paved streets is gradually declining. In spite of recent repairs — we don’t have sufficient funds to keep up with the declining conditions.

Our housing stock does not provide truly affordable options for our workers or those on fixed incomes. While many of our challenges can be remedied with unidentified revenue sources, some cannot.

The homeless population grows with no solution in sight. What are we to do? The impacts of climate change loom large. Recent heavy storms have resulted in flooding and millions of dollars in damages. A potential grid scale, battery storage project is being planned for our old power plant site. Will our high school students and visitors be safe if there’s a fire? Morro Bay will be the closest port to the first windfarm project on the west coast and could become a support facility. Could this ruin our pristine harbor?

Each of these issues is real and seem to be happening all at once! Yikes! How can we possibly navigate these troubled waters?

Frankly, I’m not quite sure. But I am sure of one thing — we must resist denigrating others with whom we disagree. Whether it’s an elected official, a CEO of a corporation, members of a different political party, City staff, a friend or a neighbor — different opinions are to be expected, listened to, and given full consideration. This will be our toughest challenge.

Morro Bay needs us all to get involved, get educated, and get to work. Together, if we attack the challenges in front of us rather than the people with whom we disagree-- our best solutions will emerge.

Jeff Heller
Former City Council Member

Porsche Club Thanks
Local Dealerships

The California Central Coast Region of the Porsche Club of America wants to publicly thank Ali Kahn and Jonathan Crabtree of San Luis Mercedes/Chevrolet for allowing our region members to meet at their dealerships on select Saturdays since 2020.

Jonathan took charge of our meetings, provided coffee and pastries and opened the doors at 8:15; this for our twice-monthly pre-drive gatherings of 30 to 40 Porsche enthusiasts.

Our Jack Ravin organized these events with Mr. Kahn and we extend our special thanks to Jack as well.

We have migrated to Porsche of San Luis Obispo since their opening last November. Nevertheless, our members have made a lot of friends at SLO Mercedes/Chevrolet and some wonderful vehicles have been purchased as a result.

Thanks again to Ali and Jonathan from the Porsche California Central Coast Region Board of Directors. Sincerely,

Gil Igleheart
Activities Director
CCCR/PCA

Viewpoint

The County Giveth and the
County Taketh Away
By Ruth Ann Angus

It was dismaying news recently when hearing that the safe parking community on Oklahoma Avenue near the Sheriff’s office in SLO County was going to close. Wasn’t it just a short time ago that everyone was hollering that something had to be done to remove the “squatters” residing in their RVs and cars on Palisades Avenue in Los Osos? And wasn’t that happening because at that time they had been evicted from parking at the South Bay Community Center, a site established for them during the pandemic? What is the matter with this county? You can’t keep offering shelter help to the homeless and then turn around and pull the rug out from under them.

Let’s face it folks. There is no affordable housing available. Heck, there is no housing at all available — well, unless you can prove that you earn three times the exorbitant rents being asked. And God forbid that you have a dog or a cat. There is no place at all whether one can afford it or not if you have a pet. Renters are being overwhelmingly discriminated against. Let’s just face the fact. Unless you are relatively wealthy and can purchase the overpriced houses for sale on the Central Coast of California, you are just out of luck. Renters may not realize it, but they have joined the crowds of the victimized black, brown, Hispanic, foreign of any persuasion, Jewish, women, gays, and trans brothers and sisters of this world. If you can only be a renter, you aren’t worth much. And God forbid if you’ve reached homelessness.

If you are homeless, you are just like Joseph and Mary

and the unborn Jesus facing “no room at the inn.” But even they were able to rent a stable to house themselves and their donkey. Today we might see them approaching Oklahoma Avenue in their beat-up recreational vehicle and once again being turned away. Exactly what does the county think the 75 or so people living in their RVs and cars can do if this site shuts down permanently? And why does it have to?

This isn’t just an issue for the already homeless, but for existing renters too since even with the legal protections that exist, evictions are still happening, and many renters are ending up homeless.

There were problems with the Oklahoma Avenue Village from the git-go. For one thing it was rushed into being without any planning due to the outrage of citizens who

Viewpoint Continued on page 16

Vietnam Wall Replica Stops in SLO

Photos by Neil Farrell

The “Wall That Heals,” a three-fourths sized replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. returned to San Luis Obispo March 16-19, bringing out those who lost loved ones in the war to the Madonna Meadows.

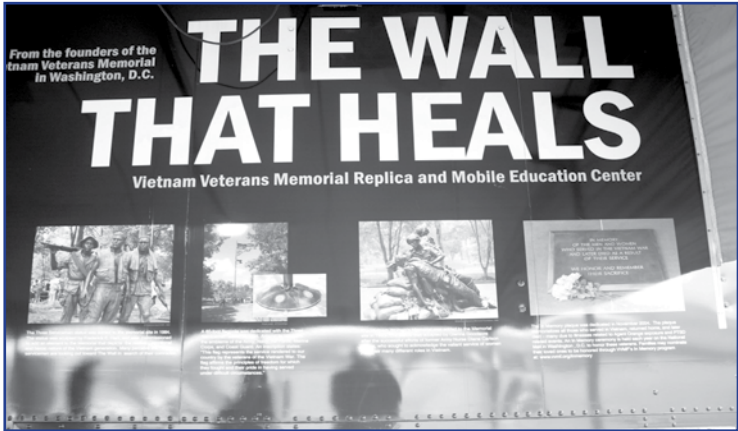
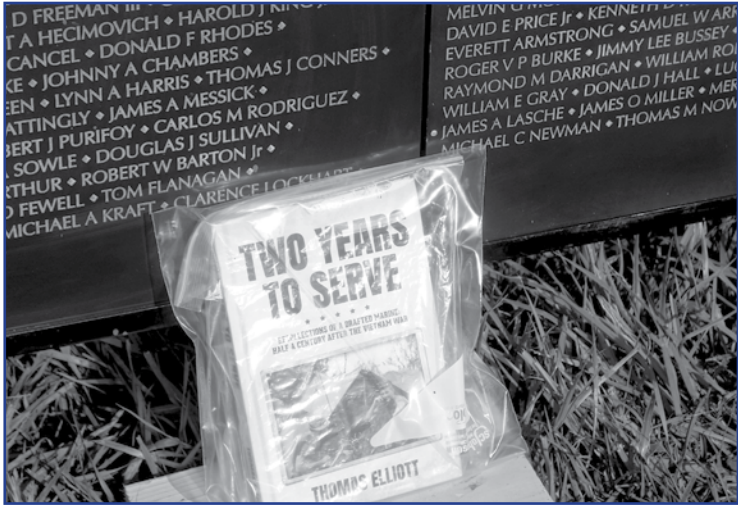
The traveling exhibit is 375-feet long and stands 7-1/2 feet tall at its highest peak.

The wall has the names of all 58,281 American soldiers who died in the war. Eight women are included and so too are the never forgotten 1,500 missing in action.

The names are etched on 142 number panels made of synthetic granite in order of the date of casualty and alphabetically. The time period covered is from 1959 to 1975.

And like the real wall in Washington, visitors, moved by the experience leave mementos to their fallen loved ones, including photos, poems and in SLO a bottle of Jack Daniel’s whiskey.

According to the exhibit’s website, “On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund [VVMF] unveiled a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States.” The traveling history show has visited some 700 cities. See: www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals for information about the exhibit and how to donate to the non-profit VVMF.



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Obituaries

Ann Fletcher
1950 - 2023



Shirley Ann Fletcher was born in 1950 in Sacramento, California. As a young girl, she won many awards in gymnastics competitions throughout California. She was fascinated with ancient Egypt, so she studied many books about the topic. Ann also memorized the name and appearance of every breed of dog recognized by the AKC. She enjoyed tap dancing and performed on a popular TV show for children and at Sacramento area venues.

When she was 12, her father taught her how to drive the family car. A year later, she evaded park rangers while driving her parents throughout Death Valley National Park. Her father bought a quarter-midget racecar so she could drive it on dirt roads. The family took many road trips throughout the US, exploring many National Parks and visiting relatives.

In high school, Ann continued competing in gymnastics and was a cheerleader. In summer months, she camped and water-skied on lakes throughout northern California. Later in life, the last time she skied was on the Colorado River in the desert at night, under a full moon, as wild burros watched her from the riverbank.

There were few career options for girls in the 1960s, so Ann concentrated on secretarial and accounting skills in high school so she could support herself. At 17, she was hired by the largest Ford dealership in northern California, and she moved out of her parent's home soon afterwards. Five years later, she was asked to be the dealership's first female salesperson, and the owners of a super-modified racecar wanted to sponsor her to be the first female driver at Sacramento's Capitol Raceway. Ann turned down both offers and bought a one-way ticket to Hawaii instead. Within a week after arriving in Lahaina on the island of Maui, she found two jobs and a roommate. They rented a fully-furnished condo on the beach for just \$350 per month.

After leaving Lahaina, she moved to Santa Barbara and worked for Powell Skateboards. A few years later, she left Santa Barbara to travel the southwestern states with a friend in a VW pop-top camper van. Ann also experienced living on a 50-foot fishing vessel in Sausalito and exploring the San Francisco Bay.

In 1981, Ann moved to San Luis Obispo County and was hired to be the administrative assistant to the fire chief of Morro Bay Fire Dept. To entertain children, she created a Sparky the Fire Dog costume and rode along with Smokey the Bear on antique fire trucks in many parades. She also audited an Emergency Medical Technician course to expand her life skills. After leaving MBSFD, she was the supervisor of the records division at San Luis Obispo Police Department. At the age of 52, Ann retired after working as a human resources specialist with the SLO County Office of Education. She also volunteered for nine years at the SLO Performing Arts Center.

Ann purchased a fixer-upper home in Atascadero before she retired. Throughout her life, her father taught her construction and maintenance skills, and she enjoyed working on projects such as ripping out wall-to-wall carpeting and baseboards, painting, landscaping, and building fences. For six months, she worked on her elderly father's home and land in the Sierra Nevada foothills so he could sell his property and move to Morro Bay.

At the age of 56, Ann was diagnosed with cancer. The day after completing her yearlong treatments, she and her dog, Gypsy, took a month-long road trip throughout Oregon in her RV. After returning from her trip, she started the Atascadero Fun Club to provide activities for SLO County seniors with help from the Atascadero Recreation Dept. and other volunteers. She also started pickleball activities at the Atascadero Community Center.

In 2016, Ann had emergency surgery to remove a malignant brain tumor. Following surgery, she had physical therapy and endured several difficult radiation treatments. Because of her inner-strength and perseverance, and with the loving support from her friends, she was back on the courts playing pickleball just seven months following her surgery. In 2019, following a second surgery to remove another brain tumor, she told her doctors she wanted to stop her cancer treatments, and she was placed on Hospice with the prognosis she would have only about two months to live. She could no longer drive, so she sold her Templeton home, donated her possessions to a local non-profit for

a fundraiser, and moved into a senior residential facility. Ann was determined to move forward and enjoy her life and to be productive despite her prognosis and the difficulties and challenges she faced. She compiled a 200-page book on her family history for the State Historical Society of Missouri. Ann dispersed her collection of over 150 original photographs from the late 1800s to early 1900s throughout the US and Canada after various historical societies requested the photos for their archives, and she donated over 50 photographs to the US Library of Congress so they could be preserved.

In 2020, Ann resumed writing a book of short stories based on some of the events in her life and self-published her book. She also wrote articles for Hospice organizations and cancer support groups to help and inspire others who faced health challenges. In 2021, she became an advocate to improve a variety of services for seniors by working with State and local agencies and organizations.

Ann peacefully transitioned from her physical presence into Spirit on February 23, 2023, in Morro Bay. Ann was grateful for the kindness and love she received from her special family members Dennis, Carmen, and Andrea; her extended family of wonderful friends; and her end-of-life Doula, Karen. To honor her wishes, no memorial service will be held. Memorial donations can be made to HospiceSLO.org; WoodsHumaneSociety.org; or DogsForBetterLives.org.

Duncan McQueen
1937 -2023



On March 4, Duncan, beloved husband, father and grandfather and great grandfather, passed away. Duncan was born in Scotland and lived in Edinburgh until the age of sixteen. He began working in the hotel and restaurant business in Scotland and Paris and on occasion served royalty. He came to America in 1956 at the invitation of his sister Mary, and worked in Highland Springs Resort, and Gilman Hot Springs in California. Then in 1959, he enrolled in cosmetology school where he met his wife (teacher) Marlene. Together they opened several beauty salons. Duncan was a two-year haircutting and hairstylist champion for the State of California and president of the Verdugo Hills Cosmetology Association.

After moving to Bass Lake, he built and operated a Giant Groovy Slide, then moved to Fresno where he got his real estate license and managed rentals. Then in 1977, wanting to live by the ocean, he designed a beautiful two-story home in Los Osos so he could make his dream come true. He learned to sail and navigate and bought a thirty-foot Islander sailboat. After making a run to Baja and to Hawaii with his son and nephew, he bought a Cal 39 and prepared to circumnavigate the globe, leaving Morro Bay in 1992 and returning in 1999.

Duncan was a lifetime member of The Morro Bay Yacht Club and also an avid lawn bowler and member of The Cambria Lawn Bowlers. He was very musically inclined, played the saw and piano by ear, and would make music with glasses, spoons and anything that he could get his hands on. He was a man who could do anything he put his mind to and had a wonderful Scottish sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife Marlene of 63 years, son Marcan McQueen, daughters Cindy Jenkins, and Marcia VanderPoel, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He will be missed very much.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to People Helping People of Los Osos or Woods Humane Society.

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Community

Study Explained From page 1

been planned along the LOVR corridor from Foothill Boulevard in SLO to Pecho Valley Road in Los Osos.

These have been drafted, debated and approved under various “plans” like the Community Plan, the Bicycle Plan, Circulation Studies and more.

“This will be putting pen to paper,” Hudson told Estero Bay News. “This will figure out how these projects fit in with each other. No one’s ever laid it all out yet.”

He said that over time these various studies and planning documents have each dealt with a particular area or mode of transportation. For example when the late Alex Madonna built the Froom Ranch development (Costco and Home Depot) in SLO, he was required to make improvements to the intersection of LOVR and Foothill Boulevard but those improvements weren’t defined and haven’t been done. Hudson said they’ve been discussing the intersection with the City of SLO and whatever those changes shake out to be, will be included in the multi-modal study.

And when the County conducted its bikeways planning, LOVR was one of the main roads cyclists wanted made safer for them.

Hudson explained that what he will head up is a study that pulls together all these working parts into one, cohesive document that future private development proposals can use to design whatever LOVR frontage improvements will be required.

The multi-modal study will be a conceptual product and bring together all the drawings for improvements and restating the purposes for each.

“Specific to the LOVR corridor,” he said, “It will define what the road will look like.”

It will drive the design of frontage improvements but not developments themselves. These various improvements have all been debated and approved along with documents like the Community Plan, the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and others.

But these planning documents deal with concepts

not design details, which would be done when the various concepts move towards actually being built.

He said now that the funding has been approved, the study will get started and the public will play a large part in this, too. He said the County team and an outside consultant, will work with the Los Osos Community Advisory Council (LOCAC) on the parts of the study that are within LOCAC’s area of concern, within the Urban Reserve Line of the town. (Los Osos has an Urban Services Line, which is essentially the boundaries of the Community Services District; and the Urban Reserve Line, the area outside the USL where services are expected expand into in the future.)

“There will be a lot of opportunities for public input,” Hudson said. Included will be a technical committee to work on the study and LOCAC is expected to have a representative along with the County and Council of Governments, which is where the money is coming from, along with other “key stakeholders” on the technical committee. Hudson will be the lead man on the study as well as the County’s public contact person.

Their first steps will be internally, Hudson said, as they get organized. The new study will give a broader picture of what LOVR will look like when all the various parts come together, and will also dictate what private developments will be responsible for — things like storm drainage, sidewalks and paving, among potential others. One area that’s certain to get some attention is the stretch of LOVR from Palisades Avenue to Monarch Grove Elementary School and potential pedestrian improvements.

“It’s one of the more exciting stages” of the study, he said. “This is actually how it’s going to lay out.”

WANTED — Los Osos Red Barn Information



In 1919, a barn was born. In 2023 it’s red and lives in the Los Osos Community Park. It is fondly known as The Red Barn. But what about in between? The Red Barn’s early years are shrouded in mystery.

“Can you help us? We have been searching for clues about the barn,” said Pandora Nash with Celebrate Los Osos. “Where was it built? When was it moved to its current site and why, and from where?”

“We have a grant to design an interpretative sign and have been searching for the barn’s history. The County

who currently owns it; the History Center, the holders of all things history; the Tribune and Cal Poly’s archives; and several residents who lived in Los Osos over 40 years — have not been able to provide any information about the barn.

“We were hoping for stories of horse rustlers hiding out there. Apparently there were none. We were hoping for stories of farmers who spent a lifetime using the barn for storage and animals for their farm. We can’t find a thing. We were hoping for a charming story of a little girl who loved horses and visited everyday with carrying a basket of carrots for her favorites. Still nothing.

“We know who owned the land, dating back to the Mexican era, but their structures would have been adobe, not wood. We know who donated to land to the County for a park, and the barn was there at the time. But what about in-between?”

If you know any of the elusive history, or know someone who might, contact us. We would like to create an interpretive sign that is fascinating and informative.

Pandora Nash-Karner, Celebrate Los Osos
Info@CelebrateLosOsos.org

Viewpoint From page 14

wanted the “squatters” on Palisades Avenue removed so they could go to the South Bay Community Center or the library or the catholic church on that street without having to encounter the undesirables living in their vehicles. Many people said the Village was set up for failure on purpose, so the county could say that it had tried. Well, sure. Without sufficient personnel to vet the people applying to stay there, make sure there were rules and regulations in place and adhered to, troublemakers using drugs and alcohol were able to park there. A woman lost her life in an RV fire there because a drug pusher gave her a dose of fentanyl the night before she died. He was witnessed leaving her place at six in the morning. It wasn’t candles that did her in, it was bad management.

While certain things improved over time and case managers from CAPSLO came in to assist the people looking for housing and a food pantry was set up, some issue prevailed.


Becky Jorgeson, of Hope’s Village is a long-time proponent tackling the issue of homelessness. Her organization seeks out available recreational vehicles to give to homeless veterans as well as championing a solution for all unhoused individuals. Safe parking and warming centers are high on her list of most needed facilities. Over time she has sent out 42,624 emails on housing issues, 99% of which are regarding homelessness. She has offered Hope’s Village help over and over again, given 100 presentations on how they can help, received recognition from federal and state officials, and grown a \$5000 Community Foundation of SLO’s grant to over \$385,000. She’s asked time and again to be allowed to have the opportunity to prove how Hope’s Village could run that safe parking facility. Instead, some county administrator decided that closing it was a solution. That seems to be the story for the homeless — just giving up.



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Community

Weed Warriors From page 1



Visitors stroll on the El Moro Elfin Forest boardwalk overlooking a view of Morro Bay. Photo by R.D. Bowlus.

Weed Warriors are returning to their roots, so to speak, at the El Moro Elfin Forrest, a 90-acre natural area adjacent to the Morro Bay estuary belonging to San Luis Obispo County Parks. Weed Warriors is an informal nickname for a subset of the Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest (FEMEF) organization, which has about 400 member-households.

“The forest has fared better than expected in part due to the prolonged drought and in part due to the previous Weed Warrior events of more than twenty years,” Roger Carmody, FEMEF secretary and publicity chair, told Estero Bay News. “A major asset of the forest is its location on a bluff overlooking the bay and the estuary. The tranquility of the place and its diversity of habitats, from the Coastal Dune Scrub to the Maritime Chaparral to the Oak/Manzanita Complex give you, in this one small space, an opportunity to see and experience so much. Also, the Pygmy Oaks are unique to this area and are well represented in the forest.”

On Saturday, April 1, at 9 a.m. the public is invited to join the Weed Warriors at the Elfin Forest for a work party of weed abatement and removal of non-native flora. Meet at the 15th Street entrance in Los Osos.

During the event, a snail monitor will be on site to insure protection of the Morro shoulderband snail. Tools and bags will be provided, or you can bring your own. FEMEF members will be on hand to provide expertise. Cookies and water will be served at the end of the event to all participants. It is suggested that you dress for fog, wind and sun. Wear long pants and shirts with long sleeves; bring work gloves and sturdy closed-toe shoes. Rain cancels the event.

Why are weeds bad? They often reproduce quickly, adapt rapidly to new situations and compete with healthy, desirable grasses for air, water, nutrients, and sometimes sun.

“Our goal is to remove only the invasive and the non-native growth and then let the native plants take over,” Carmody said. “And it works well. The native plants and animals know better than we how to manage the environment.”

FEMEF is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized to preserve and maintain the natural area of the forest. It also aims to educate the estimated 5000 people a year who visit the location about the more than 200 species of plants, as well as over 100 kinds of birds, 22 species of mammals and 13 species of reptiles and amphibians.

“This is our chance to preserve an area that will let us, our children and grandchildren feel and understand the gift of nature,” said Carmody. “This is what Los Osos was like before the ranchlands and the grazing of cattle and the sprawl of development. It is a remnant of an earlier Morro Bay.”

Readers who have lived in the area for a while are likely to have heard tales of coyotes and wild pigs roaming about the area.

“They are there along with deer and raccoons, although you will probably not see them during the daytime hours,” Carmody said adding that poison oak is much more abundant. “As far as what you will see —the most beautiful views of the bay and the estuary, and a wonderful diversity of flora and fauna. Nature in all its glory.”

FEMEF, formerly known as the Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP), changed its name to Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest in 2020. The preservation of the area dates back to the 1980s when development in and around Los Osos caused some concern that the natural beauty was disappearing. In 1987, concerned citizens joined with state legislators to pass funding to purchase 50 acres along the northern edge of the forest as an addition to the Morro Bay State Park. In 1994 SWAP in collaboration with other state, county and local organizations raised funds to purchase the remaining 40 acres as an ecological reserve.

Weed Warrior activities reconvene on the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the northern end of 15th Street and generally last two to three hours. The First Saturday work parties meet most every month of the year (weather permitting); however, the weeding events happen mostly in the spring. In other parts of the year the focus may be on trail trimming, erosion control, boardwalk maintenance, or whatever is most needed.

For more fun, the third Saturday of the month is for guided walks and talks led by experts in various disciplines. They focus on different aspects of the forest — the plants, the animals, the surrounding geology, the history of the area. Additionally, FEMEF also sponsors sketch walks, school outings, and publishes a quarterly newsletter called Oakleaves.

To become a member, go to Elfin-Forest.org and scroll down the home page to Become a Friend of the Elfin Forest. There you can print out a membership form and/or connect with the organization.



A Checkerspot butterfly in the Elfin Forest. Photo by R.D. Bowlus

Not Sophia’s book.

“They make it OK,” she reassures. “But there are struggles and she meets a friend on the way, who is also moving to Pembina.” Rose and Julia becoming fast friends, sharing the trip’s adventures.

Sophia, who has three older brothers and is homeschooled, says the story let her explore history and writing, which she says are her two favorite things. It also became an outlet for exploring what she says is her calling.

She’s always liked writing and reading about history. “It made me really want to start writing about history and things that are interesting.”

Her inspiration comes from the “Millie Keith” book series by Martha Finley that are actually contemporary for their times having been first published from 1876-1894.

Sophia says, “I really liked that time period and I wanted to write in that timeframe.”

And she also wanted to explore someplace new and about following one’s heart. “I write about a place that hadn’t been written about yet,” she says. And Rose’s doctor dad felt called to go where there were no doctors yet and help build the town, Sophia says.

It took her about six months to finish a first draft using one other historic tool — pen and paper — instead of a computer. How many kids these days would do that?

When the book was finished, Sophia went searching for a publisher. The story is faith-based, and was accepted for publication by Christian Faith Publishing.

The book deal included the publishers finding an artist to illustrate it. But Sophia didn’t like the resulting drawings, feeling they didn’t quite fit her story. She rejected the illustrations and looked for someone who would better suit her vision.

Then she found Diana Lynn in Arroyo Grande, a retired illustrator who came out of retirement to work with Sophia, who says she was delighted with the new illustrations.

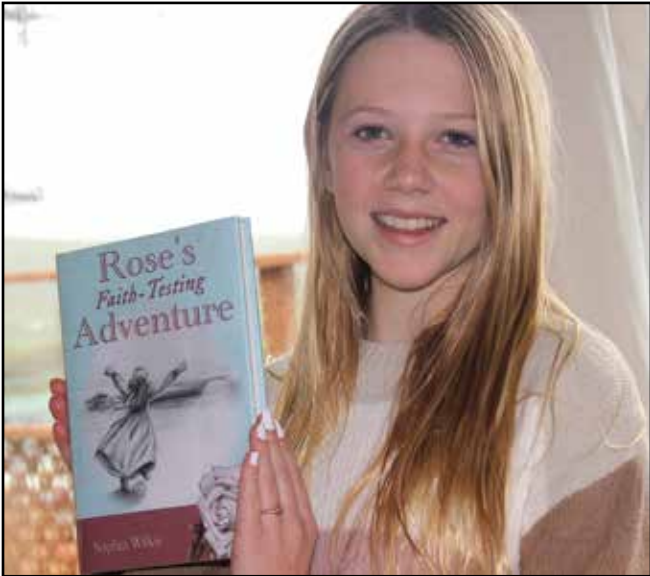
The finished hardcover book came in at 142 pages with beautiful illustrations and at some 36,000 words, is altogether an impressive feat, no matter what age a person is. It’s also about the right length for her target readers — kids her age.

Sophia marvels at how quickly the book turned out and at the job the publishers did pulling it all together. “I’m really happy with what they did,” she says.

Her target audience is 8-14-year olds — the so-called “tweens.” but mom Hillary points out that anyone would enjoy it. “Adults that have read it,” Hillary says, “have really

First Novel Continued on page 19

First Novel From page 1



Morro Bay published author, Sophia Wilke, 12, poses with her novel, ‘Rose’s Faith-Testing Adventure’ that was recently published by Christian Faith Publishing.

Sophia explains that the story, which she started when she was 9 and finished at 10, revolves around a young girl, Rose Parker, 15, from Astoria Ore. Her father is a doctor who’s been hired to become the town doc in Pembina, North Dakota, in 1870s America.

The story follows the family on an epic journey from the West Coast to the Great Plains at a time when traveling long distances was difficult and the Dakotas were in a wild and the mostly empty part of a young nation.

Sophia says “It’s about her struggles along the way.” The family travels by coach and train.

People who read a lot of western novels are probably accustomed to tales of hardship, sacrifice and tragic loss.



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Community

WRF Open House From page 1

Munds said. “At that time there was no indication that a failure was imminent. It wasn’t a detailed inspection, just a check to see where the levels were in the basin.”

Later that morning the area was hit with a torrent of rain, which although brief, really opened up the sky and poured rain.

By around 11 a.m. the levee was failing. And a few minutes later the residents of Vista Court were deep into misery as the levee liquefied and mud rolled down hill. The failure left a gaping hole in the levee.

Almost immediately Los Osos residents rose to the occasion and through social media posts, a small army of volunteers turned out to help clean up, returning day after day to help their neighbors dig out.

No injuries or deaths were caused in the incident. It was truly an inspirational response by citizens, who also turned out to help stop flooding on Pine Avenue.

CSD Went to Work

The disaster sparked the CSD into action too. Within two days, the CSD board had called an emergency special meeting to discuss the matter, passing a resolution authorizing Munds to spend money making temporary repairs.

They came up with temporary repairs that so far have held up, even after several other storms have hit the area in this wet and miserable El Niño Winter.

“Basically,” Munds said, “we enlarged an existing berm within the basin to retain water on the west end of the basin.

“We cut down an existing overflow drain pipe to ensure if the water levels were going to top the temporary berm, it would overflow into the drain pipe and exit out onto Pecho Valley Road. The temporary repair has worked so far.”

But it hasn’t been without issues, as the overflow onto Pecho Valley Road (the road that leads to Montaña de Oro State Park) has at times been very heavy making vehicle travel a bit tricky.

Fix is on the Way

Munds said they hired a geo technical and engineering firm to design the temporary fix.

“Since there isn’t time to evaluate the entire north basin wall,” Munds said, “the design calls for a new plastic liner to cover not only the repair area but the entire wall. A more thorough analysis is needed to understand what is needed in the future. This temporary repair will ensure the wall will withstand any future storms until a permanent solution is ready.”

How that permanent solution will be paid for is, well, a little muddy. Munds said there used to be a maintenance assessment district in Cabrillo Estates but that was for street lighting and even it has since been dissolved.

“There is no Cabrillo assessment district,” Munds said. “There used to be one for lighting but that no longer exists.”

CSD Covering Its Losses

The CSD is turning to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for help with the repair costs but until that comes through, it’s pulling money out of just about every pocket it can find.

In a Feb. 2 report to the CSD board, Munds estimated



Photo by Bob Crizer

the cost for both the temporary and permanent fixes.

One chart shows they spent \$124,000 on the “interim/emergency repairs” that were performed by Hartzell Const., paying \$3,000 to CSD employees for overtime, \$25,500 for a consulting engineer and \$96,000 to the contractor.

Costs for emergency permanent repairs were estimated at \$623,000 — \$88,450 for engineering consultant and \$535,000 to do the actual repairs. So fixing the levee is expected to cost over \$748,000, but the actual amount is likely to top \$1 million.

“It is estimated,” Munds’ report reads, “that the District will need around \$1 million, including a 20% contingency, to complete both the emergency interim and permanent repairs.”

That’s left the CSD tapping its reserve accounts to cover the costs until FEMA comes through. The storms of January were included in State and Federal disaster declarations, so FEMA should be good for it, but as anyone who has ever dealt with a disaster like this, it seems to take forever and isn’t enough.

The CSD plan is to use \$234,000 in so-called Fund 800 reserves from the general fund. They also are tapping the vehicle/equipment replacement reserves; \$210,00 from the general contingency reserves and \$90,000 from the fire mitigation reserves totaling \$500,000 from these three sources.

Spending the reserves is a simple matter of passing a resolution authorizing its use for something other than intended and a four-fifths approval vote.

Who’s to Blame

There’s also the issue of liability for all those people whose lives were turned upside down. “The insurance company brought in an adjuster,” Munds said, “which evaluated each home impacted. I haven’t seen a report yet on what the money value is; that should be part of what comes out shortly.”

The CSD is dealing with FEMA. “We are dealing with FEMA directly for the damage to the basin,” he said. “Homeowners worked with FEMA and state agencies directly when the Disaster Relief Center was open in SLO.”

Homeowners are also seeking help from the CSD, as starting Jan. 12, claims started coming in for damages to homes. So far the CSD has received at least 30 claims of damages from the Vista Court incident, ranging from “under \$10,000,” to over half a million, to the cost of a home replacement.

Claims are Telling

Munds released redacted copies of these 1-page claim forms, which read like a litany of horrors.

“The first 2 ft. of entire home,” reads one claim from someone on Montana Way, “water damage in walls, flooring, cabinets, garage.”

Another reads, “The amount of damage to the property is unknown at this time. The property has been red tagged by the County as uninhabitable.”

Others simply read, “\$500,000” and “\$800,000.” “Mud and water flowed into yard around perimeter of house,” reads another claim, “seeping in house and soaking carpet and baseboards. Removal of all carpet and mold mitigation.” That homeowner had to remove all the carpet, get the house mitigated for mold, which they said was \$4,500

“and could be more.” They estimated new carpeting and flooring would cost over \$15,000.

Another claim pegs the replacement of all the flooring at over \$80,000.

And another claim reads, “Due to negligent maintenance of a public facility my house was red tagged as unsafe and uninhabitable. The structure property and all personal belongings were destroyed.”

And there’s this heart-breaking claim: “I cannot live in my home. Flooring, drywall, cabinets (kitchen and bath) window coverings, furniture, clothing, and outdoor landscaping have been damaged or destroyed. I need housing for me and my disabled son. I need funds to even begin the remediation process. I need my home cleaned, remediated, repaired and made habitable as quickly as possible.”

Repeat Flood From page 1

In the March 10 storm, the creek waters rose up threatening a repeat of January’s disaster but the rainstorm blew over quicker than anticipated. But there was another even bigger storm predicted for Tuesday, March 11.

The City also warned residents against taking any unnecessary trips in the car during what was being called an “atmospheric river” effect storm.

Why So Much Rain?

The winter of 2022-23 will go down in history as one of the wettest owing to a naturally-occurring weather phenomenon — an “atmospheric river.”

“Atmospheric rivers,” according to the National Oceanic and atmospheric Administration’s or NOAA’s website, “are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere — like rivers in the sky — that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics. These columns of vapor move with the weather, carrying an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. When the atmospheric rivers make landfall, they often release this water vapor in the form of rain or snow.”

In California these atmospheric rivers are known as “The Pineapple Express” because the winds blow easterly from Hawaii picking up tropical moisture along the way and delivering it to the land, sometimes stalling over certain areas and dumping extreme amounts of rain and snow, as we’ve seen in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and especially at Big Bear Mountain in San Bernardino County.

More than a dozen people have died after Big Bear was cut off from the rest of the world by the blizzard.

No Injuries in Morro Bay

Fire Capt. Subler said there were no injuries from the March 10 storm nor any fatalities reported. He said the police department went down before the storm and advised people living outdoors along the creeks and even under the Main Street bridge to evacuate.

He said the City did a good job of keeping the water flowing through the Morro Creek channel, under Main Street and Hwy 1. And yet, still it flooded and was predicted to flood again.

Coupled with the tides, the City was predicting a lot of water was coming on March 14. “A heavy band of rain is expected to arrive in the late morning/ midday Friday,” the news release issued by the fire chief said, “coinciding with a high tide of 3.22-feet at 12:15 p.m.”

The City issued a flash flood warning March 10 until 1 p.m. and a flood watch warning until 4 a.m. Saturday, March 11.

Several local roads were closed including the center section of Main Street from Radcliff to Atascadero Road and South Bay Boulevard was again closed. Others included:

- Lower State Park Road through Morro Bay State Park;
 - Quintana Road from just south of South Bay Boulevard to Hwy 1;
 - Main Street between Errol Street (at Taco Bell) and the Hwy 1 on and off ramps (at Main Street); and,
 - South Bay from Quintana to Santa Ysabel (Los Osos).
- Also on March 10, Caltrans closed Hwy 1 through Morro Bay from Morro Bay Boulevard to the traffic light at San Jacinto Street. It was reopened later that same day

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A rare diamond stone only shows it's beauty as the facets are cut exposing the brilliance! This 11.5 acre ranch property located on Little Morro Creek Rd is our rare diamond. A 1676 s ft single level 2 bedroom 2 bath ranch home offers a unique opportunity to cut your personal diamond facets. With beautiful Morro Rock and Ocean views this usable land can be what your dreams are made of. A working avocado ranch? Horse Property with space to add riding arenas? Or is it your next dream home with room to update and expand. The 1977 home features tile kitchen counter tops, a large pantry and an indoor grill. The light and airy breakfast nook is off the kitchen service window allowing you to enjoy the backyard patio area. The bathrooms both feature tile vanity counter tops and tile tub and shower enclosures. Large paver stone floor tiles are throughout the entire home. Outdoor features include a small garden, concrete rear patio with a fountain, an enclosed animal pin, potential RV parking



with available power/water and septic hookups. Lastly use the converted detached two car garage as an ADU or living quarters as you create your dream exposing all the brilliance this property has to offer.

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This highly sought after Sunset Terrace neighborhood home has it all and more! Newly remodeled with easy access to the beach, bay and Montana De Oro State Park. Upon entry, you'll be struck by the high ceiling, grand fireplace hearth and natural light throughout. A wet bar and built in wine fridge have been strategically placed for entertaining where the living area meets the remodeled kitchen. The kitchen dazzles with quartz countertops, floating shelves, soft closing cupboards and cabinets, plenty of counter space, and a Forno 48 double oven gas range with 8 burners. A built in breakfast nook booth overlooks the backyard with built in fire pit. Single level living is possible with one bedroom and 3/4 bath on the main floor. The carpeted staircase brings



you upstairs to the other three bedrooms with full bath remodel and peakaboo views of the bay and Morro Rock. This is a must see, don't miss out!
\$1,525,000

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This well maintained condo was renovated in 2013 and is well appointed in its finishes. It is in a great location, only four blocks to shops and restaurants on Morro Bay Blvd and only four blocks to the Embarcadero. From the main living area you have a great view of the famous Morro Rock with the bonus of a living room fireplace. The primary bedroom and bath are conveniently located next to the main living area and kitchen. The two main level bedrooms share a deck facing the bay and the loft



above the kitchen can be used as an office or extra sleeping area for your guests. There is an attached single garage as well as an assigned parking space in this eight condo complex.

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