

Council Wants Wind Updates



By Neil Farrell

With California blowing ahead with gale force-speed into offshore wind energy, the Morro Bay City Council has asked to be kept abreast of developments resulting from decisions made far away from here, where the wind energy farms are slated to be installed.

The City Council approved a Resolution (No. 20-23) calling for regular updates from the staff on developments of the offshore wind farms being planned for a patch of ocean about 30 miles off San Simeon.

The 3 gigawatts of electricity that is reportedly going to be produced are tentatively slated to come ashore in Morro Bay and connect with the power grid at the closed Morro Bay Power Plant.

Infrastructure for that connection and for what's anticipated to be upgrades to some of the harbor facilities to accommodate crew boats and maintenance needs, will have to involve directly the City of Morro Bay.

The three companies that won leases in an auction held last December were: Equinor Wind US, LLC (\$130 million for 80,062 acres); Central California Offshore Wind, LLC (\$150.3 million for 80,418 acres); and, Inve-

nergy California Offshore, LLC (\$145.3 million for 80,418 acres).

The Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) also auctioned leases off the Coast of Humboldt County. Those winning bidders were: RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC (\$157.7 million for 63,338 acres); and California North Floating, LLC (\$173.8 million for 69,031 acres). These two areas are the only ones that the BOEM has identified off California for wind energy development and the agency took in some \$757 million for the five leases.

An earlier sale off the Coast of New England brought in over \$4.5 billion and BOEM has recently started work on wind lease sites in the Gulf of Mexico. The Biden Administration has set a goal of developing 30 GW of offshore wind energy in the U.S. by 2030.

The council Resolution also authorizes the "Council Sub-Committee on Offshore Wind Energy," consisting of Mayor Carla Wixom and Councilwoman Zara Landrum, to attend the "Pacific Offshore Wind Summit" set for Monday-Wednesday, May 8-10 in Sacramento. Cost to attend that summit is estimated at \$3,200.

Already there have been several developments in the

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Restoring a Cayucos Treasure



Manuel Cruz, III is repainting an historic mural on the wall of the Way Station in Cayucos. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

A beloved mural in Cayucos is being repainted and restored after a storm in 2022 blew off one of the wood panels.

Called, "Delivery at the Cottage Hotel," the mural on plywood and hanging on the south wall of the Way Station on Ocean Avenue, was completed by an artist named John Meng in 1993 as one of a series of historically-themed murals completed by the Cayucos Mural Society. The group was founded in 1992 and while it completed several projects in the Downtown Cayucos area, it hasn't been active for many years.

Meng's mural stood up for a long time but Mother Nature eventually won out, as she always does. With the Mural Society gone, it was left to the property owner, Maryellen Eisner and husband Hank, to restore the artwork.

After several months of searching for an artist to take up the challenge, they found Manuel Cruz III, a professional muralist and restorer who agreed to take on the project.

But redoing this particular mural would be tricky, as the building stands dizzyingly close to Little Cayucos Creek with about a 15-20-foot drop-off down into a narrow, overgrown creek channel. Little Cayucos Creek runs underneath Ocean Avenue and empties onto the beach. Normal-

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Morro Bay High School Celebrates New Theater



This front view of the new Theater at Morro Bay High School was taken from outside the new Administration/Student Services Building.

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

The newest addition to the transformed Morro Bay High School will help students and the community with something sorely lacking around here — cultural events and performances.

The Theater, as it's called for now, used to be a cafeteria but like most of the rest of the campus, people who went to MBHS wouldn't recognize the old place.

Principal Scott Schalde, while giving

a tour of the performing arts facility last week, says they'd just taken possession of the theater about a month prior and it had only hosted one performance so far, a concert by the school choir.

The second production, The Addams Family musical comedy was getting set to open in a few days for a weekend run, and would also run this weekend in a production that's almost entirely the work of the drama department students, from set design and production to acting.

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Diablo Decommissioning Panel Gets New Members



By Neil Farrell

A citizen's panel working on a plan for the decommissioning of California's last nuclear power plant is whole again, after four new members were chosen to serve.

Pacific Gas & Electric spokeswoman, Carina Corral, announced that Ernest "Gerry" Finn, Jessica Kendrick, Patrick Lemieux, and Frances Romero have been appointed to the panel and will start May 1. Also, Kara Woodruff and Bob Pavlik have been reappointed.

The panel holds public meetings to take input from the community on plans to eventually shut down Diablo

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Moving Forward: AAUW Annual Garden Tour



By Judy Salamacha

For the past 35 years, the Morro Bay AAUW Garden tour has offered public tours of more than 100 interesting and lush gardens for our Estero Bay community's enjoyment. Indeed, how gracious the residents and keepers of these gardens have been to prepare for hundreds of visitors on a springtime Sunday afternoon. Members of AAUW (American Association of University Woman) wish to express their thanks for the support they have received

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Cayucos Vet's Hall on the Move

By Neil Farrell

Work on restoring the Cayucos Vet's Hall reached a milestone recently, when the contractors successfully lifted the skeletal frame of the historic building, and moved it off its damaged foundation.

General Contractors, JG Contracting of Nipomo, have been busy for months on the more than \$11 million project, first removing all the landscaping and planters on the side adjacent to the Pier Plaza; then removing the barbecue-picnic area behind the circa-1870s building.

The Vet's Hall was stripped down to the studs before it was moved by a house moving company. It rests now in the old picnic area on wooden stacks while the foundation is demolished and a new one formed and poured.

The building was closed to the public in 2016 after an inspection found numerous structural problems, including a rotted out floor underneath the stage that had sagged, roof beams that were not properly connected to the walls and a failing foundation.

The County did some work that allowed the art gallery to reopen for a time while the main part of the building was closed but the whole building was eventually condemned and ordered closed.

The scope of the project grew over the ensuing years, as the County sought a way to mesh fixing the structural integrity versus preserving the historic nature of the building.



Workers with JG Contracting of Nipomo work on gutting the Cayucos Vet's Hall in preparation for lifting the structure and moving it off the foundation so a new foundation can be poured. Photos by Neil Farrell

Hall to its original appearance in the horse and buggy days of the 1870s when it was built as the Cass Warehouse and an integral part of the shipping operations of Capt. James Cass. The Vet's Hall and Cass House across the street are at the heart of the community's history. Studio Design Group Architects, Inc., designed the remodel, a rendering of which is posted on the construction fencing.

Much time was spent pulling together funding from various sources including Proposition 68 (parks and water bond of 2018); the Coastal Conservancy; and SLO County bond financing.

Local citizens group, "Restore Cayucos Vets Hall Committee" has been raising money to assist with the project since October 2021. Over \$400,000 was already given to the County and the group is raising additional money to pay for new furnishings — chairs, tables and more — that aren't part of the construction budget. That level of



A rendering of the Cayucos Vet's Hall currently under construction.



community involvement has aided in getting funding from other sources.

See: www.restorecayucosvetshall.org for information on how to donate.

The Cayucos Vet's Hall is actually owned by State Parks and leased long-term to County Parks along with the beach and Cayucos Pier, which also was completely rebuilt some years ago.

In the past, the Cayucos Lions Club was in charge of the hall's booking and upkeep but when the new Vet's Hall



emerges from the proverbial ashes, County Parks plans to run it.

The Cayucos Vet's Hall has for decades hosted numerous public and private events — from advisory council meetings, to Bingo on 4th of July to concerts (John Stewart of Kingston Trio fame once played there), weddings and the Annual Portuguese Festival that was held at the Vet's Hall for over 75 years. The Sea Glass Festival was also held there.

The Vet's Hall, and all the events it hosts, is an integral part of Cayucos' tourism economy and an important piece of the town's history

Grown-ups Have a New Place to Play

By Neil Farrell

The grown-ups have a new place to play. The City of Morro Bay unveiled its new bocce ball courts, located at the corner of Shasta Avenue and Dunes Street, in what used to be a pocket park.



The City built the two courts at the behest of the Morro Bay Active adults — formerly the Morro Bay Seniors, Inc., — who promised to take care of the facility.

It's taken a couple of years to get the courts completed after a big groundbreaking ceremony presided over by then-Mayor Dr. John Headding in February 2021.

At the time, the mayor said the City of Morro Bay values many things, including public transportation, open space, recreation and "a lifestyle not seen anywhere else in California."

Mayor Headding added that there are three main things to health with older people — spiritual, recreational, and social — along with a healthy diet.

Bocce ball has roots in the Holy Roman Empire and is one of the "bowling" games along with indoor bowling, and lawn bowling. The modern game of Bocce Ball was developed in Italy centuries ago.

Larry Rosen, who was the vice president of the Active Adults in 2021, said the City's seniors liaison, Brady Lock, really got this ball rolling when he took the wishes of the seniors for bocce ball courts to the City Recreation and Parks Commission, which in turn recommended the City Council agree to put the courts at the old pocket park, which had fallen into disrepair after the Garden Club, a designer of the space, disbanded.

The pocket park was built after the City tore down some old apartments on the site, 995 Shasta Ave., next door to Public Works, that had fallen into disrepair. The fire department used the apartments for training before they were torn down.

The Garden Club and the Guerilla Gardeners worked to design the pocket park with help from volunteers and 4-H kids, planting several fruit trees at the pocket park. It

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was a nice addition to the city and initially was used by pedestrians as a resting spot and parents of kids playing soccer at the playing fields across the street.

But within just a couple of years things had changed dramatically after some homeless people started taking over the park, hogging the picnic tables and frankly, behaving in an unruly and unacceptable manner.

Former City Public Works Director, Rob Livick, made the decision to remove the picnic tables at the suggestion of former Police Chief Amy Christy in something called, “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design,” or CPTED.

Essentially, that means when problematic people are using a public space for illegal or undesirable behavior, things like removing furniture and changes to the built environment such as trimming back hedges and trees, are done to discourage continued use.

Livick said at the time, “The groups of people were getting larger gathering there. It’s nothing against the people, themselves, it was the behaviors that were getting people upset.”

He said the people who took over the pocket park for socializing, were “drinking, smoking and hanging around,” late into the night, which led to complaints by neighbors. Police had been called out several times and Livick said they’d even had the County Probation Department out there.

After the furniture was removed in July 2016, the head of Guerilla Gardening Club at that time and former city manager clashed in a war of letters. The Guerilla Gardening head said the City singled out the homeless and questioned if they would have done the same to a group of people based on race or ethnicity.

The city manager countered that it had nothing to do with race or ethnicity and the City couldn’t allow the situation to continue as it was.

The picnic tables were put in storage but were put back out for public use during the coronavirus pandemic and the closure of restaurant dining rooms. Switching to take-out only service during the early months of the pandemic led to increased demand for outdoor seating. So the tables were put back out but at Giant Chessboard Park on the Embarcadero and not the Pocket Park.

The pocket park fell into disrepair after all this and hadn’t been maintained for several years when the City Council agreed at the request of the Active Adults to build bocce ball courts.

And now the former-pocket park has two very nice bocce ball courts delineated by concrete walls for public use. The City also purchased new iron benches for seating. It is a very nice facility but it remains to be seen if the new courts will face similar problems to what the pocket park did when not being used by the Active Adults and other bocce ball enthusiasts.

Poly Professor Explains Chatbot Limitations and Potential



Cal Poly professor Jason Peters

While the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot ChatGPT has caused disruption and concern in many educational and professional settings across the nation, one Cal Poly English professor said the program is only as good as its user — at least for now.

“I’ve been experimenting with making ChatGPT produce what I would consider to be college-level writing,” said Jason Peters, associate professor of English, “the kind of prose a highly capable first-year Cal Poly student might compose — and what immediately became apparent to me is that the quality of ChatGPT’s output is only as good as the prompts you feed it.”

As an expert in composition and linguistics, Peters, coordinator of the Cal Poly English Department’s first-year composition program in the College of Liberal Arts, has experimented with the program since its release in November 2022. He found that while the AI is effective at composing essays, it currently lacks the ability and sophistication needed for college-level writing.

“You can tell it to write a five-paragraph essay on a specific topic, a business letter, a legal contract or even formulas for Excel or Python,” Peters said. “However, in terms of using the AI to produce college-level writing, it works best when you know how to write good prompts for it and get it to focus closely on small pieces of text”

Through his experience testing the product, Peters found that the program cannot quote from a text or integrate source material into its prose, it doesn’t know how to select quotes to emphasize specific points, and if asked to quote a specific source, it will just make up a quote “out of thin air.”

For faculty who worry about students using ChatGPT

to produce essays for their writing assignments, Peters said that students may find it isn’t as easy as it seems.

“The technology works best when you already know your topic well, when you know the specific argument or analysis you want to make, when you understand the conventions for writing in your discipline, and when you understand the specific audience you’re trying to reach and how best to reach them,” Peters said. “It’s actually very labor-intensive to feed it the right kinds of prompts that will get it to produce good writing.”

Peters noted, however, that his findings are only provisional as they relate to the newest version of ChatGPT. Research at UCLA is examining how GPT-3 language models are capable of using logic and abstract thinking to reason about emergent issues and novel problems — things that only human cognition is thought to be capable of doing.

Until that version is released, Peters said there are ways to both recognize AI writing and reduce student use of it. Faculty can input text into GPT Zero, which will guess whether a human wrote it. They can also assign writing tasks to focus on an inquiry-driven writing process, incorporate drafting and written reflection, and include in-class interactions such as peer reviews and presentations.

“But the best way to identify whether your students are doing their own writing is to change the way you assign and teach writing,” he added. “If your writing assignments can be credibly completed by a bot, there’s something wrong with your writing assignments.”

Peters remains optimistic about the future uses of the program. For example, AI can be leveraged to teach critical thinking skills and transform the writing process. He noted a webinar hosted by UC Irvine’s WRITE Center, which explored how to use ChatGPT as a teaching tool.

“Teachers can use it to create rubrics, lesson plans, writing assignments and even to evaluate student writing,” Peters said. “Writing is a technology, and you can’t do it without tools. Better writing-assistive technologies enable us to devote less labor and intellectual energy to the writing process and more of that labor and energy to the rhetorical purposes underlying our writing — analyzing the situations, audiences, purposes, and motives for what we want to say and what we want our writing to do.”

Cuesta Foundation Celebrates 50 Years

The Cuesta College Foundation invites the community to its 50th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, May 4, at Oyster Ridge in Santa Margarita. The event will raise funds to establish an endowment for the Cuesta Assistance for Student Emergencies (CASE) Fund, which provides critical financial support to students facing emergencies.

Cuesta Continued on page 4

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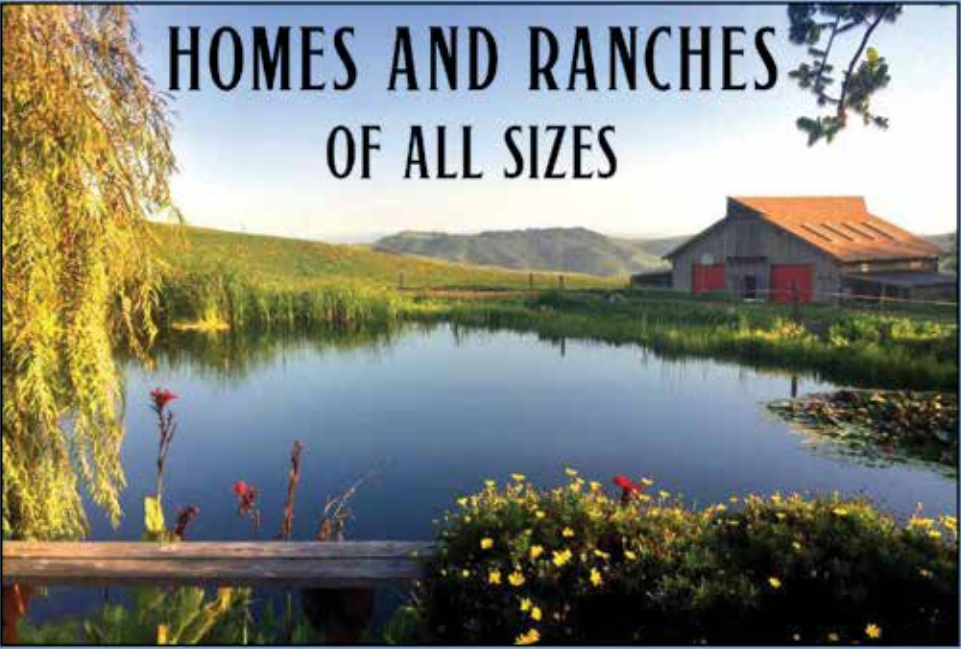
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News

Supervisors Vote to Join Community Energy Program

San Luis Obispo's unincorporated towns will soon join the cities and be signed up with a community energy company.

The current County Supervisors' liberal majority continued efforts to overturn some of the controversial things the previous board — which had a conservative majority — had voted into place.

That includes overturning the approved Supervisorial District Map that the old board approved in 2022 and was used for last year's Primary and General Elections.

The previous board voted against joining Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), a non-profit corporation that is essentially the middleman with electricity service.

How it works is 3CE buys renewable energy from various sources and delivers it via Pacific Gas & Electric's infrastructure, to customers, which at this point includes most everyone on the Central Coast in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, SLO and Santa Barbara Counties; and all the cities here — Morro Bay, SLO, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande, some 447,000 total customers with 5,100 megawatts of annual demand, according to the company's website (see: 3cenergy.org).

People can opt out in writing from 3CE if they want, otherwise, with the declarations by a city council or Board of Supervisors, 3CE becomes the default energy supplier, though customers must still pay PG&E a charge for use of its delivery systems.

The so-called, "community choice aggregation program," is joined by approval of a "Joint Powers Agreement," which makes electricity customers automatically included.

It was made possible by 2002's Assembly Bill 117, which allowed cities and counties to act on behalf of their residents and energy customers in these Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs like 3CE, which is the most successful one to date.

"A CCA program," reads a report from the County, "enables local governments to leverage the purchasing power of their residents, businesses, and governments to purchase or generate power for their communities. When a CCA program is formed, the CCA provider purchases the electricity, which typically includes a higher percentage of electricity from renewable resources like wind and solar, and sets the rates charged to its customers."

The law allows 3CE to cut deals with power companies to buy their renewable energy and to reserve space in energy storage projects.

Among the goals is to promote renewable energy plants and to save customers money, though that really isn't the main point.

"Ideally," the County report said, "CCA program rates are designed to save community members on their energy

costs. Though community choice aggregation cannot guarantee rate savings versus the investor-owned utility [IOU] in perpetuity, CCA rates are typically determined to be at a lower rate than the IOU's rates. Energy rate options that include 100 percent renewable energy cost more than the standard rate, so cost savings are reduced for these rates, too."

County Supervisors looked at joining 3CE in 2015 participating in a feasibility study along with Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, according to the report. At least two other studies have been done more recently and in 2020 Supervisors sent a set of questions to 3CE (then called Monterey Bay Community Power) concerning where its power would come from, among other issues.

Last January Supervisors revived the issue during discussions on goals as part of the budget process instructing the staff to bring it back for a new look.

County Approves \$50,000 for Cycling Event



County Supervisors have given the green light on a proposal to help publicize a major bike ride in Cambria set for September.

Supervisors were asked to approve funding some \$50,000 out of SLO County Business Improvement District monies, which derive from a 2% tax on room night stays at lodging properties in the unincorporated areas of SLO County including Cambria and Cayucos.

Those fees, which are mainly passed on to guests, are collected by the CBID to promote tourism in the participating towns. Half the money is given to a local advisory board to support events and promotions in the particular areas where the money was collected. The CBID was first formed in 2009 and CBID's funds will cover \$5,000 of the total with the Cambria BID pitching in \$45,000.

In Cambria, they wanted permission to support the Eroica California Bike Ride slated for Sept. 17 and based in Cambria.

The series of cycling rides will explore the North Coast's most scenic rides in and around Cambria and have a bike fair with vendors and more.

Eroica events are held about once a month in various locations across the world. Including in Italy, Spain, Germany and Switzerland among others.

According to the County report, Eroica "is an international event with registered riders from all over the world.

The race was also held in the Cambria/Cayucos/San Simeon in 2022 (the original event was cancelled in 2020) with a total investment of \$60,000 from the district. There were over 1,126 attendees. Of the total, 90% were from out of the area generating 1,103 room nights in Cambria. In 2020, the district invested \$60,000 in marketing. As noted in the results section below, it is anticipated that there will be 1,500 attendees, with 90% being from out of town."

The County said it doesn't have any performance criteria for spending BID monies like this and relies on the recipients to use the money as intended. "The intent of the marketing of the event," the County report said, "is to increase the number of attendees from out of the area that will require overnight stays within the district. It is anticipated that 90% of the 1,500 attendees will be from out of the area. It is estimated that a minimum of 600 overnight stays will be booked as a result of the event."

For more information on the Eroica cycling events, see: <https://eroica.cc/en>.

Stakeout Leads to Drug Bust



following a stakeout of at the Budget Inn Motel in San Luis Obispo. Photo submitted

The County Sheriff's Department arrested four people for alleged drug sales and weapons violations after the alleged crooks stumbled into their grasp during a stakeout of a San Luis Obispo motel.

According to Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla, the Special Operations Unit of the department was "conducting surveillance at the Budget Inn Motel in the 1000 block of Olive Street in San Luis Obispo. Detectives observed four people arrive in a vehicle and enter a motel room." The suspicious subjects were three women and one man and some of them were recognized.

"Detectives," Cipolla said, "recognized two of the people as being on probation and having active probation violation warrants. Detectives contacted the subjects and searched the motel room and vehicle." They discovered a trove of suspected drugs and guns.

"Detectives," Cipolla said, "seized approximately 1.3 pounds [589 grams] of methamphetamine, 3.4 ounces [96 grams] of fentanyl, and a loaded Glock style ghost handgun." A so-called ghost gun is one made from a mail-order kit and doesn't have a serial number.

Cipolla said if the drugs were sold by the gram they'd be worth some \$15,000. Four people were arrested: Emma Raeann Leal, 24 of Nipomo; Serena Lynn Bishop, 42 of Oceano; Austin James Ross, 38 of San Luis Obispo; and Jennifer Dennine Wilder, 50 of Paso Robles. All four were arrested and booked into County Jail.

Drug Bust Continued on page 19

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Cuesta From page 3

"Our students are facing unprecedented challenges, particularly during the pandemic when we saw an increase in requests for emergency funds," said Shannon Hill, executive director of the Cuesta College Foundation. "It's more important than ever for the community to come together and support our students to ensure they have access to a high-quality education."

The program also recognizes the 2023 Honored Alumni recipients: Adam Watkins '91, Caren Ray Russom '88, Evan Norton, Psy.D. '12, and Karl Wittstrom '75. The Honored Alumni Awards were established in 1989 to recognize former Cuesta College students' outstanding

professional achievements and volunteer service. "It's fitting to recognize our alumni, who are a significant part of the college's history, at this celebration," said Hill.

The event includes a cocktail hour with live music, a silent and live auction, plated dinner prepared by Trumpet Vine Catering, and a premier selection of local wine and beer. Tickets cost \$150 per person or a tables of eight cost \$1,200.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Go to the event website at auctria.events/ccfoundation50 or contact Katie Osman, Director of Philanthropy, at (805) 546-3915 or kathryn_osman@cuesta.edu, for more information.

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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Helicopter To Make Low-Level Flights Over Los Osos



Flyover of a helicopter performing an Airborne Electromagnetic Survey. Photo courtesy of SLO County

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Sustainable Groundwater Management Office is conducting airborne electromagnetic (AEM) geophysical in Los Osos. The surveys will be conducted in groundwater subbasins within portions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties over several days in April. Start date and the flight period provided in this notification may be extended or delayed by several weeks due to weather, wildfires, or equipment issues.

As of press time Los Osos is scheduled for April 21-23. To check survey schedule go to bit.ly/3KYZhwA under Survey Area 9.

AEM data are collected from a large hoop towed beneath a helicopter. The method is safe, and surveys have already successfully been conducted in several locations throughout California. Surveys will only be conducted during daylight hours and the helicopter will not fly over business, homes, other inhabitable structures, or confined animal feeding operations. The helicopter operator follows all established Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations, and their highest priority is public safety.

The surveys are used to improve the understanding of groundwater resources and support the local and state goal of improved groundwater management and the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Funding is through voter approved Proposition 68 and there is no additional cost to locals.

For more information about the surveys, visit DWR's AEM project website, www.water.ca.gov/programs/SGMA/AEM. For questions, email AEM@water.ca.gov.

Suicide Prevention Walk April 29

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, yet suicide can be prevented. Joining the thousands of people who are gathering in towns across the United

States to promote suicide prevention. The first annual San Luis Obispo Out of the Darkness Campus Walk hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health, and Cuesta Community College, takes place Saturday, April 29 at 11 a.m. with check-in and event activities beginning at 10 a.m. on the Cal Poly campus. For more information, and to register, go to afsp.org/SLO.

The event supports the AFSP's education, research and survivor support programs. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

"Suicide touches one in five American families," said Louisa Rocque, executive director, AFSP Greater Los Angeles & Central Coast Chapter. "We hope that by connecting with one another, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss. Our ultimate goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide."

The San Luis Obispo Out of the Darkness Campus Walk is one of hundreds of events being held nationwide this year. The event is free, and open to the public.

Cal Poly Soil Judging Team Wins Second Place



A flight delay and missed day of practice didn't stop the Cal Poly Soil Judging Team from beating out 21 other teams to take second place at the National Collegiate Soils Contest at Oklahoma State University.

The competition held in March in Woodward, Oklahoma, included 23 teams from colleges and universities throughout the nation. The 10-person Cal Poly team advanced to the competition after a first-place finish at the regional contest held in November 2022 in Sonora, California.

The Cal Poly team, coached by Professor Gordon Rees of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Department, is comprised of students majoring in environ-

mental earth and soil sciences and environmental management and protection. They were narrowly edged out of first place by the University of Maryland with a point margin of 2428-2422.

Each year the National Collegiate Soils Contest is held at different host institutions throughout the nation to expose students to different terrains. Teams must correctly identify, evaluate, classify and describe the four soil profiles at various soil pits as a professional soil scientist would, under a time constraint.

Students only had three days in northwestern Oklahoma to familiarize themselves with the area's soils prior to the two-day competition. A flight delay meant the team missed their first day of practice, but they started working upon arrival.

New Planning Commissioner Appointed to Represent District 2

San Luis Obispo County Supervisors recently approved the appointment of Anne Wyatt as District 2 representative to the County Planning Commission. She will replace Michael Multari, who is retiring from that position after six years of service.

"I'm honored and looking forward to this opportunity to re-enter the housing policy arena after several years working on program implementation, operations, and project development," said Wyatt. "Effective housing solutions rely on effective projects, programs and policy."

Wyatt is a resident of San Luis Obispo and business owner in Cambria. She is also the executive director of Smart Share Housing Solutions, a local non-profit organization that promotes innovative approaches to attaining sustainable, affordable housing. Wyatt previously served on the Planning Commission from 2007 to 2009, when important decisions were made on significant projects like the Los Osos Wastewater Project in 2009.

District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson says he is thrilled she is rejoining the commission. "Her experience, knowledge and thoughtful consideration of planning issues will be a great benefit to the county as we confront today's challenging issues. Her expertise in housing will be especially helpful and I appreciate the creative and committed work she has done with Smart Share Housing Solutions."

Supervisor Gibson also thanked Multari for his years of service to the county.

"His exceptionally deep knowledge and experience in land use planning has been invaluable and his thoughtful leadership and thorough consideration of complex plans and projects has benefited all of us," Gibson said.

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

Doggie Parade A Barking Success

Photos by Neil Farrell

The Annual Cayucos Lioness Easter Bonnet Dog Parade was a barking success as dozens of fancy dressed pooches and their humans paraded from the Pier Plaza down Front Street and around to Ocean Avenue and back again. The Dog Parade is a fundraiser for the Lionesses' Mutt Mitt Program, which provides disposable plastic bags at some two dozen beach access points in Cayucos. The Club goes through some 175,000 bags a year, and provides an invaluable service to the public by helping keep the beaches clear of doggie poop.



Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

New Cayucos Architectural Office Opens



A home on Ocean Front Lane in Cayucos designed by award-winning architect Arthur Dyson. Photo submitted

Famed architect Arthur Dyson recently opened a small office in Cayucos. Dyson, who studied under renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright and later served as Dean of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture has his main office located in Fresno.

Dyson has won over 250 local, state, national and international design awards. Most recently Dyson's Fresno firm Dyson Janzen Architects was voted The Business Journal's 2022 Best Architectural Firm in the central valley. In 1999 he won the Firm of the Millennium Award from the American Institute of Architects, San Joaquin.

He has been published in more than 400 publications and in over two-dozen books, including The Architecture of Arthur Dyson by Mark Hammons (Word Dancer Press, ISBN: 1-884995-11-X) and "Arthur Dyson: L'architettura meditativa" by Giuliano Chelazzi, published in Italy.

The architect's work includes the Woodward Park Regional Library, University High School, Fresno, Betsu-in Buddhist Temple in Fresno, and the Performing Arts Center in Selma. Additionally, he is known for his many residential works throughout California, Florida, Minnesota, Montana, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Dyson recently completed an extensive remodeling of a 4-unit vacation rental on Ocean Front Lane in Cayucos that won an Award of Honor from the AIA, San Joaquin.

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Community

Spokes Newest Board Member

Doug Sawyer joined the board at Spokes, a non-profit resource center. He comes to the organization as the Strategic Revenue Executive at PolyPay and an Adjunct Professor at Cal Poly.

“I’m very proud to have been selected as a new Spokes board member,” Sawyer said. “There is an unquestionable need for the services and guidance provided by Spokes within the community. It’s rewarding to be affiliated with the organization”

For ten years, Spokes, formerly the Nonprofit Support Center, has helped nonprofits to achieve their goals through support and expert resources. Spokes supports the nonprofit community through consulting services, online resources, roundtables, workshops and other events.

Sawyer joins current board members James Dorf, Lesley Santos, Todd Mirolla, and Gillian Cole-Andrews.



Doug Sawyer is a new board member with Spokes. Photo submitted

Management Position Open in City of SLO

The City of San Luis Obispo is seeking an assistant city manager for its Community Services Group, which includes four key departments: Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Utilities. The deadline to apply is May 5, 2023.

The assistant city manager serves as the chief operating officer of the Community Services Group; a trusted advisor, confidant of the city manager; and an assistant to support in operational matters. Assistant City Manager for Community Services Shelly Stanwyck recently announced her intention to retire effective this August. To apply for the position, go to www.slocity.org/Jobs.

“The ideal candidate has experience in and a passion for public service and the municipal government profession and is a collaborative, innovative and adaptable leader, who is people centric, values diversity, equity and inclusion and is a leader to advise and help solve complex issues,” the job description reads/ “The candidate will preferably have a master’s degree and experience as a department director in a similarly complex public agency.

“Shelly’s consistent and innovative leadership has helped shape San Luis Obispo into the place we all know and love today,” said City Manager Derek Johnson. We’re looking for a candidate with a similar dedication to public service who will continue San Luis Obispo’s culture of excellence in management and orientation towards public service.”

Libraries Raise Awareness of Mental Wellness and Substance Use

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department is partnering with county libraries during the month of April to host mental wellness and substance use “Awareness Galleries.” The free public exhibits aim to inform the community about stress management, alcohol, cannabis and opioid use, and overdose prevention.

“We are proud to bring these important topics to visitors of our local libraries,” said County Behavioral Health Director Anne Robin. “The Behavioral Health Department is committed to partnering with unique organizations to educate and provide resources. These partnerships allow us to connect with new community members who may be needing our support and services.”

The informative galleries, which are on display at county branches in Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, and San Luis Obispo also support topics found in the library’s 2023 Book of Year: “All My Rage.”

“The Awareness Gallery is a wonderful complement to our Book of the Year selection, ‘All My Rage,’ by Sabaa Tahir, and highlights many of the book’s themes around alcoholism, stress, and mental health,” said Erica Thatcher from the County of San Luis Obispo Library. “We invite all readers and visitors to engage with the exhibits and hope it leads to greater conversations about supporting mental and physical wellness.”

The free, interactive gallery runs through April 30 and is available in English and Spanish. More information about the Awareness Gallery and exhibit hours can be found online at www.slolibrary.org.

Cal Poly Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Saved Clients \$380,000

A married couple with an IRS bill that amounted to half their income was one of the 110 cases the Cal Poly Low Income Taxpayer Clinic addressed in 2022, according



Lisa Sperow meets with her student leadership team at the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Pictured are, left to right, Victoria Lopez, Sperow, and Kaeley Stelling.

to the LITC’s recent annual report.

The LITC, which has been helping the community since 2010, enlists accounting students to assist people with tax conflicts, affording the students valuable learning experiences while having a positive impact on the community. Last year, according to its annual report, the clinic’s workload included 10 U.S. Tax Court cases, covering 154 separate legal issues. Overall, the clinic saved clients nearly \$380,000 in decreased liabilities and obtained nearly \$8,000 in refunds in the past year.

“Many of our clients are frightened of what might happen to them and unable to afford representation,” said LITC Director Lisa Sperow. “We are able to step in and help them understand their rights and responsibilities and let them move forward with their lives in a happier state.”

The married couple, who each worked as farm laborers while the wife was a part-time student, had a taxable income under \$12,000 but received a 2021 bill from the IRS for \$6,000. After investigating, the clinic learned the IRS had audited them for \$30,000 of unreported income, which was based on wage and tax statement W-2 forms reported by a limited liability company the couple had never heard of.

“We filed a petition on their behalf in tax court disputing the liability and an affidavit with the IRS claiming that the husband was the victim of identity theft,” Sperow said.

The clinic successfully argued the case during an IRS Appeals conference, and the liability was dropped.

Additionally, the clinic also performs outreach and advocacy functions, including recent reports seeking IRS and congressional changes on issues unfairly treating low-income taxpayers. Meanwhile, a panel of pro bono workers — including several alumni and David Chamberlain, an assistant professor of accounting and tax — volunteered to assist. Last year, pro bono workers volunteered 57 hours.

Students who work in the clinic are enrolled in BUS 463 — the clinic course — and their work helps fulfill their

Takin’ Care of Business Continued on page 8

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Police Blotter



• **April 4:** Police responded to the 700 block of Harbor for a reported stolen vehicle. According to logs, the owner said it was taken without his or her consent, which is technically stealing no matter how you slice it, and then the lipspitter got into a smash-n-dash crash and Chuck’s towed the vehicle.

• **April 2:** Someone reported a hit-n-split crash on Harbor Street.

• **April 2:** Police espied a familiar foe at 2:40 p.m. in the 1600 block of Main, relaxing in the parking lot at Antique Woodwork store. Logs indicated he had an arrest warrant and found out it was his lucky day, as he got to spend the night in the Parkinson Plaza.

• April 1: Police responded at 11:55 a.m. to City Park on Harbor Street where some fool was causing a disturbance. Logs indicated the 30-year-old roustabout was jailed for suspicion of being plastered where the tourists can see you.

• **April 1:** Police responded at 9:24 a.m. to the 1000 block of Embarcadero and towed off a parked vehicle that was an apparent traffic hazard.

• **April 1:** Police responded at 4 a.m. to a kerfuffle in the 800 block of Monterey. Logs indicated the contacted a 30-year-old fellow who was arrested for suspicion of being bone to the marrow stupid drunk.

• **March 30:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to the 2000 block of Dogwood where some non compos mentos mutt had made a hit-run crash.

• **March 30:** Police spied a regular customer at 10:47 a.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. The 36-year-old scofflaw was arrested for violating probation, as the wheels on the bus go

round-and-round...

• **March 30:** Police responded to the 800 block of Quintana where some tool stole a generator out of the back of the pickup.

• **March 29:** Police contacted a wanted woman, 39, at 8:36 a.m. in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd. She had three bench warrants and was tossed into the dungeon.

• **March 29:** Someone found a wallet at City Park on Harbor Street and gave it to police to find the true owner.

• **March 28:** Police responded to the 1300 block of Teresa Dr., for a reported case of suspected elder abuse at an old folks home.

• **March 28:** Police responded to the 300 block of Quintana where some scoundrel vandalized a motor home while stealing the battery, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **March 28:** Police contacted a repeat customer at 1:21 p.m. up to apparently no good in the 600 block of Main. The 42-year-old apparent sneetch was arrested for violating terms of his probation — no doubt to not being a squirt.

• **March 28:** A woman in the 1300 block of Bolton said someone broke into her home and burgled the place. No word on the treasures taken.

• **March 27:** Police spotted a suspicious woman at noon in City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated the 54-year-old regular Bonnie Parker had a bench warrant but was cited and unleashed back on decent society.

• **March 26:** Police responded at 9:21 p.m. to the Java and took a 19-year-old woman into protective custody for a 72-hour mental health hold.

• **March 26:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 6 p.m. at Pacific and Main and arrested the 69-year-old they/them/it for suspicion of being rat-arsed drunk in public.

• **March 25:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at an undisclosed time at Monterey and Harbor. The driver, 62, was nicked for allegedly driving pickled.

• **March 25:** Police caught up to another desperado, 27, in the 800 block of Napa who had four bench warrants. He was given a fifth ticket to ignore and released.

• **March 25:** Some tool stole a tool out of a vehicle in the 400 block of Arbutus, which ought to at least be good for 40 lashes with a rattan cane.

• **March 23:** Police contacted a swizzle stick, 68, winding his way down Quintana Road and arrested him for suspicion of being smoked in public.

• **March 23:** A police officer reported finding a glass crack pipe in his or her police cruiser, no doubt left by some upstanding arrestee. They planned to destroy it.

• **March 22:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at the Community Center on Kennedy Way who had a pair of bench warrants but was issued another disappearance ticket and released back to plague society once again.

• **March 22:** A citizen in the 300 block of Arbutus said the front license plate was missing off his Dodge Ram 2500 Truck. No doubt a task force was formed to find the missing plate.

• **March 22:** Police contacted another citizen of the year,

35, in the 800 block of MBB who had a pair of arrest warrants and was put out of our misery.

• **March 22:** Police responded to the 300 block of MBB for a reported charge of battery. Logs indicated a business owner said some ruffian came in and started a fight with him. The pair “engaged in a brief altercation” before the apparent aggressor fled in a white truck. Logs indicated the owner didn’t want to press charges, as he apparently won this first round.

• **March 22:** Some graffidiot struck in the 2800 block of Main and police are hunting the varmint.

• **March 21:** Police contacted a regular customer and apparent resident of the creek bed estates in the 800 block of Quintana who had four bench warrants and was cited once again, no doubt looking to fill an inside straight.

• **March 20:** Police responded t 6:36 p.m. to the Fireside Inn in the 800 block of Morro for a disturbance. Logs said a 46-year-old louse was arrested for abuse of his spouse and hauled to the big house.

• **March 20:** Police responded at 11:39 a.m. to the 1100 block of Allesandro for a trespassing. Logs indicated some 44-year-old model citizen with multiple bench warrants had walked through a restraining order and was hauled to the nick.

• **March 20:** Police responded to the 2600 block of Main where some 44-year-old freakazoid was allegedly stalking some poor tortured soul. He was hauled to the stationhouse and no doubt after being grilled under hot lights, he made a statement (perjury), and a crime report was begun. He was then hauled to the gaol.

• **March 20:** Police contacted a 46-year-old local resident of the creek bed estates at 11:38 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana who had three bench warrants. Naturally, when they searched him, they allegedly found suspected illegal drugs that landed him in the pokey.

• **March 20:** Police towed away an offensive vehicle abandoned on Errol Street and the world was again made safe for Democracy.

• **March 20:** A good egg apparently lent his or her vehicle to some apparently rotten egg who over-easily scrambled away with it.

• **March 20:** A citizen in the 1300 block of Main said some scamboogah committed a grand larceny, a despicable crime nonetheless.

• **March 20:** Police responded at 9:25 a.m. to the Holland Inn in the 2600 block of Main where someone vandalized a vehicle, no doubt because they couldn’t steal anything.

Takin’ Care of Business From page 7

senior project requirements. Team leaders, who have completed the course, are paid positions.

The LITC is now holding a boot camp for its next round of student workers. The camp, which occurs the first two weeks of each quarter, covers confidentiality issues, tax research, identity theft, earned income tax credits and more before the newest recruits begin assisting locals — many of whom have troubling tax problems.

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Community

While the students work with numbers, they are also trained to work with people in distress.

“Students in the LITC tackle real legal cases for real people, dealing with complex issues in tax law while also providing empathy and support to those in need,” said Hunter Smith, an LITC student team leader. “Far more than providing students with practical accounting knowledge and a mastery of the tax dispute system, the LITC under director Lisa Sperow teaches students how to be people.”

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.



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Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

‘The Musical of Musicals (the Musical)’ Comes to CCAT



Greg Gorrindo, Eliana Nunley, Colin Toohey, and choreographer Danya Conn-Nunley are part of the latest production, ‘The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)’ at Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre.

Take a simple melodramatic plot, such as “I can’t pay the rent” and tell it five different ways as if five famous composers had written it. That’s the hilarious premise behind “The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)” performed at Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre.

With music and lyrics by Eric Rockwell and Joanne Bogart, the show parodies some of the greatest musicals of all time, written by some of the most prolific composers of our time.

“The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)” imagines the story if it was written by Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerry Herman, or Kander & Ebb.

The center’s current Artistic Director, Jill Turnbow,

directs this production, held at the Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre. The cast includes Greg Gorrindo, Kelly Fitzgerald, Colin Toohey, Eliana Nunley. Music direction is by Dakota Simpson and choreography by Danya Conn Nunley.

The show opens April 28 and runs through May 14. Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at Cambriaarts.org. All seats are reserved. Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre is located at 1350 Main St, in the old grammar school, in Cambria.

Don’t miss this high-energy spoof of theatre, a show full of memorable tunes and loads of laughs.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Rotary Club of Los Osos will hold at Take-Away Dinner for Scholarships on Sunday, April 23 from 4 - 6 p.m., at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave, Los Osos. Dinner for two includes a full rack or St. Louis Style pork ribs, two baked potatoes with toppings, coleslaw salad and a sweet for \$50.

Advance purchase online at RotaryLosOsos.org or purchase from your local Rotarians or pay in person using cash, check, debit, credit or tap

Call for more information 805-591-0563.

...

Join the celebration of Creek Lands Conservation’s 40th anniversary of saving our creeks for fish, wildlife and people from Monterey to Ventura on Friday, April 21 from 4:30 - 7:30 ap.m. at SLO Museum of Art, 1010 Broad St, San Luis Obispo. There is live music, speakers, complimentary wine and light bites.

This event commemorates the group’s start as Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, raising salmon in Avila Bay, providing learning experiences for thousands of students with Trout in the Classroom, and working with local communities to enhance habitat for wildlife within the waterways in our collective backyards.

They now continue as Creek Lands Conservation in the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed kicking off the SLO Creek Resiliency and Rewilding Action Plan with funding from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust.

Schedule of Activities

4:30 p.m.- Ribbon Cutting: Outside the Museum

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Reception inside the Museum

Attendees will hear Jesse Trace, master of ceremonies and board member of Creek Lands; and Steph Wald, watershed projects manager, who is being honored for her 20 years on staff

Limited tickets are available for this free event, but you must RSVP for entrance.

Events Continued on page 10

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Community

Events From page 9

Cuesta College’s Ethnic Studies Department presents the 2023 Ethnic Studies Teach-In on April 21 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Teach-In continues the tradition of student movements advocating for a relevant and inclusive education open to all community members, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, families, and more. The event will be hybrid on the San Luis Obispo campus and online via Zoom and YouTube live stream.

The program includes keynote speaker Dr. Brittany Wiley, ethnic studies professor from Shasta College and Paso Robles High School alumna, who will be joined by student-led workshops and an art showcase, lunch with a drag performance by Cal Poly Drag Club, and a plenary panel with local educators and school administrators from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County school districts. It is moderated by Dr. Aletha M. Harven, host of the YouTube series, “Transformative Conversations” on promoting equity and inclusion in education and beyond. The event will also feature live Spanish interpretation thanks to Bridging Voices-Uniendo Voces.

Register for Zoom with Spanish interpretation available: tinyurl.com/CCESTeachIn2023-Zoom. Register for in-person at Cuesta College’s SLO Campus: tinyurl.com/CCESTeachIn2023-F2F



Bring your Mother and be Civilized at the Dallidet Adobe & Gardens, 1185 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo on Saturday, May 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is your chance to celebrate daughters, mothers, and grandmothers by experiencing this great British tradition. Refined culture, refreshing food, and relaxing nature will be yours to discover. A harpist will set the mood, and the selection of silent auction items will offer the chance to take home more than memories. Join the raffle for a chance to win a beautiful pearl necklace. Every table pours from a unique teapot. Every seat sips from a unique teacup.

Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$15 for kids under 13 or a table for \$400. Buy tickets and check out the menu at historycenterslo.org/tea.

The Resource Development Team, with Rita Erwin as the chairperson, is hosting 10 Food Truck Fridays in the parking lot of St. Timothy’s Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay. Food purchases are cash only.

The proceeds from these events will go to the church’s building and maintenance account, as they have installed solar and will be installing a non-harmful bird deterrent program to make sure the solar panels stay as clean as possible.

The event will have up to five food trucks, dining al fresco or to go as well as live music. The events run from 4 - 7 p.m. on April 21, May 26, June 9, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25, September 1 and September 15.

Cambria Center for the Arts, 1530 Main Street, Cambria presents Finding the Light by accomplished photographer and internationally shown artist, Liz Hampton-Derivan, who has begun experimenting with mixed media, hot and cold wax, paints and pastels to create an exhibit of unexpected and delightful imagery. In her work, she seeks the light in all its forms from the physical to the light within her soul. She would like the viewer to feel the brilliance of each precious moment, to experience hope, peace, and joy, or maybe just a smile.

The exhibit is displayed through April 30. For membership and information go to <http://www.cambriaarts.org>



The Alzheimer’s Association invites folks to the Healthy Aging Club, an active social club for those living in the early stages of dementia. Keep your brain and body active with different activities. Meet others who are living in the Early Stages and want to remain cognitively and socially active. The club meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month (4/13, 4/27, 5/11, 5/25) from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Boydston Room (1344 Nipomo St. San Luis Obispo). RSVP at bit.ly/CCCSocialClub or ladeloye@alz.org or 805-342-0956.

It’s time again for the Cayucos Lions’ Club’s Spring Antique Street Faire, happening May 7 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine. Parking is free and is available on nearby street areas and public lots with the event happening along Ocean Avenue between E Street and Cayucos Drive. For more information or to become a vendor visit <https://www.cayucoschamber.com/antique-faire>.

Start planning early. The Cayucos Chamber of commerce and Cayucos Lions’ Club are seeking volunteers for 4th of July festivities. Folks are needed for the parade, trash cleanup and Front Street Faire. If your family, friends, business, or organization would like to participate in this year’s parade, go to the website at: <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/Cayucos> and fill out an application. The deadline for submitting applications is May 15.

The Cayucos Lions club hosts the July 4th Independence Day Parade. The Parade starts promptly at 10 a.m., and it goes down Ocean Avenue thru downtown. It is going to be larger than ever this year, due to people wanting to get out and about. Make plans to arrive early as parking can take a while. The parade theme this year is “Sand & Surf, Stars & Stripes.” The Lions Club is also putting on a BBQ roast beef sandwiches and BBQ oysters lunch that starts selling at noon.

Early risers can join in the Sand Sculpture contest. Arrive 4 a.m. – 5 a.m. and wrap up by 10 a.m. There are prizes for adults and kids. The Chamber puts on the firework show starting at about 9 p.m. For more information, go to cayucoschamber.com/july4th.

PHOTO Student Show Cal Poly’s University Art Gallery’s 2023 Juried Student Show, featuring exceptional student work from art and design classes, runs through May 12.

Juried by artist Chen Tianquiao, a visiting photography educator at Iowa State University, Montserrat College of Art and Rhode Island School of Design, the pieces were carefully culled from a much larger pool of submissions.

The opening reception starts at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in the gallery on the ground floor of the Dexter Building (No. 34). The exhibition is free and open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The show concludes May 12.



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

- Featured Wall Artist: Bob Rodgers with portraits and landscapes
- Display Case: Fayla Chapman with seashell creatures
- E-Device Class - Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10 a.m. Bring your electronic device in and Diana will do her best to answer any questions you have.

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(805) 927-1343

Cambria

Sandy Cha Mumper
Financial Advisor
1073 Main Street
Cambria, CA 93428
(805) 927-1343

Community

- Paws to Read - Wednesdays, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School Age.
- Storytime - Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.
- Stay Young with Qi Gong! - Fridays, 9 – 10 a.m. (rain cancels). Qi Gong is a system for physical, mental and spiritual development that has roots dating back thousands of years in China. It consists of flowing movements and meditations that cultivate life force energy (called qi by the Chinese). The basics of qi gong are not difficult to learn and practice, and are particularly beneficial for older adults. Instructor Devin Wallace was certified to teach by qi gong master Lee Holden. Devin has taught at hospitals, fitness & yoga centers and also does private classes.
- Cartoon Club – Friday, May 5 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Zap! Pow! Learn how to create characters, draw back-grounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon! Paper, pens and pencils provided - you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.
- Making Seashell Creatures - Saturday, May 6 from 1 – 3 p.m. Choose from a variety of seashells to make your very own creature! Recommended for 7+, or younger with active adult participation.

Take part in the SLO Botanical Garden's Founders Walk on Tuesday, May 2 from noon – 1:30 p.m. Members are free and non-members are \$10. Join gardening expert and SLOBG founder Eve Vigil for great tips and tricks for your garden. Subjects may touch on the Garden's history, what's in bloom, important maintenance – when and why – or whatever interests the group. Have you ever wondered how the garden beds were initially prepared, what the irrigation schedule is or anything about the plants? Well, come on out and ask Eve. Meet new people and learn great tips and tricks for having a stunning water-frugal garden. Bring water and comfortable shoes for our walk around the garden.

For more information about registering for this program, email millie@slobg.org, or call (805) 541 – 1400 x302



The 7th Annual Bee & Butterfly Faire is on Sunday, May 7 from 12 noon until 4 p.m. It is a free, family-friendly event featuring local foods and artisan ciders, live music, face painting and candle-making, a solar telescope, an observational beehive and bat house, hands-on awareness of bees, bats and butterflies as pollinators, and a pet costume and parade with prizes. This even is put on by the non-profit Beautify Cambria, and Dark Skies, in tandem with the Cambria Historical Museum.

The SLO Botanical Garden presents SOUL and SOIL: Prenatal & Postnatal Gatherings on Tuesdays, April 25, May 2, 9 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Members are free, non-members are \$10, and children are free. Studies show that digging in the dirt can uplift your spirit. The friendly bacteria, Mycobacterium vaccae, present in the soil stimulates serotonin production, acting as a natural antidepressant. SLO Botanical Garden believes the lack of understanding around prenatal and postnatal care has resulted in isolated, overlooked, and overwhelmed mothers, and that “postnatal” is not a stage, but forever.

The SLO Botanical Garden offers a safe space (and plenty of healthy soil) to help us connect to our bodies, our littles, the natural world, and each other. Including snacks, activities, and care for little ones, join them for grounding in your pregnancy and lifelong postpartum journey. Bring water, comfortable shoes, sunscreen, snacks and messy play clothes for your children, and an optional blanket or mat if you'd like to sit on the floor. For more information about registering for this program, email millie@slobg.org, or call (805) 541 – 1400 x302.



From April 28-30, Morro Bay invites participants to unplug from technology and enjoy the fresh ocean breeze, the sounds of the gentle waves, and the sight of colorful kites scattered across the sky at the Morro Bay Kite Festival. This annual fun, free event brings people of all ages together in a safe, relaxing environment to learn and participate in the art of kite flying. The festival serves as a chance for the Morro Bay community and kite enthusiasts alike to share their knowledge with those who have never built or flown a kite. Visitors are invited to join in for some good old-fashioned fun and leave with heartwarming lifelong memories. Located at Coleman Beach, participants will enjoy stunning views of the bay and the iconic Morro Rock while kite flying. Schedule: • Friday Night Flight with light up kites from 5 p.m.- 9 p.m. • Saturday Full Day from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. • Kite Give away – Sat only • Candy drop: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. wind dependent • Sunday Full Day 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. Please, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers.

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Obituaries

Armrel Beecham
1924 - 2022



A bold and bright spirit and friend to all was lost to us in September of last year. Armrel Kuden Beecham (Armi) was born in February of 1924 and died peacefully at her home in Clark Valley, Los Osos in September 2022.

Armrel was pre-deceased by her husband Jim Beecham and her brothers John and Jim Kuden. She is survived by her immediate family, son Craig (Angela), daughter Victoria (Robert), son Paul (Wendi), grandchildren Kent, Scarlett, Trajan, Marshall, sister-in-law Dorothy Beecham Davidson, nephews Larry, Jeff, Mark Davidson, Pat Cotter and David Kuden, nieces Lisa Hammond, Gail Kuden, Debbie Glovatsky and Candice Cotter.

Armrel was the first-born child of Victoria and Hagop Kuden who immigrated to the United States from Turkey in the early 20th century. Armrel was always proud of her Armenian heritage.

En route to Los Angeles in 1927 Armrel’s family made a brief stop in San Luis Obispo, and they never left. They later purchased a rural property on south Higuera St. where the family home was built.

Armrel attended elementary through junior college in San Luis Obispo then transferred to University of Santa Barbara where she discovered her career path in social science. After returning in the mid 1940s she became a social worker for San Luis Obispo County where she realized her passion for helping people. At this time she met Jim Beecham through her brother John They were married in May of 1949 and moved to the Kuden family ranch off Los Osos Valley Rd. A love of flowers began here with a patio filled with brilliant begonias.

Over her lifetime Armrel took great pride in being a rancher, homemaker and property manager and possessing many natural talents she excelled at all she attempted.

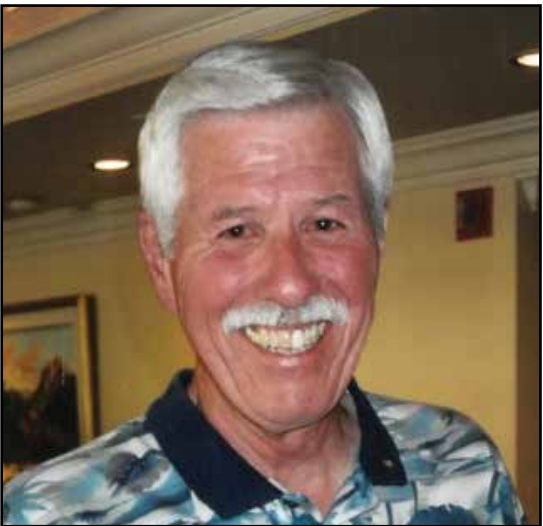
Armrel’s compassion dedicated her to help others, such as bestowing food or flowers or comfort or help where needed. Armrel also wanted to lift the suffering of all people and donated regularly to many causes near and far over her lifetime.

Join us in a celebration of life for Armrel, Armi, Beecham on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:30 am at Cow Camp at Beecham Ranch in Los Osos, California.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For directions use Cow Camp at Beecham Ranch only on Google Maps. RSVP to Beecham Ranch at gmail or call 805-528-5236.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity or to: Smile Train, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, or Estero Bay Kindness Coalition.

Sidney Stuart Bennett
1934 - 2023



Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, Sidney Stuart Bennett (Sid) passed away on April 8, 2023, at his home in Morro Bay. He was 88 years old. Sid was born September 14, 1934, in Long Beach, California to parents Rev. Manford and Agnes Bennett.

After many moves, the family settled in Van Nuys, California. He met his future wife, Beryl Matson, at Van Nuys High School where he graduated in 1953. After graduation, he attended University of the Pacific, Stockton California on a football scholarship. He also played football for Occidental College, and later graduated from Cal State Northridge.

Sid and Beryl were married in 1954 and were blessed with a baby girl, Lisa, in 1956.

Sid’s work as a lay pastor at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Van Nuys, led to his decision to attend Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley where he later received a master’s degree in theology. During that time, Sid and Beryl were blessed once again with the birth of their son, Robert, in 1962. Sid’s first parish was Calvary Lutheran Church in Morro Bay in 1964, and he later accepted a call to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Simi Valley.

Recognizing that one-on-one counseling was his strong suit, he completed his master’s degree and a college counseling credential in preparation to becoming a counselor. Sid was elated to be hired at Cuesta College in 1968, teaching health, helping to coach football, wrestling and golf and later joining the counseling department. He went on to become director of counseling and director of the Career Transfer Center and Job Placement Services. Sid’s dedication to his profession at Cuesta earned him the honor of having the San Luis Obispo County High School Counselor’s Conferences, hosted annually, named after him. At the Cuesta Counseling Center, Sid’s positive and loving encouragement influenced many young people to obtain success in school and life.

Sid was a long-time member of the Morro Bay Rotary Club, on the boards of directors for The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, Achievement House, Meals on Wheels, The Community Concert Association, and the Youth Symphony.

Sid’s faith sustained him. He loved abundantly, unconditionally and without prejudice. His many friends were beneficiaries of that love. But his family was the greatest recipient of his ever-present love; his wife of 68 years, Beryl, his daughter Lisa and husband Bob Fiocca, his son Bob and wife Metta Stiletto, his grandchildren Olivia and Samantha Bennett, his granddaughter Mylea and husband Brent Christensen, great grandchildren Niels and Sidney Christensen and his grandson Travis Smith. They all brought him so much joy and made his life complete. Sid often said, “I am the richest man in the world and the riches have nothing to do with money”. And he truly believed it!

A celebration of life will be held on May 6, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Fredericks St. San Luis Obispo. Donations in his name may be made to Martin Luther King Jr. High School Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1693 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-1693

Community

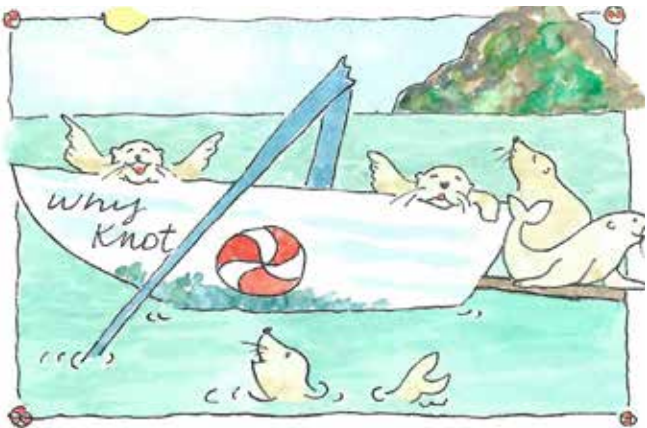
OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

Safe Housing is
Hard to Find



By Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich

“Good grief, Carl. Why do you let Edgar yank your chain like that?” Martha was so frustrated with the tussles Carl and the other male sea lions got into. “Well, he and his harem keep hoggin’ the dock, leaving no room for the rest of us,” Carl said.

“Yes,” Martha admitted to herself, “the bay’s floating dock was getting too crowded.” The old-timers, sea lions, who’d lived in the bay for generations, were not very welcoming to the newcomers. Maybe it was time she took control, and searched for a new home for her growing family.

Martha swam up and down the bay, looking for a suitable place to relocate, and deep in the back bay she saw what appeared to be an abandoned boat. It had one of those little decks on the back that were easy for her to climb onto.

“Ooooh, this is perfect! Carl can be the king of his own dock! That’ll show Edgar!” Martha knew this part of the bay would be safer for her children, and much quieter for all of them.

Martha swam back and told Carl and the kids about their new home, and they all eagerly followed her across the bay. Everyone could jump, and fit, on the small deck. Soon they were lounging, basking in the warmth of the sun, occasionally slipping into the water to frolic and cool off.

One of the pups soon climbed into the boat and discovered that there was a lot more room to play. So much to explore and even a room where he could hide!

Being so far back in the bay, Martha knew she’d have to travel further for food, but she was already a seasoned scavenger. She knew that Tognazzini’s tossed their fish scraps below the restaurant, and she knew exactly when it happened. Martha also knew where and when the fishing boats came in and dumped the delectable fish heads.

Martha and Carl soon welcomed another pup into the world, and were kept busy teaching her how to nurse, swim, forage and stay safe. Martha was so content and happy, and she hoped this new home would keep them safe for years to come.

Due to months of severe weather, Chuck Davenport hadn’t been able to check on his boat, the Why Knot. When he finally took his kayak out to see if Why Knot had survived the storms, he saw that the mast had been broken in half, and his beloved vessel had also been taken over by a family of sea lions.

Chuck tried to approach the boat to get a closer look, but the sea lions barked and hissed at him. Knowing he was incapable of getting them off the boat, he decided to return after they’d left of their own accord.

Out & About Continued on page 15

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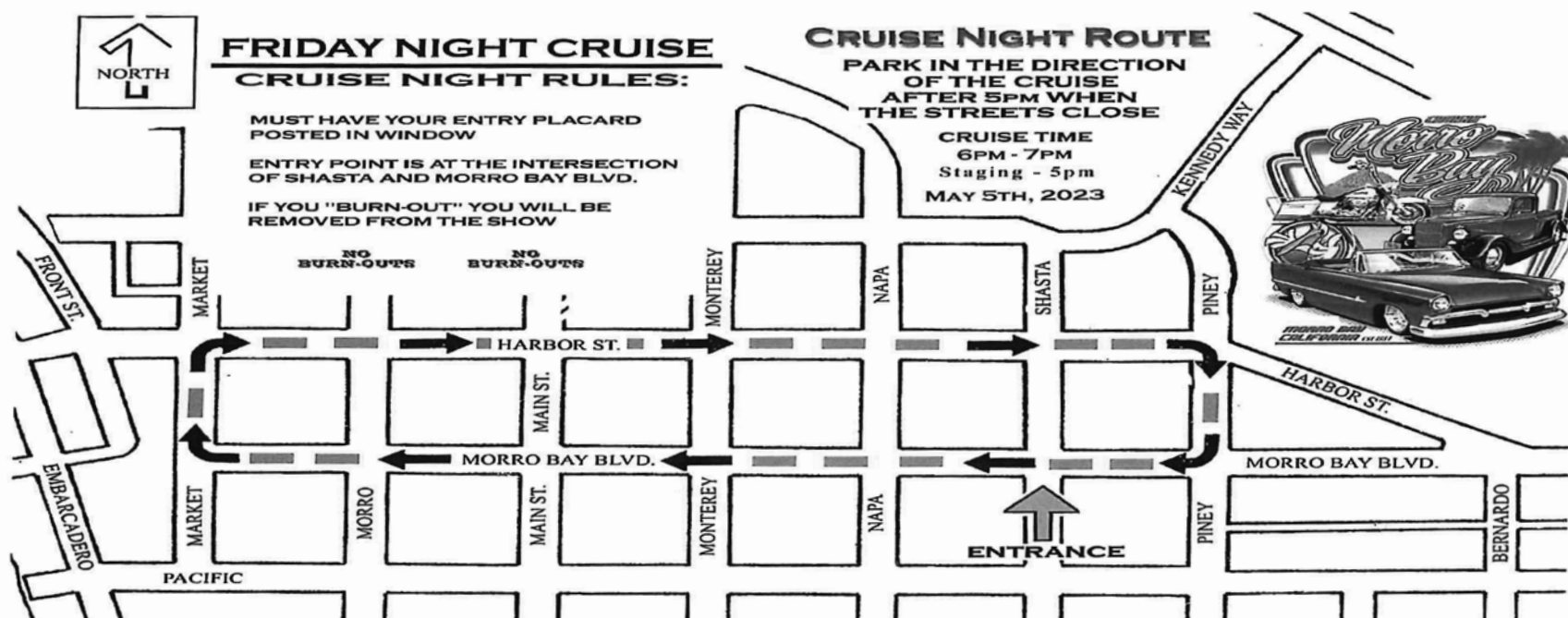
Central Coast Dragon Boat Association

Community Thanksgiving Dinners

Youth Sports Programs

MBHS Athletics

Morro Bay in Bloom



Community

Chamber Event Draws 100+ People Downtown on a Thursday Night

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce reports that the Downtown Shop, Sip, and Stroll event held on April 13 was the best event yet of this special off-season series. It was a hit for the 125 attendees and ten participating downtown businesses that reported positive feedback to the Chamber. One downtown retailer reported a doubling of their sales after 4 p.m., who also recruits local musicians to set up along the strolling route,

“We are so proud of this event and I am so proud of our team for putting in the work to make it meaningful for business owners,” said Chamber Chairperson, Ray Rior-dan.


Morro Bay in Bloom volunteers helped by providing a welcoming and safe environment for the Downtown event,

and the Morro Bay Dragon Boat Association will do the same for the Sip and Stroll on the waterfront on April 27. Chamber CEO Erica Crawford said that partnering with non-profits on this event series highlights the good work that these organizations are doing in the community, adding, “It’s another way that the Morro Bay Chamber works to champion a strong local community.”

The next Waterfront Shop, Sip, and, Stroll event is on Thursday, April 27. Tickets are still available and include a custom wine glass and branded tote plus a map of partici-pating businesses. For more information and to preregister for \$5 off, go to morrochamber.org.

Photos by Jody Hollier.





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April 20, - May 3, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Community

Supervisors Support Cambria Fireworks Show



County Supervisors approved a grant out of the Dist. 2 Supervisor's funds to help pay for expenses associated with Cambria's Annual 4th of July Fireworks show.

Dist. 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson proposed donating \$3,500 in District 2 Community Projects funds to the American Legion Post No. 432 in Cambria for their annual public fireworks show held at Shamel Park on July 4.

"The Cambria American Legion Post," reads a report from Gibson, "supports veterans, active-duty troops, and the community. They serve the youth of the community by mentoring, providing scholarships, and supporting a variety of youth activities. The Legion continues to support veterans and active-duty personnel by promoting patriotism, honor, and strong national security. The family friendly 4th of July celebration will include games, a bounce house, pie eating contests, entertainment, and food."

Dist. 2 has long supported the Cambria fireworks shows and picnic, one of two held annually on Independence Day in the North Coast (the other is at Cayucos Pier).

Out & About From page 12

Chuck kayaked out to check on his boat a couple of times a week, and the sea lions didn't appear to have departure plans. Keeping his distance, he kept track of their comings and goings, watching as the babies got bigger and more independent. As days turned into weeks, Chuck realized he was getting quite attached to and fond of his wet tenants, and the sea lions seemed to accept his visits, too.

He knew it was going to cost him a great deal of money to replace the mast, and even without climbing on board, Chuck knew that there was a lot of other storm damage, and wear and tear inside. Chuck decided to scrap the boat, and to let the sea

lions squat until he had enough money to haul it away.

On a calm and sunny morning, Chuck kayaked out to his boat to say farewell. Not just to the Why Knot, but also to the sea lions. He hoped they would somehow intuit that they could stay.

He found the sea lions basking on the back platform, the adult female with her back arched, nose pointing up to the sun. They no longer reacted when he floated next to them, and as he sat there, enjoying the tranquility, they all reached up, waving their flippers in unison, and he knew they were safe.

National Day of Prayer

A celebration of the National Day of Prayer takes place on Thursday, May 4, at the Estero Bay United Methodist Church, 3000 Hemlock Ave, Morro Bay, at 11:15 a.m. Gather around the Peace Pole and have readings and prayers for our nation.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation.

It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President


Prayer Continued on page 17

Easter Egg Hunt was Hoppin' in Cambria

The sun and hundreds of kids came out for the 2023 Reggie Perkins Memorial Easter Egg Hunt jointly hosted by the American Legion Post 432 and Cambria Rotary.

Kids searched for prize-filled eggs, joined in on a tug-of-war, egg/spoon run, 3-legged race, ring toss, and got to meet the Easter Bunny and Winnie the Pooh.





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New Panel From page 1

Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP), as well as managing the spent fuel stored in dry casks and pools of water at the plant into the future.

It was an in-depth selection process among the people who applied to be on the panel.

“As part of a highly competitive process,” Corral said in a news release, “currently seated panel members and PG&E representatives conducted in-depth reviews of applications from community members, who broadly reflect the diverse community viewpoints in proximity to DCPP.”

PG&E’s Vice President of Business and Technical Services, Maureen Zawalick, said, “The Panel has proven to be invaluable to the DCPP decommissioning activity planning and process. The diversity of the panel members ensures PG&E hears from all voices in the community as to the future of DCPP lands and facilities.”

The whole situation surrounding Diablo Canyon seems a bit odd as the company seeks to keep the plant running for many more years, even as it makes plans for its closure.

“PG&E is currently on two paths of pursuing continued operations as directed by the State to ensure electric viability for all Californians,” Zawalick said, “while planning for the eventual decommissioning of DCPP. PG&E looks forward to working with the previous panel members and the new panel members to continue this important work.”


In addition to the new members, the panel is now made up of: Pavlik of San Luis Obispo (1-year reappointment begins May 2023); Woodruff of SLO (3-year reappointment begins May 2023); William Almas, SLO; Dena Bellman of Pismo Beach; Michael Lucas of Morro Bay; Linda Seeley, Los Osos; G. Bruce Severance, Grover Beach; Chuck Anders, (facilitator); Scott Lathrop, SLO (ex officio); Trevor Keith, SLO County (ex officio); and, Zawalick of SLO representing PG&E.

The panel, Corral said, “was created to foster open and frequent dialogue between members of the local community and PG&E on matters related to DCPP decommissioning. Panelists are local community members from across the Central Coast who were selected to broadly represent diverse community viewpoints. The Panel meets periodically on matters related to DCPP decommissioning and the future use of DCPP lands and facilities.”

The power plant property, located on Point Buchon, is about 12,000 acres of various habitats including pristine oak woodlands, coastal terraces and rugged coastline. At least one area — Wild Cherry Canyon — is leased to private developers, who have said they want to build a community of thousands of homes there, a proposal that’s sure to be strongly opposed.

It is also dotted with Native American sites and local Native American groups have called for the property to be returned to them.

Who gets what part or how much of the property is something the decommissioning panel is expected to work on, and promises to be highly controversial, as most everything about the plant has been since it was first conceived of in the 1960s.




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PG&E had announced intentions to close the plant’s two reactors when their licenses expired in 2024 and ‘25 but the State of California slammed the brakes on that after rolling blackouts led to a push to keep the plant operating and keep some 2,500 megawatts of power flowing to support the power grid.

PG&E had been working on license renewals starting in 2009, but dropped the effort after it reached a settlement with environmental and anti-nuclear power organizations to close it down.

Last year, the State Legislature passed a bill, signed by the Governor, that provided a forgivable loan to the company to help pay for continued operations for five to 10 years passed the stated closure deadline.

But the State doesn’t regulate nuclear plants, so a request was made by PG&E to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reboot its withdrawn license renewal application, which the NRC turned down and ordered them to submit new plans.

But the NRC also allowed for continued operations through a license extension, while a new license renewal is processed, which is ongoing now.

“After evaluating the company’s exemption request,” reads a news release from the NRC dated March 2, “the NRC staff determined that the exemption is authorized by law, will not present undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. In addition, the staff determined Diablo Canyon’s continued operation is in the public interest because of serious challenges to the reliability of California’s electricity grid.”

What’s happened here is a little unusual as PG&E technically missed the deadline for the license renewals.

“NRC regulations,” the agency said, “allow a reactor’s operating license to remain in effect beyond its expiration date contingent upon the licensee submitting a sufficient license renewal application at least 5-years prior to expiration — a status called ‘timely renewal.’ PG&E requires the exemption because it has not met that 5-year requirement.”

The NRC pledged to continue its oversight of the plant’s operations. “The NRC will continue its normal inspection and oversight of the facility throughout the review to ensure continued safe operation. If granted, the license renewal would authorize continued operation for up to 20 years.”

But even that proclamation may not hold up, as it was recently announced that an environmental group, Friends of the Earth, filed a lawsuit last Tuesday seeking to hold PG&E to the settlement agreement it made to close Diablo Canyon in 2025. The Friends of the Earth dropped a previous lawsuit.


Friends of the Earth, an international environmental organization based in the Netherlands, was among those who signed the original closure contract and is now seeking to reinstate that agreement.

“Contracts,” Hallie Templeton, legal director for Friends of the Earth said, “simply don’t vanish into thin air. Yet ever since California passed legislation supporting Diablo Canyon’s extension, PG&E has been acting as if our contract has disappeared. Setting aside the agreement

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Community

to retire Diablo, there are myriad legal prerequisites for extending operations of a nuclear power plant, including federal decisions that states cannot dictate.

“We hope our litigation can push PG&E to reconsider its potential breach and uphold its obligations, including preparing for the agreed-upon retirement.”

The lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court of San Francisco, where PG&E is headquartered. It remains to be seen if the other environmental groups that signed the settlement will join the suit or file their own.

Garden Tour From page 1



This garden at a home on Ricardo Lane in Los Osos is part of the American Association of University Woman annual Garden Tour. Photo Submitted

over the years even though most gardens and touring visitors have not been AAUW members.

All patrons can be assured the cause, which is to educate our youth, is worthy of their donations. Morro Bay AAUW was chartered in 1957 while nationally AAUW has been empowering women since 1881 through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Morro Bay Membership Vice President, Mary Jefferson, is a life member having belonged to several branches in communities where she lived. She said, “AAUW would not be what it is today without supporting women and education. Sure, we enjoy friendships and other activities, but equity for women is our core purpose. We raise funds to support this purpose.” Mary recalled AAUW funded advanced studies for Sally Ride, who went on to become the first woman to fly in space.

Years ago AAUW leadership realized girls lagged behind in secondary studies of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum and ultimately did not qualify or even consider careers in these areas. The development of Tech Trek camps was the nonprofits solution. For the last 15 years more than 50 seventh grade girls from Morro Bay, Los Osos and Cayucos have received scholarships to the University of California Santa Barbara for a weeklong STEM camp. The camp exposes girls to a wide variety of STEM fields and occupations through hands-on experience in classes, workshops, and demonstrations. The campers hear from women professionals and receive guidance to help them prepare for their own future careers, including the critical next step of choosing the right classes in high school.

Each year Morro Bay AAUW members receive thank you letters from many of these girls stating how the camp changed their career focus and inspired them to take classes they hesitated to consider before.

Morro Bay AAUW also provides two scholarships to Morro Bay High School students annually and over the past years has given more than 40 scholarships to nursing students at Cuesta College from funds established by previous member, Mildred Logan.

The next AAUW Garden Tour is Sunday, April 30 from noon to 5 p.m. Four new gardens, two in Los Osos, one in Cayucos and one in Morro Bay, will welcome guests for a donation of \$15. This year Cal Poly Delta Gamma sorority has adopted the garden tour as one of their community service projects. Student members will greet and guide guests to and through the four gardens. Additionally, six young sorority women spent a day pulling weeds to prepare one of the gardens.

Morro Bay AAUW President Nancy Johnson promises surprises attendees might never have experienced before on this year’s garden tour, is the major fundraiser for the Morro Bay Branch of the organization.

For example, tour patrons will be able to swing and sway to the blues by The Melvin and Brucifer Show — blues duo Michael Melchione and Bruce Willard from 12-5 p.m. at a garden home on Andre Street in Los Osos. (AAUW asked that property owners’ names were not included in the story.) The residents are a whirlwind of creativity. Gardening and music bring joy to their daily lives. Their property is a wonderland filled with unique horticultural and garden art effects popping up everywhere the eye might see. They even built a stage specifically for the Mrs. and her friends to perform – most often for their personal practice and entertainment.

Another unique garden is on San Ricardo Lane in Los Osos. The residents cultivate native plants and succulents on their large property. It has a greenhouse and a vegetable garden plus Mr. has devoted hours of tender loving care for his grandmother’s precious 100-year-old red double-petaled poppies by saving their seeds from year to year. Mrs. enjoys outfitting her Mediterranean patio continually adding colorful plants to artistic pots. She welcomes guests to feel comfortable enough to sit awhile and enjoy the stunning views of the bay she and her husband are blessed to view all day every day.

Relocating from Vermont these Morro Bay residents built their west coast retirement home on Ridgeway Street. Succulents and other temperate climate cultivars fill their garden-embraced home as they enjoy their active lives living on the Central Coast. Mrs. is also a talented mosaic artist and stays busy making colorful mosaics, which are dispersed throughout the landscape.

And in the hills behind Cayucos, the entire family rallied to offer their transformed ranch-style setting on Toro Creek Road. Exquisitely landscaped it has become an entertainment venue with many personalized touches where family and friends of all ages come to gather and enjoy the great outdoors. Their grandchildren wanted to be involved in their grandparent’s special garden tour day. They offered to sell their thirst-quenching lemonade for a special treat for garden tour visitors. And since AAUW members are all about youth education, what better way for budding entrepreneurs to learn social graces and economic opportunity all in one day?

The \$15 tickets for the self-guided tour can be purchased at Volumes of Pleasure Bookstore in Los Osos, Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay, and Farm Supply in San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, and Paso Robles, My805Tix.com, and any AAUW member.

Membership Chair Jefferson invites potential new members to attend a regular meeting at St. Peter’s Episcopal in Morro Bay the second Saturday of the month between September and May from 10-Noon. For more information check out the AAUW Morro Bay Facebook page.

City of SLO National Award for Climate Change

The City of San Luis Obispo won the 2023 national Environmental, Climate, and Energy Award for its Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery.

The American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division organizes the Awards for Excellence in Sustainability to honor the projects, policies, plans and people who show exemplary leadership and inspiration in sustainability planning and implementation.

“The City of San Luis Obispo Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery (CAP) is a cutting-edge climate action plan that provides a pathway to carbon neutrality with a deep focus on people, equity, and economic recovery,” said Chris Read, sustainability manager for SLO,

The plan begins with a storybook from the future in 2035, illustrating a day in the life of a carbon neutral, equitable and thriving San Luis Obispo. Volume 2 establishes the goals of achieving carbon neutrality community-wide by 2035 and in government operations by 2030 — some of

the most ambitious goals in the nation.

In December of 2022, the San Luis Obispo City Council adopted the most current version of the work program. Volume 3 reflects a cross-departmental and multi-sector approach to climate action implementation that incorporates two years of planning and learning, community guidance gathered through stakeholder working groups and the community Climate Party in August 2022, and is aligned with the federal government and state’s unprecedented funding and policy support for climate solutions.

The Climate Action Plan also includes a commitment to implement every single foundational action and work program task through an equity lens that examines representational equity, distributional equity, and systemic equity.

For a detailed look at the plan, go to <https://bit.ly/3UGlvqy>

Prayer From page 15

Lincoln’s proclamation of a day of “humiliation, fasting, and prayer” in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

Like Thanksgiving or Christmas, this day has become a national observance placed on all Hallmark calendars and observed annually across the nation and in Washington, D.C. Every year, local, state, and federal observances are held from sunrise in Maine to sunset in Hawaii, uniting Americans from all socio-economic, political, and ethnic backgrounds in prayer for our nation. It is estimated that over two million people attend more than 30,000 observances – organized by approximately 40,000 volunteers. At state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, and in schools, businesses, churches and homes, people stop their activities and gather for prayer.

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Wind Update From page 1

quest to harness the offshore winds of the Pacific starting with September 2021 and Assembly Bill 525 that called for the California Energy Commission “to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments to be installed off the California Coast in federal waters,” according to the report from Interim City Manager, Greg Carpenter.

That report is due in June to the Natural Resources Agency and State Legislature.

“Among other things,” Carpenter said, “the Strategic Plan will address issues that could potentially impact the City of Morro Bay, including recommendations to upgrade ports and other infrastructure required to support the off-shore wind energy; transmission investments and upgrades to deliver offshore wind generated electricity; planning, permitting and potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, as well as strategies for addressing those potential impacts.”

More recently, Carpenter said, a report was released March 29 by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Offshore Wind Energy Strategy is “a comprehensive summary of the Department’s efforts to meet President Biden’s goal to deploy 30 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030 and set the nation on a pathway to 110 GW or more by 2050.”

There are two bills related to offshore wind currently moving through the California State legislature:

• AB 3 — the Offshore Wind Advancement Act, would require studies and reports on seaport readiness for off-shore wind energy development and feasibility of achieving 70% and 85% in-state assembly and manufacturing of offshore wind energy projects.

• AB 80 — the Offshore Wind Coastal Protection Act would require the Ocean Protection Council, which establishes policies to coordinate the collection, evaluation, and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and ocean resources among agencies, to establish a West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity. That agency would ensure that “comprehensive baseline monitoring of the California ocean ecosystem, as well as targeted research are available and used to inform state and federal decisions, as well as state the intent of the California Legislature to enact future legislation to create the Offshore Wind Coastal Compensation Fund.”

That fund, Carpenter said, would be to “mitigate the impacts of the deployment of offshore wind infrastructure in California on the tourism industry, marine and other coastal wildlife, the fishing industry, and other entities, funding costs associated with the future decommissioning of obsolete offshore wind infrastructure, and providing funding to marine life sanctuaries, federally recognized tribes, cities, and counties.”

In all, the Resolution is intended to try and give Morro Bay a “seat at the table” as these massive wind turbines and vast wind farms are put out in the open ocean and California takes a step into the unknown, for while wind turbines have a long history of use around the world, there are currently no “floating” wind turbines installed anywhere.

Offshore wind turbines in use today, mainly in Europe, are installed in shallow waters and imbedded solidly in the seafloor.

Having these turbines floating on the surface of the ocean will require some significant feats of engineering, as the open ocean has many hazardous sea conditions possible that engineers will have to account for.

For the time being, the lease auction winners have embarked on extensive environmental impact studies needed to satisfy both State and Federal environmental laws.

Something that’s sure to come up is impacts on marine mammals, especially whales, as dozens of dead whales and dolphins have washed up on the shores of the East Coast over the past several months.

The die-offs happened while energy companies have been doing sonar mapping of the seafloor as part of the environmental review for offshore wind development, however, to date, no correlation has been announced between the sonar blasts and the dead whales.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had issued a “Federal Take Permit” that set the allowable number of whales that could be harmed or killed at over 30.

Such a Take Permit will also have to be issued for here though the number of whale deaths that would be deemed acceptable has not yet been set.

With so many spinning plates in the air with offshore wind development, having regular reports and updates to the City Council could be a good way for residents to keep abreast of the developments with this new industry that is headed our way.

Cayucos Treasure From page 1

ly, it’s dry but this winter, it’s run fast and deep with all the rain runoff.

Mrs. Eisner’s son, a construction contractor, built a sturdy wooden scaffolding attached to the wall to give the artist room to safely work.

New panels were attached to the wall and prepped for paint. And Cruz went to work about 6-weeks ago. His progress has been amazing, considering all the bad weather and the fact that he’s working off an original oil painting that Meng did for the artwork, which the Eisners had at home as a prized possession. Cruz hopes to be done with the new mural in a few weeks.

Cruz recently took a timeout from his work to speak with this reporter about the project.

The mural measures 19-feet wide and 11-feet high and Cruz said he’s using special outdoor mural paints from Nova Color, a paint manufacturer and art supplier in Southern California, whose acrylic paints are specially formulated and guaranteed never to fade in the sun. Cruz said that’s the paint he always uses.

Cruz has worked locally before. About 5-years ago he painted the mural that covers an exterior wall at the Morro Bay Art Association Galley on Main Street.

Originally from Oklahoma, Cruz said he left the Sooner State for the Golden State of California some 35-years ago. He goes all over doing mural projects and other art installations.

“I do everything in the art world,” Cruz said, listing portraits, landscapes, impressionism, and Trompe L’oeil, a French word meaning, “deceiving the eye through realistic detail,” as styles he’s done

Cruz said he loves to travel and his work has taken him “everywhere.”

“I love to re-do murals,” Cruz said. “When they get old and faded, my specialty is bringing them back to life. But this one I’m doing from scratch.”

He’s been painting and restoring murals since 1987, he added, in any style and of almost any size.

He took a copy of Meng’s original artwork, divided it into a grid pattern, which he uses to reproduce the artwork on the wall, enlarging each square’s piece of the image to a much larger scale. In the end it should look much as the original one did, though with Cruz’ special flare.

“Every mural has to be gridded,” Cruz explained. The key is to prep the wall properly and he [Eisner’s son] did a perfect job on this wall.”

Despite the crazy, wet and windy weather of the past few months, Cruz has been able to fit in workdays when the weather breaks. He draped sheets over the scaffolding to protect him from the cold, wind and sun. “I’m so glad they built this scaffolding,” he laughed.

Though passersby can’t see the work being done behind the sheets, the scaffolding wraps around to the front of the Way Station and Cruz often stops to chat with the many people who have come by. When it’s done, Cruz said they would seal the artwork and put on an anti-graffiti coating to protect it from hooligans, though the drop off down to the creek might deter anybody up to mischief. He said he’s got a good life.

“I’ve been an artist my whole life,” Cruz said. “I come from a family of artists and musicians, and I’m so happy to get to do it as a career.”

To see examples of Cruz’ work, see his website at: www.manuelcruz.com.

New Theater From page 1



Rows of roll-away seating at the new Theater means there isn’t a bad seat in the house.

He points out several little touches like lit mirrors in the theater’s foyer and special paneling on the walls. “They put in some very thoughtful details,” Schalde says as he leads the way into the theater.

Anyone whose ever gone to see a play in the old cafeteria wouldn’t would not know they are in the same building. The result of the makeover is a sizable spacious room with rows of seating on roll-away tiers that work like the bleachers in a gym but with comfy seats. There’s a large floor space in front of the stage where fold-up chairs will be set out for floor seating, bringing the total capacity to about 300.



MBHS Principal Scott Schalde shows the drop down movie screen at the new Theater. This photo is taken from the top row of the bleacher seats.

There’s also state-of-the-art stage lighting and sound gear, which Schalde says he was not expecting. He laughs because the second-year principal had nothing to do with planning any of the changes the school district has done, yet he and the students will reap the benefits of the changes for many years to come.

“This theater compares very well with the Spanos Theater at Cal Poly,” a very proud Schalde explains. He adds that the students will run the lights and sound for the drama department’s productions.

To one side, where the cafeteria’s kitchen used to be, is now a large storage room for the department’s gear and there’s also a classroom where, for now, they are teaching English. Another thoughtful detail, he says, is that the builders kept two large roll-up doors that make moving equipment in and out much easier.

The stage is wide and deep with the customary wings

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The backstage Green Room was loaded up with snacks in advance of the students' performance of The Addams Family musical comedy.

on either side. Backstage is new too as the boys and girls now have their own dressing rooms, complete with lighted mirrors and there's even a "green room" where snacks and drinks are laid out for the student actors.

The new theater is the latest facility to be completed under the San Luis Coastal School District's plans funded by 2014's Measure D, a \$177 million bond measure passed by voters in the district, which includes San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Los Osos and Avila Beach, with some students attending out of the Cayucos School District.

Measure D has funded an almost complete remodel of the MBHS and SLO High campuses adding numerous facilities to the high school by the beach that include a swimming pool; tennis courts; new track; a STEAM Lab wing; new auto shop; remodeling of the old gym and science wing; a wonderful student quad area; a new wrestling room; student support building (admin offices); new band and choir practice rooms and ag mechanics shop; new wiring infrastructure and the Theater.

The old library is being turned into a new "cafeteria" with a "common room," which Schalde marvels at because it looks like something one might see at a community college or even a university. A new library is also under construction in what used to be a wing of classrooms and a snack bar and should be completed by next school year.

To date the District has spent over \$51 million at MBHS and while the school's music and drama departments have long staged successful productions, the sky's the limit now with these new facilities.

Readers hoping to catch "The Adams Family" performance can do so on April 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. or April 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets are sold electronically through Ludus at bit.ly/41vdabk. Show your ticket barcode to be scanned upon entry.

Veterans Services to Host Pop-Up Resource Fair in North County

The County of San Luis Obispo's Veterans Services Office (VSO) will hold a family-friendly pop-up resource fair for Veterans on April 22 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. near the bandstand area of Atascadero Lake Park.

The goal of the resource fair is to provide a one-stop-shop for goods and services to veterans in the community in cooperation with state and federal assistance programs and approximately 30 vendors. At the resource fair the Community Health Centers will provide health screenings

Wine Country Fundraiser for Woods

It's that time of year to raise your glasses to support animals in need. Toasting to 15 years and more than \$700,000 of wine country fundraising for Woods Humane Society, Wine 4 Paws returns to SLO County on April 22 and 23 with a goal of breaking last year's record to help even more pets in urgent need of shelter.

The event, which donates a portion of proceeds from wine tasting, online and in-person wine sales, and special events at more than 75 local businesses, has expanded its lineup to include new "kick-off events" on Friday, April 21, as well as a number of new ticketed events at wineries featuring experiences such as wine-paired dinners, vineyard dog walks, wine-blending seminars, and more.

"After 15 years of watching this incredible community come together to make a huge impact for animals in one weekend of fun, I am thrilled to see the event grow, welcome new wineries and businesses to the cause, and, hopefully, raise even more money for dogs and cats on the Central Coast," says Wine 4 Paws Founder and Director, Sarah Tomasetti.

Tomasetti says that she would love to break last year's record of raising \$75,000 for Woods. "Now that in-person events are back in full swing, we are hoping to see even more of our loyal wine enthusiasts and animal lovers come out to support us!"

Woods Interim CEO Emily L'Heureux says this important annual community fundraiser couldn't come at a better time. "We have seen a surge in animals in need of shelter this year as well as a steep rise in the cost of care for animals. As a private nonprofit, we rely on the generosity of the local community to support our efforts so that we can continue to help as many animals as possible. Wine 4 Paws is a crucial fundraising event that enables us to care for and find homes for up to 3,000 dogs and cats each year. We are truly grateful for 15 years of generosity from local, wine

for veterans, the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs office will offer counseling and resources, Department of State Hospitals-Atascadero will offer job opportunities, National Electrical Contractors Association and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Joint Electrical will offer apprenticeships, and multiple mental health, senior, and veteran specific resources will also be provided.

"The County of San Luis Obispo's VSO is pleased to be partnering with the Atascadero's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2814 to connect our North County's Veterans with access to resources that support a healthier, more resilient Veteran Community" said Morgan Boyd, the County Veterans Services Officer.

The County VSO plans to hold these pop-up resource fairs monthly at different locations throughout the county, providing Veterans a chance to get the help and assistance they require near where they are.

"This event is the start of what we hope turns into a lasting friendship with our Veteran community in San Luis Obispo County" says Kendra Scott, outreach coordinator and veterans service representative with the County's VSO.

The Kiwanis Club of Atascadero in partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2814 of Atascadero will sell tri-tip sandwich lunch meals for \$12.25, however, meals can also be donated to veterans via <https://bit.ly/3ooSJYX>

For more information, contact Chris Emert at 805-781-5766 or slovets@co.slo.ca.us



country businesses." Participating Wine 4 Paws wineries, restaurants, and other businesses, as well as an event map and special event details, can be found at www.Wine4Paws.com. For those out of town, the website also offers links to online Wine 4 Paws wine shipping deals and ways to donate to the cause virtually.

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, go to www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

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Drug Bust

Ross was charged with suspicion of possess for sale of a controlled substance while armed, and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Leal was charged with suspicion of possession for sale of a controlled substance. Bishop was charged with suspicion of possession for sale of a controlled substance, committing a felony while out on bail, and a "Post Release Community Supervision" (PRCS) violation warrant.

Wilder was arrested for alleged possession for sale of a

controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance while armed, felon in possession of a firearm, and a probation violation warrant.

The case is a good example of how things like probation and issuing warrants for what is essentially failure to appear in court can be used by law enforcement to thwart other crimes, as someone with a bench warrant or who is on active probation or parole is subject to arrest or being searched wherever they are.



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Make your vision a reality Take your imagination and create your Legacy. This 11 + acres on Peachy Canyon Rd has all the opportunities dreams are made of. Design your forever home on the last hill top view property on Peachy Canyon Rd. It virtually offers 50 mile views. The building site could accommodate a custom designed home up to 12,000 sq. ft. Expand the boutique Syrah vineyard with expert consultation from an international award winning wine maker, at this desirable west side Paso Robles property. All only 5 minutes from down town Paso Robles. Build the permitted 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1,200 sq ft guest quarters for your personal use, or use the county permit to operate a long term rental or vacation rental. There is a refurbished 800 sq ft 2 horse stall barn



New purchase price \$1,000,000

Call Stanley Craig for a private showing
of this fabulous opportunity!
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Stanley Craig
Broker Associate
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