

## DSRV Avalon Getting a Makeover

Story by Neil Farrell  
Photos courtesy  
Scott Mather

When your submarine needs a paint job, who you gonna call?

If you said a boat painter, you'd be right on the nose. The Morro Bay Maritime Museum Association's signature exhibit — the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Avalon on loan from the Navy since 2016 — was looking a bit scruffy and in need of maintenance.

But the Avalon is 49-feet long and weighs 37-tons, so you can't just hook up the trailer and tow it to Earl Scheib. It takes special paint, equipment and perhaps most notably to the public, a paint booth to capture and control the paint fumes.

They had to bring in a man with experience. "We contracted with Bill Haynes," said MBMMA President Scott Mather. "He is currently a vessel painter and commercial fisherman from Coos Bay, Oregon."

Haynes used to be based locally. "He previously commercially fished out of and painted many local boats here in Morro Bay," Mather said. "He is a Journeyman mil-spec painter who worked for many of the largest shipyards in the Los Angeles Area." Mil-spec is short for paints that meet military specifications.

He's also worked in Southern California shipyards, Mather explained, including San Pedro Boatworks, Southwest Marine, and Long Beach Naval Shipyard. He has experience painting in dry dock, which is what has to be

done with the Avalon.

"He has experience in repair and restoration in Naval Dry Docks, LCM's [Landing Craft Mechanized], LSD's [Dock Landing Ship], LST's [Landing Ship Tank], and Naval Frigates. He was also the foreman in the painting of Bob Hannel's [founder of Los Angeles based Custom Lithographs] experimental TransPac catamaran, 'Double

Scaffolding was erected surrounding the DSRV Avalon to ready her for maintenance and painting.



Makeover Continued on page 18

## Mountain Lion Spotted in Los Osos Front Yard



A mountain lion seen on a trail camera in Los Osos near the El Moro Elfin Forest. Photo by Gene 'Skip' Rotstein

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A mountain lion was recently spotted on a trail camera in the front yard of a home in Los Osos.

The feline, which can be 60 to 180 pounds and up to 8-feet long, was spotted in the 1100 block 8th St., about a block from the El Moro Elfin Forest Nature Preserve.

"A game trail runs along the water's edge from the Preserve and through my front yard. So any animals I see can be assumed to also spend time in the Preserve," Gene "Skip" Rotstein, a retired high school biology teacher and board member of the Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest, told Estero Bay News.

The mountain lion's glowing eyes are the first to come into view on the recording from March 27 at about 2:30 in the morning. Then it slowly walks by seemingly looking at the camera.

"I have never seen a mountain lion," Rotstein said. "This is the first time I have captured one on video. I describe the mountain lion video sighting as my Holy Grail moment. I am thrilled to know such an important member of our ecosystem is alive and, I hope, well. Mountain Lions travel tremendous distances and might have been back in Montana de Oro by dawn."

Freddy Otte, a biologist for the City of San Luis Obispo, issued a news release earlier this year following a report of a mountain lion grabbing a leashed dog in the Prefumo Creek area and taking off with it, dragging the owner in the process. The dog died in the incident, and the lion was successfully trapped, fitted with a GPS tracker and relocated.

Mountain Lion Continued on page 18

## Moving Forward: John O'Brien's Invitation to a Swap Meet

By Judy Salamacha

In 2014 I served on Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce's committee to celebrate Morro Bay's 50th anniversary chaired by past Citizen of the Year, Joan Solu. It was there I met and worked with John O'Brien. He was the quiet one. Few of us realized the talent he was willing to share with his new hometown. Fewer of us realized the network of clients he served while building his career portfolio as a graphic designer. When I later interviewed him for my "By the Bay" column in the SLO Tribune, and recognized many of the posters and album covers decorating his home, I realized we had been working with one of the best designers in the Los Angeles/Hollywood entertainment industry.

"One memorable moment came when designing Tina Turner's 'Private Dancer' album," O'Brien recalled. "It was her first

project in quite some time. I volunteered to postpone my vacation. Little did I know the magnitude - countless ads, the logo, posters - the album had become a massive hit. She was also in LA's Capitol Tower. My office was on the ninth floor. I was so surprised when she thanked me and signed

Swap Meet Continued on page 19



The O'Brien Family John, True and Blake create online swap meet opportunity now offering start-up subscription.

## Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce: And the 2023 Honorees are...

By Judy Salamacha

Do you have your reservations for the 2023 Gala presented by the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce on April 21 at the Community Center? This year's theme, "Morro Bay in Wonderland," prompted some wonderment. Indulge me in some Jabberwocky! The popular British author Lewis Carroll pondered his 1860s society through the eyes of a teen named Alice, who follows a White Rabbit down a rabbit hole only to discover challenges and strangeness.

Since 2020 we have lived through challenges and

Chamber Event Continued on page 16

## Getting to Know the New Harbor Director

By Neil Farrell



Over the past 30 years or so, Morro Bay has had numerous city managers and police chiefs but only three harbor directors.

And with the retirement of Eric Endersby last December, the last person to lead the department, the new guy, Ted Schiafone, comes in at a challenging time for arguably the most important department of City government.

The Morro Bay Harbor is the jewel of the community, developed with a slew of retail stores, boutique motels and

Harbor Director Continued on page 17

Spring  
Athletes  
Page 7



Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



Rockin'  
Cuesta Inlet  
Page 19





Supervisors to Settle Re-districting Lawsuit

By Neil Farrell

The confusion surrounding the County elections in 2022 could see a repeat now that County Supervisors have capitulated to claims in a lawsuit filed by a citizen's group challenging the redrawn district map.

The new, liberal majority of Supervisors, which took office after the November 2022 General Election, voted 3-2 to settle a lawsuit brought by SLO County Citizens for Good Governance, a not-for-profit committee formed specifically to challenge the re-districting done in 2021 by a previous, conservative board majority, claiming the new map was gerrymandered to favor Republican candidates for office.

"San Luis Obispo County Supervisors," reads a news release from the County, "have approved a settlement agreement with SLO County Citizens for Good Government, the League of Women's Voters and three other plaintiffs who challenged the validity of the supervisorial district map adopted in December 2021."

That settlement would throw out the so-called "Patten Map," the map approved by Supervisors in 2021 that was developed by a private citizen, Richard Patten of the South County.

The Supervisors had four different maps presented to them for consideration, most had district lines very similar to the existing map, with one presented by the SLO Chamber of Commerce and the others developed by a consultant.

The County's population since the 2010 Census had grown little, certainly not enough to warrant wholesale changes to the districts, the opponents claimed.

The Patten Map dramatically re-drew the district lines, moving Morro Bay, Los Osos and the western side of San Luis Obispo out of District 2, which had consisted primarily of the towns and one city on the North Coast.

Los Osos was moved into Dist. 5 and SLO and Morro Bay were lumped into a new Dist. 3 that basically followed Chorro Valley from SLO to Morro Bay and contained few residents in County-controlled areas. Dist. 2 picked up San Miguel and Atascadero.

That change, coupled with the need for a special election in Dist. 3, made the elections in 2022 at best confusing.

Dist. 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, who was appointed to the job after the death of Adam Hill in 2020, had to run for a 2-year term using the old District 3 boundaries.

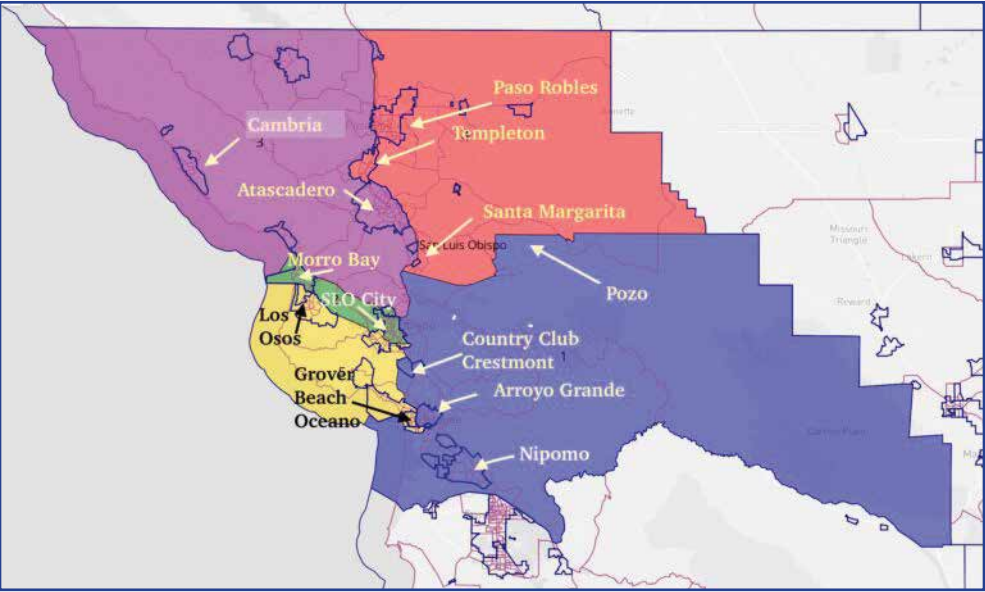
And neither Morro Bay, Los Osos nor much of SLO were even allowed to vote for any supervisor in 2022. It also has left the communities wondering just who represents them on the Board of Supervisors?

"In January of last year," the County news release said, "a judge allowed the map to stand through the 2022 election cycle, but found the petitioners had a reasonable probability of prevailing in court.

"The judge also found if that happened, the appropriate remedy would be for County Supervisors to reconsider the matter and evaluate any proposed maps consistent with the Fair Maps Act."

Supervisors believed that given the judge's proclamations, it would be better to settle out of court. "Given the significant expense and uncertainty associated with taking the case to trial," the County said, "the Board of Supervisors has agreed to settle the case and has authorized the County Administrative Officer to sign the agreement."

The decision by Supervisors lead to the public being invited to comment on the matter at its April 4 meeting, which will set up April 18 for officially repealing the Patten Map and potentially adopting one of the other maps.



The so-called Patten Map will be discarded and the County Board of Supervisors will restart the redistricting process to create a new one.



A proposed redistricting map that the Board of Supervisors will consider.

But the claims of Gerrymandering to favor Republicans would seem to be somewhat dubious, given that Dist. 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Ortiz-Legg and Dist. 4 challenger, Jimmy Paulding — who unseated Lynn Compton — won their respective races, flipping the board majority to the liberal side. (Supervisors are required to officially be non-partisan.)

Taxpayers will of course pay for all of this. "As part of the settlement," the County said, "the County agreed to pay plaintiffs legal fees in the amount of \$300,000. This was to address the risk the Court could order the county to pay legal fees and costs well in excess of this amount."

So what's going to happen in 2024, when three Supervisors — Dist. 1's John Peschong, Dist. 5's Debbie Arnold; and Dist. 3's Ortiz-Legg, who could be seeking a full 4-year term — will be up for re-election?

EBN sent County Clerk-Recorder, Elaina Cano, some questions about what the 2024 elections might look like, including whether Los Osos and Morro Bay will again be excluded, since Dist. 2's Gibson won re-election last year in the redrawn district, albeit by just 13 votes, and won't be running in 2024.

"These are great questions," Cano said, "but they are mostly for the Board of Supervisors to answer. The only thing I can officially tell you as the Registrar of Voters, is that in 2024, Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5 will be on the ballot. You may be searching for more information but, unfortunately, they [Supervisors] will be the ones who determine who gets to vote in the upcoming elections by adopting a new map."

Something else they might consider is writing a law that addresses what will happen if districts are redrawn, to ensure no other communities endure the kind of exclusion from voting that Morro Bay and Los Osos experienced in 2022.

County CAO Resigns Suddenly

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors will have to search for a new administrative officer after the current County Administrative Officer resigned suddenly after a closed session meeting where they were planning to give him a job performance review.

County Administrative Officer, Wade Horton, turned in his resignation March 21 sitting through the remainder of the bi-monthly Supervisor's meeting in what has been described as a stunned silence.

Horton's last official day will be May 1, according to a news release the County put out. He had been slated to undergo a job performance review during the closed session but according to news accounts, he handed in his resignation instead and never underwent the long-overdue review. Ordinarily, such performance reviews are done every year or every-other year, but Horton had not had a review since becoming CAO in 2017.

Board Chairman and Dist. 1 Supervisor, John Peschong said, "We can't thank Mr. Horton enough for his honorable and committed dedication to the County of San Luis Obispo."

"He has navigated the County," Peschong added, "through some of its most difficult times, including acting as Emergency Services Director during the COVID-19 crisis and recent rainstorms, setting up a Homeless Division to better address the nationwide problem of homelessness and working with local cities and community partners to provide affordable housing with professionalism, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation. He is a true public servant that has made a real difference in the County throughout his tenure."

He had also navigated the Supervisors through a contentious re-districting process in 2021, following the 2020 Census. That redrawing of the district map was challenged by a citizen's group and the new board majority — elected



County Administrative Officer Wade Horton resigned.

Estero Bay News Staff



Dean Sullivan

Owner - Publisher

dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor

editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell

Reporter

neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan

Marketing Director

shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan

Judy Salamacha

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC. Copyright 2022 all rights reserved. We are a bi-weekly publication with 10,000 copies distributed throughout Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com. You can reach us through emails listed above, by phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at: P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.



Happy  
Easter

**Bear Valley  
Realty**  
Steve Auslender, Owner  
900 Los Osos Valley Road #A  
Los Osos, CA 93402  
805-801-4444  
DRE #01068681 & REeBroker #01522411

Happy  
Passover



News

after the 2022 General Election — recently voted to settle the lawsuit challenging the new district map. Supervisors will in April take public comments on which of the other maps that were submitted before the so-called “Patten Map” was approved and put into effect at the 2022 Primary Election and the November General Election.

Horton was named CAO in 2017 and had been the County Public Works Director since 2014. He was deputy utilities/water director for the City of SLO for five years prior to moving to the County.

Horton is a Cal Poly graduate who’d spent 16 years in civil engineering, including five at the City of SLO when he moved over to the County in 2014. He was also a Navy Reservist.

Despite the suddenness of his resignation, officially, Horton was magnanimous to supervisors and the County. “It has been an absolute privilege to serve the Board, organization and residents of San Luis Obispo County for the last 8 years,” Horton said in a prepared statement. “I am proud of all we have accomplished together, and I am thankful for the many opportunities the County has afforded to make a difference in our community alongside a talented staff, and so many incredible partners from local government, business, education and our nonprofit community.”

Supervisors intend to look far and wide for a new CAO. Supervisors would “open a nationwide search for a new County Administrative Officer who can continue leading County efforts to address the challenging issues in our community, including homelessness, the statewide mental health crisis, and the regional need for affordable housing.”

No interim CAO has as yet been named by the Supervisors. The assistant CAO is Rebecca Campbell and would be a possible choice to fill in while the recruitment is conducted.

Supervisor Peschong added, “We will miss Wade’s energy, determination, and ‘can-do’ attitude. I know I speak for everyone at the County in wishing him all the best in his next chapter.”

EBN sent an email sent to Horton asking about his future plans but it was not returned before deadline.

County to Monitor Recycled Water Flow

By Neil Farrell

Los Osos’ community sewer project went online in 2016 but all aspects of the complex project haven’t been completed yet.

County Supervisors recently approved going out for bids to install a flow meter on the recycled water line that empties the treated effluent into a giant leach field above

Broderson Avenue and finish up one of the project’s numerous conditions of approval.

The so-called “Los Osos Water Recycling Facility” was required to recycle the treated waste water and sought to do so through various methods — agriculture irrigation use, for urban uses (watering park landscapes), and into the Broderson leach field, which was designed to get the water down into the aquifer and help combat over drafting of the groundwater basin.

It’s that over-drafting of the town’s only drinking water supply that has put a cork in the community’s attempts to get out from under building moratoriums based on limited resources.

Those moratoriums — both officially declared as with the septic tanks prohibitions and the de facto moratorium based on the water supplies — continue to deny people’s abilities to build on vacant lots.

The town remains under Level 3 severity restrictions due to the water supply being threatened by seawater intrusion caused by over-pumping.

The County has been told by the Coastal Commission not to even accept any permit applications that would increase demand on the water supply and the County has thus far resisted doing that, though all recent Coastal Development Permits issued by the County have been appealed to the Commission and ultimately denied if deemed to increase water demand.

It’s an unprecedented move that saw the Coastal Commission tell the County that it does not consider “will serve” letters issued by water purveyors to be enough proof that there is sufficient water supplies.

With the community sewer system that was completed in Spring 2016, the Broderson leach field was intended to return wastewater to the underground aquifer. And the County was required to track the amount of water being recycled under conditions put in by the Regional Water Quality Control Board with its National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES).

“The existing method for reporting the volume of water disposed at the Broderson Leach Field is to subtract each of the other recycled water users from the total effluent flow. The remainder is estimated to be what is disposed at Broderson. This method results in flow inaccuracies at Broderson.”

In 2021, the County received grant monies through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), money that was allocated during the coronavirus pandemic response, and rerouted some of those millions into a project called “Los Osos Effluent Pump Station Project” that now has some \$600,000 available. The new flow meter was added to this pump station project.

“The Project includes installing isolation gate valves for operational flexibility and a flow meter within a vault, which will be connected to SCADA for remote monitor-

ing,” according to a report from County Utilities Manager, Nola Engelskirger. “Approval of this project will improve the accuracy and reporting for the volume of water discharged at Broderson. The project helps address the Los Osos Basin Plan goal of the Water Reinvestment Program by improving the operational control and measurement of water delivered to Broderson Leach Field.”

SCADA stands for “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition,” and is a computer-based system for gathering and analyzing real-time data to monitor and control equipment that deals with critical and time-sensitive materials or events.

The SCADA system will allow the flow numbers to be reported automatically to the regional water board.

The flow meter portion isn’t a very big job. “The scope of work for this project,” Engelskirger said, “includes installing a flow meter within a vault, installing two isolation gate valves, and relocating the fiber optic cable around the vault. The engineer’s estimate for the construction is \$169,000 and the total project cost is \$196,900.”

Jail Health Provider Gets New Contracts

By Neil Farrell

The company that runs the medical system at San Luis Obispo County’s jails is getting a nice bump in pay, increasing its annual contracts to over \$9 million.

County Sheriff Ian Parkinson asked Supervisors to approve a new 1-year contract with Wellpath — formerly called California Forensics Medical Group — to provide health care services at the County Honor Farm, Men’s and Women’s jails.

The company was the original contract winner back in 2018, when the County put jailhouse medical service out for bids.

“The services,” Sheriff Parkinson said, “outlined in the contract include medical, behavioral health, and dental care and are consistent with the national standard of jail health care defined by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care [NCCHC].”

That initial 3-year contract was for \$6.67 million a year with two, 1-year renewal options for a maximum 5-year contract.

The contract called for annual increases for inflation, as well as the automatic renewals, with one caveat.

“The contract allows for increases to be at most 25% of the contract. In the last four years, the Sheriff’s Office has issued four amendments, three related to the CPI and one administrative. Amendment five, due to the CPI, puts the

New Contracts Continued on page 4

# Bayside Cafe

Serving Morro Bay, Los Osos Area for over 30 years.

Just plain good food, generous portions



Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

Open Monday-Wednesday 11:00am - 3:00pm.  
Thursday-Sunday 11:00am - 3:30pm. Closed between 3:30-4:00  
Open again from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm  
10 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Phone 805-772-1465  
Visit our Menu at Baysidecafe.com

## SOLD

### Cayucos

www.2775orville.com



Cayucos Beach Home! Open floor plan with one bedroom, one bath - all recently remodeled and renovated! Large deck out front for relaxing or entertaining, and just a short distance to the ocean.  
This gorgeous home can be yours for just **\$765,000**

Call the Broker with the **SOLD** signs!  
**Kelly Vandenheuvel**  
Central Coast Property Sales  
Owner / Broker / GRI  
CalBRE# 01472453



I Can Sell Yours Too  
Call Me Today!

**805-471-1046**

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com



amount over 25%; therefore, the Sheriff’s Office requests Board approval to move forward with the amendment.”

The current contract was up to \$7.6 million and the Sheriff added in a 4.8% Consumer Price Index (CPI or inflationary) increase upping the new contract, which runs through Jan. 31, 2024 up to \$8.02M an increase of some \$367,000.

The Sheriff also got authority to sign any agreement extensions on the contract so long as it doesn’t increase costs to the County General Fund.

In a separate but related contract matter, Sheriff Parkinson also asked Supervisors to increase Wellpath’s contract for another inmate health service that decides whether an accused criminal is mentally competent to stand trial.

The focus on mental health in the County Jail was front and center back then, as the Sheriff’s Department and Sheriff Parkinson himself were under intense criticism after the death of a mentally ill Atascadero man who was strapped naked into a restraint chair, left like that for a couple of days and died a tortuous death that outraged most everyone in SLO County.

That man’s death brought a tough re-election challenge to a Sheriff (and the district attorney too) who had breezed through previous elections, as well as a civil rights investigation by the FBI, which Sheriff Parkinson asked be done.

It also forced the County to focus on a jail system that had fallen behind in inmate health care, especially mental health, as several men had died in custody both from mental health issues as well as medical health problems. Part of the reforms was to build a jail infirmary in the area that used to be the Women’s Jail but became available after a new facility was constructed. The County spent millions creating this health center and improving its health care for those in custody.

Back in 2018, when the County first contracted with Wellpath it included the Jail-Based Competency Treatment Program and the existing program was small with just five beds. The program treated mentally ill jail inmates charged with felonies who were deemed incompetent to stand trial. The program is reimbursed by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and costs the County nothing. In 2022, the DSH did a study on the program.

“The analysis,” Sheriff Parkinson said, “found that the facility’s needs could support an 8-bed program. The current contract with Wellpath allows for five beds and will need to be updated to reflect the eight beds. In addition, DSH has included updates to the contract with the Sheriff’s Office and the cost of increased beds.”

The Sheriff asked Supervisors for \$1.09M to cover the contract from February 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024. And these costs continue to be reimbursed by the State DSH.

So Wellpath’s two contracts with the County now total over \$9.11 million.

Woman and Kids Rescued From Swollen River

The County Sheriff’s Department is reminding the public not to try and pass through running creeks and rivers and to heed the warnings of “road closed” signs after a woman and her three children were rescued from a local river swollen with rain runoff.

According to Sheriffs’ spokeswoman Grace Norris, at about 6:15 p.m. Thursday, March 23 deputies and the San Miguel Fire Department were dispatched to a report of a car trapped in the swollen Estrella River crossing on North River Road in San Miguel. The crossing is normally dry and passable. There is no road bridge at that rural crossing.

“The driver,” Norris said in a news release, “had gone around ‘road closed’ signs and attempted to cross through moving water, when her vehicle was swept off the road and into the river.”

The incident was eerily similar to what happened in the Jan. 8-9 storms when a woman was rescued by a bystander but her 5-year-old son was swept away and has yet to be found.

As with that tragic event, bystanders stepped up here too.

“When Deputies arrived,” Norris said, “two civilians



In the photo, a vehicle is stuck in the swiftly moving Estrella River in San Miguel. Photo courtesy SLO Sheriff’s Department

were attempting to get the children to shore through the waist-deep raging river.”

A deputy jumped in to help and they were able to get the three kids to safety. The deputy, who was not named, went back into the water to rescue the children’s mother and all made it safely out of what must have been a terrifying situation.

Norris and the department took the occasion to restate a safety message.

“The Sheriff’s Office would like to urge our community,” Norris said, “to follow the law and abide by road closures. Don’t put your life or the lives of others at risk by circumventing warning signs.”

Morro Bay Council OKs Emergency Dock Repairs

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council approved using monies set aside for repairing the public launch ramp to fix damage to floating docks and slips caused by fierce winter storms this season.

New Harbor Director, Ted Schiafone, asked the City Council for permission to dip into previously approved Capital Improvement Project (CIP) monies that have been set aside for planning a project to repair the launch ramp’s concrete ramp, which has deteriorated over the years.

Schiafone’s staff report said, “During the storm events in January and March 2023, the boat ramp docks and three additional finger docks were significantly damaged.”

The boat ramp docks run parallel along either side of the launch ramp and allow boaters access to their floating boats after being launched. It’s also where one ties up the boat while they retrieve the trailer to pull it out of the water.

“The three additional finger docks berth six vessels,” Schiafone said, “and cannot be rented until they are repaired. The boat ramp fingers are necessary to support launching a vessel. In order to stop the general public use of those fingers, we would need to close the boat launch.”

Those finger docks are part of the Tidelands slips and rented primarily to commercial fishermen.

The so-called “Boat Launch Ramp & Float Replacement Planning” capital improvement project, Schiafone said, has several contracts that total \$117,000 [including a 25% contingency]. That CIP project has a budget of \$210,000.

Schiafone said the purpose of this planning job was to apply for grant monies from the State to construct the overall project, which in its first iteration also called for a new, covered fish cleaning station, and building a small launch ramp for kayaks, paddle boards and canoes. But the State Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), which is where the City sought funding, wanted the Tidelands Park restrooms to be upgraded/replaced, which would have

fallen to the City to pay for and ran the overall project costs much higher.

The Harbor Department pulled back its grant request to do more planning on the overall needs for the launch ramp area and park. That work is underway now.

Schiafone added that this savings of \$80,000-\$90,000 should be enough to repair the docks.

“Repairs for the boat ramp fingers are estimated to be \$52,000,” he said. “A separate contract for the three finger docks is estimated to be \$21,000. The two projects are estimated to cost a total of \$73,000.”

Add in some contingency money and the emergency repair budget should run about \$80,000, but the true cost won’t be known until the job goes out for bids and is constructed.

Also, the dock repairs are expected to be included in the City’s application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damage wrought by the big Jan. 8-9 storm, as well as the March 10 storm.

Both the State and Federal Governments have declared the State of California a disaster zone due to the over-abundant snows and rains that have come with this El Niño winter.

Switching money around that is being saved for a specific purpose to take care of more pressing needs is not unheard of. And it’s presumed that the launch ramp finger dock replacement would have to be done with the bigger project anyway.

The Harbor Department is in the process of assessing all of the damage the winter storms have cause, which effected numerous public facilities and the preliminary estimates form the January storm was over \$30 million citywide. The new total estimate after the ensuing storms has not yet been released.

“Harbor docks, pilings, revetments, and seawalls all sustained damage from the January and March storms,” Schiafone said in an interview for another story. “We are in the process of getting estimates to repair. We must ensure these docks are safe and usable soon, or we will lose reve-

Morro Bay Upholstery

Is Your Boat Ready For Summer!

2602 Main St. Morro Bay

mbupholstery1@gmail.com

805-225-5252 • 805-538-0543 - cell

Estate Planning Attorney

Klaus Gottlieb, MD, MBA, JD

Wills, Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives, Trusts

Estate Tax and Legacy Planning

With Offices in Cayucos and San Luis Obispo

Contact: 805-703-2282 - www.WealthCareLawyer.com - klaus@WealthCareLawyer.com

4 April 6, - April 19, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



News

nue by not being able to rent them.

“The Harbor in cooperation with the City is filing an Insurance and FEMA Claim. Hopefully, we will receive reimbursement for this damage.”

So it’s possible the City can repair the immediate damage at the launch ramp and the slips, get reimbursed by FEMA, and the State and the launch ramp planning budget be made whole again.

Alleged Child Molester Arrested

Sheriff’s detectives arrest-  
ed an Oceano man on suspicion of child molesta-  
tion in the culmination of an investigation over the course of several weeks.

According to Sheriff’s  
spokesman Tony Cipolla,  
on Feb. 25, they received  
a report of suspected child  
molestation at a home in  
Oceano.

The investigation,  
Cipolla said, revealed that the  
suspect in the case allegedly  
had contact with the female victim the week before at his  
home in Oceano.

“Over the course of several weeks,” Cipolla said, “de-  
tectives completed a comprehensive investigation, which  
led to obtaining an arrest warrant.”

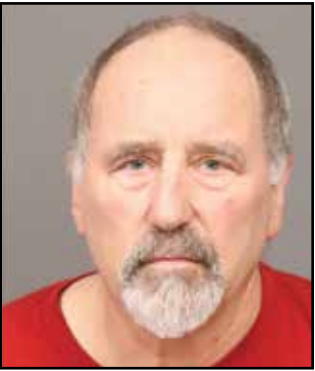
Larry Weiss, 69 was arrested on March 21 on four  
counts of alleged lewd acts with a minor and sexual  
penetration of a victim under 10-years old. Bail was set at  
\$500,000. Anyone with additional information about this  
case or other potential victims should contact the Sheriff’s  
Detective Division at 805-781-4500.

Former Youth Pastor  
Arrested for Child  
Molestation

An Oregon man and for-  
mer youth pastor in San  
Luis Obispo County has  
been arrested on suspicion  
of child molestation, the  
Sheriff’s Department said.

Sheriff’s spokesman  
Tony Cipolla said back in  
September 2022, the de-  
partment received a report  
about alleged child moles-  
tation that had occurred at  
a Nipomo church between  
2005 and 2008.

“The investigation,”



Larry Weiss



Jeffrey York

Sheriff’s spokesman Toy Cipolla said, “revealed the suspect  
Jeffrey York, who at that time was a Youth Pastor at New  
Beginnings Community Church in Nipomo, had contact  
with a male victim and had sexually assaulted him for  
years.”

Over the next few months, detectives’ investigation led  
to an arrest warrant being issued for York, who had since  
moved to Portland. Ore. But they didn’t have to fly to Port-  
land to make an arrest, as serendipity intervened.

“Detectives,” Cipolla said, “were in the process of  
apprehending York in Oregon when on March 27, during  
routine patrol, South Station deputies located a vehicle  
registered to Jeffrey York out of Portland, Ore., parked in  
the 600 block of El Camino Real in Arroyo Grande.”

Deputies notified detectives on the case that York was  
in Arroyo Grande and Cipolla said he was arrested and  
booked into County Jail on two counts of oral copulation  
by duress; two counts of lewd acts with a child under-14  
with force; and other various charges. Bail was set at  
\$400,000 and York remained in custody as of March 31,  
according to the County Jail’s “Who’s in custody” webpage.

Cipolla asked anyone with additional information  
about this case or who knows of other potential victims to  
contact the Sheriff’s Detective Division at 805-781-4500.

SurviveOars to Race  
Dragon Boats in  
New Zealand



Central Coast SurviveOars is sending a team of 21 drag-  
on boat paddlers to the International Breast Cancer  
Dragon Boat Commission (IBCDDBC) Dragon Boat Festival  
at Lake Karapiro, Cambridge, New Zealand April 10-16.

The SurviveOars team includes breast cancer survivors  
from Central Coast SurviveOars (Morro Bay), along with  
paddlers from Newport Aquatic Center (Newport Beach),  
Team Survivor (San Diego) and Dragon Maxx (Berkeley).

The IBCDBC Festival is a sporting event and a cele-  
bration of cancer survivorship. More than 4,000 people are

expected, survivors and supporters, with race participants  
ranging in age from 20 to 80, from 30 countries across all  
continents.

The dragon boat racing community has welcomed  
cancer survivors since 1998, when Dr. Don McKenzie’s  
groundbreaking study of breast cancer survivors showed  
the healing benefits of participation on a dragon boat team.

“It’s overwhelming to see and meet the multitude of  
women from all over the world who have survived breast  
cancer,” said Rose Marie Battaglia, team captain. “When we  
all get together on the water, it becomes something much  
bigger than the races.”

Battaglia noted that the festival celebrates and empow-  
ers survivors, but also honors the memory of those whose  
lives were taken by cancer. The SurviveOars ‘New Zealand’  
composite team gathered to practice together in Morro Bay  
in 2022, and again at Santa Fe Dam in February of 2023.  
United States Dragon Boat Federation (USDBF) Team  
USA coaches Pat Bradley and Nathan Salazar helped the  
team prepare.

Central Coast SurviveOars was founded in 2007 and is  
the main team of the nonprofit organization Central Coast  
Dragon Boat Association. The team of 128 survivors and  
supporters, both men and women, practices in Morro Bay.

Grand Jury Seeking  
Applicants

Readers interested in becoming a member of the San  
Luis Obispo County Grand Jury have until April 14,  
2023 to apply.

A new grand jury is empaneled each year. Grand jurors  
volunteer to work as an independent body under the guid-  
ance of the Superior Court. Investigations may be initiated  
in response to formal complaints, newspaper articles, or  
recommendation from a previous grand jury. Investigat-  
ing and reporting on the operations of local government  
is known as the “watchdog” function of a civil grand jury.  
Each civil grand jury determines which officers, depart-  
ments and agencies it will investigate during its term of  
office.

Following submission, applications are screened for  
eligibility, followed by orientation, and an interview with  
members of the San Luis Obispo County Chapter of the  
California Grand Jurors’ Association. Finalists will be inter-  
viewed a second time by a Superior Court judge. A random  
drawing during the selection and swearing-in ceremony  
will determine the 19 grand jurors and 11 alternates for the  
2023-2024 fiscal year.

Applications may be found at Jury Services, Superior  
Court, 1050 Monterey Street, Room 224, San Luis Obispo  
or by calling (805)-706-3611 or online.

Download the grand jury application at [https://  
www.slo.courts.ca.gov/general-information/jury-service/  
grand-jury/grand-jury-application](https://www.slo.courts.ca.gov/general-information/jury-service/grand-jury/grand-jury-application).

For more information about the San Luis Obispo  
County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors’ Associ-  
ation contact Nancy Welts, chapter president via email at  
[slocgja@slo.courts.ca.gov](mailto:slocgja@slo.courts.ca.gov).



LOS OSOSFamilyDENTISTRY

Services

Crowns & Bridges  
Implant Crowns  
Implant & Conventional Dentures

Laser Therapy  
Invisalign®

Extractions  
Periodontal Surgery



805 528 4144  
- An Vy Sartorius DDS -  
2238 Bayview Hts. Dr. Ste N  
[www.losososfamilydds.com](http://www.losososfamilydds.com) • [dentist@lofdds.com](mailto:dentist@lofdds.com)

April 6, - April 19, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 5



News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Poly's Sexual Assault Action Month

Cal Poly's Safer program hosts its annual Sexual Assault Action Month (SAAM) campaign during April with outreach, events and opportunities for campus community members to get involved.

Safer is Cal Poly's prevention education and confidential advocacy resource for sexual assault, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation and harassment.

Themed "Resistance and Resiliency," this year's SAAM includes survivor healing events, therapy dogs, a Lunch and Learn dialogue about consent beyond sex, a community art project and Denim Day. And San Luis Obispo residents might notice the Cal Poly "P" painted teal for two weeks to bring attention to this annual prevention and advocacy campaign.

"Months like this highlight the power of solidarity," said Jennifer MacMartin, Safer's violence prevention specialist. "The movement against violence cannot, and will not, happen in isolation. This is a community issue, so it necessitates a community response, and we look forward to strengthening our work in San Luis Obispo. Sexual Assault Action Month is an opportunity to do just that."

The campaign culminates Thursday, April 27, for Safer's biggest event of the year: Take Back the Night, an international survivor solidarity event with roots in San Luis Obispo since the 1980s. The event is hosted in the University Union Plaza on Cal Poly's campus from 5 to 8:30 p.m. With a focus on uplifting survivors and empowering community, the event will feature live music, catered food, art installations, local vendor and resource fairs, speakers, and a solidarity march. It will conclude with a candlelight vigil.

For more information on Sexual Assault Action Month and Take Back the Night, go to [safer.calpoly.edu/saam](http://safer.calpoly.edu/saam) or follow @calpolysafer on Instagram.

**Justice for Survivors Act Clears First Committee**

A bill by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) to end the civil statute of limitations for survivors of sexual abuse unanimously passed its first

committee in the State Assembly.

Under current law, survivors who experience sexual assault as minors only have until their 40th birthday to seek justice in civil court. Assembly Bill 452, co-authored by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), removes this arbitrary deadline for child sexual assault cases that occur after January 1, 2024.

"I'm grateful to my colleagues for joining with me to end the cruel and arbitrary civil statute of limitations laws for childhood sexual abuse cases," Addis said. "The vote today will provide future survivors of child sexual abuse the critical opportunity to seek justice and healing, no matter their age."

The bill passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee 11-0. The committee referred the bill to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Chimney Rock Road Repairs Begin



With no storms in the immediate forecast, County of San Luis Obispo Public Works began repairs to Paso Robles' Chimney Rock Road that was washed out during an early March atmospheric river event.

Steep terrain, unstable soils, rising lake levels, and a continuous stream of storms since March 9, have hampered repair efforts, but thing are back on track.

By the week of April 24, weather and site conditions permitting, it is expected that stranded residents in the lakeside communities of Running Deer Ranch, CAL-Shasta, and Tri-Counties will have access to and from their homes for the first time since March 9.

The washout will be repaired in three phases. In the

first phase, public works and local contractor, David Crye General Engineering Contractor, Inc. will build a temporary road upstream at a lower elevation than the existing road. Once open, the road will provide limited access to residents, construction equipment, and emergency vehicles only. Though the temporary road will be passable for vehicles, the site remains an active construction zone, and drivers are advised to exercise extra caution on the roadway.

For the second phase of repair, public works and Souza Construction, Inc. will construct a temporary bridge over the washout on Chimney Rock Road. This one-lane bridge is expected to be open to all vehicles this May.

Once the temporary bridge is in place, the County will move to the third and final phase, which will be the long-term repair of the road. For the long-term fix, Public Works is considering a permanent bridge or a large-diameter culvert capable of passing large debris for 100-year storm flows.

**SLO Looks at Increasing Housing Options in Downtown**

The City of San Luis Obispo has prioritized increasing housing options in San Luis Obispo and the City Council considered a new program that is designed to create more smaller housing units in the City's downtown core. The proposed Downtown Flexible Density Program offers housing developers a variety of incentives to build more housing within current standards for the scale and height of buildings downtown. These incentives include: (1) flexibility from standard density limitations, which means they can build more units provided they are 600 square feet or less in size, (2) exemption of these smaller units from the City's Inclusionary Housing Requirements, and (3) reduced parking requirements for properties located outside of the downtown parking district boundaries.

The Council reviewed the program and staff will bring back an item for final adoption later this month. For more information on housing in San Luis Obispo, visit [www.slocity.org/Housing](http://www.slocity.org/Housing).

*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.*



Open  
7 days a  
week  
10-5

# PROPANE

ON MAIN

Low Prices



\$ 3.50

gallon

plus tax

No loyalty program punches while reduced prices are in effect

1598 Main Street

Morro Bay

805-225-5228

Ran by Central Coast Cart Rentals

\* Hours and days open subject to change


Facebook.com/PropaneOnMain

Edward Jones


> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

Dreaming up the ideal retirement is your job. Helping you get there is ours.


We're excited to hear from you.



Los Osos




**Deanna Richards, AAMS<sup>®</sup>**  
Financial Advisor  
  
1236 LOVR, Suite J  
Los Osos, CA 93402  
(805) 534-1070




**Nelson Pamplona**  
Financial Advisor  
  
501 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6188

Morro Bay




**Jennifer L. Redman**  
Financial Advisor  
  
1085 Kennedy Way  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-7938

Cayucos




**Alex Schams**  
Financial Advisor  
  
241 S. Ocean Ave  
Cayucos, CA 93430  
(805) 995-2110



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

Cambria



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

6 April 6, - April 19, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News



# Community

## Woods Sees Post-Pandemic Puppy Boom

Woods Humane Society needs donations and foster volunteers to help cover the cost of care for a more than 200 percent increase in homeless puppies.

“We currently have nearly 35 puppies in foster homes, with more on the way,” says Woods Humane Society Interim CEO Emily L’Heureux. “In total, we have taken in 107 puppies this year—more than three-times the number taken in during the same timeframe last year.”

L’Heureux believes this post-pandemic puppy trend could be due to the inaccessibility of spay/neuter programs in some communities during the pandemic, as well as potential increases in puppy-breeding programs during the pandemic.

“A couple of years ago, it was nearly impossible to adopt puppies because the demand was so high. As people return to working in the office and as the costs of animal care are rising in the current economy, the tide is turning and now the number of requests for owner surrenders or shelter transports of nursing mothers and puppies has gone up markedly.”

Woods says its puppy adoptions are still going strong, with the average length of stay for puppies currently at just three days; however, with the unexpected increase in puppies comes an increase in the cost of shelter care. “We have budgeted for up to 3,000 animals, including an average of 130 puppies for the year, at an average cost of \$406.98 in veterinary care per animal. If we continue at this rate, though, we are on track to increase our intake of puppies by 229 percent.”

In order to manage the influx and help as many puppies as possible, the nonprofit organization is building up its foster volunteer program, held a \$50 adoption promotion to make room in the shelter, and seeking donations to cover the cost of care for more puppies.

The cost and amount of time needed to provide veterinary care for young pups is higher than it is for the average animal, explains L’Heureux. Puppies require special



foster and medical supplies and services in order to examine, vaccinate, treat, and alter them, often over the course of several weeks. As a private nonprofit, receiving no tax funds and relying on the generosity of the community, Woods is hoping for donations to help them take on the higher numbers of puppies and exponentially rising cost of care.

“We are looking to the community for support to ensure that we will not have to turn puppies away due to a lack of funds or resources,” L’Heureux says.

Donations to help puppies can be made at [www.WoodsHumane.org/Donate](http://www.WoodsHumane.org/Donate) or by texting “WOODS” to 24365. More information about animals available for adoption and about the foster program can be found at [www.WoodsHumane.org](http://www.WoodsHumane.org).

Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422, and is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m.

## Spring Sports Athletes Honored for March

Morro Bay High’s student athletes have sprung into action with the Spring 2023 sports season and the Athletic Boosters Club has several athletes it wants to honor as Athletes of the Month for March 2023.

Spring has the greatest variety of sports competing including several fielding boys and girls teams, scored as team sports, and with some competed in as individuals, including swimming and diving, track and field, boys’ tennis and golf.

Here are the latest student athletes to receive recognition:



Lyla Boughton-Proano

### Girls Swimming — Lyla Boughton-Proano

Lyla Boughton-Proano, known by her teammates as “Lyle,” is the Girls’ Swim Team captain for her “respect and good sportsmanship towards others, her amazing communication, and the way she has naturally stepped into a leadership role for our program,” said head swimming and girls’ team coach Laurel Carpenter. “Lyle is dedicated to this sport. She takes the time to put in the work that not many others will, and it shines through in her swimming and in the way she carries herself in and out of the water.”

Lyle is more than just a good swimmer. “I selected Lyle,” Carpenter said, “because

not only is she a top-level athlete, but she’s also a good person inside and out and has been someone everyone has looked up to this season. I can always count on her.”



### Boys Volleyball — Sean Tomlinson

Sophomore, Sean Tomlinson is the Boys’ Volleyball Athlete of the Month. Coach Shelby Frye said, “He has been incredibly dedicated to our program this season. He brings great energy everyday and shows up for his team every time he steps on the court. His leadership and dedication make him a great addition to our team.”



Noah Kimbrell

### Boys Golf — Noah Kimbrell

Noah Kimbrell is the Boys’ Golf Team’s Athlete of the Month. He is one of

**Honored** Continued on page 9

# 10 WAYS TO REDUCE ENERGY AND SAVE MONEY

#4

#7

## SOLAR ELECTRIC + BATTERY BACKUP

Savings + security + 26% tax credit thru 2022.

See all ten at [solarponics.com](http://solarponics.com) • (805) 466-5595

# SOLARPONICS

Tesla Powerwall, LG Chem, Enphase Certified Installers • CSLB# 391670 • SINCE 1975

APR 28

MAY 14

# THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS

## THE MUSICAL!

BOOK & MUSIC BY: ERIC ROCKWELL

BOOK & LYRICS BY: JOANNE BOGART

DIRECTED BY: JILL TURNBOW

CAMBRIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS THEATRE  
1350 MAIN STREET, CAMBRIA • 805.927.8190  
[CAMBRIAARTS.ORG](http://CAMBRIAARTS.ORG)  
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT THE DOOR



Police Blotter



• **March 19:** Police responded at 9:25 p.m. to the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. for an apparent fight among juvenile delinquents. Logs indicated a juvenile boy reported aggravated assaulted by some ruffian causing great bodily injury.

• **March 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle in the 2700 block of Main at 7:50 p.m. Logs indicated the driver had two out-of-county warrants and a suspended license, taken away for a DUI. He was cited and released to be caught again later.

• **March 19:** Police stopped a vehicle at 4:40 p.m. after reportedly seeing the driver blow through the stop sign at Main and Beach. Logs indicated they took the poor fellow in for a breathalyzer test but had to let him go when he blew under 0.08%, a rare case of neener-neener-neener!

• **March 18:** Police responded at 2 a.m. to a watering hole in the 2700 block of Main where some dude was tootin’ his horn. The 47-year-old annoying flesh monkey was hauled away to the County quiet room for allegedly being stultified.

• **March 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 p.m. on South Bay Boulevard at Hwy 1. Logs indicated the 26-year-old driver volunteered a field breath test, which he failed. And then took another at the police station, with ditto the results. He was cited and released to a sober friend who came and got him.

• **March 17:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 4 p.m. in City Park and the dude had five bench warrants and was checked into the County B&B.

• **March 16:** Police contacted another model citizen in the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd., who had multiple bench warrants. He too checked into the dungeon.

• **March 16:** Someone turned in a wallet they’d found somewhere in town. Someone else turned in a bullet they were shootin’ to be rid of.

• **March 16:** Police towed away a car found at 10 a.m. on Hwy 1 at Atascadero Road as the driver owed a the DMV a pound of flesh.

• **March 16:** Police responded to the 1200 block of Main where someone said a scoundrel stole his, her or them’s bicycle.

• **March 15:** Police responded at 9:55 p.m. to a motel in the 1200 block of Morro Ave. They discovered a woman, 51, apparently running amok and allegedly destroying multiple plants at the motel. Logs indicated they found a suspected meth pipe in her pocket and she was arrested for suspicion of vandalism and possessing drug paraphernalia, her stash apparently already up in smoke.

• **March 14:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 11:59 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana apparently carrying two

scaffolding boards, which he allegedly admitted he’d stolen. He was arrested for suspicion of petty theft, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **March 15:** Police responded at 8:15 a.m. to the Sunset Motel in the 600 block of Main for a reported domestic violence incident. They wrote a report.

• **March 14:** Someone in the 1100 block of Embarcadero noticed his or her license plate was stolen, or at least missing.

• **March 13:** Police responded to Las Vegas Avenue for a report that a woman’s bonehead ex-fiancé has been indirectly contacting her in violation of a restraining order.

• **March 14:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:50 a.m. in the 800 block of Quintana. They arrested a 38-year-old woman for suspicion of being stoned in the presence of decent society.

• **March 14:** Police responded at 12:50 a.m. to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 700 block of Butte. Logs indicated they arrested two men and a woman on warrants and various drug charges. A 31-year-old chap was nicked for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs for sale, simple possession of drugs and paraphernalia. A 35-year-old dude was popped for suspicion of possessing drugs for sale and a 29-year-old woman was wrung up for suspicion of possession of illegal drugs; possession of more than 1 ounce of the evil weed; and of course giving police a fake name. All were tossed into the gaol.

• **March 14:** Police contacted an apparent resident of the creek bed in the 500 block of Quintana who had three bench warrants. Logs indicated they wrote another citation and released the poured fellow back into the drainage ditch.

• **March 13:** At 3:13 p.m. police went fishing again in the drainage ditch in the 400 block of Quintana and caught a 54-year-old fellow with a bench warrant. He got another failure to appear date and was released.

• **March 13:** Police responded to Ironwood Avenue for a report of identity theft, the scourge of the wired world.

• **March 11:** Police responded to somewhere on Morro Bay Boulevard where they collected a rifle for destruction that someone had apparently found no doubt hidden where no one would find it.

• **March 10:** Police responded at 11:50 p.m. to the 700 block of Harbor for a car crash. No juicy details were released.

• **March 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:46 p.m. at Main and Radcliff. Logs indicated the 60-year old driver was nicked for suspicion of being spanked.

• **March 10:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow raising a ruckus at 9:14 p.m. in the 700 block of Harbor. The 38-year-old noodle was drunk tanked for alleged disorderly conduct, being tankered in public, and a warrant because there’s more to the elephant than the tusks.

• **March 9:** Police responded to the 600 block of San Jacinto where they took a report of suspected bank fraud with the loss of \$1,700. Logs indicated the hacker thief used a computer, which always nets more money than using a gun.

• **March 9:** Someone found a driver’s license in the 1200 block of Embarcadero. Police have it now.

• **March 9:** Police responded at 12:24 p.m. to Piney Way and Pacific for an injury car crash. No word on who zoomed who.

• **March 9:** Someone at the high school reported losing something beyond months of learning during COVID.

• **March 8:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 7:30 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 30-year-old scofflaw had five bench warrants. He was issued a sixth disappearance ticket and released.

• **March 8:** Police responded to a disturbance at 3:15 p.m. at Morro Bay High in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated one little straight-A student was arrested presumably for fighting as battery was the charge, along with disrupting school and disorderly conduct.

• **March 8:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 2:30 p.m. in City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated they arrested a 48-year-old lady scofflaw on numerous bench warrants, as apparently seven isn’t her lucky number. She was also charged with alleged possession of illegal drugs

and paraphernalia, in this week’s example of why they call it dope.

• **March 8:** Someone turned in a wallet she or he found in the 800 block of MBB.

• **March 8:** Police responded at noon to a disturbance in the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated a son was allegedly threatening his father with a hammer and box cutter razor knife. The father had a restraining order out on the little miscreant. Naturally, he also allegedly was in possession of illegal drugs and paraphernalia, which explains a lot.

• **March 8:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 63, in the 700 block of Quintana. Upon investigation the woman had two bench warrants. She was issued another citation to ignore and released.

• **March 7:** Police espied a suspicious woman, 39, in City Park at 7:30 p.m. The swizzle stick had a bell on every tooth and was nicked for suspicion of disorderly conduct and being a disciple of Bacchus.

• **March 7:** Police contacted yet another model citizen at Main and Bonita. The 38-year-old dingus had two warrants. He was issued a future third warrant and unleashed back on society.

• **March 6:** Police responded at 9:50 p.m. to the 600 block of Main for a reported vandalism. Logs indicated they arrested an apparently angry 31-year-old humanicus dooficus on suspicion of vandalism with over \$400 in damages.

• **March 6:** Police responded at 9:41 p.m. to Motel 6 in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., to check the welfare of 7-year-old twin boys. Logs indicated they contacted the boys’ mother, who was allegedly schwasted and unable to care for her children. Officers took the boys to their grandmother’s home and reported the mother of the year’s behavior to Child Welfare Services.

• **March 6:** Police responded at 1:52 p.m. to a traffic accident at Sunset and Atascadero Road. Sorry, no injuries were reported.

• **March 6:** Police responded at 8 a.m. to a disturbance at the Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way. Logs indicated they arrested a 65-year-old woman after they discovered she had two bench warrants in another county.

• **March 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 1 a.m. at Main and Hwy 1. The driver, a 62-year-old fellow was nicked for driving honked and having more alcohol in his blood than legally allowed — somewhere north of 0.08%.

This “get of the counter” language you speak is not my native tongue




Photo by Cat Noir CC

Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at CatNoirCC.com. Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

Visit

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum

Thursday - Monday  
10 am - 2 pm

Free Admission!

Visit our shop with unique gifts!

Your local nonprofit preserving the history of the Central Coast

1210 Embarcadero  
Morro Bay, CA  
805.225.5044

MorroBayMaritime.org





**O'Connor Pest Control**  
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

**SPECIAL**  
**\$69 MONTHLY SERVICE**  
General Pest Service Only. Gophers & Rodents Not Included.  
One Year Term Minimum. Homes up to 3,000 sq. ft.

**Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates**  
**Same Day Service M-F**  
**ECO SMART PRODUCTS**  
**805-544-1170**  
[www.oconnorcentralcoast.com](http://www.oconnorcentralcoast.com)

Kevin says,  
“Look for the ANT on the Door”



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President



Community

**Honored** From page 7

the Top-5 golfers in the area, according to coach Sean Allstot, averaging an 18-hole score of 75. “Noah hits the ball a country mile,” his coach said. “He has an amazing short game, and is able to hole out from almost anywhere on the course, making him an exciting player to follow around the golf course.”

Girls' Track & Field  
Emily Giordano

Lady Pirates' track runner, sophomore, Emily Giordano, competed well in the 100 meters, 200M, 400M and 800M last year, said Coach Chuck Ogle, before discovering a penchant for hurdling, which led her to an All-CIF medal in the 300 hurdles at the Central Section Division 3 Finals. “So far this season,” Coach Ogle said, “Emily has league-leading times in both the 100 and 300 hurdles and the third best mark in the long jump, a personal best 14-feet 7.5-inches.”



Emily Giordano

Boys' Track & Field  
Aidan Blackwood

Senior Aidan Blackwood, “was a key contributor last season,” Coach Ogle said, “when his squad brought home the League Championship — the first for a [Pirate] boys' track team since 1974. He's been



Aidan Blackwood

working hard since January and currently leads the league in the 110M high hurdles and 300M intermediate hurdles, with personal bests in both events. Aidan also ranks second in the triple jump and third in the high jump.”



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Monday Club  
Annual Book Drive

The Monday Clubhouse Conservancy announced its third year of collecting books for San Luis Obispo County's youngest readers, from infancy to age 12. Starting on April 10, The Monday Club will accept books at their clubhouse in San Luis Obispo. Donations may be dropped off the second and fourth Mondays of the months of April, May, and June, from 2 to 5 pm., at 1815 Monterey Street. To help promote equity and access, The Monday Club gladly accepts both new and gently used books. They invite members of the community to clean out their bookshelves — or shop for a few new books — to pass on the joy of reading, and the gift of literacy. Volunteers will be on hand to receive the books, and to assist in unloading, as necessary. Books in Spanish and other languages are most welcome. In addition to the book drive, as supporters of the County Office of Education's Raise a Reader program (RAR), The Monday Club provides RAR with funds to buy books for their successful book bag initiative. This well-loved project gives children Pre-K through kindergarten classroom access to bags filled with books, which they take home, read, and then exchange for another bag. Since 2015, The Monday Club has donated \$5,000 a year to assist with

the program. From its inception three years ago, The Monday Club has also distributed 7,000 books to children in underserved communities from Paso Robles to Oceano, and include printed bi-lingual Reading Tips for families in each book. This year's book drive is a continuation of that program, the better to reach young readers of all ages. The Monday Club is a 501(c) 3 Public Benefit Charitable Foundation whose mission includes providing community and educational activities, and preserving and restoring the historic landmark known as The Monday Club of San Luis Obispo designed by Heart Castle's Julia Morgan. For more information, go to [themondayclubslo.org/RAR](http://themondayclubslo.org/RAR)

Boys and Girls Club  
New CFO

Patricia Hammond has joined Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast as its first chief financial officer.

As the organization continues adding more Club sites, increasing staff and adding innovative new programs, the budget for the organization has expanded from \$3.5 million in 2021 to over \$7 million for the current fiscal year. Two Capital Campaigns are also on the horizon, all of which creates the need for a leader in financial administration and oversight to help streamline policy and operations for the nimble and problem-solving organization.

Club CEO, Michael Boyer, says that “53% of all school-age youth in our region live in poverty, we are growing to serve the increased demand for the out-of-school child development needs of our communities. We are very fortunate to have Trish join our executive team to enable us to serve the youth who need us most.”

A long time resident of the Central Coast, Hammond's familiarity with the successes of Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast inspired her to lend her expertise to the mission of an organization serving children.

“As an individual of Hispanic descent,” Hammond said, “I am passionate about supporting low-income youth and know I can leverage my background and experience to be an excellent asset to the organization.”

Hammond can be contacted via email at [trish.hammond@centralcoastkids.org](mailto:trish.hammond@centralcoastkids.org).

For more information about Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast, please call Kelly White O'Neill at (805) 354-7433 or via email at [Kelly.whiteoneill@centralcoastkids.org](mailto:Kelly.whiteoneill@centralcoastkids.org) or visit [www.CentralCoastKids.org](http://www.CentralCoastKids.org)



Patricia Hammond

CA Mortgage Relief  
Still Available for  
Homeowners

Homeowners struggling with housing payments can find help. The government organization, California Mortgage Relief Program, has expanded to provide additional assistance and expand eligibility to help even more homeowners who have struggled with housing payments due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$1 billion program will run until all the funds are returned to homeowners.

The program is expanding in four ways:

- 1. Previously awarded homeowners who are still eligible and need more assistance can return for additional funds with a maximum of \$80,000 in total assistance.
- 2. Assistance is now available for homeowners with partial claim second mortgages or loan deferrals taken

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 10

# CUATRO DE MAYO

THURSDAY MAY 4TH

## THROUGH THE ROOTS

with special guests  
**CYDEWAYS**  
OPENING SET BY **THE DARTS**

**TR**  
**THE SIREN**  
7pm / 21+ / Morro Bay, CA

**nhc Gelato**  
NATURAL HEALING CENTER

GROVER BEACH | 998 HUSTON ST. MORRO BAY | 495 MORRO BAY BLVD. LEMOORE | 338 WEST D ST. TURLOCK | 3401 W. MONTE VISTA AVE.

(805) 201-1498 | [NHCDISPENSARIES.COM](http://NHCDISPENSARIES.COM) | OPEN DAILY 7AM - 9PM

Grover Beach License # CSD-0000388-LIC | Morro Bay License # CSD-0000797-LIC | Lemoore License # CSD-0000794-LIC





Community

**Takin' Care of Business** From page 9

during or after January 2020.

3. The delinquency date for assistance with past-due mortgage and property tax payments was reset - applicants must have missed at least two mortgage payments OR at least one property tax payment prior to March 1, 2023.

4. Homeowners with a primary residence that includes up to 4 units on the property may now be eligible.

The California Mortgage Relief Program is helping homeowners facing a COVID-related financial hardship get caught up on past-due mortgage, reverse mortgage and property tax payments, and helping to reduce or eliminate partial claim second mortgages and loan deferrals. The assistance provided through the California Mortgage Relief Program is not a loan and does not need to be paid back. Homeowners receiving these grants should talk with a tax professional about any impact this may have on their income taxes.

For homeowners with a mortgage or reverse mortgage, funding covers the full past-due amount owed to their lender, up to a maximum of \$80,000 per household. Homeowners who are delinquent by more than \$80,000 at the time they submit their application would not be eligible for assistance.

For homeowners who pay their property taxes directly to their county, grants fund the past-due amount that is owed to their county tax collector, up to \$20,000 per household.

For more information, go to [camortgagerelief.org](http://camortgagerelief.org).

*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](http://EsteroBayNews.com).*

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Morro Bay State Park is looking for volunteer kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders for the SeaLife Stewards program starting in May of this year.

SeaLife Stewards go through one, four-hour virtual training and one, four-and-a-half hour training and evaluation where they are trained by subject matter experts on preventing wildlife disturbances, recording community science data, and how to identify wildlife.

Stewards will also learn safe viewing distance guidelines for a variety of the wildlife that call Morro Bay home. Stewards must be able to swim and kayak and stand-up paddle boarders must bring their own board.

Applicants are asked to make a minimum commitment of two, four-hour shifts and submit an application with Robin Hazard at [SeaLifeStewards@gmail.com](mailto:SeaLifeStewards@gmail.com) or 805-712-4776.



Downtown SLO's Annual Bunny Trail returns to the Downtown SLO Farmers' Market on Thursday, April 6 from 6-8 p.m.. This event is free, family-friendly, open to the public, and will coincide with the normally-scheduled Downtown SLO Farmers' Market.

• Bunny Trail: Families are invited to follow the "trail" and collect treats from over 30 different downtown businesses. Volunteers will be passing out free treat bags and trail maps at the corner of Chorro & Higuera Street

and throughout the Market. The map will also be available online at [DowntownSLO.com/BunnyTrail](http://DowntownSLO.com/BunnyTrail).

• Meet & Greet with Downtown Bunny: Children can meet Downtown Bunny at the corner of Chorro & Higuera Streets; photos will be free with a personal device. No printed photos with Downtown Bunny will be available for purchase. More information about Bunny Trail can be found at [DowntownSLO.com/BunnyTrail](http://DowntownSLO.com/BunnyTrail).

The Morro Bay Art Center, 835 Main Street, Morro Bay, has been in existence for over 50 years. There is a large workroom as well as a gallery. The workroom has just been reopened to offer (free to the membership and the general public) 'Creativity Day' which was closed during COVID. Anyone can come with their supplies and work on their project and meet other artists who are also working. This open studio atmosphere is available on Thursdays from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. For questions email Elaine at [elainema-son41@gmail.com](mailto:elainema-son41@gmail.com).

The San Luis Obispo Master Chorale is diligently rehearsing as the group prepares for its third and final performance of the 2022/2023 season. Tickets are on sale now for "The Theatrical Mendelssohn: Elijah," happening on Sunday, April 23, at 3 p.m. in Harold Miossi Hall at the Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo. Together with new and returning members, the SLO Master Chorale will be performing with over 100 voices – the



**Takin' Care of Business** Continued on page 12

**FLOORING DISCOUNT CENTER**

**Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring**

For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.

787 HARBOR ST. MORRO BAY, CA 93442  
PHONE 772-2211 FAX 772-7747

Monday 9-4 • Thurs - Fri 9-5 • Saturday - 10-3

[www.fdcmb.com](http://www.fdcmb.com)

**HOFBRAU**  
Since 1971  
Hand Carved Roast Beef

It just doesn't get any better than this!

Celebrating In Business 50 YEARS 1971 - 2021

805-772-2411  
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay  
Open 7 days a week.

**DALE KAISER TEAM**  
805-995-2900

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERTS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

**DALE KAISER REAL ESTATE**

**Stellar Cayucos oceanfront takes full advantage of a large high bluff parcel not far from downtown and pier. The unique plan flows among all 3 levels and their patios and decks. Striking quality throughout. Don't miss seeing this landmark property—there isn't another even similar.**  
**\$6,500,000**

**DRE 01297036**



Obituaries

Robert Francis Edward Olds



Robert Francis Edward Olds, Bobby to those who loved him, died in the early hours of March 4, 2023. He was at home in Los Osos, surrounded by his mother Alexis Olds and father Frank Nolan, his sister Mariel close by. The cause of death was a pulmonary embolism. Bobby was only 21-years-old at the time of his passing, but his life was full and rich for one who died so young. In the Buddhist tradition he came to earth to teach us how to deal with adversity and impermanence. As a young boy he had many private conversations with our Buddha statue in the back yard. Bobby was of Native American (Citizen Band Potawatomi) and African American ancestry.

Bobby was a larger-than-life figure in Los Osos, and indeed on the Central Coast. Everybody knew and loved Bobby. He had an army of friends. If we needed to find him, we would just ask anyone on the street and they knew where he was. He lived the life he wanted, on his own terms. It was filled with his beloved scooter, video games, Legos, RC cars, and paintball guns. He loved and participated in sports throughout his life, baseball, basketball, and La Crosse. But perhaps his greatest passion was for football. He played at Morro Bay High School, and for two years prior to his death was a standout offensive lineman for the Valley Stallions, a semi-pro football team based in Fresno.

Bobby attended Village Pre-school, Baywood Elementary School, Los Osos Middle School, and Morro Bay High School. Following high school, he attended Cuesta College where his particular interest was History. He had an affinity for those with special needs.

However, Bobby’s greatest joy came from spending time with those he loved. He loved being at home with his family. And he loved hanging out with his friends, too many to name here, who became fixtures in his and his parents’ home. In the end he was a young man of great compassion with a deep contemplative and spiritual nature. He loved life and those around him passionately including his cat JJ, his dogs Tippy and Willow and his two turtles, Bubbles and Lamar. A Celebration of Life for Bobby is planned for Sunday, April 16 at 1 p.m. at the Red Barn in the Community Center in Los Osos. All of those who knew and loved Bobby are invited. Bobby’s friends (thank you Noah and Kobe) set up a GoFundMe page for him under Robert Olds for those wishing to contribute or to Woods Humane Society because he loved animals.

Patricia Boyles 1941-2022



Patricia Boyles was born October 15th 1941 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to parents Frankie and Paul Skahen. She passed away at the age of 81 on December 18th 2022 at 10:30pm in San Luis Obispo with family by her side. She is survived by her son Kenneth Boyles, daughter Amber Wigart, nieces Linda Childers, Shannon Keating and Debra Kraft, grandchildren Tristan and Isabel Wigart.

Patricia moved to Glendale, CA in the 1950’s where she graduated high school and attended beauty school. She married Kenneth Boyles and moved to North Hollywood where she was a hairstylist for many artists and up and coming stars. She was an artist thru and thru, whether by hair or by the brush she loved to paint and create touching works. She loved art, anything artistic and loved art events like “Art in the Park”. It is there that she raised her two children, worked and lived a full life with family, friends, coworkers and clients. Patricia was a loving Aunt, taking in and encouraging her nieces and nephews to strive for a better life, showing them unconditional love then and for the rest of her life. She loved animals and took in several strays till their owners were found.

After visiting a friend in Morro Bay, Patricia fell in love with the sound of the fog horns, seals and constant waves and soon relocated with her daughter. Los Osos to Cayucas would be her constant playground and places she loved most. Patricia styled hair at Main Street Hair Company and then Catch a Wave from the early 90’s till about 2010 when she retired. You could catch her at any of her favorite haunts including Dorn’s, Pizza Port or feeding the homeless cats on the Embarcadero.

Patricia’s piercing smile and joyous laughter was contagious to all that knew her. Through life’s ups and downs, she was a fighter, a survivor and a pillar of strength. Always there for her family, their friends and anyone she knew in need. She was a constant beacon, a lighthouse of sorts for all those she loved going through rocky times. The memories of the many phone calls, letters and cards that she selflessly gave to many will be missed. “Aunt Pat”, Mom, Grandma, Momsie Pooh, Patricia, we all miss you so much already and love you so dearly. We will miss the sweet ways you always reminded us that we were in your thoughts and in your heart. For that Pat you will always be in ours and for generations to come a little piece of you will always shine

though. She never liked goodbyes, so till we meet again...” we love you more!”

A celebration of life will be held at 3:30-6pm Friday January 20th, 2023, at Laguna Lake Mobile Home Community’s recreation center at 1801 Marsha Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA. For all that knew and loved Patricia Boyles, we invite you to come join us as we share stories, pictures, laughter and memories as we peruse through her many photos, letters and enjoy many of her favorite foods.

Marian Vosburgh



Marian Vosburgh, 97, of San Luis Obispo passed away peacefully on February 26, 2023.

Marian was born and raised in Hanford, California. Fond memories of her youth included learning to play music, exploring around her family farm, swimming in the irrigation canals on hot summer days, and riding her horse. As a young adult she volunteered at the hospital in Hanford, which set the course for her professional career as nurse.

Marian married Robert Vosburgh, also of Hanford, Calif., on November 11, 1951 following his return from the Korean Conflict. They immediately moved to San Luis Obispo for Robert to begin attending Cal Poly. Together they had two daughters, Joan and Janet, and enjoyed a wonderful 56 years of marriage until Robert passed away in 2007. Marian was devout in her Christian faith, and a longtime member of Grace Church in San Luis Obispo. She shared her faith by supporting global youth ministries, participating in many Bible studies, and playing worship music on the organ.


In addition to her family and faith, Marian enjoyed a proud and distinguished nursing career at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. She began as a staff nurse, was supported by the organization to advance her education through Fresno State and was promoted into several nursing supervisory and leadership positions before retiring in 1981.

Marian was predeceased by her husband, Robert, 84, and youngest daughter, Janet Schweikhard, 64, and eagerly awaited returning to them in Heaven. She is survived by her eldest daughter, Joan Poe, of Morro Bay; Six grandchildren: Sarah Rust, Jaime Brown, Kyle Schweikhard, Wesley Schweikhard, Jesse Poe, and Jillian Poe; and nine great-grandchildren.

Marian was loved and adored by her family, and will be remembered by her strong character, kind heart and warm smile.

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](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com)

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

RV Camping in Your Own ‘Backyard’: El Capitan



Ocean view campsite at El Capitan State Beach  
By Debbie Black

Sixth in a series featuring local campgrounds. Come camp with us in our own backyard...

When I tell people I’m going camping at El Cap, I’m met with raised eyebrows. I know what they’re thinking. I don’t look like someone you’d find in Yosemite’s Camp 4 at the base of El Capitan. As an aside, though, I’ll proudly tell you I’ve climbed Half Dome, albeit by the cable route. But still...

No, today we’re talking about El Capitan State Beach Campground, just 12 miles south of Gaviota along scenic Highway 101 — less than two hours away. Husband Garth and I camp at this surprisingly large and hidden oceanfront campground more than anywhere else. Why? Well, to start, there’s the surf. If the swell is right and the tide is low, it’s one of the best surf spots on the Central Coast. While Garth surfs, I write, and everyone’s happy.

Once you stay at El Cap, you can understand why it’s so popular. It’s beautiful! All 128 campsites are generous, most have trees and screen shrubs. Many have ocean views. There are four loops (A, B, C, D), plus an RV-only section, and two group camps.

Prepare for dry camping — no hookups at El Cap. Before you settle into your site, fill up at the water station right past B Loop. There’s no dump station. All the sites have asphalt pads that require some leveling. Each site has a fire-pit/grill and picnic table. Get firewood from the camp hosts or the little camp store when it’s open. Note, the camp store doesn’t have food other than ice cream and beer. Some sites accommodate Class As and some are very short. No pull-throughs. When making reservations, note the pad length!

Every loop has restrooms and showers that are clean but showing their age. Showers require tokens, dispensed from a machine that only takes credit cards (\$1 per token for 2 min). Take extra tokens; it often takes two minutes just to get hot water!

- Beach Access: Drive to Day Use parking (no additional fee). Or stroll over from A and B Loops. From C and D Loops, there’s a long stairway down to the beach — accessed across from campsites #123 in D Loop or #84 in C Loop. No signage that it’s a beach-access trail. From the RV-only campsites, there’s a trail to another long staircase to the beach accessed off the camp road just past Ortega Group Area. This trail is marked.
- Hiking: Pretty Nature Trails near the entry kiosk. Nice beach walks west to Refugio or east around the cove. The park extends across the highway and includes some



Wooded, private campsite at El Capitan State Beach

moderate hiking trails with rewarding ocean vistas. Once upon a time there was a beautiful bike/hike path connecting El Cap and Refugio campgrounds. Years ago, the ocean undermined big sections of it and the state closed it. Brave souls still bike or walk it at their own risk. We often do, and walk back on the beach where we look up at how precariously the path hangs onto the cliff. We get the heebie-jeebies and swear we won’t do it again. But we do.

- Dogs: Must be leashed. Not allowed on the beach, though we’ve seen a few well-behaved dogs along the remote section of beach going east. Watch for skunks in camp. Poison oak but no ticks.
- Bikes: Biking is level and fairly safe within the loops. There’s ice cream at the store, and stargazing -- the campground is very dark at night. The beach is the main attraction. Lifeguard towers are occupied during the summer months. Note, there’s a consistently rough shore break.
- Cell: Verizon 1-2 bars in A loop, 2-3 bars in B loop, 3 bars in C and D Loops
- Noise: Train/highway in a few C and D sites
- Reunions: El Cap in now our family’s favorite place for Family Campfests. Try to book sites together or add one of the group campsites nearby.
- Reservations: [www.ReserveCalifornia.com](http://www.ReserveCalifornia.com) six months



Community

Events

most since prior to the pandemic – plus a full symphony orchestra. Tickets are available for purchase at [www.pacslo.org](http://www.pacslo.org) or by calling the PAC box office at 805-756-4849.

Leading up to the Sunday concert, the SLO Master Chorale will host two educational “Beyond the Notes” free events to impart additional insight about the world of composer Felix Mendelssohn and his family. Both presentations are given by Dr. Marian Wilson Kimber, professor of musicology at the University of Iowa. On Saturday, April 22 at 7 pm, is “Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and the Problem of a Woman in Music,” Dr. Wilson Kimber will discuss how Felix Mendelssohn’s sister became an important musical figure and symbol of women’s struggle for equality. This talk is held at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art in downtown SLO. Then, learn how Felix Mendelssohn’s romantic music drew on his lifelong engagement with his German musical heritage, as well as theater, literature, and poetry. An amateur painter, Mendelssohn also composed music that reflected the natural landscape he encountered in his many travels. “Felix Mendelssohn Composes His World” takes place on April 23 at 1:15 pm in the Pavilion at the Performing Arts Center, concluding just before the concert at 3 p.m. that day.

• • •

Check out events at the SLO Bontanical Garden. A Founders Walk and Talk takes place Tuesday, April 4 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Members free. 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?

Bring water and comfortable shoes for our walk around the garden.

Yoga on the Terrace takes place Saturday April 8 and 15 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. The cost is \$12 for non-members and \$10 for members – Class Package available

Outdoor yoga rejuvenates the body and soul and helps you find center by grounding you to the earth. Our resident yogi, Cheryl of Waking Fields Yoga, channels the natural healing energy of our garden into her weekly class on the terrace of SLOBG. Start your weekend on a positive foot with a yoga class for all levels that focuses on mind-body unity.

Bring a mat, towel, water, and any supports you may need.

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

• • •

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.

- 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.

- Featured Artists - Wall artist Bob Rodgers with portraits and landscapes
- Display Case is TBD
- Storytime - Thursdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

- 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.

- 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.

• Cartoon Club – Friday, April 7, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Zap! Pow! Learn how to create characters, draw backgrounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon! Paper, pens and pencils provided - you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.

- Family Movie - Saturday, April 8, 2 p.m. We will be showing “A Bug’s Life.” It’s rated G. We will also provide popcorn!! Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful movie!

• Read Together - Thursday, April 13, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Jonniepat Mobley facilitates the group reading of a play/script. No audition necessary. Come in, take a script and we will read the play aloud together.

- Button Making – Friday, April 14, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker! For ages 8-18.

• Book Discussion - Thursday, April 20, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. We will be discussing “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah. No need to sign up ahead of time. Just show up! Call the library for details.

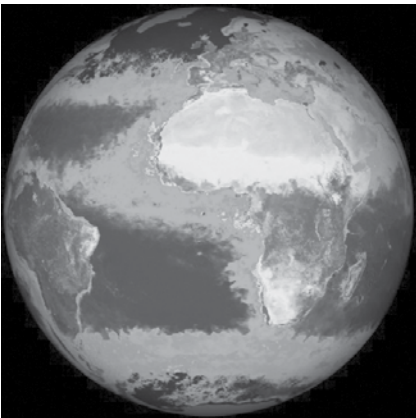
• • •

Successful Landscape Design for Native Bees. On Thursday, April 20, from 6:45-7:45 p.m., the Los Osos Valley Garden Club welcomes Kim Chacon, Instructor at Cal Poly’s Landscape Architecture Department. Kim will speak about the importance of native bees and habitat. The best design strategies for native bees reduce habitat fragmentation, as well as educate, and improve bee habitat networks. This garden club meeting is free and will be held via zoom. To join the meeting, go to <https://bit.ly/3pAKlts>. Meeting ID: 753 644 4586



Passcode: LOVGC  
If you don’t have a camera or microphone on your device, you can dial in by phone: 1-669-900-6833 US (San Jose); Meeting ID: 753 644 4586; passcode: 678130.  
Email [info@lovgardenclub.org](mailto:info@lovgardenclub.org), if you have any questions.

• • •



“Visualizing Climate Change and a Just Transition,” community event, 10-noon, Saturday, April 15, St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church, Los Osos. Enjoy this community event Saturday, April 15, and tap fresh perspectives on climate change. See eye-popping NASA images from space of the causes and impacts of climate change presented by Susan Callery, managing editor, NASA Global Climate Change website. Following the NASA presentation, gain insights about a just transition from the 30-minute award-winning film “Nation in Transition.” Top it off with free resources to reduce emissions and save money offered by the Cal Poly Climate Fellows and the [www.ResilientSLO.org](http://www.ResilientSLO.org) app. Photo credit NASA

• • •

The Alzheimer’s Association California Central Coast Chapter invites you join the Healthy Aging Social Club for those living in the early stages of dementia. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays each month from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (April 13 & 27) at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (660 Pismo Street San Luis Obispo). Contact Laura DeLoye for questions at [ladeloye@alz.org](mailto:ladeloye@alz.org) or 805-342-0956.

• • •

Wishing Everyone a  
Happy Easter

1170 Main St - Morro Bay - CALDRE 01836276

NAVIGATORS  
REAL ESTATE

805-591-9931  
Jay Chiasson & Crew

[www.navhomes.com](http://www.navhomes.com)



# Community



The following programs are presented by the Cayucos Library, located at 310 B St. in Cayucos. Contact the library at (805) 995-3312, for more information, or go to at [www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org). All programs are free to attend.

\* **Calm Kits:** Pick up a bag filled with sensory items to help focus your mind when you are feeling anxious or stressed. All ages. Available while supplies last.

- Storytime: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays!
- Book of the Year: Visit the library to pick up a complimentary copy of our book of the year, "All My Rage." This is a contemporary fiction focusing on two Pakistani American teens, Salahudin and Noor, and their experiences in the small town of Juniper, California. This annual literary program is hosted in partnership with Cuesta College.

- Booked for Lunch: Second Fridays at noon. Tell us about your favorite books you have read this month. Everyone is welcome.

**C**ambria Center for the Arts is seeking your photography for our Spring Juried Photography Exhibit with Juror, nationally recognized photographer and author Kerry Drager (<http://www.kerrydrager.com/>). The exhibit Coastal Perspectives, runs May 5- July 2. Register and submit art online between April 17-21. For detailed information, go to [cambriaarts.org/cc-a-artists/](http://cambriaarts.org/cc-a-artists/).

Morro Coast Audubonne Society's next free Virtual Community Zoom Program is "Living and Working in a Penguin Colony in Antarctica" presented by Jean



Pennycook on Monday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

In this program, Jean will share what it's like to live and work in a penguin colony and what her research team has learned about the Adélie Penguin. Her team monitors the population of these amazing birds as they respond to changes in their environment.

Join Zoom Meeting at [bit.ly/3CRG-zUi](https://bit.ly/3CRG-zUi). The Meeting ID is 227 248 5901 and passcode is morrocoast.

The following programs are presented by the Morro Bay Library, located at 625 Harbor St, Contact the library at (805) 772-6395, for more information, or go to [www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org). All library programs follow current California and County of San Luis Obispo health guidelines.

• April is Stress Awareness Month, and the Morro Bay Library will have a table filled with stress-buster items designed to calm your mind and body.

- Read a Story to Billie, the dog on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. A great reading partner, Billie enjoys listening to all stories read to her.

• **Button Making on Wednesday, April 12 from 3 to 5 p.m.** Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker. For ages 8-18.

• Feed Your Spirit Adult Art Group on Friday, April 14 from 1 – 3 p.m. Adult Coloring, Stamping and Button Making.

• Keva Blocks and Geomags on Wednesday, April 19 from 3 – 5 p.m. Play with Keva Blocks. Engineer your own creations and have lots of fun.

The raw power of American tradition:  
7 Sisters Folklore Society proudly  
presents Dirk Powell Band plus SLO

County Stumblers at Bristol's Cider House,  
3220 El Camino Real, Atascadero, at 7 p.m  
(doors at 6) on Saturday, April 15.

Dirk Powell is widely known as a passionate “musician’s musician” to Americana audiences, not only for his stalwart commitment to Appalachian and Cajun tradition but also for his songwriting and work in film and TV. His solo records, which often combine a traditional foundation with a wide-ranging commitment to emotion and original expression, have had impact around the globe. For this show, very special guests Sammy Lind and Nadine Landry of the legendary Foghorn Stringband will join with Dirk and Amelia Powell to form a truly powerhouse ensemble. Sammy and Nadine bring their own dynamic and soulful energy to the mix. Together, this is a band of familial energy, emotional original music, and the raw power of tradition at its most free. Tickets are \$25 advance / \$30 door (subject to availability). They can be purchased at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). The event contact phone number is 805-235-2874.



*Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to [Editor@EsteroBayNews.com](mailto: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.*

## Morro Bay Chamber Hosts Regional Tourism Marketing Panel



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce wrapped up three months of panel discussions on local government in March, and is now turning its focus to tourism marketing and business attraction.

On Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 a.m., Michael Wambolt, executive director of Visit Morro Bay, will participate in a panel to include destination marketing professionals from the region. The panel will explore questions that probe into our identity as a tourism destination, and how we welcome both tourists and new businesses into our community. There will be time for Q&A.

Business owners, managers, and employees will walk away with the knowledge

to help leverage their marketing budgets effectively because they will better understand what audience and what messages tourism and business attraction professionals are using in their everyday working lives

Attendees will be served a delicious breakfast from a local Morro Bay restaurant and free-flowing coffee sponsored by SLO Roasted Coffee.

Don't miss this panel as the city gears up for the high tourism season. Morro Bay Chamber members receive discounted pricing and this event is open to all. Register at [www.morrochamber.org/breakfast-on-the-bay](http://www.morrochamber.org/breakfast-on-the-bay). Joel Pace Realty and Beads by the Bay are sponsors for this event.

# Cruisin' Morro Bay



## Morro Bay, California

# CAR SHOW

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS




  
 Your Community • Your News  
  
 DINUBA, CA

  
  
LE MORRO LECTRIC INC.  
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS









SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

  
SLOCAL Estate Auctions

  
AGP Video



  
Morro Bay, Ca







**MAY 4th**  
thru  
**MAY 6th**  
**2023**

**THURSDAY, MAY 4th**  
5-8PM Evening Registration at Ocean View Garage • 936 Main Street

**FRIDAY, MAY 5th**  
11AM-5PM Daytime Registration  
11AM Cruise up Coast for Lunch  
6-7 PM Cruise • REGISTRANTS ONLY  
STAGING BEGINS AT 5PM

**SATURDAY, MAY 6th**  
9AM-4PM Show & Shine Downtown  
11:30 - 1:30PM BBQ  
REGISTRANTS SPONSOR ONLY  
4PM Trophy Presentations

More Information:  
[www.morrobaycarshow.org](http://www.morrobaycarshow.org)



**2022 RECIPIENTS**

**Rotary Club of Morro Bay**

**Morro Bay Police Explorers and Volunteers**

**SLO Noor Foundation**

**Central Coast Dragon Boat Association**

**Community Thanksgiving Dinners**

**Youth Sports Programs**

**MBHS Athletics**

**Morro Bay in Bloom**

POSTER PRINTED BY **HayPrinting**

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
**JOHN HARRIS**





# Community

## One For The Dogs



Photo by Danna Joy Images

Don't miss the annual Cayucos Easter Dog Parade! Bonnets and costumes are encouraged for pups or their people to join in the fun starting at 12 p.m. at Cayucos Pier on April 8 - the Saturday before Easter. Participants will walk together looping down Front Street to N. Ocean Avenue and back to the pier. Those who aren't participating are invited to watch and woof from along the route. The event is free but participants may make donations of \$1 per pet and person on behalf of the Cayucos Mutt Mitts Program sponsored by the Cayucos Lioness Club. Each year, more than 275,000 Mutt Mitt waste bags are supplied to the marked dispensers at every beach access and downtown. Visit the Mutt Mitts table at the foot of the pier for more information - and join us for a pawsome good time!

## Central Coast Performing Arts Scholarships, \$4000 available

Actor's Edge Studio in San Luis Obispo launched its second annual Central Coast Performing Arts Scholarships, offering more than \$4,000 in cash and tuition scholarships to performers of all ages and skill levels. Application deadline at [actorsedge.com/scholarships](http://actorsedge.com/scholarships), is April 16. Scholarships are available to local performers who demonstrate a passion or skill for the performing arts. The majority of the scholarships are cash scholarships designed to support the independent creative pursuits of the recipients, inside or outside of Actor's Edge. One grand prize-winner will receive a full tuition scholarship to the Actor's Edge signature Film & TV acting training in San Luis Obispo as well as the opportunity to perform for LA film and TV talent agents at our upcoming Hollywood Showcase.

"We are thrilled to be offering these scholarships to local performers," said Aaron Metchik, the founder and head instructor at Actor's Edge. "We know there are such incredibly talented and passionate performers here in the Central Coast. We also know that sometimes finding the funds to support creative passions isn't easy. These scholarships are our small way of helping people do that." Actor's Edge Studio offers Film and TV acting training to performers of all ages and skill levels. Central Coast students have booked series regular roles on Netflix, HBO, Disney+, Hulu, and more.

## Junk Girls Teams With SLOCAL Auctions



The Junk Girls and SLOCAL Estate Auctions Network formed a new business partnership. Left to right are: Melissa James, Chris Krebs, Doug Little, and seated is Jenny Kimplot.

An eclectic San Luis Obispo shop is teaming up with a Morro Bay online estate auction house to open up new markets for vintage and forgotten objects and open up a new customer base. Jenny Kimplot and Melissa James started The Junk Girls in 2009 with the goal of putting their heads and talents together and "do something meaningful and make a difference for themselves and others," reads a news release on the new partnership. "Today, The Junk Girls are nationally recognized for creating art, lighting, furniture, jewelry, home décor, curated found objects, and workshops." Meanwhile, Jennifer and Doug Little of Morro Bay were busy running their own "junk" shop, of sorts — Junque Love — a store in Marina Square on the Morro Bay Embarcadero. Both stores essentially sold the same things — recycled and up-cycled "shabby chic" goods. With both sets of partners essentially doing the same thing — repurposing things — they got to know each other pretty well. "We have a passion for giving found, vintage and forgotten objects a new life and purpose," said Kimplot. "This

passion has opened doors and access to vintage/estate goods nationwide that nobody else has access to. We want to utilize this platform to sell items that may not work for our retail store and will be offering estate liquidation to our customers, too." Then the coronavirus pandemic response forced Junque Love to close, and the Littles started up SLOCAL Estate Auctions Network, an online estate auction clearinghouse that includes sales by other online auction companies from Santa Maria throughout SLO County and even into Kern and Fresno counties. The success of SLO Cal Estate Auctions has brought the two together again. "Junk Girls," Doug Little said, "always looks for unique items, and I know they will bring some interesting goods to our auctions." James said, "We're really excited about this new venture and hope it will allow customers of the store to find that one-of-a-kind item." Now Junk Girls' curated auctions will be held exclusively on SLOCAL Estate Auctions Network. See: [slocales-tateauctions.com](http://slocales-tateauctions.com) for listings of all the various auctions and items for sale.

## MBHS Mock Trial Team Returns



Morro Bay High School's Mock Trial Team returned from state competition with a wonderful experience to report to friends and family. The team placed 16 out of 32 in the California State Mock Trial Finals held in Las Angeles last month. For the first time, MBHS won the county mock trial competition by defeating Mission College Prep in February 16. The team went 6-0 in county competition, improving upon their previous all-time best of second place in 2021-22. Mock trial is an extracurricular, academic competition where students work with local attorneys and other skilled community members to develop both sides of a criminal trial. The Constitutional Rights Foundation creates the case materials and rules, and attorney John Fricks organizes the tournament in San Luis Obispo County. Photo submitted

SIGN UP TODAY

### Central Coast ROTARY GOLF CLASSIC

**BENEFITS**  
MBHS SCHOLARSHIPS • LOCAL CHARITIES

**TUESDAY • MAY 16, 2023 • MORRO BAY GOLF COURSE**  
**1PM - 2PM • CHECK-IN 3PM • SHOTGUN START**

Early Bird Cost \$85 • \$99 after May 1st • Junior Golfer \$75

*Includes*  
9-Hole Scramble • Cart • Meal • Award Medal • Tournament Shirt • Goody Bag

**Foursomes or Team of 3 golfers and we will add a junior golfer to your team.**  
*Depending upon availability of junior golfers.*

[www.morrobayrotary.org](http://www.morrobayrotary.org)  
**Limited to 72 Golfers**

NON-PROFIT 501 (C)(3) TAX ID: 77-0198922

ROTARY CLUB OF MORRO BAY SUPPORTS AND SHOPS LOCALLY - POSTER DESIGN & PRINTING BY HAY PRINTING - MORRO BAY - 772.3947

## SAN LUIS OBISPO SYMPHONY

Presents :  
William Banfield's  
Testimony Of Tone Tune And Time

With Narration Based  
On The Words Of  
Frederick Douglas

Soloist  
Anthony Yi,  
Saxophone

Narrators  
Keenon Hooks  
&  
Dr. Amber Machamer

Saturday, May 6, 2023  
At The Performing Arts Center SLO  
Tickets @ [pacslo.org](http://pacslo.org)

In Partnership With

**DIVERSITY COALITION**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



# Community

## Save Cuesta Inlet Benefit Raises \$19,000

More than 275 people turned out for a benefit that raised more than \$19,000 to help purchase a treasured piece of property in Los Osos.

The Mother Corn Shuckers band put on a benefit concert for Save Cuesta Inlet at the South Bay Community Center on April 1. The non-profit organization formed to purchase the 13 acres at the corner of Binscarth and Doris Avenues. The property is privately owned but has been used as public property for years. The land is for sale now, and the group's goal is to buy the property and turn it over to an entity to maintain it as is.

"The idea is to keep the area available for kayaking, bird watching, dog walking, and hanging out. It is an integral part of our Los Osos community," said Margaret Schmidt with Save Cuesta Inlet.

The evening included great music from the Mother Corn Shuckers, some shucking dance moves, and pizza from Brightside Pizza in Los Osos. There was a raffle to win a foldable Tucktec kayak won by Cynthia McCabe. The rumor is the kayak had its maiden voyage on Sunday! Many enjoyed beer, wine, and soft drinks while donning the Save Cuesta Inlet merchandise designed by Liz Hale.

"Most importantly, the event raised money to purchase the land and awareness of the importance of keeping this



parcel of land available for public access," Schmidt said. Readers who want to donate, pledge financial support to the cause or volunteer, can follow the organizations on Facebook at Save Cuesta Inlet or go to [www.savecuestainlet.org](http://www.savecuestainlet.org).

**El Capitan** From page 11  
ahead. Very popular! Fees: \$45/night, senior discount \$2. Extra vehicles \$10/night. No dog fee. Winter (Dec 1-March 31) no reservations needed, plenty of campsites. Reservations recommended Apr 1-Nov 30. ReserveCalifornia can notify you of an opening if it's full. Even when "full" there are lots of vacant reserved campsites because inconsiderate people don't cancel their reservations! Grrr.

• Note: El Capitan is scheduled to open this year on May 26 due to storm damage repairs, then close again on July 15 for up to a year for entry road improvements. It'll be a short camping season at El Cap this year. Hope to see you there!  
To request my rating sheet for each El Cap campsite, or for extended articles on local campgrounds, go to [www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard](http://www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard).

2022-2023  
SEASON

Vocal Arts

CONCERT  
SERIES

Welcome to

SUMMER

CONCERT

Enjoy a fun selection of favorite  
classic and folk tunes to evoke  
warm summer reveries.

NIPOMO

Trilogy Monarch Dunes  
June 1, 2023  
Thursday 7:00 PM

CUESTA

Harold J. Miossi CPAC  
June 3, 2023  
Saturday 3:00 PM

VocalArts.org | 805-541-6797 *NewTimes*

\$10 Children under 12 | \$10 Students with ID | \$30 Tickets

COAST  
ELECTRONICS

CELEBRATING  
44  
YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

JBL LG ☒ Computers   
ring YAMAHA ☒ Cameras  
SONY KENWOOD ☒ HDTV 13" - 100"  
☒ BlueRay  
☒ WiFi

Spring  
Cleaning

At All  
3 Locations

- Morro Bay
- San Luis Obispo
- Paso Robles

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIALS!

\$50

- Laptop Computers
- Flat Screen TVs
- Vintage Stereo Equipment

\$25

Desktop  
Computers Only

DIAGNOSTIC FEE CAN BE APPLIED TOWARDS REPAIR  
With Coupon Only. Not Valid With Any Other Offers. Expires 4-30-23

I would like to thank all my wonder customers  
for 44 years in business.  
*John Weiss*

COAST ELECTRONICS

Morro Bay  
510 Quintana Road  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-772-1265

San Luis Obispo  
1336 Madonna Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
805 544-5400

Paso Robles  
1171 Creston Rd. # 109 Paso Robles  
805-369-2811  
[coast-electronics.com](http://coast-electronics.com)

April 6, - April 19, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 15



Community

Chamber Event From page 1

strangeness – worldwide pandemic and lately atmospheric river flooding. I imagined Alice rattled and re-awakened by the latest earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. What would she discover if that rabbit hole time-traveled her to Morro Bay’s Gala – the annual “big night out” trading conversations with 200 of the region’s most influential stakeholders, sampling local cuisine and adult beverages, enjoying modern live music, and investing in a silent auction must-have. Would Alice recognize the worthiness of Morro Bay’s 2023 “best of the best” community honorees; Citizen of the Year, Business and Nonprofit of the Year, and Morro Bay’s Living Treasure.

“There you are again, pesky White Rabbit,” Alice said. Still sporting his waistcoat and focused on his pocket watch, White Rabbit rambled, “Oh, dear! Oh, dear! I shall be too late!” Compelled Alice followed him down a rabbit hole. “What are we almost too late for?” she asked him. “The universe is sending me signs,” he answered. “I must find the “best of the best” and I’m told they might do their positivity work in a fishing village called Morro Bay.”

“I will follow you,” Alice said. “I agree it is time our world replaces its weirdness with some joy and positivity. Besides I’m very hungry. I wonder what the locals serve to eat at a gala?” But the White Rabbit was already dodging rockslides on Highway 41. They arrived just in time for CEO/President Erica Crawford to announce the honorees – surely “the best of the best.”

Morro Bay Business of the Year: Congratulations to The Shell Shop, owned and operated by Dave and Justine Thomas for more than 70 years at the same Embarcadero location. Indeed, a tourism magnet and locals’ marine education center totally focused on shells from around the world.

As whimsical as Alice and White Rabbit, a young Dave Thomas loved shells. At age 10 he set up his first “shell stand” on the corner of Morro and Marina. He sold abalone shells and made \$100 that day. He was forever hooked on shells. He and Justine traveled the world in their earlier years establishing relationships with procurers of shells making lifelong friends and being

ambassadors for Morro Bay. “We are told we are the largest shell shop on the West Coast,” Thomas said guesstimating more than1000 species of shells available, offering tens-of-thousands of shells retailed in the shop or stored in Thomas’ warehouses. “All of our shells are caught for food. The shells are simply the bi-products. Customers travel here from all over the world. Many say they bought shells at The Shell Shop when they were kids and their kids have saved their pennies to buy their vacation souvenirs.”

In 1947 Thomas was three when his parents, Lawrence and Louise Thomas, moved to Morro Bay. “Dad was a fisherman and during World War II he contracted with the Navy to fish the Pacific Coast.” During a respite from stormy seas, Lawrence discovered Morro Bay when it was sunny and beautiful. Dave was in the first graduating class of Morro Bay High School. He married the love of his life Justine, who traded her life in Beverly Hills working at the William Morris Talent Agency to travel the world seeking shells and living and loving the life as shopkeepers in Morro Bay.

Alice mused, “White Rabbit, there is so much more to this story. I will not be too late ever again to hear more stories!”

Morro Bay Citizen of the Year: Congratulations to Bonnie Jones. There is not much Bonnie Jones wouldn’t do for Morro Bay, the community she adopted post retirement from a catering career in Arizona. After all, she co-presented the first ever SLO County Anti-Human Trafficking Summit before she discovered her passion project, the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Fellow MBMM board members will attest how she dove totally into the dream. Even before the grand opening, Bonnie helped fund the museum’s 2016 capital campaign, 1542 Navigator Circle. Not only did she and husband Frank become early members and promoters for the emerging museum, but she created and operated the ongoing memorial brick and bench programs.

Bonnie and a small, but diligent crew, literally opened the doors to the museum offering free visits for tourists and locals

to learn about Morro Bay’s rich maritime history and its strong affiliation with the United States Navy. She dedicated most of her waking hours to keep the lights on at the museum while building its unique maritime gift store. Bonnie would never say she did this alone. The MBMM Board of Directors and supporters are a team, but they are first to admit she has been MBMM’s energizer bunny. Next on her agenda? MBMM will again host San Diego Maritime Museum’s replica galleon, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo’s San Salvador August 11-20. Since the City of Morro Bay has approved MBMM’s next growth spurt, public tours of the galleon will help fund the expansion.

But Morro Bay’s most magical day ever was Bonnie’s brainchild. The 2022 Morro Bay Maritime Family Fun Day hosted at MBMM was free to participants and free to the public. It was a day that started with the whimsical collaboration with the Morro Bay Rotary Ducky Derby. When the race was won, a free family fun day at MBMM featured local musicians, maritime food by restaurants and nonprofits, and parents and kids voting for their favorite chowder and blueberry muffin. Kids learned from fisherman, the Yacht Club, shop owners and the Salinan Tribe members about maritime life in Morro Bay. Everyone stepped up with their own ideas, activity and even free souvenirs.

“I need to thank this amazing lady for showing me what community collaboration means,” said Alice to White Rabbit.

Morro Bay Living Treasure: Congratulations to Cathy Novak, who served on Morro Bay’s City Council until she gave up her seat to run successfully for Mayor of Morro Bay circa 2005. After she completed her public service, she spent a decade or more helping business navigate their way through city and county government planning processes. Her consulting business consistently advocated for new business development always representing the best interests of both clients — city officials and the community. She earned respect with her positive intentions. Early in her career she said, “I believe in moderate, planned growth. It’s important that we have some growth.”

She has maintained that policy throughout her career representing a variety of clients – local shop owners, restaurants and corporations, all hoping to become a contributing Morro Bay neighbor both to its economy and its well established lifestyle. Her stated goal for her clients has always been, “We are all just asking to be treated fairly.”

Alice told White Rabbit she was impressed. “Steady steers the ship” might be heard from a fisherman. This Cathy Novak respected others consistently and so earned back others’ respect.”

Nonprofit of the Year: Morro Bay Project Surf Camp helps an amazing number of children, young adults with disabilities. The City of Morro Bay Recreation Department has partnered with Project Surf Camp for years. Led by Camp Director C/O John Taylor, PSC is a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational, nonprofit organization designed specifically for individuals with special needs. The intent and stated goal is as follows: “While great strides have been made in recent years to increase access to goods and services for special needs individuals, opportunities for leisure or recreational activities are often still difficult to access. Sometimes it is forgotten, especially living on the coast, that not everyone has experienced the ocean. One group that has been deprived of such a privilege is those persons with disabilities. PSC hopes to introduce people to the water who would otherwise never receive such an opportunity. PSC uses surfing, the beach, and other ocean activities as an educational modality to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in individuals with special needs. PSC further provides opportunities to build social skills, improve physical fitness, develop healthy outlets for stress reduction, and foster independence.”

“Did I really fall down a rabbit hole, White Rabbit?” Alice asked. “Or did you lead me to discover a magical place called Morro Bay, California. It has so much potential to be the “best of the best” communities in all the world because it has the heart to encourage the “best of the best” people and programs. Hmmm! I think I just might stay here and mingle awhile at Gala 2023.”



**DUTCHMAN'S**  
SEAFOOD HOUSE

Happy Hour  
is Back!



HAPPY HOUR MON-THURS 3-5



BEAUTIFUL MORRO BAY



FRESH SEAFOOD

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

We follow all State Guidelines to keep you and our staff safe.

**It's the only way to live. It's the only way to eat.**

701 Embarcadero, Morro Bay  
Call: (805) 772-2269 • [www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com](http://www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com)



For more info: 805-801-4444

**34TH BAY-OSOS KIWANIS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 8th 2023

**WHERE:** Grassy area next to South Bay Community Center

**TIMES:** 10:00 am: FUN ACTIVITIES BEGIN!  
10:30 am: Contest Entries Due  
Story Time with the Los Osos Library  
11:00 am: EGG HUNT BEGINS

**Contest: Best Costume or Best Home-Decorated Egg**  
Prizes will be awarded for each age group:  
1-2 3-4 5-7 8-10

Thank you to our sponsors!





Community

**Harbor Director** From page 1

and a myriad of fine restaurants. The Embarcadero business district is a big generator of sales taxes and bed taxes for City Hall as well as generating all of the Harbor Department's annual budget.

For Fiscal Year 2022-23, the Harbor Fund operating budget listed \$2.36 million in revenues versus \$1.91M in expenses leaving a net surplus of \$442,000.

Its revenues derive from harbor leases (\$1.85M — payments by master leaseholders and sub-leasers); boat charges (\$413,000 — live aboard and other harbor services, pier dockage, mooring, slip, and floating dockage rental, slip sublease, and skiff permits); other charges for service (\$73,000 — launch ramp parking, coin-operated services, and other rentals); and, other revenues (\$24,000 — grants, penalties, bad debt recovery, auction proceeds, and miscellaneous revenues).

The Harbor Department has always been hampered by limited revenues expected to do too much, and at no time is that more prevalent than now, as the department has preliminarily identified about \$10 million in needed maintenance and repairs to its infrastructure, a number that has surely climbed this winter after a series of storms wreaked havoc with the docks, piers and rip rap seawalls.

So Schiafone comes in at a key time for the Harbor, and luckily he brings a lot of experience in both the private business sector and government.

Estero Bay News sent a series of questions to Schiafone, who at the time was in Washington D.C. for the Annual California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (C-MANC) a week-long set of meetings where the association of California ports and harbors gets to talk with lawmakers and lobby the various agencies for things like dredging monies, which is Morro Bay's main reason for attending.

Schiafone, who laughed when asked how old he is, said he was born in Red Bank, N.J. "On a river that could take you to the Statue of Liberty," he replied. "It's on that river that I developed my love for being on the water. I had a friend in high school that taught me to waterski, and that sport became a very big part of my life."

He has a sister in Walnut Creek, Calif., which he said is a lot closer to Morro Bay than Oceanside where he was before getting the Morro Bay job.

He's married with four grown children that are scattered across the U.S.

"My son and his wife work for companies in the Bay Area, but recently received approval to permanently work remote," he explained. "They live on Ft. Myers Beach, Fla. My eldest daughter and her husband just relocated to Chicago. My middle daughter and her husband live in Bradenton, Fla. And my youngest daughter lives in Nashville, Tenn."

Finding housing in this area is tough for anyone and the Schiafones were lucky enough to find a home to rent. "We moved immediately to the area," he said. "My wife wanted to live close the coast and be in a home. We decided to rent a home for a year so that we can learn the area first before buying. Finding a single-family rental home turned out to be difficult as there weren't many options. But fortunately, we did find one and we were able to move from our home directly into it."

His college days started out in New York. "I went to Upsala College, just outside of NYC," he said. "I earned a bachelor's degree in business administration."

Like many young college grads, he didn't know what he wanted to do and developed a bit of a travel bug. "After college," Schiafone said, "I did not have much direction on what I wanted to do, so I bought a van and travelled out to California with my hang glider and soared many of the coastal ridges from San Francisco to San Diego."

"After I ran out of money, I drove across the country to Florida and applied for a position as a professional show skier with Sea World."

"While show skiing I decided to continue with my education. I obtained an MBA degree from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla."

With all that time spent on the water, he naturally decided to go into banking. "Before my marina career," he explained, "I took a position in banking. I spent a couple of years as a treasury management consultant for many of the larger companies in Florida, including Disney World."

"I then transitioned to the retail side of the bank as the regional branch executive for the West Coast of Florida. During my banking career, I was involved in approving loans and began seeing opportunity to build self-storage facilities. Because those businesses require little staffing, I continued in my banking career."

As just about any businessperson knows, storage facilities are one of those must-have businesses for a nation that's just got too much stuff. But by chance he came across an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"I then came across an opportunity to purchase a very old and worn-down marina on the Gulf of Mexico," he said. "I wasn't really interested in the marina, but I knew the property was valuable, and I loved anything on the water. Without much thought, I purchased it and then learned it had significant environment issues and had never permitted the docks in the water." It was sort of like buying a boat, which of course stands for — Break Out Another Thousand.

"The docks were important to the value of the property," he said, "so I left banking to spend full time mitigating the environment issues and obtaining the proper permits for the docks."

"I ran the old marina for five years getting through all the problems. I spent the next few years designing, engineering, permitting, and building a 5-story indoor, dry stack marina. Eventually, I sold the marina and other real estate development projects."

A chance to change direction soon came up "A few years later," he said, "an opportunity came my way to be the harbor director for a municipality on the East Coast of Florida."

"I thought it would be 'fun.' While it was fun, I realized how challenging it is to run an enterprise business within the world of government. After a couple of years, the opportunity in Oceanside came up."

He was hired as the Oceanside Harbor division manager, starting at the top. Oceanside Harbor, he said, has 1,000 slips, a 6-lane boat ramp, a small commercial fishing fleet, a vibrant sport fishing fleet, 22 real estate leases, and the City's largest beach. Oceanside is a city of over 172,000 residents and is in San Diego County.

His duties didn't include helping Oceanside's Harbor Patrol with search and rescue operations. "I was responsible for the harbor patrol in Oceanside," he said, "but I was never a harbor patrolman. My boating experience relates back to water skiing. I was very involved in tournament water skiing and was a certified driver and judge. I could not even count the number of hours I have spent in the drivers' seat of a tournament ski boat."

Oceanside is different than Morro Bay and one of the biggest differences is that here there is a large Coast Guard presence with the Coast Guard Station Morro Bay. "Morro Bay is very fortunate to have a Coast Guard station on site," he said. "I have seen our harbor patrol work closely with them, especially as it relates to communications. The closest Coast Guard station to Oceanside is the Port of San Diego, which is over 35 miles away."

Over the past several years the Morro Bay Harbor Patrol has dipped its toes more into the pool of law enforcing on the water especially with environmental issues, while still conducting maintenance, boater assistance, search and rescue and more.

"Harbor patrols are about safety and education on the water," Schiafone said. "Of course, when there is egregious disregard for laws, then enforcement may be the necessary step. In my experience, most people out on the water do not intend to break laws. That is where education is key to 'policing' the waters."

He "absolutely" wants the Morro Bay Harbor Patrol to continue with its reputation for being very helpful to the boating public. "I would say that Morro Bay Harbor Patrol does an outstanding job on the water," he said. "I have been out with them on a few occasions, and they continually engage with the public. They ask them questions, inform them of possible issues and look to see they have safety equipment. I know that the purpose of this engagement is to educate and prevent a possible incident on the water."

The public Harbor facilities, those owned by the City have been in the news of late, particularly with the last election when voters were asked to add a \$10-per month parcel tax to the property tax rolls to pay for maintaining public



New Morro Bay Harbor Director Ted Schiafone.

Harbor facilities, a measure that failed to garner support. So while the maintenance needs are great, there continues to be no revenue stream to pay for it. One facility sticks out.

"The boat ramp is definitely in need of replacement," Schiafone said. "It's my understanding a Department of Boating and Waterways Grant was available for replacement, but the State required other areas of the parking lot and restrooms to also be replaced. Since the Harbor was required to fully fund those other costs, it wasn't possible to go forward. We plan to submit another Grant application in early 2024 that hopefully will fund the entire boat ramp replacement."

The maintenance needs have been made worse with this winter's fierce storms.

"Harbor docks, pilings, revetments, and seawalls all sustained damage from the January and March storms," Schiafone said. "We are in the process of getting estimates to repair. We must ensure these docks are safe and usable soon, or we will lose revenue by not being able to rent them. The Harbor in cooperation with the City is filing an Insurance and FEMA Claim. Hopefully, we will receive reimbursement for this damage."


He will turn his attention to the funding issue. "After four weeks on the job," he said, "I am still absorbing and observing. The problem is a simple math equation. We don't have enough income to support operations, maintenance, and capital improvements."

"The solution is much more complicated. I know that we need more sustained annual income. Where that comes from will take some time. Input from our stakeholders and residents will help guide this."

Another change that has risen a few times over the years is turning over the lease site property management to City Hall or contracting with a private management company. But Schiafone said that is currently not being considered.

He is looking at the department structure. "I'm still in the learning stage," he said. "I do know from my experience running businesses in the private sector, that having the proper organizational structure and staffing level is neces-

Harbor Director Continued on page 19



Since 1980

## LIVING TRUST

### WILLS = PROBATE


Without a Trust, the courts decide who gets all your property and...WHO RAISES YOUR CHILDREN...The Government or your family

**PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS!**

- In-home Appointments!
- A complete Living Trust

## For only \$800

Call Edward at: 805-772-2655



Call now for your peace of mind • ELH Trust

Lic# 095935-03



**Laurie Lackland**  
(805) 506-1649 TTY:711

Calling the number will direct you to a licensed agent.



## Confused about Medicare?

### Call Laurie today!

Absolutely no charge...ever.

LacklandHealthPartners.com  
Laurie.Lackland@Hey.com

**My focus: Education, Integrity, YOU.**  
California License #4051815

## Protective Law

CORPORATION

Atty. David R Durringer,  
JD, LL.M (Tax)

805-225-5105  
www.Protect.LIFE

ESTATE PLANNING  
for Asset Protection  
& Family Protection



Community

**Makeover** From page 1

Bullet II,' working with high density foam, carbon fiber, epoxy resin, and linear polyurethane finishes."

The Avalon's green paint has faded in the sun and Mather said they owed it to the Navy to maintain the Avalon. "This is part of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum's restoration projects," Mather said. "The DSRV Avalon is on loan to the museum from the U.S. Navy History and Heritage Command. Being the curator and stewards of such an important artifact we have an obligation to the Navy to maintain it."

The Navy doesn't set up a maintenance schedule or anything like that. "They do not specify procedures or timelines," Mather said. "We sent them our scope of work plan and they approved it. We send the Naval History and Heritage Command an annual report with photos of their property."

With the work having to be done where the Avalon sits, it meant bringing a "paint booth" to the submarine. Scaffolding was erected surrounding the Avalon and just last week after waiting out the rain, the scaffolding was wrapped in shrink-wrap plastic and treated with a propane heat gun forming a sort of cocoon around the ship.

This way it can be painted and not have to worry about escaping fumes. It also means Haynes will have to use self-contained breathing gear while working under the plastic.

"This will give us the ability to control our painting environment by keeping the sub dry," Mather explained. "Any debris will be contained and cleaned up daily. We estimate prep, paint, and cure time to take eight weeks."

The paint is a special type and is rolled on, not sprayed. "Bill will be applying two 'barrier coats' of Awl Grip Epoxy Primers and three final coats of Awl Grip Linear Poly Urethane. This paint is used in the aviation industry and other commercial applications. This paint application is expected to last 20 years out in the elements."

The MBMMA got a grant to pay for the Avalon's restoration. "The grant is for \$100,000," Mather said, "from the Ludwick Foundation of SLO. Any remaining money will be



The DSRV Avalon rests behind a 'cocoon' made from shrink-wrap plastic stretched over scaffolding and treated with a propane heat gun, forming a protective shell around the submarine so it can be protected while being painted.

used for more permanent mounting [getting the weight off the tires] and better fencing."

The Avalon, which can carry 29, is open for viewing but the public isn't allowed to climb up inside except on special occasions.

It should be noted that the Avalon is one of two DSRVs the Navy built in the early 1970s following the sinking of the USS Thresher, a nuclear attack submarine that was lost in April 1963 about 220-miles off Cape Cod, Mass., while conducting sea trials before being put into service.

USS Thresher sank with 129 sailors and shipyard workers aboard, all were lost.

The Avalon and her sister DSRV-1 Mystic were designed to be loaded onto a transport aircraft and flown anywhere in the world for missions to rescue sailors from sunken subs.

It was rated to dive to 5,000-feet deep and be able to merge with a sunken submarine's hatch to rescue the crew. Neither the Avalon nor the Mystic were actually used for a rescue. Both are now decommissioned and on public display — Avalon in Morro Bay and Mystic at the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum located in Keyport, Wash.

Mystic was launched in 1970 and was decommissioned in 2008. The Avalon was launched in 1971, and decommissioned in 2000.

And the story of the Avalon is being told by Mather's



A peek at the top of the DSRV Avalon sitting inside a plastic cocoon so it can be kept dry while being painted.

wife Lori a documentary filmmaker who also produced a film about Morro Bay's history with the abalone industry.

Lori Mather, "just finished three new short videos that are playing in our small theater," Scott said. "They are on the DSRV. 1. What is it? 2. What do submarines have to do with MB Maritime History? 3. A chilling tale from a Navy oceanographer who was in it when it lost power and sank to the bottom off Pt. Sur."

Mather said the videos teach about "the connection between the Apollo Moon Landing and the DSRV Avalon, and how they shaped every computer we have today. These videos are 5-minutes long and full of fascinating information. Everyone should come down and watch them."

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum is located at 1210 Embarcadero and open Thursdays-Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free and they have a gift shop inside the museum exhibit building.

The Museum has several historic vessels and displays of maritime artifacts — from an early dive compressor to a whaling harpoon and whale oil cauldron, antique cannon, and even a bathysphere.

**GILLIGAN'S**  
Sandwich Shop

Open Daily  
11am - 5pm  
480 Morro Bay Blvd.  
(805) 225-1320  
GilligansMB.com

**Now on Tues & Thurs**  
Homemade Deli Pies  
7" Pizza only \$10

Contact  
DOORDASH ...  
For Food Delivery

Award winning Pharmacy and Gift Store

**Easter Egg Sale**  
April 3 - 8

Find a hidden egg in the store, hatch a discount on your next gift purchase!"

**805-528-1017**  
989 Los osos Valley Rd Los Osos,  
Mon. - Fri. 9:00-6:00 • Sat. 10:00-5:00

**Mountain Lion** From page 1

ed outside of the city.

"It's important to remember that we live in a region that is home to a variety of wildlife, including mountain lions," Otte said. "These majestic creatures have been roaming these hills and valleys for centuries, and while they are a natural part of our environment, it's understandable that the recent sightings and attack on a pet may be causing some concern. Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, and it's even rarer for them to occur in urban areas. In fact, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, there have been only 16 verified mountain lion attacks on humans in California since 1890."

That said, precautions should still be taken. If folks encounter a mountain lion, "Don't run," County Parks Superintendent Don Melin told EBN. "Running can trigger a prey reflex and could result in the animal chasing you. Stay calm. It's best to stand your ground, stay upright (don't crouch), and keep eye contact. Try to appear larger. Wave your pack around and yell. Back away slowly. Lions don't want to fight; they are looking for food. It is important to note that small children should be supervised when playing in any wilderness area. A lion could mistake a small child for prey."

Additionally, do not feed any wildlife, to avoid attracting predators to populated areas. Keep your pets inside at night, as mountain lions are known to prey on small animals like rabbits, cats, and dogs. Secure your garbage cans, bird feeders, and compost bins at night to prevent attracting wildlife to your home or neighborhood.

"In the rural parts of our county that back up to forest and woodland areas, there is the possibility that a lion will pass through at some point," Melin said. "Lions have large

territories — males up to 150 square miles, so they are always on the move."

Signs that a mountain lion might be in the area, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service website, include: large tracks (3-5 inches wide) without claw marks; food caches, where a kill has been partially eaten and then covered with brush and dirt; scrapes in soft dirt or leaf litter, and claw marked trees and logs.

The mountain lion, known as P22, became an unlikely celebrity of sorts in Los Angeles. For the curious, the P stands for puma, while the number corresponds to the individual cat being tracked by National Park Service biologists. Residents of the area became fans when the big cat was caught on film in Griffith Park about a decade ago. After his health was noticeable declining, wildlife officials determined that he had been hit by a car and made the difficult decision to euthanize the big cat last December. People across the country mourned his death with many gathering at Griffith Park to say goodbye.

It remains to be seen if P-22's notoriety will help future generations of mountain lions by raising awareness or if the celebrity status takes away from the fact that it is a wild animal that can be dangerous.

"I think people need to understand that these animals were here long before humans and have adapted to our gradual presence in their ecosystem," Melin said. "Unfortunately, with their continued loss of habitat, there will be increased interaction with humans. We need to take precautions to protect ourselves as well as our pets, and to protect the lions as well. It's exceedingly rare that a human is injured by one of these animals. "

For now, Rotstein will continue his hobby of so-called camera trapping that began as an at home activity during

Mountain Lion Continued on page 19

**BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289**  
**Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004**

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Stamped Concrete
- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations

State Lic# 816944

**burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com**  
**www.burchconcretesolutions.com**



Community

Swap Meet From page 1

a copy of the package. I remember the gratitude she gave me, and respect for all the passion I had for the success of her project. She is a rare individual.”

Joe Cocker, John Lennon, Alan Niven, Guns N’ Roses, Universal Studios, Disney, Sony, Blondie, Frank Sinatra, Lynyrd Skynyrd, BB King are just a few names O’Brien can name-drop. Some of his movie credits include “Edward Scissorhands,” “Stargate,” “Get Shorty” and “Alien 3.”

“Projects are a group effort,” he explained modestly. “My role ran from creative director to designer to illustrator to project manager as needed.” Whether working on an album cover, movie poster or trailer, the thrill for O’Brien came from solving the problem. “We’ll develop 100 designs -- logo, positioning lines, story boarding, shoot body doubles – the final shoot of the star. When you have seconds to make an impression to get the job, you need to get it right – make that first impression.”

After graduating with a masters in design from Cal State University Fullerton, he paid his dues working double shifts before earning a design job at Capitol Records. After five years he decided to go out on his own and created ARTMINISTRY, Inc. in 2001 “...after selling my stake in CBO (Cimarron/Bacon/O’Brien), a 12-year partnership, building the multi-million-dollar entertainment company.”

He moved to his parent’s vacation home in Morro Bay. His son, Blake, would graduate from Morro Bay High School. “I wanted Blake to have a classic upbringing and educational experience,” said O’Brien. His daughter, True O’Brien, stayed in Hollywood working on an acting career. At the time I met him she was playing Paige on “Days of our Lives” and with O’Brien’s help I was able to recruit her to perform a part in “The Other Woman” directed by Mara Purl at a sold-out production at SLO’s Monday Club. She amazed the audience playing the hardest character in the script. As they say, talent doesn’t fall far from the tree!

As ARTMINISTRY, Inc. maintained a few favorite clients in Hollywood, O’Brien quietly began to secure high profile clients on the Central Coast, including work for Brickhouse BBQ, the former Morro Bay Tourism Bureau, and a Pismo Tourism Bureau campaign. Other branding and design projects included Shanley Farms, Top Dog Coffee Bar’s Rescue-Me-Coffee, and the Morro Bay Butcher. He created the historical panels on the Embarcadero, a project of the Historical Society of Morro Bay and the logo package for the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

“Advertising is nothing if no one looks at it,” said John O’Brien, an award-winning designer. “Invest in one great ad. You can use it forever.”

In 2020 while shuttered with the rest of the world, O’Brien revived a marketing idea he had created in 1998. The project almost got away from him. The domain name he controlled was www.swapmeet.com.

Neighborhood yard sales are still popular and live swap meets are regularly or randomly produced by smart marketers to bring individuals together to sell their products. In 1998 O’Brien understood Amazon and Google were emerging industry giants. He wanted to be first to take the swap meet concept online, but he needed a capital investor.

His brother-in-law was doing well selling Clear Channel billboard advertising. He knew “a guy.” The investor partnership he suggested, however, had the interest and the bankroll to build www.SwapMeet.com, but he wanted control. O’Brien was not ready to give someone his project.

His idea lingered for fifteen years until his best friend, who loved going to the Rose Bowl Flea Market, suggested O’Brien meet “a guy” he knew in the music industry. For example, his friend explained, “One of his clients is Michael Jackson.” (Note: For personal reasons O’Brien preferred the investor remain nameless).

The investor liked the idea and said he had a Saudi investor willing to put up the cash. Again O’Brien was asked to give up control of his company. “Something is



better than nothing,” he thought. “The investor brought in his people to run it, spent lots of money developing the analytics for the project, because his CEO wanted a digital component, but www.SwapMeet.com seemed a hobby to him. And when the investor had personal legal troubles, the CEO he had hand-picked took his salary and ran.”

Eventually, O’Brien got www.SwapMeet.com and created an LLC. He now intends it be a family project. O’Brien said, “I resumed working on it personally in 2020 as sole owner. I designed the visual look of the site and created the video, narrated by True and Blake and edited by Blake. COVID stalled the website builder and we finally launched in 2022.”

Currently O’Brien is in the business start-up phase. He is looking for subscribers interested in discovering new and used products to sell or purchase online. Both buyers and sellers of gently used products, collectibles, jewelry, etc. are welcome to test it out. Listings might come from established retail stores, farmer’s market booths, or regulars at swap meets. One can forward to their Etsy account or their website.

O’Brien set a nominal start-up price so potential subscribers will want to check out the site and see how it might fit into their sales and marketing plans. List, sell, buy, browse — the first 15 days cost only \$1, which is the cost to generate a PayPal account. He’s also offering a bonus for the first 100 sellers to sign up. They will forever maintain their original price as a seller, or they can upgrade at any time.

O’Brien is taking it slow to build his brand, attract his subscribers, and determine where his marketplace might be for advertising his new family business. However, to add value he is testing out advertising in www.SwapMeetMagazine.com.

Why not give it a try? After all, it might have taken 25 years for this start-up to come to fruition, but the current timing couldn’t be better in this era of the digital marketplace.

Harbor Director From page 17

sary to run a successful business.”

The City administration has indicated this is a priority. “Developing the right organizational structure and long-term planning are two of the areas that City management has indicated are essential to our success,” he said. “I’m looking forward to working with our new City Council and Harbor Advisory Board to understand their recommendations for the harbor.”

Morro Bay’s main industry on the waterfront has traditionally been commercial and sport fishing, with tourism taking a growing role every year. And in the future, offshore wind energy is likely to play a large role in the harbor.

“I recognize the difference of Morro Bay Harbor,” Schiafone said. “Morro Bay has a long history as a commercial fishing village. Commercial fishing in California has been hammered by more and more regulation. In talking with residents and other stakeholders, they have a desire to

maintain that character. I do too. I believe it’s very possible to update our facilities without losing that character.”

The Harbor Department has seen its needs for things like maintenance increase but has never really had money to do serious planning, for instance a capital improvement list. Schiafone recognizes the importance of planning.

“Safety is the number one job of every harbor director,” he said. “Planning is number two. My job is to ensure Morro Bay has a path to sustain itself so our children and grandchildren can enjoy Morro Bay Harbor the same way as we do.

“We need to be very thoughtful in how to move forward. All of us need more information regarding offshore wind before making any judgment.”

This was his first chance to represent Morro Bay at the C-MANC in Washington, though he’s attended it before representing Oceanside Harbor. It apparently went very well.

“The C-MANC conference was very good,” he said. “We had the opportunity to meet directly with our state representatives and request funding for dredging. We had asked for \$4 million this year [2024] but also made a request to ensure we had the funding the following year [2025] to dredge back to the boat ramp.

“We learned just last week that Congress was recommending we receive \$14.5 million for 2024, ensuring we can dredge to the boat ramp one year early!”

The channel he speaks of is called the Navigation Channel and the last time it was dredged was with the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) under then-President Barak Obama. Former long-time Congresswoman Lois Capps was instrumental in garnering that money.

They also had a chance to speak with the Federal agency overseeing the offshore wind energy leasing. “We met with BOEM [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management] and discussed offshore wind. BOEM is only responsible for developing the leases. The actual administration of the leases will end up with BSEE. I believe more information will come over the next couple of years.

BSEE stands for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and is charged with overseeing the offshore energy industry [oil platforms] on the outer continental shelf.

The companies that won the bids for lease sites in the ocean off San Simeon, north of Morro Bay, are expected to want to bring the power ashore in Morro Bay and use the harbor for a base of operations, mainly monitoring and control operations as well as crew boat moorings.

The wind farms will need a deep water port and adjacent work areas — perhaps as much as 40 acres — where they would assemble the wind turbines and then tow them to the wind farm site to be installed. The turbines are from 600-feet to over 800-feet tall depending on the capacity, i.e. the more output they have, the taller they have to be.

If the companies are going to use Morro Bay, significant upgrades will have to be made to Harbor facilities. Indeed, the City has already been granted over \$1 million for improvements to the North T-pier that have yet to be formally identified.

As for the wind farms, the companies are just getting started on environmental impact studies to include sonar mapping of the seafloor.

Mountain Lion From page 18

COVID using five Browning trail cameras.

Other animals captured include mice, woodrats, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, coyotes, a barn owl (on the ground), a great horned owl (on the ground), deer, quail, a mallard duck, crows, innumerable small birds, a pair of grey foxes, a red fox, and a long tailed weasel.

The videos for all the mammals, owls, and mallards have been curated and uploaded to YouTube at SkipRotstein3535.

Rotstein sent the mountain lion video to County Parks Ranger and a photo was uploaded to CA Fish and Wildlife website.



**WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!**

**Morro Bay Appliance**

**805-772-2755**

**Sales - New & Reconditioned**

**Service & Repairs On All Major Brands**

**Freezers • Refridgerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves**

**Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods**


**Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971**

**935 Main Street, Morro Bay**

**Call Peter Starlings**

For all your Real Estate Needs

**(805) 235-8424**



Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

**PETER STARLINGS**

BROKER/OWNER

**805.235.8424**

**peterstarlings@yahoo.com**

BRE# 00692586





## Your Central Coast California Real Estate and Property Management Since 1978!



Leon Van Beurden  
DRE # 00646313



From all of us at  
Bay Osos Brokers &  
Bay Osos Property Management,  
we would like to wish you and yours a  
*Blessed and Happy Easter!*

### Office Space For Rent

### Oak Grove Business Center

1310-1333 Van Beurden Dr. • Los Osos



Oak Grove Business Center

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

1310 - San Luis Teachers Association  
Awakening Interfaith-Spiritual Community  
Los Osos Mediation  
1320- Sunnyside Physical Therapy  
Coastal Homeworks  
Michele Simon, California Coast Fisheries  
/ James C. Wolf / BPI Power / A. Raymond Energies

### AFFORDABLE RENT = GROSS LEASE!

#### LANDLORD PAYS:

- WATER
- LANDSCAPING
- GARBAGE
- INSURANCE
- TAXES
- MAINTENANCE
- COMMON AREA JANITRIAL

#### TENANTS PAYS:

- ELECTRICITY • GAS • INTERNET

YOUR CENTRAL COAST

"REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT" SINCE 1978!

1330 - Bay Osos Brokers/Bay Osos Property Mang.  
Van Beurden Insurance Services  
Free Light  
ProCoating  
Coastline Arts  
1333 - Central Coast Central Office Intergo  
Balasana Therapeutic  
Bare Heart Boudior



### Bay Osos Property Management

Are you tired of managing investment property? Tired of late night calls and fee negotiations with contractors?  
Tired of trying to find qualified renters and ensuring your investment is cared for? Bay Osos Property Management has over 30 years experience on the Central Coast and knows how to handle the unique challenges this rental market faces. With hundreds of properties already managed by Bay Osos Property Management, we know how to get things done.

**Matching our knowledge with integrity**

**Contact us to see how we can take the work out of your investment.**

**805-528-1133 or bayosospropertymanagement.com**

### Bay Osos/Budget Mini Storage



New Electronic Gates  
Don't Stuff It - Store It!  
Park Your Car in Your Garage  
One Month Rent FREE  
Up to 10% Discount  
Best Rates & Free Locks



### STORAGE SPECIALS

**12 MONTH CONTRACTS - ONE MONTH FREE "OR" 12 MONTH PREPAY - 10% DISCOUNT**

**(805) 528-1133 or toll free (800) 540-0229**

1330 Van Beurden Drive, Suite 101, Los Osos

[www.bayososbrokers.com](http://www.bayososbrokers.com)