

## Morro Bay Chamber Gala Dinner



John Taylor Project Surf Camp, Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Senator John Laird, Mayor Carla Wixom, Councilmember Zara Landrum, 2022 Citizen of the Year, Bonnie Jones, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Councilmember

Jen Ford, Councilmember Cyndee Edwards, 2022 Business of the Year Justine and Dave Thomas and 2022 Living Treasure Cathy Novak.

Photos by Dean Sullivan



Cathy Novak



Bonnie Jones



Dave Thomas



John Taylor

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala recognized the 2022 Living Treasure, 2022 Business of the Year and 2022 Citizen of the Year. Read the story in the Chamber Corner on page 12.

## Cell-Bell Tower Approved at Local Church



By Neil Farrell

Cell service should get a lot better in Morro Bay after the City Planning Commission approved a request by T-Mobile to build a new, upgraded cell "tower," to replace an existing cell tower at the same church property.

T-Mobile sought a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) to replace a so-called "stealth tower" facility, located inside a large Christian cross sitting atop a steeple at St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church,

545 Shasta Ave., with a cellular facility located inside a bell tower to be built at the church.

The old steeple was part of the church building, rising above the roofline and the cell equipment was installed inside a large cross.

The new bell tower will be erected in the church's parking lot near the Parish Hall and an existing small building that holds the cellular phone equipment.

The cross/steeple will remain as part of the church's architecture.

Cell Bell Continued on page 22

Police  
Blotter  
Page 8



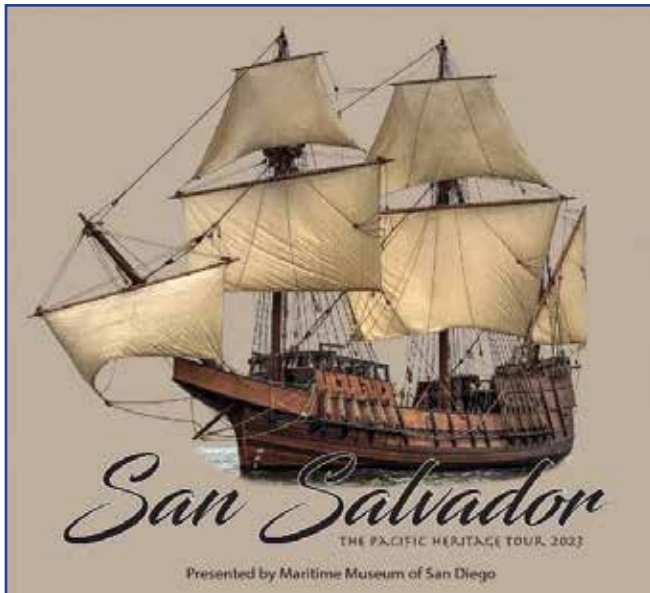
Pizza and  
Family Fun  
Page 9



Local Actor  
Filmed  
Page 22



## Moving Forward: Cabrillo's Historic San Salvador Returns to Morro Bay



By Judy Salamacha

Announcement! Announcement! You are invited to come aboard the San Salvador, and you don't have to travel farther than Morro Bay! Maritime Museum San Diego returns with their replica galleon to offer 10 days of public tours. Experience life at sea in 1542 when Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his crew sailed north to discover the Pacific coastline.

"Stepping aboard her creaky decks is like boarding a 16th-century time machine," said Larry Newland, founding member of the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association. "Visitors will be immersed in the year 1542 as they wander on deck as though the crew left a few minutes earlier."

Morro Bay Maritime Museum is hosting MMSD's second 10-day visit to Morro Bay during the Pacific Heritage Tour 2023, August 11-20. In 2016 a partnership between MMSD and MBMM was cemented during the San Salvador's maiden voyage. Over 10,000 wannabe seafarers, landlubbers and students of all ages toured the tall ship's decks and underbelly.

The San Salvador is due to arrive August 10 and

San Salvador Continued on page 21

## New Mural a Colorful Tribute to Kite Festival

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay's newest public artwork pays tribute to the annual kite festival at Morro Rock and is a whimsical scene of colorful fun recreating the most popular watercolor by artist David J. Rogers.

Rogers and his wife Peggy recently sat down with an Estero Bay News reporter to talk about the mural, which is over 50-feet long and about 15' tall, and located at the corner of Monterey Avenue and Morro Bay Boulevard.

That's where Rogers has operated the David J. Rogers Fine Art Gallery (407 Morro Bay Blvd.) for the past five

New Mural Continued on page 23

## 'Community for All' Rally, May 6

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Rally and march elevating love, support, acceptance, and the importance of amplifying the voice of minority groups is slated for May 6 at 10 a.m. at the South Bay Community Park in Los Osos.

"Community for All" organizer Rey Lady said the idea for the rally followed recent backlash and reported threats that led to the cancellation of an event at the South Bay Community Center.

Rally Continued on page 23





# News

## Supervisors Address Health Matters

By Neil Farrell

Health programs were top of mind for County Supervisors recently when they approved items that filled vacancies on a key advisory board, and approved applying for millions in funding for various health and mental health related programs.

### Behavioral Health Board

Supervisors voted to fill seats on the Behavioral Health Board, appointing: Hugo Balcazar, Donna Klein, Leslie Brown, and Andres Pille to fill vacancies left by Marcella Paric, Joyce Heddleson, TeaEster B. Higgins, and Christine Nichols.

Balcazar’s term is slated to expire on June 30, 2023; and the terms of Klein, Brown and Pille will expire June 30, 2024, according to a County report.

The Behavioral Health Board is an advisory body made up of 10-20 citizens with experience in the mental health field. The board is mandated by the State Health Department for agencies that receive funding.

Members’ experience is in the Behavioral Health field either as a professional, have a family member with behavioral health issues, or someone that has received such services themselves.

The Board “provides advice regarding the implementation of programs and services as well as evaluates effectiveness of those services within the community,” the County report said. “It also plays a role in educating the public on behavioral health issues and encourages community support throughout the county for development and implementation of effective behavioral health programs.”

### Newbies Have Experience

The new board members bring a lot of experience to the table. Balcazar works in the field as executive director of the nonprofit, Council on Adolescent Mental Health, providing peer-to-peer counseling in the local schools, according to the report.

Balcazar said he hopes to improve existing mental health programs and “provide alternative mental health resources to the youth of SLO County.”

Klein works for Sierra Mental Wellness Group as a peer support specialist, the report said. She has experience with the mental health programs SLO County offers and was trained and worked at Transitions Mental Health, a non-profit group that contracts with SLO County to provide mental health services.

She “hopes to participate in decisions affecting SLO County’s mental health and drug and alcohol services, and to learn about and from key decisions involving mental health administration, implementation, and oversight.”

Brown is a retired SLO County administration staffer and has been trained in mental health administration. Brown “is looking forward to helping the department and the Board of Supervisors set priorities, address service delivery issues, analyze policy, and determine strategies to enhance mental health resources and services.”

Pille is the new representative for CenCal Health, which is required to have a seat on the County board. A Behavioral Health Community Integration Specialist, Pille is a licensed marriage and family therapist and has diagnosed and treated people with mental health issues, drug addictions and other, “co-occurring disorders.”

If readers would like to learn more about the SLO County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, see: [www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Behavioral-Health/Behavioral-Health-Board](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Behavioral-Health/Behavioral-Health-Board).

### Millions in Grants Available

The County could have a nice chunk of change to use helping those with mental health problems, if a grant comes through from the State.

Supervisors approved applying to the California Department of Health Care Services for a more than \$7.59 million grant, covering 2023-27, for the “Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program.”

The program would “provide operational and supportive services funding for bridge housing to provide immediate support to persons with serious behavioral health

conditions that experience homelessness,” the County report said.

Money for the program comes out of the 2022 California State Budget (AB 179), which allocated \$1.5 billion to the Department of Health Care Services for the bridge housing program, one of several undertakings the Newsom Administration took to address the homelessness problems plaguing California. It also came during a time when the State had a budget surplus of over \$25 billion.

The so-called “bridge housing settings” are supposed to address “the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people who have behavioral health conditions including serious mental illness, and/or substance use disorder” compounded with being homeless.

This new housing program was designed to complement previous programs the State implemented. But the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing or BHBH provides “operational and supportive services to quickly expand bridge housing implementation and includes short-term — less than 90 days — and mid-term — 90 days to 2 years — shelter and housing, according to the County.

People in this situation got another boost with Senate Bill 1338 the Community Assistance, recovery and Empowerment Act or CARE Act, which was codified in the State’s Welfare & Institutions Code Book. Under this law, CARE Program participants get priority for any bridge housing funds through the BHBH Program.

SLO County has not yet begun a CARE Program and once it does, those CARE people will have to be prioritized for housing funding. SLO County has until Dec. 1, 2024 to start a CARE Program.

### The BHBH Catch

There is of course a catch to all this funding. The BHBH Program (\$1.5 billion) has two parts — non-competitive and competitive — with the first round being non-competitive funding — for a total of \$907 million — of which SLO County is eligible for \$7.59 million. That funding will cover the initial 4-year program.

But in Summer 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 an additional \$250 million (\$500M total) will become available on a competitive basis with the BHBH Program accomplishments of each county being the deciding factor in who gets that money.

### What’s This Money For?

According to the County, the BHBH Program grants have four main eligible uses:

- Bridge Housing. A minimum of 75% of grant monies have to be used for short-term and mid-term housing in places like motels, pallet shelters, tiny homes, and navigation centers; for rental assistance; funding for places like assisted living facilities; and housing navigation.
- Bridge housing start-up and infrastructure;
- Bridge housing outreach and engagement; and,
- County Health Agency BHBH Program “implementation” (administration costs).

The County expects to hear back from the State sometime in June on whether they’ve been granted the money to start the BHBH Program.

If the money is granted, the County expects to go out for bids to find a company to come in and run the BHBH Program.

### County Wants More Home Visits

SLO County Health Department is also seeking money to expand a program that brings health professionals into people’s homes to assist with various health matters.

Supervisors approved allowing the County Health Agency to apply for “California Home Visiting Program” allocations for this fiscal year (2022-23) and through FY 2027-28.

The County is seeking \$440,000 for this fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) and \$2.64 million for the next 2-6 years. The money is for “expansion, planning, and/or special support activities to increase the number of families participating in the three evidence-based home visiting,” according to a county report.

Once again this is a relatively new program hatched by the State when it was flush with money. “In December 2022,” the report said, “the California Department of Public Health made available \$33.7 million for local assistance to health jurisdictions to expand home visiting services” under the State’s “Home Visiting Program.”

The program involves trained professionals visiting

homes during pregnancies and in the first few years of a baby’s life. It’s designed to “improve the lives of children and families,” reads the County report. “Giving children a solid start in their first few years of life increases the opportunity for a brighter, more prosperous future.”

The program is aimed at “overburdened families who are at risk for Adverse Childhood Experiences, including child maltreatment [abuse], domestic violence, substance use disorder, and mental health related issues. Home visiting gives parents the tools and know how to independently raise their children. It is a preventive intervention focused on promoting positive parenting and child development.”

But what do these home visits do? “Families can ask questions, discuss concerns, and gain valuable information,” the report said. “Home visitors build relationships as they provide services tailored to each family’s needs.”

These needs include: teaching parenting skills and modeling parenting techniques; providing information on topics like safe sleep positions and maternal depression; giving referrals for drug abuse, family violence, and maternal depression.

It will also screen kids for developmental delays and facilitate interventions; promote early learning in the home; emphasize positive parenting; and “building a language-rich environment.”

It will also screen “pregnant and postpartum women for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders to provide education, support, and link to appropriate professional services and providers.”

The SLO County Public Health Home Visiting, is a branch of the Maternal Child Health division, and operates this evidence-based home visiting program under the name, “Healthy Families America” or HFA.

The program is for those eligible for and enrolled in the “California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids” or CalWorks Program, which is under the County Department of Social Services.

### What’s the Money For?

If the County gets this additional funding it will be able to expand the home visiting program to more at-risk families, according to the report.

The total grant monies the County is seeking over the 64-month period is \$3.08 million — that’s \$440,000 for this year, and \$528,000 for each of the next five years.

The first year the money will go towards salaries and benefits (\$104,000), services and supplies (\$321,000), and “indirect costs” (\$21,000).

In subsequent years the breakdown is \$318,000 for salaries and benefits; \$137,000 for services and supplies; and \$72,000 for indirect costs each year.



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# Water Restrictions Eased in Morro Bay

By Neil Farrell

As if the above-average rainfall this past winter weren't proof enough that California's drought is over, further proof has come with the vote by the Morro Bay City Council to ease its water restrictions.

The Public Works Department asked the Council to lower the water conservation level from "severely restricted" to "moderately restricted," in response to the significant rainfall and snowpack that fell this past winter, as one after another atmospheric river storm system slammed into California, bringing torrential rains and record snowfall to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In June 2021, the City Council voted to move the water restrictions for City water customers to severe after Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order that included San Luis Obispo County in a drought state of emergency, a City report said.

In the months that followed that declaration, the drought worsened in most of the state and the Governor extended the water emergency.

As 2022 waned, scientists predicted the drought would worsen as a "La Niña" ocean current was predicted to take over the Pacific off California.

La Niña currents bring unusually dry conditions, whereas El Niño currents bring wet winters.

The predicted continuing drought was washed away by the unusually wet winter of 2022-23, which appears to now be over.

"The wet and stormy 2022-2023 winter season," the report said, "brought much rain to Morro Bay, the County, and the State, and as a result most counties have moved from level of severe drought to none. On March 24, 2023, Gov. Newsom announced the easing of drought restrictions that were placed in 2021."

The rainy winter has filled local reservoirs with the Whale Rock and Salinas reservoirs, and Lopez and Nacimiento lakes all filling up and even spilling over, after almost going bone dry during the drought.

Indeed, Whale Rock and Lopez Lake spilled for the first time in decades and this summer should be a good one for those who like to go to the lakes to water ski, party, and fish.

The changing condition has led the State Water Project (SWP) customers, some 29 water purveyors providing drinking water to 27 million people, to expect 75% deliveries of subscribed water, according to the City report. It's the highest deliveries since 2017.

But since then, and for the first time since 2005 (an-

other El Niño year), the SWP said it will fill all subscriptions 100%.

Morro Bay's No. 1 source for drinking water — some 1,313 acre feet a year — comes via the Coastal Branch of the State Water Project, with actual delivery to town via the Chorro Valley Pipeline.

The Coastal Branch Pipeline is operated by the Central Coast Water Authority, with the County Flood Control & Water Conservation District handling the local facilities like the Chorro Valley Pipeline.

Back in 2021, when the City issued its own severity level for local water use, it was necessary to conserve water during the drought, which everyone thought would continue for several more years.

It meant the City cut back on irrigating its parks, with Tideland's Park seeming to have the most noticeably dry grass areas.

But the rains have greened up the parks once again, just as they've turned the hills green with swaths of colorful wildfires blooming all over SLO County, including super blooms of wildflowers in the Carrizo Plains, Irish Hills and Montaña de Oro State Park.

But the City is hedging its bets, despite the abundance of rain and snow this year.

"After three of the driest years on record, recent rains and snowfall have dramatically changed conditions allowing for easing of water conservation restrictions. However, given the recent extended drought and the State Water Project's unreliability year to year, it is reasonable to reduce, rather than eliminate, the level of water restrictions for the community to encourage water conservation in daily living."

The change to moderate restrictions means ratepayers will be able to water their landscaping again any day of the week but watering in the heat of the day — from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — is still prohibited.

So too is over-watering in a way that causes water to run into the gutters and down the street.

Restaurants no longer have to restrict water use, but customers still have to ask for water. And if you want to wash your car at home again, you can but you have to use a shut-off nozzle.

You still can't spray down your driveway, sidewalks or the streets. People with boats in the harbor can use fresh water to hose off their boats, docks "or other incidental activities" but must have a shut-off nozzle on the hose.

A predicted effect with this easing of water restrictions is that the City Water Fund — which is an enterprise fund for the City — is expected to make more money as water usage goes up a bit. That will also trigger higher sewer bills, as sewer charges are tied to water usage, so continuing to be frugal with water is still smart for residents and businesses to save some money.

# MBFD Seeking Grants for More Firefighters



By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay Fire Department is hoping to tap Uncle Sam for money to pay for more firefighters and better serve the town's residents and visitors.

Fire Chief Dan McCrain recently asked the City Council for permission to apply for a grant from the "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" or SAFER program "for the hiring of limited term firefighters."

In his report to city council, Chief McCrain said, "The SAFER Grant covers 100% of the 'fully burdened' salary, i.e., salary, benefits, etc. of a Firefighter position, which is approximately \$138,144 for year one; \$143,970 year two; and \$150,088 year three, per firefighter; or between \$414,432 and \$450,264 for the three positions annually."

With the MBFD's hoped-for three positions to be funded, the total grant request would be for \$1.29 million. Under the SAFER Program this year, Chief McCrain said there is no local match requirement.

The fire chief explained that it's common for fire departments to apply annually for the slugs of money the State and Federal governments make available to bolster public safety.

And the most well-know grant programs are these SAFER grants and the Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG).

"The primary goal of the SAFER Grant," Chief McCrain said, "is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards. This is done by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire

Firefighters Continued on page 4

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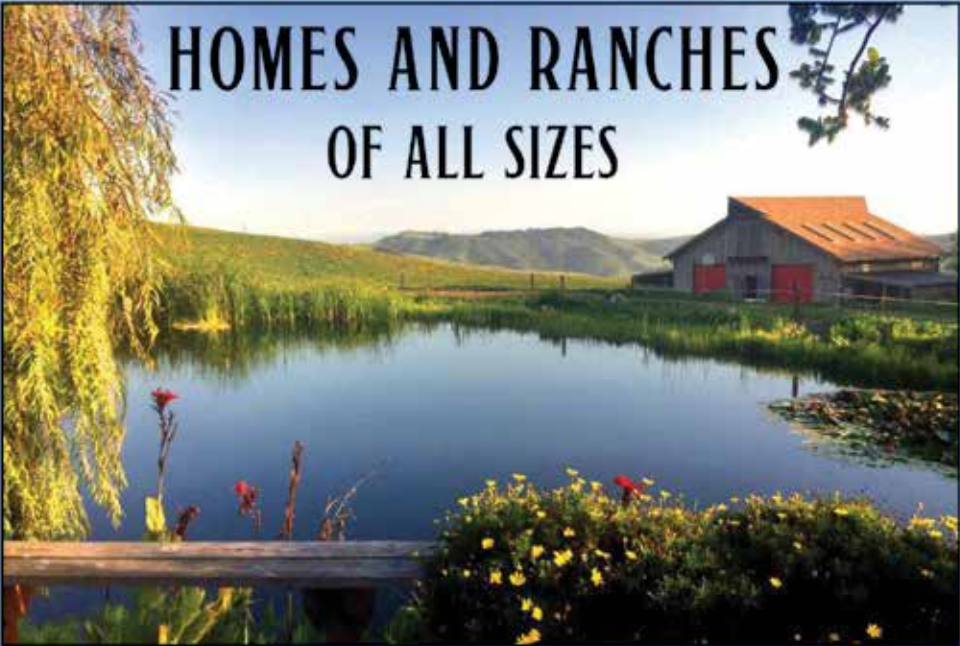
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**Firefighters** From page 3  
departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies.”  
Morro Bay has over the years conducted various studies looking at staffing levels in the fire department and coming up with recommendations. Chief McCrain noted that such studies were done in 2004, 2005, 2010 and 2015; the last two of these were for strategic plans.  
The conclusion has been that the city would be best served if the fire department always had two, 3-man fire engine companies on duty every day.

“This staffing model,” Chief McCrain said, “would create less dependency for off duty personnel to respond from home while meeting the need to respond to medical aids with the ability to contain a structure fire in the room of origin. By increasing our daily staffing from four to five personnel on duty daily we are closer to the optimum level of service outlined in these reports.”

Under current firefighting standards, a fire department should be able to provide “16 firefighters on scene within 8 minutes 90% of the time for a fire in a single-family residence, with the first engine arriving on scene within 5 minutes or 17 firefighters if responding with a ladder truck.”

Chief McCrain explained that currently they don’t meet that standard. “The average response from Morro Bay Fire is currently four paid Firefighters with two on one engine and two on the rescue or second engine. The alarm also includes the request for the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, and reserve firefighters.

“Local automatic aid contracts bring only one fire engine, one ambulance and one chief officer from neighboring agencies for a staffing level of six.”

He said they could no longer rely on the department’s reserve firefighters corps. “We have witnessed a dramatic decline in qualified candidates due to training obligations, state training mandates and the limited availability to respond to incidents off duty,” Chief McCrain said. “This has been a trend throughout San Luis Obispo County with all fire departments. In fact, Morro Bay is one of the last city departments in the SLO County to still operate a reserve firefighter program.”

They have also been relying on off-duty firefighters to respond when the call goes out. This one-two punch hurts. “Our current organizational design,” he said, “also depends on off-duty full-time personnel responding from home. With the change of our reliability of reserve firefighters and the limited full-time personnel responding from home, today we must rely on auto aid and mutual aid response from our neighboring communities.”

If they do get the grant monies, it will mean a world of difference for the department. “By funding these three positions,” Chief McCrain said, “our department will be able to respond five personnel and two apparatus, two chief officers [along with five firefighters from our automatic aid agencies], within 8 minutes to any single-family fire.”

And the strain on the fire department could grow exponentially, as the Morro Bay Power Plant is being considered for construction of the world’s largest lithium-ion battery storage facility at 600 megawatts.

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response numbers for a single-family house fire, how can it be expected to adequately respond to a fire at a gigantic lithium-ion battery plant?  
Chief McCrain said he expects the SAFER Grant awards to be announced in September. All told the program will award some 300 grants.

Religious Studies  
Professor to  
Speak about  
Christian Nationalism



University of San Francisco Professor Bradley Onishi to Speak on Christian Nationalism in America on May 5 at Cal Poly. Photo submitted

The attack on the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, shocked the nation and the world. But one religious studies professor argues that for those who have lived through white Christian nationalism, the insurrection was the logical outcome of a 75-year war on American democracy.

Author and University of San Francisco Professor Bradley Onishi will explore the rise of Christian nationalism in contemporary America and its potential destructive course on Friday, May 5. The event, which is free and open to the public, takes place from 3:30 - 5 p.m. in Philips Hall in the Performing Arts Center, Room 124.

“Bradley Onishi is one of the leading thinkers on one of the most important topics shaping American culture today,” said Cal Poly religious studies Professor Stephen Lloyd-Moffett. “His insights stem not just from his rigorous academic research but from growing up within the movement.”

After growing up in a non-religious home in Southern California, Onishi converted to evangelicalism at a mega-church in his hometown at age 14. By 20, he was married and in charge of a 200-student youth group. After serving seven years in ministry, he decided to pursue a master’s in theology at Oxford University. Soon after arriving in Oxford, he deconstructed his faith and began to study religion from a historical lens.

Onishi subsequently received a doctorate in religious studies from the University of California Santa Barbara. He teaches and researches Christian nationalism; the history of evangelicalism; race and racism in American religion, gender, sex, masculinity; and secularism and secularity. He has taught at UC Santa Barbara, the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley, Rhodes College, Skidmore College, Central Michigan University, Cal Lutheran University and the University of San Francisco.

A frequent commentator on NPR and in The New York Times, Onishi is also co-host of the Straight White American Jesus (SWAJ) podcast, which ranks in the top 50 for politics shows on Apple Podcasts charts. He authored “Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism — and What Comes Next,” which was published earlier this year.

Morro Bay Again  
Named Tree City USA



Though this past winter’s storms downed a lot of trees in Morro Bay it didn’t stop the City from again being designated a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

In a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation, the City was notified that it had been named a Tree City USA for 2022 “to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management,” reads the letter.

There are four requirements a city has to meet to get the recognition: maintain a tree board or department; having a tree care ordinance; dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita; and host an Annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation, according to the letter.

According to San Lambe, CEO of the Arbor Day Foundation, “Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand. The trees being planted and cared for by Morro Bay are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

Over this past winter, numerous fierce storms downed trees all over town, but especially in Morro Bay State Park. Also, over the past couple of years, the City’s Water Reclamation Facility Project, wrapping up now, saw many trees having to be removed, mainly along the Power Plant Bike Path, for the laying of all the conveyance piping.

The WRF Project plans include replacing those trees, as prescribed by the City Municipal Code.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation now has over 1 million members and is one of the largest non-profit membership organizations dedicated to planting trees. It has overseen the planting of nearly 500 million trees in neighborhood communities, cities and forests throughout the world. For more information see the website at: arbor-day.org

Additional COVID-19  
Boosters Available



Adults ages 65 and older and people living with certain immune compromising conditions may now get a second bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that protects against current variants of COVID-19. The updated vaccine first became available in fall of 2022.

This change is one of several updates from the U.S.

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# News

## City Rolls Out New Bocce Ball Courts

By Neil Farrell

With a bowling wind up, Morro Bay Mayor Carla Wixom underhand tossed a bocce ball into the air and bounding down the city's new public Bocce Ball Courts, officially opening the newest, free-use recreational facility.

At an April 20 ceremony, City officials and members of the Active Adults (Morro Bay Seniors) gathered at the courts, located at the corner of Shasta and Dunes, next to the Public Works Department building.

The City spent some \$60,000 on the facility that took a long time mainly due to the COVID pandemic. The two courts are outlined in concrete curbs and walkways with clay-surfaced "dirt" lanes. Bocce Ball can be played on a fancy court like these new ones or on just any expanse of grass, like Tideland Park, where the local bocce players have been playing.

"This is an exciting addition to our parks system," said Recreation Supervisor Kirk Carmichael, who emceed the opening ceremonies. He said the new courts were built through the cooperation of the Morro Bay Seniors and the Public Works and Recreation departments.

Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, said when he came here in 2021, the project was already approved but not going anywhere, because of the pandemic, there was no one to work on it.

The City broke ground on the project at another



From left: Bev Schalwitz, president of the MB Senior Citizens Inc.; MB City Recreation Supervisor Kirk Carmichael; Mayor Carla Wixom; Councilwoman Cyndee Edwards; and Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, hold the ribbon as the Mayor snips it with the giant scissors, officially opening the new public bocce ball courts, located at the corner of Shasta Avenue and Dunes Street.

ceremony led by then-Mayor Dr. John Headding in March 2020, mere days before the start of the pandemic response that shut much of the city down and halted things like recreation programing.

Kwolek explained that the courts were engineered with French drains underneath, with a rock base that's compacted and layered with decomposed granite and then a special bocce mix on top.

The courts held up well during the many storms over this past winter, he added.

Mayor Wixom thanked the city staff, the seniors, and public works and said the courts were an opportunity for Morro Bay citizens and visitors to enjoy a game of Bocce Ball.

Active Adults member, Patricia Daly who called her-



Morro Bay Mayor Carla Wixom tosses a bocce ball during the official opening of public courts.

self the "Bocce Queen" opined that these are "great courts." She's played Bocce Ball at courts all over SLO County and these are without a doubt the best.

Other Bocce players attending said that they'd had their eye on this particular plot of corner land owned by the City, for about eight years. They were able to convince the previous city council to turn a passive use pocket park, into an active use, in this case for bocce bBall.

Mayor Wixom acknowledged that this was another example of City leaders trying to give the citizens what they want in terms of recreational opportunities.

This changeover was similar to what pickle ball players accomplished with an outdoor skating rink in Del Mar Park and the building of an off-leash dog park by the citizen's group Morro Bay Pups, also in Del Mar Park.

Some of the senior bocce players chuckled that the pandemic, which halted progress, was advantageous for this project, as the original plan was for the City and senior volunteers to do the work.

That led the City to decide it had to do this right and take over building the project, saving some strenuous work for the volunteers. Some of the senior players helped design the courts including the layout and placement of benches and scoreboards and the dimensions.

How do you play bocce ball? It seems a pretty simple concept: essentially, the target ball, called a "pallino," is tossed onto the court coming to land somewhere past the halfway point and players try to get closest to it to score. The pallino is roughly the size of a cue ball in pool.

According to an article on HGTV's website, the "basic backyard bocce rules" are:

- There can be up to eight players and each team

Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to simplify guidance around COVID-19 vaccination and ensure the most effective, current vaccine is widely available. As part of this update, the original (monovalent) vaccine formula has been fully replaced by the updated bivalent formula. Anyone who has not yet been vaccinated may now get a single dose of the updated formula rather than a two-part primary series with the original formula.

"Like the flu shot, the bivalent vaccine protects against the strains of COVID-19 we are seeing right now," said Dr. Rick Rosen, deputy county health officer. "Older adults and people with immune compromise are at higher risk for severe COVID-19, and data show the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines can wane over time for this group. A second dose of the updated vaccine offers extra protection from getting seriously ill with COVID-19."

CDC continues to recommend those who have not

received a bivalent booster do so now. Those ages six and older who have received an updated (bivalent) vaccine do not need additional doses unless they are 65 years or older or immunocompromised. For children under six years of age, recommendations vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received.

Updated vaccines are available from pharmacies, pediatricians and other doctor's offices and Public Health clinics. To schedule an appointment, contact your pharmacy or health care provider, or visit [slopublichealth.org/vaccines](https://slopublichealth.org/vaccines). It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm vaccine availability.

"We have come a long way since the first vaccines rolled out and are in a much better place today thanks to the protection the vaccines have provided," said Dr. Rosen. "I encourage all of us to take full advantage of the updated protection available from the bivalent vaccines, so we can keep moving forward from the worst of the pandemic."

**Bocce Ball** Continued on page 6

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**SLO Public Library**  
**10:00AM - 5:00PM**  
995 Palm St,  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Arroyo Grande Public Library**  
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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**APPLY ONLINE NOW AT [GETCALFRESH.ORG](https://getcalfresh.org)**  
**OR CALL 1-877-847-3663**







Bocce Ball From page 5



A look down the long stretches of clay lanes at the new bocce ball courts.

- chooses a color or, if applicable, each person chooses a color and a pattern;
- Determine who will go first — flip a coin or choose the player with the closest birthday;
  - The first player tosses out the pallino and begins play by throwing out a bocce ball attempting to get as close to the pallino as possible;
  - The next team (or person) takes a shot at getting their ball closer to the pallino than the first player. If they succeed their ball is called “inside.”
  - The second player continues until they have either gotten a bocce ball “inside” or they have thrown all of their balls;
  - Play continues until everyone’s balls have been thrown and points go to the team with the most “inside” balls. Only the team with the most “inside” balls gets points;
  - In the event of a tie, no points are awarded;



One of two, low-tech scoreboards standing at the midway point of the new bocce ball courts.

- The winner of each match throws the pallino and first ball for the next one. The game is won by the first player/team to reach 13 points (Morro Bay’s scoreboard goes up to 10).
- And just like horseshoes or croquet, it’s legal to hit the pallino and move it or knock another player’s bocce balls away from scoring. You can also knock your own balls closer to the pallino and score that way.
- And if a ball comes to rest touching the pallino, it’s called a “kiss” and worth 2 points.
- The courts will be open to the public with the Senior Center — located in the nearby Community Center — having a couple of ball sets available. The courts can also be reserved.
- There will be regular play days at 1 p.m. Thursdays, and the senior players are willing to teach folks who’d like to learn the game.
- Bocce ball sets sell online from \$35 to over \$120, so just as with horseshoe pits in other city parks, players should probably bring their own set of balls to play with.

Super Bloom May Trigger Super Allergies



Spring has sprung on the Central Coast after a heavy rainy season, and now at the peak of the super bloom, the increase in pollen and allergens is a recipe for an uncomfortable, itchy, sneezy, allergy season.


New research by Climate Central, a non-profit focused on climate news and research, shows that pollen season starts 20 days earlier, is 10 days longer, and features 21% more pollen. And in the west, the growing season is 27 days longer on average.

“While the super bloom is a beautiful and awe-inspiring event, it can be difficult to enjoy for those who suffer from seasonal allergies,” said Dr. Scott Robertson, president and CEO of Pacific Central Coast Health Centers. “We’ve been seeing many patients recently with concerns about allergy symptoms. The good news is there are precautions you can take to cope with allergy season while still enjoying the outdoors,”

**Doctors suggest these precautions:**

- Limit outdoor activities during peak pollen times, which are usually mid-morning and early evening.
- Keep doors and windows closed to prevent pollen from entering your home.
- Wash your face, hands, and hair after spending time outdoors.
- Use air conditioning instead of opening windows.
- Use high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters in your home.
- Take over-the-counter antihistamines, decongestants, or nasal sprays to help alleviate symptoms.
- Consider seeing an allergist if your symptoms persist or if they are severe.

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## News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

### Bike Path Reopened After Pipeline Construction

Cycling enthusiasts have a revamped place to ride. The bike path between Atascadero Road and Main Street near Lila Keiser Park is now open after construction of the City of Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) pipelines. As part of the project, the bike path was reconstructed and paved.

"Thank you to the community for the patience and cooperation demonstrated during the bike path closure," City officials said in a new release. "The goal is to create a safe bike path and healthy urban forest for generations to come."

Following ongoing construction of the WRF injection wells near the bike path, native hydroseed mix will be applied to all areas disturbed during construction. The seed mix includes grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs that are native to the area. Locations for future tree and shrub plantings are also being identified by the City's Public Works Department to replace trees removed from this area and to have trees planted in suitable locations (i.e., not under power lines). The Department will also work with the Public Works Advisory Board on a replanting plan to allow for public input.

### League of Women Voters to Present Housing Panel

SLO County has a serious lack of affordable housing for low and moderate-income families. The League of Women Voters of SLO County presents "Why the Lack of Affordable Housing Matters" on May 8 at noon on Zoom.

The webinar explores why it matters and what tools are available to address the problem. The panel will look at the economic and social consequences for the whole community, as well as show how individual households suffer the impact of a shortage of affordable housing.

This is the first of four webinars produced by the League to describe the lack of affordable housing and

identify steps to address the problem. Jeff Eckles, CEO, Housing Trust Fund of SLO County moderates the event and the panel includes Michael Foote, project manager with Reach; Brenda Mack with the Homeless Services Oversight Council; and Krista Jeffries, lead organizer YIMBY SLO County.

This Zoom event is free to the public, but registration is required at <http://bit.ly/41nZgYD>.

### SLO Food Bank Supports CalFresh Awareness Month

May is CalFresh Awareness Month, and the SLO Food Bank has a month-long campaign to raise awareness about the program.

The CalFresh Program, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is a nutrition assistance program that provides eligible individuals and families with monthly financial assistance to purchase healthy food at grocery stores and some farmers' markets.

The SLO Food Bank along with the CalFresh Alliance and other stakeholders have worked to increase CalFresh enrollment rates, and their efforts are paying off. Currently, 23,720 people to buy food in San Luis Obispo County utilize CalFresh.

Enrollment in SLO County has increased by 20% from February 2022 to February 2023.

"This is a significant achievement, and the SLO Food Bank is proud to be part of the effort to provide nutritious food to those who need it most," said Savannah Evans, SLO Food Bank marketing and communications manager.

To further increase CalFresh enrollment and close out CalFresh Awareness Month, the SLO Food Bank has organized application assistance sites across the county, in conjunction with Hunger Awareness Day on June 2. At these sites, individuals will receive one-on-one assistance in applying for CalFresh benefits with the help of local hunger heroes from the Department of Social Services and SLO Food Bank volunteers. The assistance sites take place at several county public libraries including Atascadero, Morro Bay, SLO, Nipomo, and Arroyo Grande. No appointment is necessary, and individuals can drop in between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., except for the Arroyo Grande

Public Library, which will be open from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To start the application process, individuals must provide a form of identification, proof of income, and social security or legal resident identification. The immigration status of any person applying for CalFresh is confidential and is only used to determine eligibility for benefits in their household.

### Addis Bills Pass out of Committees

Four bills by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) passed out of policy committees in the State Assembly this week by unanimous and bipartisan votes.

Specifically, the following Addis bills advanced in the State Assembly:

- Assembly Bill 1147: Disability Equity and Accountability Act – Strengthens the oversight of California regional centers to improve outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Assembly Bill 1407: Ocean Life Recovery Act – Establishes the Ocean Restoration and Recovery Fund that targets ocean resilience and recovery by establishing clear restoration for acres of kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and native oyster beds.

- Assembly Bill 444: Stronger Defense Communities Act – Permits military communities in California to access federal dollars to build and improve infrastructure around the state's military bases.

- Assembly Bill 720: Conservation Ranching – Ensures ranchers and other private landowners have a financial incentive to implement grazing practices that restore grassland, soil, and biodiversity on some of California's most endangered landscapes.

"I'm thankful that my colleagues supported this legislation that's important to my coastal Assembly District, and all of California," Addis said in a news release. "Bills to help people with disabilities get critical services, to restore and conserve vital marine ecosystems and rangeland, and to fund infrastructure in military communities all won support in the Legislature this week."

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Police Blotter



• **April 16:** Police responded at 10:22 p.m. police took a report from a woman who said back when she was a minor, she was sexually assaulted by some pervert at a home in the 2300 block of Willow Road, presumably in Los Osos, Morro Bay is about the only town in America without a Willow Road.

• **April 16:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to the Dollar Tree Store in the 400 block of Quintana where some sticky-fingered customer, 37, was using the help yourself aisle, which Dollar Tree doesn't have. Logs indicated the regular customer was booked into the gaol for suspicion of trespassing and shoplifting.

• **April 15:** Police responded at 3:20 p.m. to the 700 block of Quintana where they'd apparently caught a sneak thief trying to steal his way to prosperity or perhaps simply to survive. The 44-year-old chap was nicked on suspicion of second-degree robbery.

• **April 15:** At 2:42 p.m. two people stopped by the police station to report their daughter who lives on Bayview, was the victim of domestic violence.

• **April 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:36 p.m. at Hwy 1 and Morro Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated the dingus driver, 44, was cited and released for a suspended license, which was taken away because of a DUI.

• **April 15:** police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:56 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 64-year-old woman driver had two bench warrants. She was given a third citation to ignore and released.

• **April 15:** Police stopped a suspicious 1994 GMC Sierra at 9 a.m. in the area of Beach and Main. Logs indicated the scofflaw driver, 60, was cited for suspicion of driving while talking on a cell phone, expired registration, and no proof

of registration. Logs indicated the man hadn't registered his truck since May of 2020 and, naturally, the truck was towed away.

• **April 14:** Police responded at 11:55 p.m. to a non-injury car crash in the 1200 block of Main.

• **April 14:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to City Park on Harbor Street for a disturbance. Logs indicated a 42-year-old battleaxe was arrested for suspicion of assault and battery and, of course possession of illegal drugs, which explains a lot.

• **April 13:** Police went to the County Jail where they re-arrested a 31-year-old hombre for allegedly vandalizing the back of the Morro Bay PD patrol car back on April Fools' Day (April 1), when he apparently didn't think it was funny to get arrested.

• **April 13:** At 8 p.m. police responded to the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., where a local resident had passed away.

• **April 13:** Police responded at 9 a.m. to a traffic collision at Ironwood and Atascadero Road. No juicy details available.

• **April 12:** Police responded at 5:20 p.m. to a report of a mentally unstable person on Tahiti. The upset person was given a 72-hour timeout.

• **April 12:** Police responded at 5:37 p.m. to an apartment in the 1000 block of Market. A 65-year-old man was found deceased inside the residence.

• **April 12:** Someone found a set of keys and a cell phone at Coleman Park and turned them over to police, who in turn located the owner and mailed his or her property back to them. So as long as the Post Office doesn't pull a duh, it'll be a happy ending all around.

• **April 12:** Police espied suspicious subjects at 3:35 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. They contacted a 38-year-old fellow and a 29-year-old woman. She had a warrant, so they issued her a second no-show ticket and let her go. He too had a warrant and was also cited and released, they no doubt not being worth the gas to drive to jail.

• **April 11:** Someone stole both license plates off a vehicle in the 500 block of Morro Bay Blvd.

• **April 11:** Police responded at 2:06 p.m. to a business in the 400 block of MBB. Logs indicated someone had found a hidden video camera inside the bathroom of downtown business, which police are calling a case of disorderly conduct, though we might have a few other choice words to describe this bit of tomfoolery.

• **April 11:** Police contacted a suspicious subject, 65, at Ironwood and Sequoia Ct. Logs indicated the person had eight out-of-county arrest warrants and was finally put in chains and taken to the nick.

• **April 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:30 a.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the woman driver, 45, was cited for speeding and talking on a cell phone while driving. A records check found a bench warrant too, and she was of course cited and released.

• **April 10:** Police responded at 2 a.m. to a elderly care facility on Teresa Drive where an 85-year-old resident had passed away.

• **April 10:** Police responded to Morro Bay State Park Road where some fruit loop dingus was making a spectacle of himself and causing a disturbance. The 45-year-old disciple of Bacchus was nicked for suspicion of goin' on the razzle.

• **April 10:** Police were called at 11 p.m. to the 700 block of Quintana where some humanicus dooficus was making a drunken fool of himself. The 38-year old fellow had a no-bail, a felony warrant and was allegedly stoned and in possession of dope paraphernalia, and was booked into the County not so happy place.

• **April 9:** Police responded at 7:30 p.m. to the 900 block of Main for a report of criminal trespassing by some no doubt slacker. Police wrote it off with an incident report, not yet a crime.

• **April 8:** Police responded at 5 p.m. to the 700 block of Market for a stolen vehicle report. This too was written off with an incident report.

• **April 7:** At 3:06 p.m. police responded to the 3000 block of Ironwood where someone said their vehicle was broken into and the thieves made off with credit cards and an ID and then went on an apparent shopping spree. No word on the loss, beyond the love of humanity.

• **April 7:** Police responded at 1:21 p.m. to a motel in the 900 block of Morro where they said some apparent crash test dummy ran over one of their security cameras. No word on whether the dastardly deed was caught on video.

• **April 7:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 700 block of Morro Bay Blvd. where some scoundrel zoomed off with someone's electric bike.

• **April 7:** Police responded to a motel in the 300 block of Atascadero Rd., where some apparent squatter broke into a room and made himself at home.

• **April 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:30 p.m. in the 700 block Of Atascadero Rd. A 39-year-old tomato was arrested for suspicion of driving stewed.

• **April 5:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 6:42 p.m. in the 200 block of Harbor St. The 42-year-old sneetch was popped for allegedly stealing a bicycle the previous day, the 2-wheeled proof no doubt sitting between his legs. He was charged with suspicion of vandalism (over \$400), receiving stolen property, and grand theft.

• **April 5:** Police responded at 2:46 p.m. to an injury accident in the 300 block of Quintana.

• **April 5:** Police responded at 11:12 a.m. to the 700 block of Quintana to deal with a pesky little squirt. Logs indicated the man, 30, had a misdemeanor warrant and was hauled to the hoosegow with a trespassing charge added to his list of woes.

• **April 5:** Police contacted a familiar fellow at 11 a.m. in the 900 block of Main. Logs indicated the 58-year-old model citizen had a warrant and was hauled downtown, where of course he was given a future failure-to-appear ticket and released.

• **April 5:** At 8:21 a.m. some apparent repentant no-good nick, 35, turned himself in at the police station for a bench warrant. Logs indicated the police issued another disappearance ticket and let the penitent fellow go forth and sin no more

• **April 4:** Someone stole something sometime before 5:30 p.m. somewhere in the 3000 block of Ironwood.

• **April 4:** Yet another citizen of the year, 25, was nicked for a bench warrant in the 900 block of Pacific. He was cited and released because here they throw back the little fish.

• **April 3:** Police stopped a suspicious subject at the suspect time of 4:30 a.m. at Main and Beach. The sneaky fellow, 35, had an outstanding felony warrant and actually got arrested.

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# Community

## High School Scientists Conduct Long Term Study on Santa Cruz Island



Morro Bay High School and Coast Union students worked together on a scientific study Santa Cruz Island. Photo submitted

By Kennedy Crockett

A group of North Coast students recently had the opportunity to take the science classroom outside. Fourteen students from Morro Bay High School and six from Coast Union High partnered together to conduct a scientific study on Santa Cruz Island through a school funded program called the “Field Studies Collaborative” (FSC). The program was founded by Paso Robles High School science teacher Mark DiMaggio and his colleagues, with the mission to give high school students the experience of being out in nature while simultaneously conducting real world hands-on research.

This trip, the first ever outside of Paso High, was spearheaded by Andrew Crosby (Coast Union High) and Kennedy Crockett (Morro Bay High). The group traveled to Ventura Harbor, hopped aboard a boat, and spent five days on a very special part of the island that is co-managed by the Nature Conservancy and the UC Natural Reserve System. The public does not have access to this portion of the island as it is reserved for conservation projects and research.

Cal Poly and the US Geological Survey were also partners in the project to create a long term study that measures the effects of the dead annual invasive grasses on the germination of native plants on the island. Approved by The Nature Conservancy, the study granted these schools permission to camp at the Field Station and gave students access to the wide range of remote ecosystems on the island. This kind of opportunity is usually only available to qualified college students, and both Morro Bay High and Coast Union are immensely grateful for this remarkable and very rare opportunity for young students who yearn for enriching opportunities to inspire future career options in science.

The student takeaways from this trip ranged in their depth and meaning. For some, this trip reinvigorated a love for learning and inspired students’ future course of study for college. Senior Alexa Contreras stated, “To say that this trip has opened my eyes and motivated me for life is an understatement. I was interested in environmental science before taking this trip, and this only solidified my decision to pursue a career in this subject.

Other student takeaways and outcomes were focused more on personal growth. On the five-day adventure, students were away from phones and technology and were able to form friendships with one another.

Graceyn Costa, a junior from Morro Bay High said, “Every moment of this trip has impacted my life. The adventurous spirit of those around me inspired me to be daring and seek adventure. Stargazing by the creekside with friends new and old filled me with an overwhelming

sense of peace. I have never had an opportunity such as this before and will forever be grateful for the experiences and people who made it special.”

The trip was not without obstacles standing in the way just to get out on the island, let alone navigate around it. Typically, there would be roads that would allow participants to drive on the island with short hikes to our research destinations. Due to the heavy winter rains, the roads past the field station were inaccessible and many long distance hikes totaling about 50 miles became the mode of transportation. These hikes allowed students to connect and push themselves past limits they didn’t know existed.

One senior, Elijah Linn, from Coast Union said, “The trip was simply amazing. However, it was also very difficult,



MBHS and Coast Union students identifying native plants and exotic grasses in one of 23 macro-plots. Photo submitted

with long and arduous hikes everyday. These hikes ended up being the best parts of the whole trip, as being able to explore the beautiful Island with a great group of friends was breathtaking. The final hike of our trip, Mount Diablo, was especially grueling for me, because I had inadequate footwear. In the end it became my favorite day of the trip from the rush of satisfaction and excitement I got from reaching the top, and then later returning back to camp.”

Another senior, Jack Francis, from Coast Union added, “I am so glad I made the decision to go, because if I didn’t, I would have missed out on one of the best six days of my life. I learned so much from this trip about plants, animals, the island, and I also learned a lot about myself. While on the hikes I sometimes chose to split off from everyone and walk alone in the woods, and, for me, it was so refreshing and allowed me to focus on myself.”

For more information contact [krockett@slcusd.org](mailto:krockett@slcusd.org), Mark DiMaggio at [mdimaggio@pasoschools.org](mailto:mdimaggio@pasoschools.org), or Andrew Crosby at [acrosby@coastusd.org](mailto:acrosby@coastusd.org)

Kennedy Crockett is a biology teacher at Morro Bay High School.



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# Community

## Delivery Made on Restored Cayucos Mural



The restored mural, 'Delivery at the Cottage Hotel' by Manuel Cruz III was unveiled April 22.


Story and photos by  
Neil Farrell

A project to restore a historic mural in Cayucos is wrapping up now and the finished artwork was unveiled April 22 by the Bay Area artist hired to bring it back to life. Called, "Delivery at the Cottage Hotel," the original mural was done in 1993 by John Meng and facilitated by the Cayucos Mural Society. It was painted on plywood panels and installed on the southern side of the historic Way Station building on Ocean Avenue. But high winds blew off and destroyed one of the mural panels in 2022 leaving a gaping hole in the image. The property owners, Maryellen Eisner and husband Hank, sought to restore the mural and after several months of searching, found Manuel Cruz, III, a professional artist and muralist from the Bay Area. For the past few months, Cruz has been hard at work recreating the mural using an original artwork by Meng as a guide. On the 22nd friends of the Eisners and Cruz



Manuel Cruz III poses with his mural in the background.

gathered to see the unveiling and toast the artwork with a little champagne from the Lunada Garden Bistro, which occupies the main part of the Way Station complex. In a previous interview, Cruz, who hails from Oklahoma, said that he comes from a family of artists and musicians and is fortunate he is able to make a living doing what he loves and does best — making art in a variety of mediums. This new mural is the same image as the original, but Cruz' style is different. His version of the image seems smoother and more lifelike, most notably with the faces of the team of horses in the mural. It's the eyes, they seem to have a spark of life in them. For examples of Cruz' work, see his website at: [www.manuelcruz.com](http://www.manuelcruz.com). If readers want to have a mural painted at their home or business, they can call Cruz at 510-366-4278. Also, there's a Go Fund Me account set up to help the Eisners, who are both in their 90s, to pay for the mural, see: [Gofund.me/9890af53](https://Gofund.me/9890af53) to contribute.











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**Brightside** From page 9

because we actually get to hang out, and we still like each other. We don't always see eye to eye. It's not all rainbows and bunny rabbits, but it's awesome."

As for the immediate future, the Brights plan to revamp the outdoor area that seats about 12- to 16 people. Later this year, if anyone can pull them away from the business, a trip to Thailand is in the works.

"Being as crazy as I am, to step away from this place and see if it can run itself is terrifying," JJ said. "But, we have a tremendous staff right now and a front of the house manager who is amazing."

Brightside is located at 1236 Los Osos Valley Rd Ste. A. They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check out their menu at [BrightsidePizza.com](http://BrightsidePizza.com). To order for pickup, call 805-439-3516.



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Photos by Dean Sullivan



By Erica D. Crawford, chamber president and CEO

Hosting the Morro Bay community at our Annual Awards Gala is one of the most special and enjoyable things that the Morro Bay Chamber does each year to recognize the best amongst us, and to celebrate all that makes Morro Bay the place where we choose to live and do business.

Eleven local Morro Bay businesses contributed to the menu of food and beverages and the decor for the April 21 soiree, and over 60 local businesses donated items for a silent auction. Thank you to Morro Bay Butcher and Deli, Flavor Fool, Shine Cafe, Babydudes, Buttercup Bakery & Cafe, Chowa Bowl, Three Stacks and a Rock Brewing Com-

pany, Gaia's Garden, Lost Isles Adventures, Harbor Floral, Carousel Taffy and Albertsons.

More than 200 people attended the event, and dignitaries included Senator John Laird, Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Mayor Carla Wixom, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Ford, Councilmember Cyndee Edwards, and Councilmember Zara Landrum.

Cathy Novak, 2022 Living Treasure and a former mayor of Morro Bay, delivered a speech for the ages, weaving in her decades of experience as a project advocate at the podium for hundreds of City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Bonnie Jones, 2022 Citizen of the Year, included the importance of community togetherness in her remarks

and highlighted the great work of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Dave Thomas, representing The Shell Shop, 2022 Business of the Year, shared stories from over five decades of being in business on the corner of Marina and Embarcadero. John Taylor representing the 2022 Nonprofit of the Year, Project Surf Camp, demonstrated one of the confidence-boosting techniques he uses to support differently-abled campers for camp activities.

The Chamber thanks event sponsors Perfect Union, Golden State Wind, Poppy, Ross | Carreiro | Brown CPAs, Vistra, Confluence Engineering Solutions, Mechanics Bank, Bob and Judy Salamacha, and CAPSLO for their generous support!

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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cambria CSD Hires New General Manager

The Cambria Community Services District has a new general manager. The board recently voted 4-1 to appoint Matthew McElhenie. He replaces John Weigold who left for another job last November.

McElhenie is no stranger to the area. He worked 15 years as a part-time Cambria Community Healthcare District paramedic and two years as a reserve firefighter/paramedic for the Cambria Community Services District.

In a letter to the community, McElhenie said, "I am committed to upholding transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in all aspects of city governance. Which undoubtedly, has been a struggle under previous leadership. I have been attending board meetings for some time now (virtually), and I can say I hear you. I am dedicated to promoting our environment, improving public services, and fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all residents."

McElhenie earned a doctorate in public administration degree, a master's degree in public safety administration and a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.



Cambria Community Services District's new General Manager Matthew McElhenie.

Poly Business Students Win Research Challenge

An in-depth analysts' report developed by a team of Cal Poly finance students won first place in CFA Institute Research Challenge Americas' competition, allowing the team to advance to the global finals (the first time for a Cal Poly team), set for May 3, post press time, in Washington, D.C.

The competition, which began with more than 1,000 university teams, is now down to six. The other finalists are California State University, Fullerton; Universitas

Indonesia; University of Sydney (Australia); Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy); and University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland).

"Our students have been working hard on this project since October of 2022," said faculty advisor Cyrus Ramezani. "They have survived five rounds of presentation, emerging as winners at each round, and in the process beating nearly 30 other teams."

The Cal Poly team, Luna Capital Management, includes four financial management seniors: Benjamin Roe, Brenden Rogers, Samantha Gottlieb, Athénaïs Mortier, and accounting senior Jivitesh Kamboj.

The multi-stage competition started with over 6,400 students from 90 countries. While performing an in-depth analysis of a single company, students are tested on their analytical skills, valuation modeling, report writing and presentation skills. And, befitting Cal Poly's Learn by Doing ethos, the competition entails learning that mirrors real world work.

"This is an analyst initiation report," said Ramezani, who is also the Finance chair in the Orfalea College of Business. "The most detailed report issued on a firm by Wall Street analysts."

Specifically, the Luna team (unofficially named after Mortier's dog) prepared a 10-page investment analysis of Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD), which competes with Intel in the semiconductor industry, designing chips for computing applications. According to the team's initial report, AMD "possesses a weak economic moat despite recent innovations."

While the team initially recommended a one-year target price of \$85.92, "providing an expected return of 3.26% from the current price," they must update their projections throughout the competition.

"Our team has learned how quickly information becomes stale, and adjusting our unbiased analysis has been a requirement throughout the competition as new data and news is released constantly," Rogers said. "Q&A from the judges is our main challenge in these most recent rounds since they get an extra five minutes to dive deeper into our analysis and push us to defend our work."

As the team prepared to enter the first round back in February, Mortier noted how keeping current added to the pressure.

"I keep getting scared that it's going to change drastically, and everything we did for three weeks will need to be redone in a day," she said.

Prior Cal Poly teams have performed well, but none ever made it to the Americas' regional finals. This one will now compete for the global victory — and a chance to win \$20,000 — while gaining valuable career-making experience.

Little Free Food Pantry Opens in Morro Bay

Folks needing a little help putting food on the table can check out the latest Rotary Club of Morro Bay project. Club members, working with Maya Cowardin, Gillian Cole-Andrews, and Tambre Hunkins of People's Self-Help Housing, installed the new Little Free Food Pantry at the



Rotarians Jody Cox, pantry builder; Jill Copsey, project chair; and John Solu, president are shown at the opening of the Club's Little Free Food Pantry. Photo submitted

corner of Fir and Elena Streets near the Ocean View Manor Senior Apartments

The Pantry is a small, enclosed, accessible box for community members to take what they need. Volunteers stock it, and the public is welcome to add nutritious non-perishable food, pet food and toiletries. This project is part of the Rotary Club's goal to "Help Us Help Others."

Downtown SLO Sip and Saunter Event



The 4th Annual Downtown SLO Sip 'n' Saunter, presented by Guaranteed Rate, takes place on Sunday, May 7, from 1-4 p.m. More than 60 local wineries, beverage

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 14

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OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



The Bookshelf Writers consist of four Estero Bay women who have been writing & critiquing together for over five years. For more samples of their work, please visit [www.thebookshelfwriters.com](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com)

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

Walking a Spring Bloom



Peeking at a spring super bloom in 'a spot east along Highway 58.

Photo and Story by Susan Vasquez

Native Californians, like myself, grow up with a spring bloom every year. Most every month, in fact, we can rely on blossoms of some sort. But wildflowers adore springtime, and that is when I go searching, bringing my hubby along. Off into nature we trek.

I had heard of an area east along Highway 58 that we could get to without a lengthy drive. Though I wanted to see the spring bloom, I wanted to spend my time walking among the luster of new flowers, not riding in a car.

But even the drive was spectacular. We stopped for some footstep exploration a time or two then continued on. I'd not really thought out this day with detailed planning. "A spot east along Highway 58" is truly as far as my itinerary got. I figured that somewhere along the way, the place would present itself, and we would be knee-deep in spring bloom.

This is the landscape I grew up with. As a young girl in Sacramento, as a young woman near San Jose, and later in Bakersfield and Fresno, these rolling hills and oak trees were always with me. I want to say this landscape is the most beautiful on earth, but I think that's my familiarity with the natural decor talking. Much of the year, these hills are dry and forlorn. Your skin will crack with exposure and your eyes will strain with glare from the sun. This territory is synonymous with my life, and I consider it wondrous.

As do many others. East along Highway 58 in central California, after a lonely drive, we came across a stampede of people and vehicles. I guessed we had reached our destination. We parked, grabbed our hats and walked to discover the views. Of course, there were wildflowers. Common tidy tips, several varieties of lupine, fields of mustard, fiddle-necks and yarrow.

But there were also many, many people, like myself, who wanted to see the spring bloom before it faded. With packed lunches, multiple generations, friends and families, they came. They carried babies, backpacks, cameras and umbrellas. Out in the middle of a land far from any sidewalk, there I walked with a swarm of my neighbors.

The views I wanted were there. The views I hadn't anticipated made me laugh. I'd thought to bring my hat and camera, but I hadn't thought of picnic blankets, folding chairs and Frisbees for the dogs. I hadn't thought to bring my dog, either. But others thought of all that and much more.

What a complete surprise my wildflower walk became. Along a creek bed, a torrent of polliwogs writhed in a springtime dance for my neighbors and me. We clamored up hillsides. We dodged cars.

At the end of a walk in the middle of nowhere, with what I swear was half the population of the county, a fitting sign pulled my attention as we left. "Private Property." It sat, bent, at the edge of the road, hanging loose against an ancient railing.

There we were, hundreds of central Californians, on someone's private property. I couldn't have avoided this trespass. On our walk into the area, there had been too many people milling around to notice the sign. Cars parked fender to hood obscured the fence.

Thank you for your generosity, residents of a place east on Highway 58.

*Susan Vasquez has taken walks in many of the world's most interesting spots, but especially enjoys her strolls around Estero Bay. She is the author of four books, blogs at One Small Walk, and is a member of the Bookshelf Writers, four Estero Bay women whose writing can be found at <http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com>*

**Takin Care of Business** From page 13

age providers, restaurants, and caterers from around the county will serve tastings and small bites at 44 downtown retail locations. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [DowntownSLO.com/Sip](http://DowntownSLO.com/Sip).

Check-in is at the Downtown SLO Office at 1135 Chorro Street. Ticketholders will receive a wristband granting them access to all retail locations, a map with locations and pairings, and a souvenir cup to sip and explore the flavors of downtown. Souvenir cups are sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Collection.

This event is 21+ only, and a valid ID must be provided. Downtown SLO asks that children and pets be left at home. Trained service animals are permitted. A limited quantity of tickets are available, and the event is expected to sell out.

For more information on Sip 'n' Saunter, visit [DowntownSLO.com/Sip](http://DowntownSLO.com/Sip), follow @DowntownSLO on Instagram, and like @ExperienceDowntownSLO on Facebook.

*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

Art Center Morro Bay presents a special juried exhibit, featuring the Central Coast Craft Makers, Sculptors and Photographic Society opening on May 18 from 12 pm – 4 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St. There is an opening reception on Sunday, May 21 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Whether you are attending this extraordinary exhibit to observe or to purchase, you're in for a delight! You will find a variety of artworks including photography, sculptures, textiles and fiber, clay, glass, jewelry, paper and mixed media.

This exhibit continues through June 26. This event is free and open to the public. Art Center Morro Bay is open daily, 12-4 p.m.



The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Rodeo is back for its second year. Watch some of the best cowboys and cowgirls from all over the state compete in events like team roping, barrel racing, steer wrestling, breakaway roping, and team sorting. New this year is bull riding, which will showcase some of the top bull riders in the sport of rodeo including world champion bull fighter Alex McWilliams.

Once again, a free concert takes place after the rodeo. This year, Nashville recording artist Filmore will perform. The event takes place on Saturday, May 13 at the Paso Robles Event Center Main Grandstand Arena. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. The rodeo starts at 6 p.m.

This event is designed to celebrate community togetherness, the western way of life and law enforcement. Tickets are only \$10 per adult and children 12 and under are free. Your admission includes the rodeo and concert. Proceeds go to the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation, which is used to fund needed equipment for all law enforcement agencies in SLO County.

Link for tickets: <https://bit.ly/40Mexlo>



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One Vacation Rental member seat must be owner or manager of a licensed Vacation Rental or Vacation Rental Company within Morro Bay City limits.

Timing for board interviews to be determined.

For more information at: [www.morrobay.org/board-of-directors/](http://www.morrobay.org/board-of-directors/)



# Community

The following programs are presented by the Morro Bay Library, located at 625 Harbor St. Contact the library at (805) 772-6394, 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.
- Storytime on Tuesdays 10:30- 11 a.m. Please join us for stories, dance, and music with Miss Emily.
  - 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.
  - Oak and Acorns As A Staple Food on Saturday, May 6 from 10:30 - 12:00 p.m.. Learn about the mighty oak, our local, dominant tree species, and how the edible acorn is used in cuisine and culture. Jesse Trace has a background in sociology and sustainable development and is passionate about agro-ecology and ethnobotany. For ages 18 and up.
  - Ozobots on Wednesday May 10 from 3 - 5 p.m. Come to the Morro Bay Library and write code to control a robot with just markers and paper.
  - Teen Crafternoon on Saturday May 13 from 2 - 4 p.m. Come on down. This Saturday's craft will be origami kusudama flowers and balls. For ages 11-18
  - Marble Run on Wednesday May 17 from 3 - 5 p.m. Come to the Morro Bay Library and play with marbles. Build your own creations and have lots of fun.



SLO REP presents "A Doll's House Part 2." It's not necessary to see part one to enjoy this biting funny sequel that unfolds in a series of bristling stand-offs and where a slammed door isn't an end but a beginning. The four-member cast of "A Doll's House Part 2" includes Katy Dore (Anne Marie), Josh Machamer (Torvald), Madison Shaheen (Emmy), and Suzy Newman as Nora Helmer. Machamer is Associate Dean of Operations in Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts and previously served as Chair of the Theatre & Dance Department.

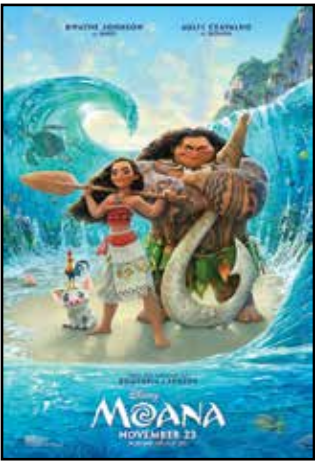
"A Doll's House Part 2" runs May 5 - 21, with shows at 7 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are \$20-\$38 and are available via phone at (805) 786-2440 or online at [www.slorep.org](http://www.slorep.org) Photo credit: RyLo Media Design, Ryan C. Loyd.

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

Featured Wall Artist: Bob Rodgers with portraits and landscapes. Display Case: Fayla Chapman with seashell creatures

- **E-Device Class** - Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m. Bring your electronic device in and Diana will do her best to answer any questions you have.
- **Paws to Read** - Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School Age.
- **Storytime** - Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.
- **Stay Young with Qi Gong!** - Fridays, 9-10 a.m (rain cancels). Qi Gong is a system for physical, mental and spiritual development that has roots dating back thousands of years in China. It consists of flowing movements and meditations that cultivate life force energy (called qi by the Chinese)..
- **Cartoon Club** - Friday, May 5, 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.
- **Making Seashell Creatures** - Saturday, May 6, 1-3 p.m. Choose from a variety of seashells to make your very own creature! Recommended for 7+, or younger with active adult participation.
- **Ozobots** - Friday, May 12, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Write code to control a robot with just markers and paper!

Family Movie - Saturday, May 13, 2 p.m. We will be showing "Moana". It's rated PG. We will also provide popcorn!! Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful movie.

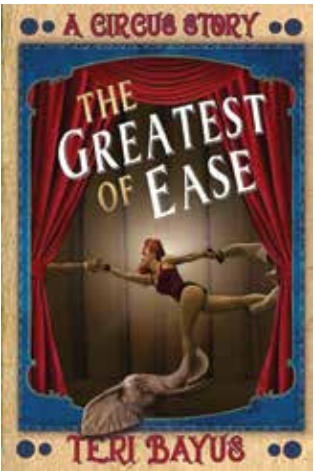


Shasta Ave. Enjoy trip-tip and refreshments and donate new/used wetsuits to support Project Surf Camp, a local non-profit that uses surfing, the beach and other ocean activities as an educational modality to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in individuals with special needs. For more information, contact the Morro Bay Clinic at 805-772-4325.

The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College presents the 2023 Student Annual Art Exhibition running through May 19. The annual juried exhibition serves to celebrate and showcase the talent and creativity of Cuesta College students, featuring ceramics, drawing, graphic design, digital art, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Submitted student artwork is juried by award-winning artist Dane Goodman. The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery is in Room 7170 on the Cuesta College San Luis Obispo campus. Admission to the gallery is free. Call (805) 546-3202 for a schedule of exhibits and hours of operation.

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 visit our website at [www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org). All programs are free to attend.

- Toddler Storytime: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. join us for stories, songs, rhymes and finger-plays!
- Chair Yoga: Every Tuesday at 11 a.m. A gentle 'mindful mobility' practice for all skill levels.



Events Continued on page 16

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Community

Events From page 15

- Booked for Lunch: Friday, May 12 at noon. Tell us about your favorite books you have read this month.
- Friday, May 26 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Author Talk with Teri Bayus: Local author Teri Bayus promotes her new book "The Greatest of Ease."

Morro Coast Audobonne Society's May Virtual Community Zoom Program is "Offshore Wind Along the Central Coast" and takes place on Monday, May 15 at 7 p.m. The presenter is Linda Krop with the Environmental Defense Center

Krop will talk about the multi-year process for development of wind energy projects offshore the Central Coast. She will discuss the state and federal planning processes, as well as the leases that were recently sold in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area. She will provide an overview of potential impacts as well as opportunities to avoid or minimize such impacts. She will also talk about the relationship between the offshore wind leases and the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Finally, she will provide information about next steps in the local wind energy development process and ways that the public can engage.

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://bit.ly/3LC4DhZ>  
All MCAS Zoom Community Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. No signup/registration required to attend. Photo submitted.



The Cal Poly Wind Bands Spring Concert features the Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

The Wind Orchestra performs works composed specifically for the band medium. It will open the concert with Viet Cuong's intricately scored work "Heart on Fire," inspired by the pastoral poetry of Mary Oliver, winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize.

The Wind Orchestra also performs Yo Goto's "Dancing in Rain" and Dello Joio's "Variants on a Mediaeval Tune."

The Wind Ensemble performs works with roots in the orchestral tradition. The group will also perform one of Joio's compositions, a rousing piece based on a string quartet

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by Franz Joseph Haydn, "Fantasies on a Theme by Haydn." The concert concludes with "Pines of Rome," the expansive tone poem by Ottorino Respighi. It paints four distinct scenes set among the Italian pines in and around the capital city, ending with the ground-shaking return of the Roman army.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 and \$20 general and \$10 students. Tickets can be purchased from the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. The Music Department offers a 20% discount to patrons who buy season tickets to four of its events through the Cal Poly Ticket Office. Photo submitted

This Mother's Day, the Cambria Nursery and Florist celebrates mom with a tropical twist - give her the gift of an experience (and time with you) at a decadent high tea featuring tropical teas and treats, or send her a unique flower arrangement bursting with tropical beauty. On May 14, at 11 a.m., bring mom to the nursery to indulge in tropical teas and other specialty beverages, along with an elegant three-tier display of high tea treats, while basking in the Cambria sunshine surrounded by garden blooms. Tickets are \$30 per person; purchase tickets by May 6 and save \$10. Visit <https://www.cambrianursery.com> to learn more and secure your tickets - all tickets must be purchased in advance.

The Tropical Tea Time in the Garden menu includes traditional high tea treats such as herbaceous scones, crustless quiches, delicate pastries and more.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast presents Pryor Baird, the singer and musician who wowed audiences on Season 14 of NBC's hit show "The Voice," in a benefit concert on May 19 at the rooftop plaza at Toyota of Santa Maria. All proceeds from the event go directly to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast. As a special treat, Pryor is bringing a "mystery guest" from Nashville to perform with him. This Nashville insider is a country radio multiple #1 hit song writer, writer of Song of the Year, a record producer and record executive and head of A&R for Black River Entertainment. Together, they will entertain with great music, fun stories, and insider information about the world of Nashville.



Tickets can be purchased through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast website [www.centralcoastkids.org](http://www.centralcoastkids.org). Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited to 100 ensuring an intimate night of music and entertainment. Tickets include a meet and greet with Pryor Baird and a hosted bar with light bites.

For more information on the benefit concert and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast, please contact Kelly Brickey at [kelly.brickey@centralcoastkids.org](mailto:kelly.brickey@centralcoastkids.org).

Morro Bay Art Association presents lecturer John Seed discussing his recent book "Disrupted Realism" on May 8 from 3 - 5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street.

John Seed is a professor emeritus of art and art history who taught at Mt. San Jacinto College for 31 years. "Disrupted Realism" is the first book to survey the works of contemporary painters who are challenging and reshaping the tradition of Realism. Helping art lovers, collectors, and artists approach and understand this compelling new phenomenon, it includes the works of 38 artists whose paintings respond to the subjectivity and disruptions of modern experience.

This lecture open and free to the public.



The Cal Poly Spring Jazz Concert will include guest artists Inga Swearingen and George Stone at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 26, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

Swearingen (voice) and Stone (trumpet and piano) will perform with Cal Poly's Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble (MOSAIC. Works composed by Thad Jones, Michael Brecker, Joe Henderson, Tower of Power and others will be on the program.

MOSAIC will soon release its album, "if you look in," with White and guest artists and Grammy Award-winners Kim Nazarian and Darmon Meader from New York Voices, and drummer Gregg Bissonette, who is currently on tour with Ringo Starr.

Swearingen graduated from the Cal Poly Music Department and then earned her master's degree in choral conducting from Florida State University. She performed for the renowned radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," more than a dozen times; was a first-place winner at the Montreux Jazz Festival Shure Vocal Competition; and was a featured soloist in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. She teaches voice and improvisation, including at Cal Poly.

Stone is director of audio technology at Cuesta College where he also teaches music theory and composition. He has been a festival adjudicator and clinician for more than 20 years and a guest composer/conductor for all levels of jazz honor bands.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 and \$20 general, \$10 students and Jazz Federation members. They can be purchased from the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849). Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. The Music Department offers a 20% discount to patrons who buy season tickets to four of its events through the Cal Poly Ticket Office.

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.



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# Community

## Cuesta College Cougar Welcome Days This Week



New and incoming first-time college students are invited to attend Cuesta College’s Cougar Welcome Days from May 3-12. The event is designed for students to gain the necessary skills to succeed in their first college semester. Faculty and staff will be on hand to provide information on areas of study, financial aid, student support services, and the steps needed to build a schedule and register for classes.

“Cougar Welcome Days is the college’s official introduction to everyone who has decided to start their education at Cuesta College,” said Director of Outreach & Enrollment Services Aaron Borgeson. “Those who attend can expect a fun event full of resources to prepare students for success inside and outside the classroom. We hope folks walk away registered for courses and feeling excited and supported as they pursue higher education at Cuesta College.”

- Cougar Welcome Days take place on:
- Wed, May 3 | 4 – 7 p.m. | San Luis Obispo Campus
  - Sat, May 6 | 9 a.m. – noon | San Luis Obispo Campus
  - Sat, May 6 | 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. | San Luis Obispo Campus
  - Tue, May 9 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. | North County Campus
  - Tue, May 9 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Virtual via Zoom
  - Fri, May 12 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. | North County Campus

Registration for Cougar Welcome Days is required. Those who plan to participate should first apply for the Fall 2023 semester and then complete the online orientation. Upon event registration, participants will select a 3-hour session to attend. The Fall 2023 semester begins on August 14.

For questions regarding Cougar Welcome Days, call (805) 546-3140.

## Hwy 41-Main Public Meeting

Morro Bay City officials will ask the public what should be done with a troublesome intersection and main entrance to town at a public meeting next week.

The Public Works Department is hosting the event set for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 10 at the Morro Bay Community center, 1001 Kennedy Way.

“This meeting will present options, like a traffic signal and roundabout,” and will have time for discussion and input from the community,” reads a notice from public works.

Those planning to attend should RSVP via email to: [GARIAS@MORROBAYCA.GOV](mailto:GARIAS@MORROBAYCA.GOV).

The 41/Main intersection is among the busiest in town and has been declared inadequate to handle the traffic load for some time. It was one of three intersections a roads study looked at for putting in a roundabout; San Jacinto-Main-Hwy 1, and Quintana/Morro Bay Boulevard being the other two. Only the Quintana-MBB intersection got a roundabout. A Main-San Jacinto roundabout was ruled out by a former city council but the idea lives on at

## Mermaid, Sea Creature & Pirate Parade, May 13



Morro Bay’s Annual Mermaid, Sea Creature and Pirate Parade is set to prance down the Harborwalk starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 13.

Children of all ages are encouraged to dress in their favorite costume — mermaid (merman?), sea creatures (like giant squids or Sigmund), or pirate (Capt. Jack Sparrow, Blackbeard, Anne Bonny, Henry Morgan or perhaps Sir Frances Drake) and meet at the end of the Harborwalk at Target Rock across the parking lot from Morro Rock.

The parade will proceed up the Harborwalk to Tognazzini’s Dock-side II where participants can get a free lunch and a bag of pirate booty for the kids. The parade is free to enter and the photos here show some of the entrants at previous Mermaid, Sea Creature and Pirate Parades.



## Cayucos Antique Street Faire

The Cayucos Chamber of Commerce hosts its twice-yearly Antique Street Faire 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday May 7 in downtown Cayucos.

“We haven’t seen dealer spaces sell out this fast in quite a while” says Jennifer Barrett, Antique Faire event manager. “We are expecting a large turnout, the event is free to the public, and we will even feature a local D.J. spinning vinyl.”

A fun, family-friendly event for antique and vintage enthusiasts, the faire will host more than 75 dealer booths with food vendors and music. Shoppers will find antiques, collectibles, furniture, art, décor, apparel, and more for sale from independent retailers.

Vehicle traffic along N. Ocean Ave will be closed from


Cayucos Drive to E Street along N. Ocean Ave and parts of D Street plus Oceanfront Ln, with detours posted between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The event is free to visitors with free parking throughout downtown. Many businesses and services in downtown will remain open for standard Sunday hours. Visitors can enjoy the street faire, hang out at the beach, and support the town’s unique shops, restaurants, and activity centers. Proceeds from vendors booth fees help support Cayucos Chamber programs and services.

Details regarding the event are available at [www.cayucoschamber.com/antique-faire](http://www.cayucoschamber.com/antique-faire).

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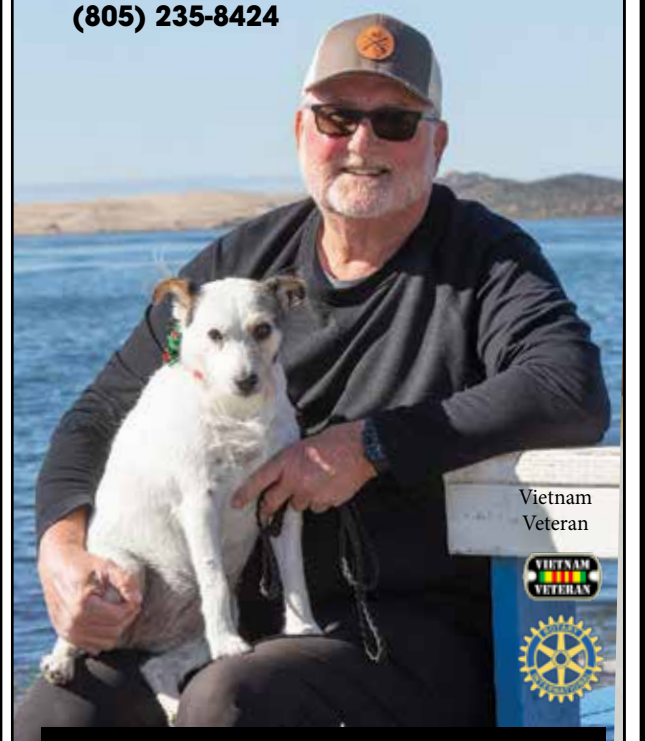
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### 2022 RECIPIENTS

- 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



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# Community

## Car Show Revs Up May 4-6



The streets of Downtown Morro Bay will once again be filled with hot rod muscles and classic cars for the 27th Annual Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show.

The festivities start Thursday, May 4 with cars coming in for registration from 5-8 p.m. at the Ocean View Garage.

Registration for participants is Friday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. followed at 5 p.m. by the Annual Cruise Night through the streets of Downtown Morro Bay.

Once the cars get lined up they will cruise a big loop through Downtown Morro Bay as people line the streets to watch the spectacle of chrome and rubber ending at 7 p.m.

Bring a fold up chair and dress for possible wind and cool temps. The main viewing area is at Main and Morro Bay Boulevard, as The Siren and Legend's Tavern seem to draw the most rambunctious, and perhaps well-oiled parade watchers.

The Show & Shine Car Show will take over the Downtown streets on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an estimated 600 cars on display.

Admission is free and organizers encourage attendees to have lunch and dinner at the many fine local restaurants both Downtown and down on the Embarcadero.

To find out more about the 2023 Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show, see: [www.morrobaycarshow.org](http://www.morrobaycarshow.org).

# Letters

## To The Editor



### 4-H Thank You

Morro Bay 4-H has been busy gathering and donating non-perishable food to the Estero Bay Kindness collation. We also made and donated Valentine's Day cards to the residents of Casa De Flores.

Due to the recent storms our 4-H farm has had severe flooding, but thanks to the hard work from our members, parents, leaders, and generous community we hope to fully recover.

On February 20th community and 4-H members came together to start the process of the "farm clean-up." We had a productive day and could not have done it without community support. Any and everything donated is greatly appreciated and we look forward to fixing our farm. Our 4-H club looks forward to helping our community and we are grateful for all the help we received.

Morro Bay 4-H President Lukas Elmerick and Bailey Dunn, reporter

### Thank You, Cathy Novak

A sincere thank you to Cathy Novak from the members of Central Coast Women for Fisheries for her help with our projects thru the years. She was instrumental in getting us through the permitting process with the City and California Coastal Commission for our waterfront sign project. These signs will inform the public of five of Morro Bay's major fisheries and will be erected soon. She also helped us with the statue at Morro Rock, "Those who wait," which was a 10-year project. Cathy has been a strong force in Morro Bay for decades, serving the community and helping people and businesses in many ways.

Sharon Rowley  
Morro Bay

### Kudos for Police Blotter

I visited Cayucos for the first time yesterday. We've always driven by on PCH but never stopped until now.

We had a lovely lunch at, I think it was Luna's, and I found a copy of your paper.

Just wanted to say I thoroughly enjoyed the police blotter! The humor and prose was very entertaining!!

Bobbie McIntyre  
Seal Beach

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

# Obituary



Fran Larson was born 1930 in New York. Abandoned shortly after birth, little is known about her birth parents except their Irish heritage. After several years bouncing around different foster homes, she was embraced by the Shay family.

She chose nursing as her vocation and devoted her professional life caring for people initially as a hospital nurse then later as an office nurse.

On a vacation tour in the mid 1950s, she met her future husband, Jody Larson. After marrying, they moved to California living in Hollister and Carmel raising their family of two daughters Mary Pat and Cathy. Although they divorced in the early 1980s their friendship was renewed later in life.

Fran adapted to California life — she even had to learn how to drive at the ripe old age of 30. Everyone knew

nurse Fran and enjoyed her sense of humor and impish personality. Some might say she had a little Leprechaun in her.

She lived in Palm Springs for a few years before "retiring" to Morro Bay pet sitting and volunteering for Del Mar school. Over her 30 years in Morro Bay, she developed an extended "family" of friends, neighbors, and caregivers who watched over her into her advanced years until her passing in March 2023.

Fran loved her Siamese soul mate Miss Molly Malone and her Morro Bay home. She often said that is where she planned to live the rest of her life. Her Morro Bay family made it possible for her wish to be fulfilled by being her guardian angels insuring she was safe in her home.

We fondly remember Miss Sassy Franny's funny remarks and miss her dearly.

## Fran Larson 1930 - 2023

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# Swimmer, Diver, Spiker, Runner and Thrower Among Honored Prep Athletes

By Neil Farrell


The Morro Bay High School Athletic Boosters have recognized the April 2023 Athletes of the Month at Morro Bay High School, as they continue to honor athletes from Spring Sports — this month volleyball, diving, track & field, tennis and swimming.

Students have been honored all this school year for accomplishments both on and off the field. The school's coaches choose athletes from their respective squads for recognition.

April's honorees are: Charlie Fryer of the Boys' Volleyball Team; Carli Peterson of Girls' Diving; Calvin Smith of the Boys' Tennis Team; Emma Massie for Girls' Swimming; and Noleena Fahy and Hunter Whitson from the Girls' and Boys' Track Teams.

## Boys' Volleyball

Boys' Volleyball Team Capt. Charlie Fryer who plays setter for the Pirates was honored for his leadership on the court. Coach Shelby Frey said, "Charlie has been the glue for our team. His leadership and abilities have pushed our team beyond our expectations. We will miss him next year as he moves on to San Diego!"




Charlie Fryer

## Girls' Diving

Sophomore diver, Carli Peterson, is being honored for the progress she's made this season for the Lady Pirates.

MBHS Girls' Swimming and Diving Coach, Jackie Samaniego said, "On behalf of me and Max Powell, we are choosing Carly Peterson for our diver of choice. She is a sophomore at MBHS, and we have seen her progress so much this season already. She has a great work ethic, is dedicated, and really listens to our corrections and applies it."




Carli Peterson

"I have been very impressed with her diving, and she seems committed to the sport and trying her best at every practice and every meet. She's a stud!"

## Boys' Tennis

Boys' Tennis player Calvin Smith is being honored for an upbeat attitude and his love of the sport.

Boys' Tennis Team Coach Jason Hanson said, "I nominate Calvin Smith for the tennis team's athlete of the month. His endless energy, enthusiasm, and positivity has made him a critical part of the tennis team. He got his first win of the season today in the last match of the year. So glad to have him on the team. He also has very good grades."




kalvin Smith

## Girls' Swimming

Girls' Team swimmer, Emma Massie, is being honored for her character, among other outstanding attributes.

MBHS Girls Swim Coach Laurel Carpenter said, "My swimmer of the month for MBHS girls swim is Emma Massie! There are so many good things I could say about Emma, but what always stands out to me is her character. Emma is someone that takes advice seriously and applies it right away. It shows in the way she's made huge improvements in her times this season already!"




Emma Massie

## Track & Field


The Boys' and Girls' Track & Field Teams each nominated one athlete with Coach Charlie Ogle honoring runner Noleena Fahy and thrower Hunter Whitson.

Coach Ogle said, Noleena Fahy, a junior, "is a leader on the distance squad, respected for her positive attitude and dedication to running. With personal bests in the 800 meters, 1600 meters and 3200 meters this season, she is poised to score significant points for the Pirates at the Ocean League Championships on May 4, and to advance to the CIF Div. 3 Finals."




Noleena Fahy

Senior Hunter Whitson, "is the teams most accomplished all-around thrower this season," Coach Ogle said, "with a personal best shot put of 39-feet 5-inches and a 113'8" heave in the discus. With his approachable personality and success in both football and in the rings, Hunter has a positive impact on our crew of young throwers. We expect him to finish his career with big efforts at Ocean League Finals and at CIF."



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Community

**San Salvador** From page 1  
will be eye-candy along Morro Bay's Harbor Walk while docked at the Embarcadero's south T Pier. Public tours on the vessel will be daily from 10a-5p, August 11-20. Tickets are on sale now at [www.my805tix.com](http://www.my805tix.com).

Many of you have generously said you enjoy the stories I write for EBN. I've written numerous MBMM feature stories, but I have never shared my personal story with the organization. My hope and request is our community step-up again as you all did in 2015 when the San Salvador visited before. We need volunteer docents onboard to share the ship's story. Your time will be twice blessed because MMSD is again sharing tour revenue 50-50 with our local museum. Our goal is to have funds banked to begin our expansion projects recently approved by the City of Morro Bay.

Back in 2015 I was interviewing Jack Smith, Morro Bay's world-renowned skateboard aficionado and Chamber of Commerce Living Treasure award recipient. He asked and answered, "Do you know the three most photographed areas in Morro Bay? Morro Rock, of course, then that big submarine parked across from GAFCO, and then my skateboard museum." He encouraged me to interview his Morro Bay High School buddy, Larry Newland.

For years each weekend Newland and volunteers set up to collect donations as they told the DSRV Avalon story. It is one of two rescue submarines built by the US Navy after the loss of USS Thresher's crew. Newland revealed what the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association's history. During the early 1990s a few dreamers inspired by the late Brent Roberts began their mission to site a maritime museum on the Central Coast. Read their full history and MBMM's historic fleet exhibit history at [www.morrobay-maritime.org](http://www.morrobay-maritime.org).

They hosted several tall ship visits and worked multiple Morro Bay Harbor festivals, ultimately receiving a significant grant from proceeds from the final event. But it wasn't until Newland secured the DSRV-Avalon, on loan from the Navy, and positioned it on the Embarcadero for public viewing that locals realized the economic potential of a maritime museum in Morro Bay.

My husband Bob and I had recently vacationed at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. We witnessed firsthand how a maritime museum offered tourism revenue potential for Morro Bay. We willingly drank CCMMA's Kool-Aid. Their dream became our dream to preserve our maritime history and fishing village culture. We asked to join CCMMA's board of directors to help make it happen.

Timing is everything they say! The first meeting in February was our reality check! Newland announced the San Salvador was coming to Morro Bay in October. I must admit I freaked at all we needed to do to maximize the ben-

efits from the ship's visit. Bob and I traveled to San Diego to see the ship and met our partner's leadership, CEO Ray Ashley and VP Susan Sirota. We confirmed MMSD's commitment to financially support a future museum in Morro Bay. They agreed to support a community investment campaign while the San Salvador visited.

Frankly, after 15 years living and covering news and events in Morro Bay, it was the first time I literally heard total local positivity about efforts to build our own maritime museum. Our community stepped up to support and make the museum project happen. Generous local community partnerships were created — school children, businesses, professionals, seniors and nonprofits giving their time, voice, discounts and dollars to build the museum's first building. And by moving the DSRV-Avalon and historic tugboat Alma, donated by the Kelsey Winery family to our newly leased land, another partnership forged with the City of Morro Bay.

As a thank you to our community the board announced at the grand opening in 2016 to open free to the public for as many days as we could muster volunteers to staff it. It is still free and open Wednesdays through Mondays.

A shout-out to original board members Jane and Walter Heath. Jane donated her attorney skills to negotiate the terms on MBMM's initial lease. Walter did the heavy lifting to rally the mega number of volunteers needed to conduct 10 days of public tours, Judy Anne and Terry Cross managed merchandise sales. Bob McCay made sure we stayed within budget. And all board members (except one) contributed to the 1542 Navigators Circle, MBMM's financial founders, by either donating or providing someone to contribute to the campaign. Dana McClish was the general contractor and, newly recognized Citizen of the Year, Bonnie Jones, furthered the campaign by designing and operating the ongoing memorial brick and bench programs.

It took a community to build the dream! Too many to mention offered their time, dollars, and influence to convert the dream to reality and continue to guide and support MBMM.

During and since 2020 newly elected MBMM board president, Bonnie Jones, and past-president Scott Mather along with their board of trustees added more exhibits inside and out. Individuals with maritime treasures to preserve entrusted the museum to someday display their artifacts. And it was officially announced April 21 at the Chamber's Gala that MBMM has been granted a longer lease and approval for a major waterfront expansion program thanks to mega-support from the Chamber's most recent Living Treasure, Cathy Novak.

As I say often, if you haven't been to the Morro Bay Maritime Museum since it opened in 2016, you haven't seen MBMM. And with the San Salvador visit and revenue




MBMM Maritime friend with Bonnie Jones, board president and Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year

sharing in August, timing is perfect to help fund our community's next waterfront enhancement project.


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Cell Bell From page 1

The bell tower won't actually have bells, but just house the cell site, according to Community Development Director, Scot Graham. Its dimensions are 7-feet by 7-feet at the base and 25-feet tall.

"The project," reads a City report, "also proposes an upgrade of associated equipment in the existing equipment fenced storage area located on the west side of the church parking lot."

The church property covers some 0.72-acres and is surrounded by residential properties, with a few other neighborhood churches also located in the vicinity in Morro Heights. Under the City's muni codes, such telecommunications facilities are allowed anywhere in town.

The City said, "Stealth facilities such as this project in which the antenna and the support equipment are hidden from view in a structure or concealed as an architectural feature are permitted in all districts subject to Conditional Use Permit approval. Therefore, the applicant is requesting Conditional Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit approvals to allow for the modification of the existing telecommunication site."

Also, "The bell tower has been designed to blend in with the church use and resemble a church bell tower with a short mansard style roof, curved windows with louvers on all sides, and stucco exterior finish to match church building. The tower is also proposed at 25-feet in height consistent with the standard building height maximum in the R-2 zone district."

R-2 is a zoning designation that is mostly for residential — single family homes as well as apartments and condos — and also some other uses like churches.

The City code also says that no new freestanding cell sites can be located "within 1,000 feet of another freestanding facility unless appropriate camouflage techniques have been used to minimize the visual impact of the facility to the extent feasible and mounting on a building or co-location on an existing pole or tower is not feasible."

So a 25-foot tall bell tower located where there was none before, is camouflage enough, sort of like hiding in plain sight, though most of the surrounding homes appear to be single story, as is the church.

"In this case," the report said, "the project is a replacement of an existing on-site facility and not a new facility. The existing facility at this site has been concealed within the cross and steeple feature of the church."

T-Mobile has said the new equipment it wants to install won't fit inside the cross, so a new tower is needed.

"Construction of the faux bell tower," the City report said, "provides an opportunity to meet the project's desired coverage objectives of meeting current telecommunication needs while also concealing the site with appropriate camouflage techniques as described in the zoning code standards."

The cell tower inside the cross goes back to 2007, when Sprint/Nextel got a permit and built the 26-foot tall cell site hidden inside the cross. That original permit had language that allowed for a future upgrade that would

## Local Actor Referenced in Documentary About Julian Roffman

Los Osos resident Jack Betts, who also worked under the name Hunt Powers, was recently interviewed for a documentary about director Julian Roffman.

Roffman directed a 1959 film called "The Bloody Brood" starring Peter Falk and co-starring Betts.

The film launched Jack's long career which included starring roles in Italian "spaghetti" westerns in the early seventies.

Jack later returned to the United States worked in soap operas including roles on "General Hospital", "One Life to Live," "The Edge of Night," "Another World," "All my Children" and "Search for Tomorrow".

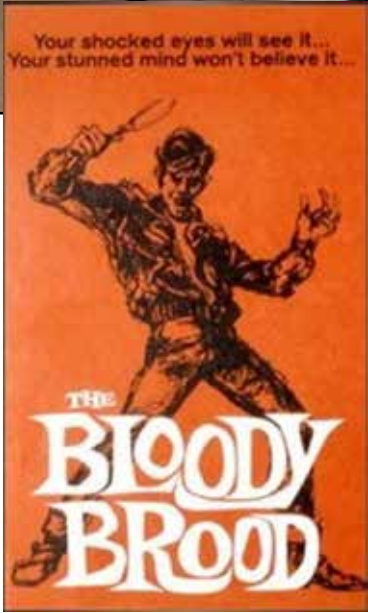
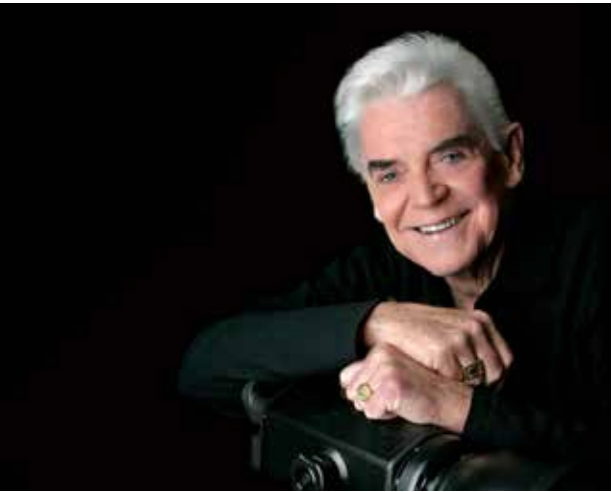
Some of his other work includes roles on "Perry Mason," "Bonanza," "Gunsmoke," "It Takes a Thief," "Kojak," "Remington Steele," "Falcon Crest", "In the Heat of the Night," "Seinfeld," "Frasier," "Mike Hammer," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Friends", "My Name is Earl," "Monk" and more.

His career spanned the big screen as well, including "Sugar Colt," "Dead Men Don't Make Shadows," "A Barrel Full of Dollars," "A Fist Full of Death," "The Assassination of Trotsky," "Dead Men Don't Die," "Falling Down," "Batman Forever," "Batman and Robin," "Gods and Monsters," "Office Space," "8 mm," "Spiderman" and many more.

Since his first role in 1953, Jack's career has spanned stage, film, television, directing and writing.

### Publisher's Note:

Jack is my uncle, brother to my mom Joan Sullivan. He recently relocated from LA to Los Osos. He has been an inspiration to me my entire life. The man has 70 years of an acting career and just does not stop. Photos by Dean Sullivan



allow a 30-foot tall cross, plus the 20' by 10' building in the parking lot. That small building would have electronic equipment and batteries to power the equipment in case of outages.

Since then, Sprint/Nextel merged with T-Mobile, which has two other cell sites within the city — inside a small lattice enclosure underneath a high voltage power tower on the hilltop at the end of Radcliff Street; and a cell site on top of Rock Harbor Church, near the intersection of South Bay Boulevard and Quintana Road.

Cell towers, especially as they've grown more powerful with technological advances have raised some concerns about radio frequency electromagnetic exposure or RF-EME, which some contend can be harmful. The same claims have long been made about the high voltage electrical transmission wires that cross Main Street and Hwy 1 at the rear of the power plant.

Global Technology Associates did a technical report for this project back in August 2021.

"The report," the City said, "was determined to be within Federal Communications Commission maximum exposure limits and in compliance with FCC rules and regulations."

And under Federal Regulations, concerns about RF-EME cannot be used to block telecommunications projects if testing has shown it to be within safety limits.

The report concluded that there would be no harmful levels of exposure from the new cell site.

"At roof-level the anticipated maximum predictive RF-EME will be 18.8% of FCC's occupational limit. At ground level, the maximum power density generated by the antennas is approximately 94% of FCC's general public limit or 18.8% of occupational limit.

"Lastly, it should be noted that these results include worst-case scenario assumptions and therefore are expected to overstate actual power density levels."

Graham said the Planning Commission's approval of the project came with some added conditions.

"The Planning Commission," Graham told Estero Bay News, "added conditions requiring a nearby tree be kept; that the bell tower be maintained similar to other buildings on the property; that more articulation be added to the bell tower; requirement that the RF signage include the name of the engineer or record; and a requirement for a post construction RF-EME report be prepared showing the facility operating in compliance with FCC emission requirements."

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



Community

New Mural From page 1



Peggy and David Rogers hold his fine art print of a watercolor he did of the 2019 Morro Bay Kite Festival that was used as the main artwork for a huge, 50-foot long mural on the side of their art gallery, at the corner of Monterey Avenue and Morro Bay Boulevard. Photo by Neil Farrell

years.

The inspiration, David says, was to do something in tandem with Visit Morro Bay (a non-profit association for tourism promotions), and the kite festival and to celebrate a milestone for their business.

“We are about to sign a new 5-year lease,” Davis says, “and we consider ourselves permanent parts of the community, so we wanted to make a positive contribution.”

And fine art is what they do best, so it made sense to do a mural. The building has long been known as the “Anderson Building,” according to the Morro Bay Historical Society’s walking tour of Downtown Morro Bay.

Over the decades it has been a post office and dry goods store and in the 21st Century it’s been an art gallery, first for John Ramos and now Rogers.

Peggy adds that it was a combination of that and a “celebration of the fact that we’re here, we’re happy and excited” for the future.

The original watercolor that David painted has become the best selling of his fine art, giclee (printed on canvas), offerings. In 2019, the last time they had the full Kite Festival before the pandemic shut everything down, David said he went down to the beach and took a bunch of photos of the colorful flying things and pieced them together for his watercolor work.

Peggy said they were so excited to see the Kite Festival was coming back in 2022 and were looking forward to it again this year. The Kite Festival took place this year from April 29-30, so the mural dedicated to the Kite Festival was completed just before the 2023 festival.

But David is a watercolorist, and not so much a muralist, so they searched around and eventually found muralist,

Emily Tayman, at the Chamber of Commerce’s monthly mixer in March.

“She did the majority of the work,” explains David, who adds that their son, Joseph, helped paint it too.

With images of giant spinner windsocks, which serious kite flyers attach to their strings, lying outside the main image of the mural, it has a 3D feel to it.

That was what they were going for, David says. “We wanted the painting to be the central focus of the work.” The colorful windsocks fly outside the area of the painting and there is a father-son duo also outside the main painting, seeming to be flying a kite.

Peggy adds that they also put in a photo opportunity spot where people walking by can pose pretending they are flying a kite; it’s a common feature in public murals today, to have the viewer become part of the artwork.

So the Rogers consider the mural a gift to the community and hope it helps bring folks together over a shared love of art, the wind, beach and kites.

As for their future, they look forward to the new lease and continuing to get back to a normal routine that will include a return of art classes they used to host at the gallery.

During the pandemic, with in-person gatherings mostly banned, they started doing workshops online, where David says they could reach a worldwide audience.

But his former students long for a return to the in-person classes. “We learned that we don’t need to do workshops,” David says, “but the community enjoys it so much.” They now plan to bring the classes back, and continue the online workshops as well.

To find out more about the artist and the gallery offerings, see: DavidRogersArt.com.

COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 AT 10 AM

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Community for ALL Rally and March

Los Osos-Baywood Park

nation,” and how to make a change.

“I hope the part of the community that wants to be supportive of minority groups becomes more aware that while Los Osos is a wonderful place where most people feel safe, a small portion of the population still experiences discrimination and hate,” Rey said. “...It [can be] easier for the majority to forget to check in with their privilege and strive to be aware of how to combat prejudice and discrimination in everyday life.”

Rey will speak at the rally and pass out flyers they wrote urging people to “closely examine who they are, what that might mean for their place in society, and call them to action to listen more closely to those whose voices might not be so amplified in the community.”

Rey is interested in putting on future events focused on inclusion, diversity and checking our privilege as a community.

The South Bay Community Park is located at 2180 Palisades in Los Osos.

Rally From page 1

“I was not one of the organizers of the event, nor am I a member of that community,” Lady told Estero Bay News. “I just saw so much incorrect information presented as fact. So much refusal to become educated about a group of people who were being degraded and threatened. It really made me angry.”

Ultimately, Central Coast Kink Community canceled the adult-only “SLO Fetish Ball: The Future of Kink” billed as primarily educational with workshops on consent, rules, and information to engage in safe kink and fetish practices.

Rey, who identifies as non-binary, connected with the inequity observed having faced it themselves.

“I have always seen and experienced discrimination

in Los Osos, as a brown, openly queer person,” Rey said. “I’ve recently come out as non-binary, and saw so much transphobia around me. Once the social media drama happened with the Fetish Ball, I realized that I might finally be believed by the majority that our mostly happy, wonderful town does have discrimination. It’s absolutely not the whole town, or even a majority. But those who do hate and discriminate are surprisingly comfortable doing so. I realized that I had to seize this moment to really show that nice majority that more could be done, and ask for their help to make the hate more hesitant and the discrimination less comfortable.”

Now that Rey has children, the desire to affect change and make others aware of ways they exhibit bias and prejudice, even without knowing it, has taken center stage. The goal is to educate people about “less bold forms of discrimi-



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