

MBHS Celebrates a Year of Athletic Achievement



Multi-sport standout, Aiden Blackwood, and water polo standout, Josephine Davis were the Male and Female Athletes of the Year for 2023.



Michael Carbajal and Noleena Fahy won Platinum Pirate Awards for Cross Country.



Samantha Rocha, left, receives a scholarship from the Athletic Booster's Club, which was presented by Ken Hotaling. (Alejandro Alvarez, John Skaggs, and Carmen Spahr also got Booster's scholarships but were not at the awards ceremonies.)

Story and Photos By Neil Farrell

With the school year winding down and graduation just around the corner, Morro Bay High School's Athletic Department and Booster's Club handed out the Annual Platinum Pirate Awards for each sports program, and named the male and female Athletes of the Year in a ceremony with roots back to the school's first graduating class in 1960.

First year Athletic Director, Tyler Hoyt, was emcee for the awards ceremony and banquet held May 13 for the first time in the school's new cafeteria and theater.

Hoyt said the top athletes this year were an easy choice for the coaches and staff that met to decide the awards. While one might think there'd be long debates, the truth is, he said, the two honorees were unanimous first ballot selections.

"Both of these winners were quickly decided on," Hoyt told Estero Bay News. The Male Athlete of the Year went to multi-sport standout, Aiden Blackwood, and the Female Athlete of the Year was water polo standout, Josephine Davis.

"Both of them earned All League honors," Hoyt said. "Josephine was All CIF, and led the team to a second place finish in the Division II CIF Championship game." Davis is a junior, so she'll have another year to improve upon an already stellar record.

Blackwood, a senior, was one of the top football players

in the Central Section of CIF. "For Aiden," Hoyt said, "he finished the season with 180 tackles earning him the most tackles in the CIF Central Section.

"He played both sides of the ball all football season, and he was a dynamic athlete during the track and field season, as one of the top hurdlers and high jumpers in the league. Aiden will be playing football and running track at Santa Barbara City College next year."

Blackwood led the Pirates to a second consecutive Ocean League Track & Field Championship.

As for Davis' future sporting opportunities, Hoyt said she had begun to get attention from some big name schools. "Josephine is beginning to be recruited," Hoyt said. "Michigan, Princeton, and Brown have already reached out to her."

Both their names will be added to the perpetual trophies that have the names of every winner engraved on them going back to the first graduating class in 1960.

There's another school wide award the Pirates hand out — the Good Gal and Good Guy Awards given to students that not only perform on the field and in the pool, but are inspirations to their teammates and set proper examples of sportsmanship and love of team and school.

This year's Good Gal and Guy Awards went to Hannah Colleti and Charlie Fryer, Hoyt said.

New this year was the Ron Roundy Family Scholarship Award begun by the family of the late-Ron Roundy, who was a big supporter of the school cross country program,

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City to Repair South Bay, Preston Lane



The shoulder on South Bay Boulevard in Morro Bay raised concerns that the asphalt surface would crack off and fall away. Photo submitted

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is extending a roads repair contract to include fixes to a slip out on South Bay Boulevard and destruction of a portion of Preston Lane during this past winter's major storms.

Public Works asked the City Council to approve an additional \$300,000 on an emergency basis to Papich Const., of Arroyo Grande's existing contract for the City's normal street repair job. It was the second amendment in the contract.

Last October Papich had been awarded a \$1.27 million tackle a long list of road repairs that involved digging out, repairing and repaving in some cases, long swaths of roadways all over town. But the winter's rains — especially storms in January and March — caused a lot of extra damage to the roads including South Bay Boulevard.

The City already amended the contract once for \$63,700 back in March for repairs on South Bay. With this second amendment Papich's contract has risen to some \$1.63 million.

Since then, the late storms of March caused a slip out under the shoulder/bike lane on South Bay Boulevard on the Los Osos side of Chorro Creek.

According to a report, "the City experienced storms of epic proportions that brought intense rain and flooding to the Morro Creek and Chorro Creek basins. Flooding resulted in closures of South Bay Boulevard resulting from both storm events. The March 10, 2023, flooding event left

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Moving Forward: Introducing the New Owners of Virg's Landing



Rotary Club of Morro Bay President John Solu, Lisa and Ron Casey, owners of Virg's Landing, Michael Williams, RCMB membership chair, and Lue and Joe Case. Photo submitted

By Judy Salamacha

Earlier this month on a Tuesday about 1:30 p.m., I was walking up the boat ramp after attending a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay. Suddenly I was distracted by a parade of fishermen carrying their netted bags full of fish. Obviously, they were homebound after time

at sea.

My brain jumped from musings about the many facts and stories Rotarians had just learned from Morro Bay resident Tim Bridwell. He is the presentations coordinator for the Friends of the Elephant Seals. As a docent Bridwell has learned just about everything anyone might want to ask about the mammoth Elephant Seals at the Piedras

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MBHS Student Wins NYT Writing Contest

By Neil Farrell



A Morro Bay High School student has been named one of the winners of a New York Times student writing contest, the school announced last week.

Called the "Eighth Annual Student Review Contest," and sponsored by the New York Times newspaper, the contest was conducted in the Fall of 2022.

"The contest," reads a news release from MBHS, "invites students to play critic by writing an original critique about their reaction to books, movies, restaurants, video games, music or fashion. Orion Elfant Rea wrote a critique

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Driver's Beware — Speed Limits Changing

By Neil Farrell



Drivers in Morro Bay beware — some of the most heavily driven streets in town are getting their speed limits changed and traffic enforcement can go into effect immediately, after the City Council decided to declare the changes an emergency situation.

The council was faced with having the City's official "Citywide Speed Survey" expire, and so elected to declare an emergency and go around a 30-day lag period before the new 2023 Citywide Speed Survey could go into effect.

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News

Morro Bay to Support Pride



The City of Morro Bay will raise the Rainbow Pride Flag at City Hall throughout the month of June in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

The decision to raise the Pride Flag stems from a resolution approved by the City Council of Morro Bay on November 22, 2022. The resolution highlights the “City’s commitment to supporting diversity, inclusivity, equity and respect in our City. It acknowledges the diverse and valuable contributions made by LGBTQ+ residents, students, employees, and business owners in the City.”

The Rainbow Pride Flag, also known as the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag or Gay Pride Flag, has been a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and social movements since the 1970s. By raising the flag, the City of Morro Bay aims to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors.

In June 2022, the City Council declared June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Month, representing Morro Bay’s celebration of diversity and support for the LGBTQ+ community. This year, the City takes another step forward by officially establishing the Rainbow Pride Flag as a commemorative flag of Morro Bay. The flag will be flown throughout June to symbolize the City’s recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month and symbolizes the City’s celebration of diversity and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

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City Reports on Impact Fee Funds



By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is in the act of passing a new fiscal year budget (FY 2023-24), and recently filed a required annual report on all the various funds for which it collects impact fees, stashing the money away until there’s enough to do projects.

Under the Government Code, cities that collect impact fees must compile an annual status report on those monies, which are mandated under the Mitigation Fee Act to be included in reporting starting 5-years after collected.

Morro Bay has several of these impact fees for which it charges varying amounts depending on the development being proposed and in some cases the location too.

Assistant City Manager/Admin Services Director, Sarah Johnson-Rios, compiled the report for Morro Bay and said the amounts given in the report “represent the entirety of any fund that is more than 5-years old.”

The system is how the City plans for and pays for specified projects and public improvements on things like parks, infrastructure and public facilities. “A portion of the fees currently deposited in the City’s Development Impact Funds for: Administration, Streets, Highway 41/Main Street, Traffic Impact, Storm Drain, Calvary Baptist Drain, Sewer Master Plan, and Flood Hazard Plan,” Johnson-Rios’ report said.

One of the funds it has been collecting money on is the “Administration Development Impact Fee Fund” which currently has \$261,000 in it that has yet to be spent.

It justifies the fees and holding on to them because “the unexpended funds described above and the purpose for which they were generated because expanded City facilities are required to accommodate the additional service needs associated with the properties that paid these fees.”

Indeed, this is the same justification used for all of these fee funds.

The City anticipates the fees will be moved around to a fund where they can be spent in 2024, assuming they have identified a project by then. Otherwise under the law, they will just change the date to sometime in the future.

There is \$45,600 in the “Street Maintenance Development Fee Fund” that the City expects to spend this year.

The largest impact fee project at this point is the Highway 41/Main Street intersection, which the City is planning to rebuild either with a roundabout or a traffic light. (The City Council is supposed to decide which project it wants to pursue at it June 13 meeting.)

Funding has always been the bane of this project, which has seen cost go up greatly for the preferred project — a roundabout. Now the City is estimating the roundabout there will cost from \$8-\$12 million.

According to Johnson-Rios’ report the estimated total cost for the intersection is \$8.87 million. “The City’s funding sources will include unexpended Highway 41/Main Development Impact Fees of \$45,242, \$1,800,000 in Measure E District Transaction Tax, \$600,000 General Fund appropriation, \$70,630 Transit Fund appropriation, \$3,282,705 in grant funding, and other available capital funding sources.”

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLO-COG), the agency that doles out State and Federal Highway monies for local roads projects, is holding millions in allocations to the project over the past decade or more.

The “Traffic Development Impact Fee Fund” currently has \$30,900 in it and is to be used to “design and implement traffic improvements to mitigate impacts of new development,” according to Johnson-Rios’ report.

Something called the “Storm Drain Development Impact Fee Fund” has just \$4,200 in it. It’s purpose is to “design and improve the City’s storm drain facilities to accommodate new development.”

And something called the “Calvary Baptist Drain Development Impact Fee Fund” has \$314 in it. Estero Bay News asked Johnson-Rios what this fund was for, as there is no church called “Calvary Baptist” currently in Morro Bay. It’s apparently so old its purpose has been forgotten.

“The small balance in the ‘Calvary Baptist Drain Development Impact Fee,’” she said, “is an old, small balance that has been carried forward. Staff is researching the history of that particular fee.”

The “Sewer Master Plan Development Impact Fee Fund” has just \$37,200 in it; and the “Flood Hazard Development Impact Fee Fund” has \$17,300 in it. The purpose of these monies is to improve flood hazard areas in the city, according to the report. The City is planning to temporarily repair Preston Lane, which was torn up greatly by this past winter’s fierce storms and flooding in January and March, but that project was budgeted at \$100,000.

The City also collects so-called “Government Impact Fees” on developments intended to help pay for services like police, fire, and infrastructure — streets and storm

drains.

“Government Impact Fees,” the report said, “are collected to ensure that new development pays the cost of infrastructure expansion required to meet the needs of that new development, effectively transferring the cost burden of growth from the existing rate and taxpayers.”

The various fees in this category and their balances as of FY 2021-22 are: Administration — \$649,000; Police Fees — \$47,700; Fire Fees — \$82,100; Street Fees — \$598,800; Parks Fees — \$289,600 and Storm Drain Fees showed a balance of zero dollars. Overall, these funds have \$1.6 million.

As for expenditures, the City transferred some \$9,900 to help pay for a pipeline repair job at Kern and Anchor streets; and \$23,000 to help pay for the new bocce ball courts at Shasta and Kennedy Way.

It also took \$1,400 out of the fund to repave the annex (parking lot) at the police station.

Under “Potential Future Projects” the City lists \$400,000 for “Citywide Capital and Facilities Planning;” and \$159,000 for the police department to get an automated license plate reader camera system. The fire department shows no planned projects but has a impact fee balance of \$82,100.

Potential street projects include a project to renovate the Rock restrooms (\$75,000) and making the intersection of Main and Quintana more ADA accessible for \$180,500.

The City Council has also allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies in each of the past two years to this project.

Under Storm Drain Impact Fees, the City lists \$120,000 for storm drain repairs on Sequoia Court; and \$83,000 for storm drain repairs at Juniper and Elena (total \$203,000).

Parks projects listed were — \$120,000 to improve the parking lot at Lila Keiser Park for handicap access; and \$30,000 for the bocce ball courts.

The City lists \$1.16M in expenditures planned out of the \$1.66M available.

Under the Affordable Housing In Lieu Fees the City started with \$257,300 balance in 2021-22 and allocated \$150,000 to the low income apartments being built at the intersection of Hwy 41 and Sunset Avenue by the Housing Authority.

As for Sewer Impact Fees, the City transferred all of the money out of this fund, \$142,300 to the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project leaving a zero balance.

The same was done with \$142,000 in the Water Impact Fees Fund, zeroing out that fund, too.

Johnson-Rios explained the intricacies of some of these

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News

fees. “Regarding the Main/Hwy 41 impact fees,” she explained, “those are based on the location of the development [only subdivision, commercial or multi-family projects]. These types of developments where the intersection would be primarily used to get to and from the development are required to provide a traffic study to determine how much their development would increase traffic at the Main/ Hwy 41 intersection.

“The increase of traffic to that intersection is used to determine the percentage of the developments shared cost to pay for the roundabout project.”

Some of these fees are mandated under State Law. For example, the law that requires subdivisions to provide park space or pay in lieu fees is called the “Quimby Act.”

“It is a part of the Subdivision Map Act and used as a condition for approval of a parcel or tract map,” Johnson-Rios said. “A parcel map is required when a developer subdivides land into 4 or less lots and tract map is for 5 or more lots. This developer must dedicate a portion of the land for a park or pay an in-lieu fee to the agency for park lands, improvements, community centers, recreation facilities, trails or open spaces. Park impact fees are for developments that do not require a parcel or tract map.”

The Subdivision Map Act dates back to the early 1900s.

Supervisors Dole Out \$450,000 of Diablo Closure Monies

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors approved awarding some \$450,000 in grants for two non-profit agencies working on economic development issues.

Supervisors approved a \$300,000 grant for the “Regional Economic Action Coalition” or REACH to support “economic development activities in support of the County,” reads a staff report. They also approved \$150,000 for the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce for something called, “SLO County Family-Friendly Workplace Program.”

The monies are coming out of the County’s share of Senate Bill 1090, a law signed in 2018 by former Gov. Jerry Brown, that dealt with the economic impacts from the just announced closure of Diablo Canyon power plant. SB 1090 sought to soften the economic blow from the plant’s closure.

However, the plant has since been OK’d to continue operations for another 5-10 years after its licenses expire in 2024 and 2025.

One of the provisions in SB 1090 was \$85 million in “community impact mitigation funds” paid by Pacific Gas & Electric’s ratepayers.

That slug of money was divided into “Economic Development Funds” of \$10 million; and the “Essential Services Mitigation and Stabilization Fund,” with \$75 million.

The County got \$3.6 million in EDF monies with the remaining amount divvied up between the cities in SLO County. The County is also expecting \$27.9 million of the ESMS monies, with the remainder being shared by the cities, school districts and other agencies.

However, since 2018 Diablo Canyon was given a reprieve from closure with SB 846, which Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law in December 2022 that gave PG&E a pathway to keep the plant open to help bolster the State’s energy grid, especially in times of high demand like the annual summer heat waves, and prevent the need for rolling blackouts.

The thought is to buy some time with Diablo Canyon’s continued operations until the State can fully replace its 2,500 megawatts of power with so-called renewable and emissions-free energy sources.

Part of SB 846 was preservation of the SB 1090 monies even though the plant doesn’t appear to be closing anytime soon. There is however a legal challenge that has been filed by local anti-nuclear power organizations seeking to force Diablo’s closure on the previous schedule.

Supervisors had previously approved a list of categories for use of the County’s SB 1090 monies — a Tax Reduction Reserve Fund; affordable housing; safety; infrastructure; roads, libraries; and economic development.

The County has been squirreling away the SB 1090 monies into a special account in the General Fund as it’s been received. Before the current allocation of \$450,000 there was \$1.9 million in that fund.

The County expects to get a total of \$3.9 million in the economic development monies.

It had in 2020 previously given REACH \$400,000 out of the economic development fund for its 2030 economic strategy a plan drafted over a year’s time by REACH, with “input from 1,000 residents and 200 regional leaders” with the goal of “creating 15,000 good paying jobs over the coming decade through six strategic initiatives,” the report said.

The previous grant for REACH was \$300,000 for “core economic development services” and \$100,000 to assist in the development and publishing of REACH’s most significant work to date — the “Central Coast Emerging Industries Waterfront Siting and Infrastructure Study” that took a deep dive into the proposed offshore floating wind farms being studied now by three companies that won leases from the Federal Government for sizable areas in the open ocean to install floating wind turbines.

The REACH study looked at the onshore infrastructure needs to support the huge wind farms, including a

deep-water port and 40-50-acre manufacturing and maintenance facility and floating work quay. Its conclusion was that there is nowhere in SLO County that could currently fill that need but the harbor at Diablo Cove might be rebuilt and greatly expanded.

The County and REACH have been working together on economic development planning since the group was formed in 2018.

“The County Economic Development Manager,” reads the report, “and other County staff actively collaborate, shape, participate, and contribute to various REACH activities and initiatives, alongside counterparts in city governments, the Santa Barbara County government, and a variety of other stakeholders. In particular, the County closely works with REACH on planning for the economic impacts of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant decommissioning, emerging industry development [particularly offshore wind], and regional planning activities such as the federal Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy [CEDS] and the state Community Economic Resilience Fund [CERF]. REACH’s economic development efforts in support of San Luis Obispo County are funded by a variety of private and public sources.”

So in less the past 3 years, SLO County has granted REACH some \$700,000. But just who is REACH?

According to the report, “REACH, the Regional Economic Action Coalition, unites public, private, and civic leaders across the Central Coast with the mission to increase economic prosperity through big thinking, bold action, and regional collaboration.” It is a 501(C)(3), non-profit, public benefit corporation (see: <https://reach-centralcoast.org>).

This is also not the first time Supervisors have granted sizable amounts to the SLO Chamber of Commerce, which was given \$75,000 back in the 2021-22 fiscal year budget that was used to hire a Family Friendly Workplace coordinator.

This additional \$150,000 — \$75,000 each for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 — is to “support the program’s second and third years of establishment and growth,” the County report said. “The SLO Chamber of Commerce expects to transition the funding model for the program after FY 2023-24 and will not seek further funding from the County for future years of program activities.”

But just what is a “Family Friendly Workplace” program? According to the County, “While child care availability, accessibility, and affordability have long been challenges on the Central Coast with impacts on employers as well as families, the COVID-19 Pandemic made the challenges more acute.

“The SLO County Family-Friendly Workplaces Program aims to address these challenges in two ways: 1) educate SLO County employers on strategies to attract and

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Big Raises Ahead for County Supervisors

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors will be getting sizable raises after approving in 2021 a course of action that tied their salaries to those of their legislative assistants.

County Human Resources Director, Tami Douglas-Schatz’ report on the issue, said a new ordinance was approved in May 2021 (by the previous board) increasing their salaries from \$86,100 to \$90,400, effective July 11, 2021. The law, which has several subsections, has two provisions that Douglas-Schatz said apply here.

“Subsection (1) a. of County Code Section 2.48.095 also states in part, ‘It is intended that the annual salary of members of the board of supervisors be a minimum of twenty-five percent above the annual salary of the legislative assistant classification,’” Douglas-Schatz said. “Subsection (2) states in part, ‘Board of Supervisors’ wages shall be reviewed against data collected in a manner similar to the manner used to determine prevailing wage for recognized employee organizations.’”

She explained that in 2021, Supervisors’ pay was 9.6% above their assistants’ pay, and the pay difference has shrunk even more since then.

“As no additional increases have been applied to the Board of Supervisors’ compensation since 2021,” she said, “the annual salary of the Board of Supervisors is now only 5.4% above the annual salary of the Legislative Assistant classification. Absent future increases to the Board of Supervisors’ compensation, the annual salary of the Board of Supervisors will be only 2.8% above the annual salary of the Legislative Assistant classification in July 2023, and will only be 0.3% above in July 2024.”

Last February, Douglas-Schatz said, “The County Human Resources Department conducted a compensation study for the Board of Supervisors, comparing their salaries to those of other Board members in similar California agencies. The survey results indicate that Board members are paid about 22% below the market median.”

One other method could be used to compare Supervisors’ salaries — comparing them to salaries of Superior Court judges, but again, the SLO Supervisors were lagging behind.

“On average,” Douglas-Schatz said, “the Board members’ salary for these comparable agencies is 61% of the Superior Court Judges’ salary.”

So no matter how you slice it, according to Douglas-Schatz, the Supervisors were due a raise.

So she proposed and Supervisors approved a new salary schedule that has some whopping raises in rapid succession that anyone might envy.

“In order to bring the Board of Supervisors’ annual salary the appropriate amount above the annual salary of Legislative Assistants, to address the market position, and to model the salary setting approach of the majority of

comparable agencies...” They are:

- Effective July 23, 2023: increase the annual salary from \$90,417.60 to \$97,697.60;
- Effective June 23, 2024: increase the annual salary from \$97,697.60 to \$105,560.00;
- Effective June 22, 2025: increase the annual salary from \$105,560.00 to \$114,067.20;
- Subsequent to June 22, 2025, members of the Board of Supervisors shall receive annual increases as necessary to remain at 50% of the bottom of the salary range of the California Superior Court Judges. The increases will be approved by the Board of Supervisors annually on consent agenda in the same fiscal year the salary increase is applied to the Superior Court Judges.

“However, members of the Board of Supervisors will not receive an annual salary increase in any year when County staff do not receive an annual salary increase due to budgetary constraints.”

Supervisors didn’t have to accept the new salaries. “Individual Board members may also elect to forego these salary increases, provided they are a member of the Board of Supervisors on July 23, 2023, and that they state their intent to forego the increases in writing to the Human Resources Director prior to July 23, 2023. Any Board member who elected to forego the July 11, 2021, increase, and foregoes these proposed increases, shall continue to be paid an annual salary of \$86,115.12, which was the salary in effect prior to July 11, 2021.”

County Tourism District Re-approved

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors have reapproved a tourism business assessment district for another year, and reappointed a County elected official to a new seat on a countywide tourism board.

Supervisors re-authorized the County Business Improvement District or CBID, which was first approved in 2009 and charges a 2% tax on the cost of a room stay at hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and vacation rentals located within the County’s jurisdiction of unincorporated towns and is collected by the County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office.

RV parks and private campgrounds are not subject to the assessments. The tax can either be paid by the business or passed on to a guest’s room bill.

The CBID fee is in addition to the County’s 9% bed taxes and Visit SLO CAL, a.k.a. SLO County Tourism Marketing District, or TMD, which charges 1.5% per night on a room stay and uses the money to market the whole county. So lodging properties in towns like Cambria and Cayucos charge the 9% County bed tax, 1.5% to the TMD and 2% for the CBID, for a total of 12.5% in taxes on top of the room rate.

Half of the monies collected through the CBID in each community are returned to a local advisory board to spend on tourism-related events and promotions within that community.

The other half goes to a countywide CBID Advisory Board with representatives from each unincorporated towns. Cayucos and Cambria are the biggest contributors to the CBID, given the high number of motels and VRs in each.

The CBID Board acts as a somewhat independent agency with its own staff, and Supervisors providing budgeting support and spending approvals.

As an assessment district the CBID must be re-approved every year and subject to a “protest” vote wherein each lodging business in the CBID is given a weighted vote dependent on how much of the total monies each brings in. If over 50% of the weighted vote is in opposition, the Supervisors cannot approve the assessments and the CBID would essentially die.

The lodging businesses in the CBID did not reach that protest threshold and so Supervisors were clear to approve it for another year.

In another tourism business decision, Supervisors re-appointed County Auditor-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, Jim Hamilton, to the TMD Board to represent the County.

The TMD Board has 15 members — one each from the incorporated cities and unincorporated towns, plus one lodging business owner appointed by Supervisors and an at-large person also appointed by Supervisors.

Hamilton had originally been put on the board in 2015 when it was first formed, as the County’s at-large lodging business member and is now the County’s at-large representative.

Hamilton was given a 3-year term and his new term is slated to expire July 1, 2026.

National Immigrant Heritage Month Celebrated

By Ruth Ann Angus

The popularity of Ancestor.com shows that we are naturally curious to know where we came from and who we are and where others came from. That the United States is a nation of immigrants is often obvious. Immigration is in the news right now and most of us living here descend from relatives who came from somewhere else.

As we struggle as a nation whether to be open and welcoming to those escaping from tyranny and poverty, we celebrate the month of June as National Immigrant Heritage Month. This month was set aside for remembrance of the many brave and courageous people who risked everything to seek refuge in this country. It also honors the contributions immigrants have made and continue to make to our country. One of the most obvious ones seen in rural areas in California is the work being done by farmworkers, many of whom are here undocumented.

SLO County Undocu Support formed in April 2020 to assist undocumented immigrants. Funded by grants from multiple organizations and the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation, this nonprofit has four pillars established as their focus areas: Aid for Urgent Critical Needs, Integrated and Streamlined Access to and delivery of services for undocumented and other immigrants, System Change, and Fiscal and Operational Sustainability.

Since forming, SLO County Undocu Support has raised more than \$350,000 and disbursed these funds through collaborative grantees to more than 600 families in 17 communities. They have also held focus groups bringing together organizations involved in answering the needs of the undocumented population.

With an estimated more than 9000 undocumented individuals living and working in San Luis Obispo County, this group strives to provide resources, support, and advocacy to put into effect true system change. Through community partners that act as grantees funds are sent directly to needy people. Efforts are also focused on strengthening the work of existing providers to fill the gaps in aid, reduce duplication of efforts, and facilitate collaboration to serve

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sustain a strong and inclusive workforce through investment in quality child care and implementation of family-friendly workplace policies; and 2) provide support and resources to SLO County employers interested in becoming more family-friendly. The program provides resources and support to employers countywide, free of charge and regardless of membership in the chamber. Since its launch, the program has endeavored to partner and collaborate with organizations across the county, including other chambers of commerce and the ‘We Are the Care Initiative.’ The program is also supported by First5 SLO County.”

Also, as part of this agenda item Supervisors were asked to re-designate \$3.47 million from the SB 1090 Infrastructure Fund to the Economic Development Fund.





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Heritage Month From page 4

more families efficiently.

System change within the government moves slowly and Undocu Support acts in a leadership way of coalition building to influence policy and decision makers. As influential leaders they focus their efforts to raise their voices to help immigrants become more influential leaders. Funding is provided supporting advocacy groups and emerging change-makers. Education and increasing community awareness of the issues surrounding immigration is of prime importance. Access to resources for legal aid and other immigration services are provided. Maintaining fiscal sustainability to provide uninterrupted funding for the cash aid program, advocacy support, and general operating funds as well as providing secure staffing require fundraising activities.

In a recent podcast Chelsea Ruiz, program manager of Undocu Support, reported that they are working on developing a Resource Hub consisting of a formal coalition of organizations that would meet regularly to have a unified voice to advocate for the undocumented community.

Ruiz also spoke about the Community Services Workshops held throughout the county offering presentations from organizations such as United Way, CAPSLO, SLO Legal Assistance Foundation, SLO District Attorney office, the Food Bank, and other organizations such as Allies for Immigration Justice. Undocumented individuals attend safely to learn about these services, fill out appropriate applications for aid such as United Way's Farmworker Relief Payments, or to sign up for CalFresh benefits. Two workshops were held in May, one in Paso Robles and one in Los Osos. Plans are for three more workshops to be held and all to be completed by October 31.

Volunteers are always needed, and anyone interested can contact Ruiz at UndocuSupport@cfslo.org or call 805-543-2323 ext. 109. Undocumented individuals and others interested can access more information at www.sloundocu-support.org available in both English and Spanish.

Folks can listen to the podcast at www.lososocares.org and www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org.

SLO County Celebrates National Public Works Week



The County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department has plenty to celebrate during National Public Works Week, May 21 – 27, with its ongoing work maintaining more than 5,000 culverts, nearly 1,400 miles of unincorporated roadway, 200 bridge structures, 26 road signs, and managing multiple reservoirs and water treatment systems.

This year was a little different, though. Severe back-to-back winter storms created a demanding environment that was not business as usual – except that we're talking about Public Works, a department that is ready for anything.

This past winter's storms, faced by all San Luis Obispo County residents, make the 2023 National Public Works Week especially meaningful for the County's 300 Public Works staff.

The department was called on to respond to the fallout of 12 atmospheric rivers resulting in two federal emergency declarations.

Staff removed debris from 287 county roads and made 199 site repairs, working 24 hours a day, often throughout the night.

County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department is comprised of 13 divisions, plus a stormwater program.

Paso Man Convicted in 2021 Crime Spree

A Paso Robles man was convicted on a slew of felony and misdemeanor charges after a 4-day crime spree in November 2021 involving two robberies, a car jacking and resisting arrest.



Richard Quntan Garcia

District Attorney Dan Dow announced the conviction of Richard Quntan Garcia, 31 of Paso Robles of attempted robbery, robbery, carjacking, and reckless evasion of a peace officer.

Garcia was also convicted of three misdemeanor counts of resisting, delaying, or obstructing a peace officer and one misdemeanor count of possession of methamphetamine.

Garcia's crime spree started shortly after 10 p.m. Nov. 24, 2021 when he entered a Carl's Jr., restaurant in the 2700 block of Black Oak Dr., Paso Robles. He reported stuck a handgun in the face of a 15-year-old employee and demanded money, according to a news release. Another employee called 9-1-1 and Garcia fled the restaurant before police arrived and without getting any money. No one was injured in the attempted armed robbery. Three hours later, it would be a different story.

In the early morning of Nov. 25, Garcia, armed with a handgun, entered an all-night Chevron gas station in the 1800 block of Ramada Dr., again in Paso Robles. He demanded money from the store clerk and fired an apparent warning shot into the ceiling missing the clerk, who was not injured.

The employee turned over the money from the register and Garcia fled the scene in a dark BMW sedan, according to the D.A.

An hour later, a Paso PD cruiser spotted the BMW and tried to pull it over. But Garcia sped off and took officers on a 15-mile high-speed chase up Nacimiento Lake Drive.

Crime Spree Continued on page 6

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News

Crime Spree From page 5

The chase ended near the Lake Nacimiento Resort, where Garcia abandoned the BMW and ran off into the night. Again police lost him. Three days later, he resurfaced back in town.

On Nov. 28, the news release said, Garcia carjacked a woman outside an apartment complex in the 1200 block of Creston Rd. “The victim was seated in her car when Garcia opened her driver side door and ordered her out,” the D.A.’s release said. The woman told police that Garcia had something in his hand she thought might be a gun or knife. Once out of the car, she ran and Garcia took off in her car.

Some 3-1/2 hours later, police found the stolen car abandoned but again Garcia had given them the slip.

The next day, Nov. 29 his luck ran out when a PRPD officer spotted Garcia in the area of the carjacking. Again he fugitated but officers ran him down after about a half-mile sprint. Garcia was reportedly found to have meth in his pocket when arrested, the release said.

Garcia is now scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Tim Covello on June 20 in Superior Court. Covello also ruled on Garcia’s prior convictions, acknowledging for the record that he was previously convicted for “assault with a firearm for the benefit of a criminal street gang” and “assault with a firearm.” Both convictions count as strikes against him under the State’s Three Strikes Law. He faces 82-years to life in prison, plus 51 years.

Paso Robles Police Department was the lead investigators and the SLO County Sheriff’s Gang Taskforce, California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services, the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation, and the D.A.’s Central Coast Cyber-Forensic Laboratory also worked the case.

Deputy D.A. Scott Hunter, who is assigned to the Felony Trial Team, prosecuted Garcia.

Assistant D.A. Eric Dobroth said, “There is no place for violent crime in our community. The District Attorney’s Office and our law enforcement partners will use every tool available to hold violent criminals accountable. While thankful that no one suffered physical injury during this crime spree, we acknowledge the significant trauma experienced by the robbery and carjacking victims. A debt of gratitude to the jury for carefully evaluating the evidence necessary to bring Mr. Garcia to justice.”

Drug Dealer Charged with Murder

With the County’s safe parking program for the homeless on Oklahoma Avenue set to expire soon, the Sheriff’s Office arrested one of its inhabitants and charged her with murder, in what’s believed to be the County’s first case of an accused drug dealer being charged with murder after a customer overdosed.

The case started Oct. 27, 2022 when the Sheriff’s Department was dispatched to the now-closed County Animal Shelter on Oklahoma Avenue for a report of a dead man laying behind the building.

The County’s homeless safe parking lot is adjacent to the old animal shelter building, which was replaced last year with a new facility located a few hundred yards further down Oklahoma Avenue.

“The victim was identified as 31-year-old Quinn Hall of Templeton,” Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release. “It was later determined that Hall died of a fentanyl overdose.”

An investigation quickly led to a suspect that they didn’t have to go far to find.

“During the investigation,” Cipolla said, “detectives discovered that shortly before Hall died, he was allegedly sold fentanyl by a woman identified as 50-year-old Brandi Turner, who was a resident of Oklahoma Avenue Safe Parking. Detectives determined the fentanyl that Turner allegedly sold to Hall led to his death.”

Deputies on May 15 arrested Turner and charged her with suspicion of homicide and assorted drug charges. According to Cipolla, “It is believed this is the first case in the county where a fentanyl death will be prosecuted as a homicide.” The investigation is ongoing and Cipolla asked anyone with information on the case to call Sheriff’s detectives at 805-781-4500.



Brandi Elaine Turner

Community
Lions Award 40th Free Car



From left are Morro Bay Lions Club member, Bill Todd, Matthew Daniels holding young daughter, Aurora, and MB Lions’ Chuck Stoll during the May 6 awarding of a free 2011 Toyota Corolla by the Lions to the Daniels Family of Taft, Calif. It was the 40th free car that the giveaway program has awarded. Submitted photo

Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Lions Club recently gave away its 40th free vehicle to a family in need, this time from Taft.

The Lions were on hand at the 27th Cruisin’ Morro Bay Car Show selling hot dogs and snacks and raising money for their many programs that assist those in need in our area.

They were also on hand to give away another car, which they’ve done every three months since becoming involved starting in 2017.

But the car giveaways go farther back, to 2014, when father-son, Bill and Mike Todd of Todd’s Garage auto shop in Morro Bay began giving away cars to people in need of reliable transportation.

The Todd boys first joined forces with Sharon O’Leary of the Morro Bay Resource Center, a non-profit organization that helps people find resources, to help them find worthy car recipients.

The car giveaway has been very successful and every person or couple that receives a free vehicle is grateful and humbled by the generosity being shown to them.

The only requirements are that the people insure the car and keep up with the licensing and maintenance.

On May 6, as the annual car show displayed over 500 classic and custom cars and hot rods, a 2011 Toyota Corolla was given to the Daniels Family of Taft, Calif.

Lions Club member, Chuck Stoll, said “Matthew Daniels [the patriarch of the Daniels Family], carrying his infant daughter, Aurora, to the stage was visibly moved and



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Local League Honored at State Convention



The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County officers accept the 'Leaning into League Power' award at the League of Women Voters of California State Convention in San Francisco. Pictured are Communications Director Janice Langley, President Cindy Marie Absey and 2nd Vice President Ed Cabrera. The trio were also delegates at the convention.

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County received the “Leaning into League Power” award at the League of Women Voters of California State Convention in San Francisco on May 20. The award recognized the local League’s “effective promotion of the League’s mission and work through activism and education” and noted that “by mobilizing members and influencing public opinion they ensured fairly redistricted representation and had a significant increase in membership”.

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County joined the lawsuit filed by the SLO County Citizens for Good Government to invalidate the redistricting map adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 2021. The lawsuit resulted in a settlement in March 2023 which set aside the 2021 map and required the adoption of a new map. Over the course of the litigation, League membership tripled.

The organization is a nonpartisan civic group that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and public life and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information on the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, go to www.lwvslo.org.

Input Deadline for 41/Main Street Interchange June 6

As a reminder, the deadline to provide feedback about a project at one of Morro Bay’s traffic congestion hot spots, where Highways 1, 41 and Main Street meet, is June 6. For more information and to take the survey, go to

<https://ghd.mysocialpinpoint.com/sr1-sr41-interchange>. The options on the table include constructing a roundabout or putting in traffic signals or leaving the intersection as it with a few minor changes. The project is currently in the Project Approval and Environmental Document Phase of the Caltrans Process.

County Agencies Awarded Grant Funding for Water Projects



Five SLO County Agencies Awarded Grant Funding for Water Projects The City of Morro Bay and four other and four other agencies were awarded a total of \$3.8 million from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program on May 17.

- Awarded Projects and Agencies:**
- Water Reclamation Facility, Indirect Potable Reuse Component, City of Morro Bay for \$1.2 million
 - Central Coast Blue, Phase 1, City of Pismo Beach for \$1 million
 - Water Resource Reliability Program Projects, Oceano CSD \$600,000
 - Master Water Report Update, Flood Control District, \$549,755
 - Water Reliability Project – Water Main Replacement, San Miguel \$300,000
 - Grant Administration, Flood Control District, \$132,374
- This is the 10th IRWM Grant award for the San Luis Obispo County region since 2008. Through this program, the region has been awarded more than \$32 million for 43 different water-related projects and plans benefiting 16 unique communities and the entire county.
- \$29 Million directly supported reimbursement of 18 construction projects, including water, wastewater, and recycled water facilities.
 - Nine projects created a secondary or drought-resilient potable supply source. Prior to these projects, six of these communities had a single source of water supply.

This award concludes the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program. Future opportunities to pursue grants through the IRWM program will depend on State funding actions.

SLO Council Saves Popular Land as Open Space

The San Luis Obispo City Council adopted a conservation plan that formally designates 51 acres at Righetti Hill as City of San Luis Obispo Open Space, protecting the land and providing new trails with sweeping views of SLO. The City acquired the land in 2018 as a condition of the approval of the Orcutt Area subdivision project. With this addition, more than 7,800 acres of land are now part of the City’s Greenbelt Protect Program, which prioritizes the conservation of natural open spaces forever.

Metallic Balloon safety During Celebrations

California’s graduation season is in full swing, and PG&E is warning customers about the public safety risks associated with helium-filled metallic balloons. If your graduation celebration involves balloons, make sure they are secured with a weight. Otherwise, they can float away and make contact with overhead power lines, causing a public safety risk. In the first four months of 2023, metallic balloons striking electric lines have caused 91 power outages in PG&E’s service area, disrupting service to more than 35,000 customers. These power outages can interrupt electric service to critical facilities such as hospitals, schools and traffic lights. Metallic balloons have a silvery coating, which is a conductor for electricity. If the balloons float away and contact power lines, they can short transformers, cause power outages and melt electrical wires, causing public safety risks.

To help ensure that graduation balloon celebrations are enjoyed responsibly, PG&E reminds customers to use caution and avoid celebrating with metallic balloons near overhead electric lines. Make sure helium-filled metallic balloons are securely tied to a weight that is heavy enough to prevent them from floating away. Never remove the weight. When possible, keep metallic balloons indoors. Never permit metallic balloons to be released outside. Do not bundle metallic balloons together. Never attempt to retrieve any type of balloon, kite or toy that becomes caught in a power line. Leave it alone, and immediately call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000

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

speechless by the donation.” Stoll added, “The Daniels Family was selected from several applications by the Morro Bay Lions Foundation Board. Their decision was based on the family’s desperate need for a vehicle, their focus on assisting young adults with disabilities, and their willingness to pay it forward in their community.” Matthew’s wife, Morgan, “could not make the trek due to illness.” The Lions Car Giveaway Program is supported by donations of both vehicles and money, which is needed for parts and repairs to make sure the cars they give away are

in top working condition. Bill and Mike Todd fix whatever is wrong and also smog check the vehicles to make sure they can legally be on the road. Often times, people, especially the elderly find themselves with extra or unneeded cars, either because a spouse has died or in some cases they no longer drive. They can donate the car to the Lions’ program and receive a tax deduction for it. Tax-deductible monetary donations are also welcomed and go to support more than just the car giveaway. “The monies received from donations to the Foun-

dation,” Stoll said, “also help feed the hungry, provide scholarships to local schools, provide eye screening, glasses and even surgeries, and support local charities.” To apply to receive a car, contact O’Leary at the Morro Bay Resource Center at 805-225-1991 to get an application form (certain restrictions do apply). For car donations, or make a tax-deductible monetary donation call Bill or Mike Todd at 805-772-1985 (do not call the shop to apply for a car).



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Police Blotter



• **May 14:** Police contacted an annoying flesh monkey, 48, at 9:34 a.m. in the 1000 block of Kennedy Way. Logs indicated she had eight warrants and was given a ninth citation to ignore and unleashed back upon the world.

• **May 14:** At 8:46 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana at the creek bed estates, officers contacted a suspicious subject. The 38-year-old fellow had three bench warrants and was issued another disappearance ticket.

• **May 13:** Police responded at 3:15 p.m. to a business in the 600 block of Embarcadero where someone passed a bogus Benjamin.

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• **May 13:** At 3 p.m. police contacted a wanted woman, 39, who had six warrants. She was cited again and released to catch again another day. About an hour earlier and a block up Quintana, another apparent urban camper with war-rants got cited.

• **May 13:** At 1:43 p.m. in the 600 block of Quintana po-lice contacted a 54-year-old woman who had a warrant out of Kern County, and who had also been reported missing by Atascadero Police. She was cited and APD was contact-ed about their missing princess.

• **May 13:** At 1:30 p.m. in the 900 block of Main, police saw a 73-year-old man about a warrant. He was issued a fresh court date to miss.

• **May 13:** At 11 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana officers contacted a 38-year-old belle of the ball who had seven warrants. Officers allegedly found drugs in her possession and she was taken to the hoosegow.

• **May 12:** Police contacted another lady scofflaw, 51, at 3 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana with nine bench war-rants, which while a lot isn't record setting around these parts.

• **May 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:47 p.m. in the area of Balboa and Butte for some undisclosed code violation. The 51-year-old driver had a suspended license along with a warrant and was cite-released.

• **May 12:** Someone found a cell phone somewhere on Atascadero Road and turned it in at the fire department, which handed it over to police, who will hand it back to the owner if they can find him or her.

• **May 12:** Police contacted a wanted man, 21, at 3:20 a.m. in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd. He had three warrants and was booked into the County's happy place.

• **May 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 p.m. on Quintana Road. Logs indicated they could only get the driver, 61, for a suspended license.

• **May 10:** Someone apparently broke into a vehicle on Branch Street in South County and stole credit cards, and then apparently came to Morro Bay and went on a shopping rip-off spree. Police opened a case of swindling by some identity-stealing, unidentified fraudster.

• **May 10:** Police took a shoplifting report in the 700 block of Quintana, after someone apparently used the help-your-self aisle.

• **May 10:** Police contacted a 34-year-old man at Pacific and Main and arrested the larcenous cretin for suspicion of petty larceny.

• **May 9:** Porch pirates struck in the 400 block of Tulare.

• **May 9:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 5 p.m. on Mon-terey. The driver, 41, had a car registration expired over 6 months and no insurance, so police cited him and arrested the car, which hardly seems fair.

• **May 8:** Police responded to the 2800 block of Hemlock where a woman said someone had stolen her husband's firearm. Someone else told police the gun was given away 40-years ago.

• **May 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:33 p.m. at MBB and Piney Way. Logs indicated the 32-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving schnuckered.

• **May 8:** A woman in the 2900 block of Fir told police she lost \$10,000 in a phone scam.

• **May 8:** A woman in the 400 block of Las Vegas texted police that her apparent ex violated a restraining order.

• **May 8:** A granny in the 1700 block of Main reported that her grandson lost his money clip, no doubt excuse No. 43 for borrowing money from grandma.

• **May 7:** Police responded at 10:42 p.m. to a disturbance in the 3200 block of Main. Logs indicated a 46-year-old woman got into a fight with her sister in the parking lot and the family squabble landed her in the lock-up for suspicion of simple assault, yeah, it's no doubt complicated.

May 7: Police contacted a swizzle stick waltzing down Monterey Avenue at 9:43 a.m. The 40-year-old Bacchana-lian was nicked for suspicion of being thick as a tick.

• **May 6:** Someone turned in keys they found at Main and Morro Bay Boulevard, leaving it to police to unlock the mystery.

• **May 6:** Police contacted a 63-year-old scofflaw at 4:25 p.m. somewhere on Quintana and took him to the County woodshed on two warrants.

• **May 6:** At 11:31 a.m. police responded to Rite Aid on Quintana where they arrested a sticky-fingered gent, 48, for suspicion of trespassing and shoplifting-burglary, in this

week's example of why we need SWAT.

• **May 6:** Police responded at 4:48 a.m. to a disturbance in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated they located the cause of the ado, a 65-year-old banshee who was too drunk to leave be. She was hauled to the County B&B on a D&D to sleep it off.

• **May 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:53 p.m. in the 1000 block of Main. The woman driver, 49, was arrested for suspicion of wet whistle driving.

• **May 5:** Someone turned in some undisclosed something that police somehow decided to destroy.

• **May 5:** At about high noon, police responded to a dis-turbance in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated they contacted an ululating woman, 30, beclowning herself. She was arrested on suspicion of being high on illegal drugs and possession, her stash apparently not yet exhausted.

• **May 5:** Police contacted a familiar face at 11:26 a.m. at Harbor and the Boulevard. The 44-year-old fellow had an invite to tea from the judge and was cited and released with another date to ignore.

• **May 5:** Police were sent to a disturbance at 11 a.m. in the 700 block of Napa. Logs indicated they contacted a bone-head violating a stay-away order. While investigating, Shaz-am, officers figured out his car registration actually expired in November 2022, and had forged tags on the vehicle.

• **May 5:** Police at 12:17 a.m. contacted a 61-year-old apparently forgetful man in the 300 block of Harbor who had 12 bench warrants. He was of course again cited and released with soon-to-be a baker's dozen.

• **May 4:** Police stopped a reckless driver at 2 p.m. in the 300 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated the driver, 27, got nicked for suspicion of driving half cut at the wheel, and a suspended license that got suspended because of drunk driving, as the wheels of the bus go round and round.

• **May 4:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 9:40 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. Logs indicated the fellow, 30, had 11 bench warrants and was arrested after they allegedly found illegal drugs in his possession, the apparent straw that broke the junkie's back.

• **May 4:** Police responded to a disturbance at 9:30 a.m. in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd. A 38-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of vandalism, a hanging offense in some parts.

• **May 3:** Police took a report about a stolen handicap plac-ard off a vehicle in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., and a pox on whoever took it.

• **May 3:** Police at 11:44 a.m. went to the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., to referee an argument, when they discov-ered that a vehicle at the scene had been declared "inoper-able." And so police arrested the offending car, no word on whether that settled the argument.

• **May 3:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:07 a.m. in the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated they contacted a rowdy fellow, 31, and arrested the cowpoke for being off the range in public.

• **May 3:** Police responded at 7:38 a.m. to the 800 block of Morro where some poor chap passed away. Police said nothing criminal had taken place.

• **May 2:** Police responded to a business in the 500 block of Main to take a report from an employee who said he or she was injured on the job, a case of someone needs a new line of work.

• **May 2:** Police responded to the 2200 block of Emerald Cr., where some apparent wizard broke into a locked vehi-cle just a minute before and then vanished.

• **May 2:** Police responded at 3:32 p.m. to Giovanni's Fish Market in the 1000 block of Front St., after they discovered that an unknown man had broken in and burgled the place.

• **May 2:** Police responded at 8:41 a.m. to the Ascot Suites hotel in the 200 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Apparently some sneaky thief had shimmied through an open window and stolen cash out of the register.

• **May 1:** Police responded at 9 p.m. to a domestic distur-bance in the 1200 block of Clarabelle. Logs indicated they arrested a 36-year-old sinister tool for suspicion of domestic battery, resisting arrest and battery on a police officer, as he apparently didn't come along quietly. An emergency restraining order was issued and of course at 6 a.m. the next day it had been violated.

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Community

Ironman Triathlon One for the Books



Photos are from the swimming and biking segments of the Morro Bay 70.3 Ironman Triathlon, 'The Race at the Rock' held May 20 on the Morro Bay waterfront.



Story and Photos by Neil Farrell

The first of three annual Ironman Triathlons came to Morro Bay May 20, bringing some 2500 athletes from across the U.S. and several foreign lands.

The event was produced by Ironman, Inc., with the support of the City of Morro Bay and Visit Morro Bay the marketing arm of the Tourism Business Improvement District.

The event closed off nearly every major street in town for the entire day and consisted of a 1.2 mile swim in the bay, a 55-mile bike ride up Hwy 1 San Simeon and back; and a 13-mile run through the Embarcadero, Downtown, Morro Bay State Park and back — twice. All told it was 70.3 miles of grueling athleticism done by adult athletes of all age groups, men and women.

The overall Top-3 Men finishers were: First Place — Maksim Kniazev in an overall time of 4-hours 1-minute

and 41-seconds. In a break down of stages he timed 29:07 for the swim; 2:06:56 for the bike; and 1:20:01 for the run, according to Ironman's Race Results posted online at: www.ironman.com/im703-morro-bay-results.

Second Place went to Denis Pyryev in 4:05:55 (26:01 swim; 2:15:50 bike; and 1:18:29 run).

Third was Read Ziegler in 4:08:53 (26:26 swim; 2:16:26 bike; and 1:19:39 run).

The Top-3 Women were: First Place — Marissa Lovell in 4:31:47 (30:47; 2:29:58; 1:26:05).

Second went to Kelly Barton in 4:40:02 (29:26; 2:37:33; and 1:26:59).

In third place was Kathryn Kennedy in 4:40:41 (26:59; 2:41:40; and 1:27:07).

The event also had teams with a separate athlete doing the three stages for a combined overall time. First place went to Team Tiki in 3:38:45 (32:11; 2:44:50; and 1:16:29).

Second Team was Team STRIVE Omni Sport in 4:45:25 (39:28; 2:25:54; and 1:34:3).

Third went to Team Sheepier in 4:49:00 (29:48; 2:20:54; and 1:50:05).

The Morro Bay event was a qualifier for the VinFast IRONMAN 70.3 World Championships, slated for Aug. 26-27 in Lahti, Finland.

The City and Ironman signed an agreement last year that would have three annual triathlons run in and around Morro Bay. Work on next year's event is already beginning.

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9

Community

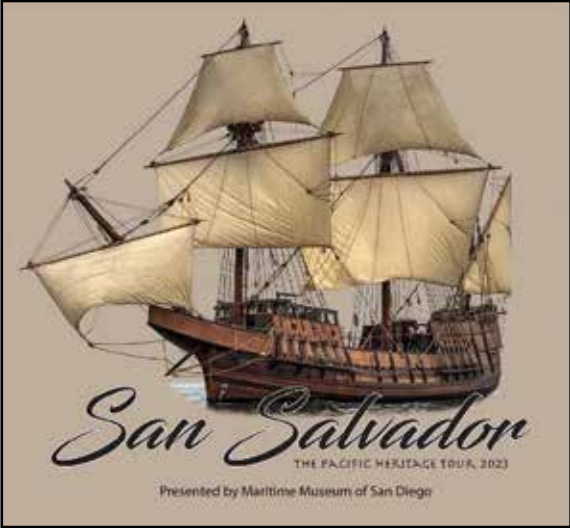
Tickets on Sale for San Salvador: The Pacific Heritage Tour 2023

Take a step back in time to 1542 when Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his crew set sail, discovering the lands that would become California's popular coastline. Experience life on a 16th-century sailing ship hosted by the Morro Bay Maritime Museum from August 11-20 during the Pacific Heritage Tour 2023, featuring Maritime Museum San Diego's full-scale galleon replica of Cabrillo's San Salvador.

"Public tours of this impressive vessel will transport guests into an immersive, educational experience as they step aboard the creaky decks of the 16th-century time-machine", said Larry Newland, founding member of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

After the completion of the building of San Salvador in San Diego in 2015, MMSD's maiden Pacific Heritage Tour set sail in 2016 to offer tens-of-thousands Californians and worldwide visitors a look into our historic maritime past. More than 10,000 visitors enjoyed the public tours offered in Morro Bay during her 10-day visit. MMSD's generous revenue-sharing support cemented an ongoing partnership that jumpstarted the building of the first structure of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum, which today also includes a fleet of six historic vessels and outdoor maritime exhibits. MBMM is poised to expand the museum's footprint, having recently gained approvals from the City of Morro Bay and again MMSD's visit will donate back shares of San Salvador tour revenues, demonstrating a unique relationship among California maritime museums.

"San Salvador is a full-scale replica of the flagship used by Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542 during the first European voyage to explore what would one day become the West Coast of the United States," said Raymond Ashley, Ph.D., K.C.I., president/CEO of Maritime



Museum of San Diego. "Meticulously constructed by Maritime Museum of San Diego over six years and US Coast Guard Certified, San Salvador is one of very few early modern replica ships in which members of the public can glimpse through experience what seafaring beyond the known world was like half a millennia ago."

Morro Bay Maritime Museum President, Bonnie Jones, said, "San Salvador's first visit to Morro Bay Maritime Museum was an enormous success. We are looking forward to the ship's return to share this innovative, engaging, and educational experience with our community and visitors. Guests will learn of San Salvador's history and be introduced to today's Salinan Tribal Members, who fished Morro Bay's Pacific Coast in 1542."

Tickets sales are now open for San Salvador dockside tours August 11-20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Costs are \$12. for adults (18-64), \$10 for seniors (ages 65+, active military), \$8 for children ages 4-17 and children three and under are free. Morro Bay Maritime Museum is located at 1210 Embarcadero, Morro Bay, CA 93442. For information, go to morrobaymaritime.org, morrobay.org, and morrobaychamber.org.

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Woods Waves Adult Cat Adoption Fees Through June 4



With nearly 200 kittens currently in foster care, and in anticipation of June being National Adopt a Cat Month, Woods Humane Society is holding the Purrfection is Priceless adoption promotion that waives adoption fees for adult cats (regularly \$65-\$80) through Sunday, June 4. All adult and senior felines (age 5 months or older) are free to adopt.

The nonprofit organization says that June often marks the height of kitten season on the Central Coast. The Purrfection is Priceless fee-waived cat adoption promotion aims to remove barriers to cat adoptions in order to make room for the 186 kittens currently in foster and soon to need shelter space in Woods catteries.

"Kitten season started early this year and has been steadily gaining momentum," said Woods Interim CEO Emily L'Heureux. "We have taken in more than 300 kittens so far in 2023, including 257 who have needed foster care while awaiting veterinary services and shelter space.

Meanwhile, as kittens start to become available for adoption, our adult cats often get overlooked and spend more time waiting to be adopted. We hope these nine days will help our older friends with 'nine lives' find their forever homes."

L'Heureux said that in a typical year, Woods Humane Society sees a dip in adult-cat adoptions as soon as kitten season begins to surge. "Our adult cats are beautiful, sweet, loving, and ready to transition seamlessly into adopters' lives and homes. They often do not require as much hands-on attention, exercise, or play time as younger kittens, making them perfect for new adopters or people who do not have as much time to devote to a new pet."

All adult cats have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and treated for parasites. Adoptions also include a voluntary 30-day enrollment in complimentary pet insurance and a free wellness exam at a local vet clinic.

Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA, 93405, and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, CA, 93422, and is open to the public from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. (closed on Memorial Day). For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

Rotary Golf Tournament Raises Scholarship Funds



Morro Bay Rotary Club Tournament Chair John Weiss and Billy Jr Fagundes during the recent golf tournament.

The Rotary Club of Morro Bay recently held a fundraiser at the Morro Bay



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Community

Golf Course raising more than \$10,000 for local scholarships and non-profits.

“It was great to see several Morro Bay High School student golfers join our tournament and be assigned to several of our groups,” said John Weiss, tournament chair.

Golf team winners included #1 at -6 Amit Patel, Jim Walter, and Jr. Golfer Nate Landwehr and three teams at -5 #2 Mimi Black, Evan Black, Kevin Cuda, and Jr. Golfer Talon Hawk #3 William Johnson’s team Billy, Jim, Ashlyn, and Ed #4 Jo Anne Miller, Sam Miller, Laney Wolfe, and Jr. Golfer Noah Kimbrell.

Sponsors include Chevron, Mechanics Bank, Harbor House, Hungry Fisherman, Horizon Realty & Property Management, Bay Auto & Tire, Hinson’s Tire, Central Coast School - Gene Appleby, Rotarian Barry Branin and Vivian, Coastal Real Estate - Christine Mc Donald-Weiss, Sub Sea Tours LLC, Dutchman’s Restaurant, Foster Freeze, Rotarian Rich Riedel and Linda, North County Adaptive Sports & Rec, Fitness Works, Coast Electronics - RadioShack, Carla’s Country Kitchen, Farmers Insurance - Aaron Trahan, JR Technologies - Jim Hodges, Harbor Hut, Tognazzini’s Dockside Restaurant, Mission Linen, Hay Printing, Capci Family Partnership, Sherry Sim Realtor, Wendy and Rotarian Keith George, Rotarian Mike Williams, Spencer’s Fresh Markets, Franklin Real Estate - Matt Franklin, and Doc Kleckner.

Volunteers were Mike Williams, Amit Patel, Mike & Bridgett Gerson, John Solu, Gary Stoner, Pauline Stansbury, Jilll Copsey, Patrick & Nanci Teter, Elsie Casida, Pete Zotovich, and Dan Costley..

Poly Wins Food Services Award

The National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) awarded Cal Poly Campus Dining and its Via Carta outdoor community space a bronze. Camus Dining earned the 2023 Loyal E. Horton Dining Award for Retail Sales – Single Concept/



The Via Carta outdoor community space, which includes a 504-square-foot mural titled 'Generosity,' recently won a dining award

Multiple Concepts/Marketplace.

“Via Carta was designed to be a dynamic celebration of the Central Coast, and it’s great to be recognized for the engaging gathering space we’ve created on campus,” said Jess Dozier, Campus Dining director. “Via Carta takes full advantage of the beautiful San Luis Obispo weather and creates the opportunity to get outside, put down your devices, relax, socialize and enjoy a meal together.”

The Retail Sales category recognizes outstanding retail locations on campus that have innovative features and techniques. Through collaborative partnerships with other Cal Poly departments and outside contractors, Via Carta was completely revamped in just two months to create an outdoor space with comfortable shaded seating, inviting planter boxes with built-in seating and parklet-style landscaping. Located directly outside Campus Market, Via Carta is the fourth in a collection of outdoor community spaces that have been created to further support student success and enhance the campus experience for all members of the Cal Poly community.

“With a new mobile kitchen, a barbecue pit and food truck area anchored by a vibrant mural, Via Carta is a festive space that can host events and serve as a daily gathering spot for the campus community to meet, eat and connect,” said Dozier.

The NACUFS awards celebrate exemplary retail spac-

es, menus, presentations, special event planning and new dining concepts, and provides an avenue for sharing ideas and creative presentations in campus dining services. Winners are listed online at: <https://www.nacufs.org/Awards/LoyalEHortonDiningAwards>.

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](https://www.esterobaynews.com).

Events & Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Central Coast Pride 2023 presents Pridefest on Sat., June 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Laguna Lake Park at 504 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo. Come out for a day of family-friendly celebration of Pride, with music, food, art, vendors, resources, and community. All are welcome. Attendance is free. Friday, June 2 kicks off Pride weekend with “Burly-Drag,” a combined Burlesque and Drag show at the Fremont Theatre. Come feel the vapors as a variety of attractive and talented folks help destroy societal expectations around bodies. There’s no shaming at our Pride!

On Saturday, June 3, Pride return sto last year’s venue, Laguna Lake Park, to pull out all the stops for Pridefest! The lovely views of the sun shining on the water through the eucalyptus trees are matched with endless opportunities to support local queer artists of all kinds, from purchasing their wares to cheering them on when they take the stage.

The grand finale is a real doozy—going back to Mission Plaza for the first time in years for the popular Pride in the Plaza event featuring none other than The Family Stone as the headlining performance. This boundary-breaking funk rock band from the 70s not only brought some of the greatest hits of the era, such as “Dance to the Music” and “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin),” but was also notable for the social commentary of their songs, and for being a racially integrated group of men and women at a time when that was particularly rare - all of us are “Everyday People.”

For a full event list and descriptions, as well as opportunities to volunteer, go to slopride.com.



Events Continued on page 12

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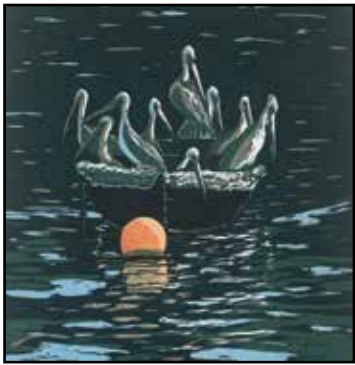
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Community

Events From page 11

Art Center Morro Bay presents “Rock, Paper, Print” and “Abstraction” June 29 through August 7 with an opening reception on July 9 from 2-4 p.m. Rock, Paper, Print is an exhibition of artwork featuring members of the Central Coast Printmakers, a group of around thirty artists who share the love of print-making.



In this exhibit of individually hand-made prints, there will be a wide variety of styles and printmaking techniques. Printmakers use many different surfaces such as wood, metal, linoleum and plastic, and methods like carving blocks, etching with acid, and painting materials to print, using a large assortment of papers to achieve these images. “Abstraction” is in the Virginia Russell gallery. Abstract by definition is having only intrinsic form with little or no attempt at pictorial representation or narrative content. Enter the realm of self-expression and a departure from reality where every brushstroke is a form of abstraction, displaying a variety of expressive expanses. Here, sharp edges, solid colors, geometric compositions and brushed, poured or spray-painted surfaces abound. These two shows will be on display from June 29 through August 7, 2023. Rock, Paper, Print will be on display in the main gallery, concurrent with Abstraction and the glass artworks by featured artist Carolyn Niblick. For more information contact: Morro Bay Art Center (805) 772-2504 or go to 805-772-2504 or www.artcentermorrobay.org. *Image Fishin’ Wisbin’ © Courtesy Tricia Reichert*

• • •

Co-Dependents Anonymous Meetings take place Saturdays, 1-2:15 p.m. at 1069 Main St., Cambria. Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step recovery program for anyone who desires to have healthy and loving relationships with themselves and others. Meeting is hybrid (both in person and on Zoom). For information, call 805-900-5237. (805) 927-1654. Attendance is free.

• • •

The following are free events brought to you by the Los Osos Library 2075 Palisades Ave, 805-528-1862. All library programs will be following current California and County of San Luis Obispo health guidelines. • Display Case: Dena Gershon, textile art. • E-Device Class - Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m. (class cancelled 6/21 and 6/28). 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). The basics of qi gong are not difficult to learn and practice and are particularly beneficial for older adults.
- Beginner Coding - Friday, June 2, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Hands on coding fun for kids! Come tinker with Cubetto robots, a Let’s Go Code set and a Robot Mouse. For ages 3+.
- Cartoon Club – Friday, June 9, 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.
- SLO Symphony Petting Zoo - Saturday, June 10, 11-12 p.m. Symphony Zookeepers will introduce you to all of the well-loved and well-used instruments in our collection, and help you figure out how to make some noise! Ages 3+
- Summer Reading Kick-Off Party! -Saturday, June 10, 12-2 p.m. Get signed up for summer reading and enjoy some big lawn games like cornhole, connect four and more! All ages.
- Book Discussion - Thursday, June 15, 5:30-6:45 p.m. We will be discussing “Plainsong” by Kent Haruf. No need to sign up ahead of time. Just show up! Call the library for details.
- Poetry Night - Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Join the library on Zoom for a night of poetry celebrating “Art & Appetite.” Poets Lisa Allen Ortiz and Lance Lee present their original works, followed by an open mic. Poetry Night will be hosted via Zoom on June 14 from 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM, Pacific Daylight Time. Registration is required for attendance. Zoom links will be sent via email on the week prior to the event.
- HexBugs - Friday, June 16, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Create mazes for these motorized bugs, race them and more! All ages welcome.

• • •

The “Coastal Perspectives” photography show is showcased at The Gallery in the Cambria Center for the Arts, running until July 2. This exhibit offers a diverse collection of artworks that demonstrate the remarkable possibilities achievable with a camera and different image surfaces. Spanning from captivating black and white prints on paper to vibrant color-saturated prints on wood and metal, and even dynamic images displayed on television screens, each entry exemplifies the skillful mastery of photography techniques. Visitors can experience this captivating exhibition from Friday to Sunday, between 12-4 p.m. Admission is

free, offering an accessible opportunity for art enthusiasts and the public alike to immerse themselves in the world of photography.

• • •



The San Luis Obispo Greek Festival returns to San Luis Obispo with its 14th annual event on June 3 and 4, at the Madonna Expo Center, 100 Madonna Rd. The festival hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission and parking are free! The Greek Festival is hosted by the parishioners of Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, located in San Luis Obispo. The family-friendly weekend features Greek dance performances, authentic Greek cuisine, homemade pastries, live traditional music, and dancing, specialty cocktails, beer and wine, as well as shopping and cultural exhibits. Festival guests will witness a variety of traditional Greek dances performed by youth and adult groups. Cal Poly dancers have their own competitive Greek dance group, Oi Foitites, that performs at the festival. Other traditional Greek dancers, who come from outside the parish, will also participate in the dance performances. After learning a few steps from the free dance lessons provided by these groups, you’ll be dancing along with them and doing traditional Greek dances like the Syrtó! The Greek Festival is a fundraiser for Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. An important aspect is that a portion of the funds raised goes back into the community to the outreach programs that Saint Andrew’s supports. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Noor Foundation and the SLO Food Bank. Saint Andrew also supports 40 Prado Homeless Services Center, Kids ‘n Cancer, and Prison Fellowship. So, attendance supports far beyond the festival itself! For more information, go to www.greekfestivalslo.com.

• • •

Art Center Morro Bay presents a 2-day workshop: Stencil Workshop 101 – June 10 and 17 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at 835 Main St., Morro Bay. This beginning stencil workshop incorporates stenciling, painting, and drawing. Students will learn how to modify an image to a stencil form and how art can be



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Community

created by using inexpensive materials. Students will need to bring a simple sketch or an image to the class. Materials provided by the instructor are paint, paper, brushes, rollers, and sponges. Participants should be between 14-18 years old.

Instructor Cynthia Kevorkian was a professional graphic artist and currently she paints and exhibits her work in various locations. She has worked with teens throughout her life and enjoys their unique and creative ideas. The cost is \$40. For a list of supplies or more information go to artcentermorrobay.org or call them at 805-772-2504.

Morro Bay White Caps Community Band Concert on Sat., June 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Embarcadero South T-Pier by the Great American Fish Company in Morro Bay. Under the direction of Keith Waibel, the Morro Bay White Caps Community Band will perform a variety of music including pops, classical, and jazz selections. 916-337-9046. Free; donations accepted.



- The following are free events brought to you by Morro Bay Library at 625 Harbor St. They can be reached at (805) 772-6394.
- Cartoon Club - Wednesday, June 7, 3-5 p.m. Learn how to create characters, draw backgrounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon. Paper, pens and pencils provided - you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.
 - Hexbugs - Wednesday, June 14, 3-5 p.m. Create mazes for these motorized bugs, race them and more! All ages welcome.
 - Summer Reading Kick-Off Art Party - Saturday, June 17, 11-2 p.m. Sign up for summer reading and get creative with button making, paper flowers, chalk art, coloring and more. Bring your imagination! All other supplies provided - prizes included. For kids, adults and everyone in-between.

The 38th annual Jazz Piano Showcase takes place Sat., June 10, 7:30-9:45 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo. Presented by the SLO County Jazz Federation, the concert features pianists Jim Barnett, Mark Bocchicchio, George Garcia, Bob Harway, Marshall Otwell, and Paul Rinzler accompanied by Dylan Johnson on bass and Darrell Voss on drums.

Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$30 and are available at my805tix.com.

Clinton Davis will play a show in the Milking Parlor at the Historic Octagon Barn Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. with music beginning at 7. Seating is first come, first served. Davis is an old-time folk musician currently based in San Diego, California. A fifth-generation Kentuckian, Davis grew up in rural Carroll County. His repertoire spans fiddle and banjo music native to his family home, the exuberant ragtime piano and guitar of early 20th-century New Orleans, and ballad songs and dance music of the Southwest.



Tickets are \$20 advance / \$25 door (subject to availability). Purchase at eventbrite.com. Event contact phone number: 805-235-2874.

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



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Sports

Three Get Athlete of The Month



Volleyball players, Charlie Clark and Luke Konjoyan, along with golfer, Jonas Smith (not pictured), were named Morro Bay High School Athletes of the Month for May 2023. Submitted photos

The Morro Bay High School Athletic Boosters Club announced its May 2023 Athletes of the Month with a pair of volleyball players and a golfer receiving the honors.

The honorees were boys' volleyball players, Luke Konjoyan and Charlie Clark, and golfer, Jonas Smith.

Volleyball Coach Shelby Frey said, "I would like to give sophomore Luke Konjoyan and senior Charlie Clark the last shout out!

"Both of these kids were extremely dedicated to our program this season. They never missed a game, even on spring break. They showed up every single day ready to play and work for our program.

"We were lucky to have them a part of our varsity program this year! Congratulations to Luke and Charlie."


Boys Golf Coach, Sean Allston, had praise for Smith's clutch play. shares, "Jonas shot an even par, 72 at the Central Section Div. 2 and 3 playoffs to bring home a fifth place honor out of over 100 golfers in the area.


"In the Central Section Championships he scored a 75, good enough for 13th place. Great job, Jonas!"

Booster's Club's Ken Hotaling, who organized the Athletes of the Month that have been featured in Estero Bay News, said, "The MBHS Athletic Boosters would like to thank each and every coach, student/athlete, and trainer who has made the 2022-2023 athletic season an amazing experience.

"Congratulations on each success on and off the athletic field, court, pool, track and course, both as an athlete and as a student. It has been a joy watching the obstacles that you have overcome."

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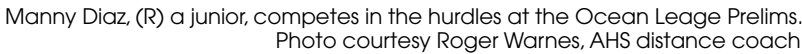
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AND CENTRAL COAST FAVORITES BOB & WENDY, BAY LOVE, WINE COUNTRY TROUBADOURS, AND LOREN RADIS

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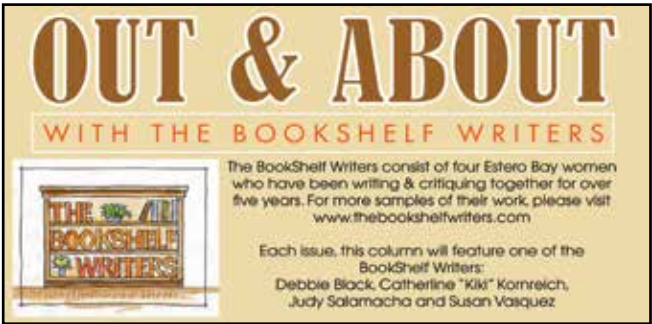
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Boys' Track & Field Team Repeats Ocean League Title



Community

Come Camp With Us in Our Own Backyard.



By Debbie Black

You're in luck! While El Capitan State Beach campground is closed for renovations, you have two superb alternatives: Sun Outdoors Resort directly across Hwy 101 from El Cap, and Refugio State Beach two miles north. Both are between Gaviota and Goleta, 90 minutes from Estero Bay. Both have spectacular ocean views to the Channel Islands, access to a nice beach, and can accommodate RVs of any size.

(Leave time to stop for lunch in Los Alamos at Flatbread or Bob's Well Bread—and buy some of Bob's famous pastries for camping).

Sun Outdoors is a manicured RV resort, with full hookups, free Wi-Fi/TV, large swimming pool, spa, laundry, immaculate restrooms and showers, horseshoes, playground, dog park, store and beach access. Camping at this resort was a great experience and we'll definitely go back again. There are 32 pull-through sites for big Class As, and 47 back in sites (up to 50ft). The level, paved sites are beautifully maintained, approximately 25' wide with some vegetation offering a little privacy. Many have ocean views. Each has a picnic table and fire ring/grill. Slight train and highway noise. But, in my opinion, there's not a bad site in the entire place.

Leashed dogs can join you on the Bill Wallace Trail on the hills behind the resort—an easy/moderate climb for some expansive ocean views. Kids will love the pool, spa, playground, games like Jenga, and riding bikes around the campground.

For scenic beach access, follow the signs down a paved trail through neighboring El Capitan Canyon Lodge. There's a "No Dogs" sign but I confirmed that it's okay to cross the bridge with your dog, then exit the property to the frontage road. Cross under the highway and down the tree-lined road through El Capitan State Beach Park. It's probably a ¼ mile walk one-way. Once El Cap is open again, you can also drive down to Day Use. No dogs on beach.

Tent campers in your group? Sun Outdoors has tent sites with cleverly graded areas for tents. Firewood is available at the camp store. RV sites start at \$103. When reserving on www.sunoutdoors.com note that this resort is called Sun Outdoors Santa Barbara. Do not confuse with their campground next door called Sun Outdoors El Capitan Canyon.



Refugio State Beach, a great spot for surf fishing, surfing and for families.

Refugio State Beach sits right on a beautiful, protected, south-facing beach rimmed by palm trees. No wonder it means 'refuge' in Spanish (ray-foo-hee-o). It's a great spot for surf fishing, surfing and for families. In the summer, the creek forms a safe little lagoon where kids can play. The camp roads are perfect for bike riding. There's a camp store, group camps, decent restrooms with showers (buy tokens at the machines, credit cards only). The dry-camping sites are open and exposed, and you'll hear the highway and trains. But you'll also hear the waves! No dogs on the beach but they can walk with you along the bike path that used to connect to El Capitan State Beach. In camp, our golden retriever, Chase, is on constant alert for the numerous pesky ground squirrels who taunt her. That keeps her pretty busy.

Even though you can't bike on the damaged 2-mile trail to El Cap, you can exit Refugio, cross under the highway to the opposite frontage road (Calle Real) and ride east about 3 miles until you cross back under the highway at the entrance to El Capitan State Beach. Yes, I said "east." This is that confusing south coast area around Santa Barbara where the beach runs east/west.

Refugio sites are level gravel, fairly large, but have little privacy. No hookups, no dump station, and no RV water fill-up station. But there are hose bibs throughout. Come with a full water tank if you can. Because it's rustic, Refugio sites are a reasonable \$43-45 per night.

Refugio is a much-loved, much-used older state campground and you may end up finding it's your favorite. Make reservations through www.ReserveCalifornia.com up to six months in advance. Summer months book up fast, so plan ahead. Winter is first-come-first-serve and there are usually campsites available, unless there's a west swell running and then surfers like my husband Garth take over!

When El Cap reopens in 2024 you may find you're just as happy at one of these two other campgrounds. Aren't we fortunate to have three wonderful choices in that area — so close to home? Throw a dart at the camping dartboard — nothing but winners!

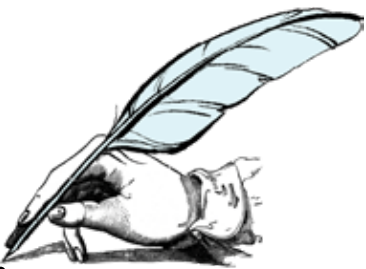
For extended articles on local campgrounds, go to www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard.

Letters

to

The Editor

One of the Best



I'm visiting Cayucos again from Fort Wayne IN. When I travel, my search for a newspaper is increasingly challenging. Fortunately, my efforts to secure a read were successful at the Cayucos grocery store where I found the Estero Bay News (4/20-5/3). Hopefully, the residents in the distribution area of the paper appreciate the high quality of your publication. It seems to me there is some dang good reporting going on for community happenings and governmental issues. The Estero Bay News is one of the best occasional publication format papers I have read in many years. The writing is excellent.

Ryan Stoneburner
Fort Wayne, IN

The Baby and

the Bathwater


We've all heard that expression, "Don't throw out the baby with the bath water." There is nowhere this might better be applied than to the issue of the designation of a marine sanctuary off our Central California Coast. Many support the designation as is, all well and good. These folks are just pleased as punch with the bathwater — perfect in every way and nary a question or concern in their minds (and quite happy with the political and pro-wind farm direction the nominators are taking it in). Then there are those of us that just ain't too happy with the murky appearance and questionable contents of the "bathwater"—really concerning issues to be seriously taken into consideration for the health of the "baby."

As spokesperson for the COAST Alliance, I announce that we have recently disassociated ourselves from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Violet Sage Walker and the sanctuary group of which COAST was a founding member, because of significant issues with the recent direction the decision makers are taking the project. Our priority is, and always will be, the health of the oceans. We still support a marine sanctuary on the Central Coast with the same size and basic protections it would provide; sanctions from industrial damage in its various forms such as seismic testing, oil and natural gas exploration and production, mineral exploration and the potential to oppose an offshore windfarm if not presented in an environmentally non-damaging form. A marine sanctuary could benefit us all from a scientific research and economic standpoint as well.

Letters Continued on page 16

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Community

Virg's Landing From page 1

Blancas Rookery, just north of Hearst Castle.

Aha! Morro Bay's sport-fishing season started May 1. Happy fishing days were anticipated through December – weather permitting. And I was happy to see these fishermen had scored, because my newest friends in Rotary are Ron and Lisa Casey, who purchased Virg's Landing as of November 16, 2022. They intended to follow in the august footsteps of founders Virgil and Sharon Moores, who brought live bait fishing to Morro Bay in 1954.

During our interview for this article, I learned how much they had accomplished during the last four months to be ready for season opener of their fleet, including the Rita G and Fiesta.

Ron and Lisa gave a shout-out to their managers Gambit Ruiloba and, Chris Trujillo, for going above and beyond. "They have made this transition so easy for us," said Lisa.

"Bookings are going well," said Ron. "We average 10-15 per day with many charters sold out. Of course, the weather hasn't been terrific for business."

Lisa, who claims Ron can fix anything, admitted she doesn't know everything yet about the business, but "I know how to listen."

She's enjoying the learning process taking care of the books, processing fishing licenses — the tasks go on and on. Besides sportfishing Virg's Landing has a tackle and bait store and offers private tours, and whale watching.



Virg's fleet. Photo submitted

Lisa spends four to six days a week in the store. "I know it will be more during the season," she said. "We go back to Hanford and Clovis as much as we can to spend time with the kids and grandchildren." As of this writing they just returned from welcoming the birth of their 16th grandchild, a healthy boy.

At first, Ron appears to be stoic and all business. I quickly discovered business to him means being focused on their new family business, but also reserving time for their immediate family and making time to link into the community he is now serving.

He explained besides the day-to-day running of the new business, the Rita G needed to be re-powered. She now has two new engines. The Fiesta was due and passed its biannual Coast Guard certification. The costs kept coming, and they had another major decision to make. Could they afford to continue funding the beloved John Rowley's Biggest-Baddest Lingcod Competition? It didn't take long for Ron and Lisa to understand the competition was more than a community tradition that needed to continue. It is a marketing strategy that made good business sense.

Check out Virg's website at www.virgslanding.com and see how much fun this is for seasoned and newbie competitors. For an investment of \$109, fishermen spend a day fishing. "Qualifying is easy! Each trip the largest lingcod of the day is weighed by the crew on the boat, the angler is recorded, and the tackle shop logs it into the day log. At the end of every week, the largest lingcod of the week on any trip going out of the landing is selected and entered in the end-of-the-year competition. During the December fish-off, three anglers split. The jackpot of \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000."

You have to be in it to win it! No wonder, they were voted the 2023 People's Choice Award for the best of the best charters, an annual readers' poll produced by New Times of San Luis Obispo.

So how did the Casey partnership begin? Ron and Lisa attended Hanford High School at the same time, but it was years later before they met. They competed against each other in a billiards competition. The fun-loving couple reacted with Ron smiling and agreeing as Lisa quickly chimed in that she won the competition. They've been married 17 years and have raised a blended family of five kids now in their 30s who have given them 16 grandchildren.

Ron is retired U.S. Navy. He served on the USS Cincinnati, a LCS (littoral combat ship), the USS Phoenix, a Los Angeles class attack submarine, and the USS Asheville, one of two U.S. Navy gunboats. He was curious about the DSRV-Avalon on display almost across the street from Virg's at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum. He explained, "One of the ships I served on had a mission to transport the Avalon."

Ron spent the last ten years as maintenance manager in the Fresno office for Vitro Architectural Glass, a national company that produces window/glass products for large commercial buildings and developments.

Lisa loves kids, first her own – well maybe grandkids first - and then the many children that attended her large day care business over the years.

Vacation time for the couple was often Morro Bay and Monterey. They booked many fishing trips with Virg's Landing. So, after the kids were all settled into their careers and family lives, and after they decided and finished the remodel of their 2,000 square-foot home in Hanford, they noticed Virg's Landing was for sale. The call to move to the Central Coast was strong. They were ready to begin their next careers in a business they would build together. A month after talking to the owner, they made an offer and put their Hanford home on the market. Ron continued to work through December. When the business closed in November and their house sold just as quickly, they moved to their temporary quarters on a horse ranch in Arroyo Grande. And that might be another story for another day! As time and energy allows, they intend to find their Morro Bay dream home maybe even by the end of the year.

Ron and Casey believe in becoming active members of their new Morro Bay community. For example, Ron approached the Rotary Club of Morro Bay for potential membership soon after he settled into the business. His mom and dad, Joe and Lue Casey, had involved him in many Rotary Club of Hanford Noon activities. Joe has been a Rotarian for 45 years and served multiple leadership positions in the Hanford club, including club president as well as Rotary District duties.

It was a proud Tuesday in April 2023 for father and son – mother and wife - when President John Solu invited Joe and Lue to pin Ron, recognizing him as the newest member of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay.

I encourage our readers to get to know Ron and Lisa Casey. In fact, let's all go fishing!

Letters From page 15

So, we as an alliance, are prepared to support the sanctuary with the request of some changes to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and YOU as an individual or an organization can do the same. NOAA will be opening the last public comment period probably within the next 60 days. Now is your opportunity to voice exactly what you would want in an established sanctuary, be it absolute assurances of no regulation of fisheries, a change in name, an inclusion or exclusion of overall protected acreage, specific preference in a management modality or any other changes you would like to see.

For its part, COAST will be asking for these changes and additions: 1) a change in name to better include all local indigenous entities 2) an administrative board that would not be co-managed by the Chumash, but would be heavily weighted towards local indigenous input (six or seven seats on the board), as well as local stakeholders from various industries, NGO's and city and county government 3) a very clearly stated intention that the sanctuary not be involved in fishing regulatory practices and recommendations 4) that any other federally recommended industrial projects that are adjacent to the sanctuary meet the standard of the sanctuary itself in non-disturbance of the marine ecosystem, as damages close to the sanctuary boundaries will negatively impact the sanctuary itself

We have a voice in this matter! Most of us would love to see our coastline and oceans be protected for future generations, so don't summarily negate something just because you don't like one aspect of it. Ask for change and be part of the process. And please, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater.

You have a choice; you have a voice.

Mandy Davis,
Los Osos, COAST Alliance

ViewPoint
Ironman Reality

The sting of the financial impacts of this past weekend have eased however, my fiduciary duty to Dockside and my personal responsibility to my 60 staff members have caused me to question how the City of Morro Bay allowed this to



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Community

happen. Some very interesting information is available when one looks beyond the hype and spin that is created to promote an event such as the Ironman in such a small community as ours. In matter-of-fact Morro Bay at 10,000 residents is the smallest city in the USA to host such a disruptive event. The next closest to us is Coeur d Alene, Idaho at 55,000, then Santa Cruz, California at 63,00, and all other host cities exceed 100,000 residents all the way to 1.9 million residents for Panama City, Florida. The World Triathlon Corporation, which Ironman is a part of, is a multimillion-dollar company that uses public resources all over the world to drive their brand, and make loads of money.

We know that Morro Bay waived all city permit fees and parking lot fees as well as our staff predicting a cost to the city of \$55,000. This was to include staff costs for police, fire, and maintenance, etc., and logistics to include parking, shuttling, waste management. "Visit Morro Bay" was to pay the \$30,000 for the sponsor fee as well as provide Ironman support staff with lodging.

But what will be the actual cost to Morro Bay? What will be the actual cost to "Visit Morro Bay?" What will be the actual cost to the taxpayers of our city as well as the state? And what will be the cost to businesses whose regular visitors and locals were displaced? I encourage you to ask the hard questions and get the real answers. Not the spin, not the smoke and mirrors, and definitely not the hype!

There were at least 10 different law enforcement agencies present, including bomb squads, K-9 units, SWAT vehicles teams, California Highway Patrol, and scores of water rescue staff and their watercraft including the United States Coast Guard. The staging of Highway 1, and the staging of our city's waterways and streets, state and city staffing costs along with overtime pay must be staggering. These costs were not just for race day or days leading up to race day. One must remember staff's time started last June when we were told how grand this event would be and how everyone would benefit.

We were told that when approved there was not much public input, but how does one give public input when all the impacts were downplayed and many of the specifics about the race were unknown. The parking plan was not even in place until a few weeks ago which resulted in intimidating "No Parking" signs placed days in advance of their actual required posting. We also dealt with flashing billboards that whose entire message was unreadable unless one drove by them 3 or 4 times.

We were also told that Ironman participants are more socially and economically successful than the usual visitor to Morro Bay. Whether valid or not, I find that kind of rhetoric disgusting as well as disappointing. Many of our businesses were built from the support of people who have already found Morro Bay and enjoy who we are, not what we are trying to be.

I am sure that some businesses did well, really well. I assume that the hotel industry had a strong week as lodging rates were doubled and tripled. Likewise, local groceries stores appeared to be busier than usual. However, Dockside and its staff took a beating! Our revenues for the weekend were down at least 50% starting Friday and continuing through race day. On race day our Main restaurant had the

worst lunch in its 19-year history. Our Fish Market saw virtually zero fresh fish sales on race day. Both of our locations starting feeling the punch well in advance of the weekend. The confusion and displacement for our regular visitors was costly. Our Labor costs were up at least 25% as we prepared for the influx of patrons as race planners and officials had promised but we never saw. The one bump in business that we did experience lasted for about two hours on race day as we did have a brief but good breakfast. Thank God!

The city has agreed to have the Ironman back for two more years. Now that we know what to expect for the inevitable future, it is imperative that we plan now and learn from the lessons learned this year! They DO NOT have to shut down the Embarcadero or other portions of our town as seen this year. There are many locations this event can be staged, without displacing regular visitors to Morro Bay. It is vital that we explore other options prior to giving away our city next year!

In general, events as a whole discourage Morro Bay's regular visitors wherever they are from. When our regular visitors and locals alike are displaced, events like the Harbor Festival, and Avocado Margarita festival begin to die. They get too big and elaborate as well as expensive. The organizers forget their roots. Bigger is not better! More expensive does not mean the best! That is why simple things like the Kite Festival and the new Maritime Museum Family Fun Day are having such great grass-roots success.

The City of Morro Bay needs to learn how to accommodate those that already visit us. Keep our bathrooms open and clean! Keep the trash picked up! And keep our traffic and parking managed. Businesses should not be allowed to price gouge and should offer our visitors a fair and good value for their services.

Please, as our elected officials, do not do this to us again! The accumulative effects of this and most other events that shut down our town are destroying who we are and who we serve. I for one do not need your help but please do not harm me!

Mark Tognazzini
Morro Bay, Dockside Restaurants

Letters Continued on page 19

City to Repair From page 1

several areas of the west shoulder of South Bay scoured with heavy erosion and extensive damage.

"The bike lane is currently closed off in areas with delineators because of the washed-out areas."

The City worries that if the shoulder isn't repaired soon, the overhanging asphalt surface will crack off and fall away, "which will impact the safety of this critical corridor between Morro Bay and Los Osos. Since work on South Bay is already planned and has yet to be completed with the Pavement Management Project, the City proposes to use Papich on an emergency basis to complete this additional repair and restoration work.

That work will include tearing out the undermined area and putting in new sub-base, geosynthetics, base and asphalt, and re-establishment of roadway striping. The work on South Bay has been estimated to not exceed \$200,000."



A portion of Preston Lane will be repaired following damage caused by winter storms. Photo submitted

City Engineer, Eric Riddiough, said work on South Bay Boulevard will begin sometime in June, so expect traffic controls and possibly a complete temporary closure.

"Due to the extent of the repairs," Riddiough told Estero Bay News, "the City will be looking at the possibility of a night full closure of the roadway to minimize traffic delays that may be experienced during the day, but we will need to work with the County on that."

The other added repairs are for Preston Lane, which was damaged in January when Morro Creek washed over its banks and flooded the area of the 1600-1700 blocks of Main Street, causing damage to businesses and homes in the area. It also left Preston Lane a real muddy, potholed mess. The problem is in part due to the roadway not being built properly in the first place.

"Preston Lane," reads the report, "was inundated with water and mud for several days after both flooding events. The road was in poor condition prior to the storms, but flooding and cleanup efforts that followed caused irreparable damage to the asphalt pavement." The City hopes the federal government will eventually help pay for a full rebuild.

"The City is seeking FEMA funding for long-term repairs to the roadway, but it is unknown at this time how much of the repairs FEMA funding would cover since the road was in poor condition."

City staff met March 30 with area residents and business owners to discuss the issue and try and find a solution. After the meeting the City decided to do a temporary fix.

"Staff communicated to the residents and businesses on Preston Lane that there will be a short-term solution on Preston Road to pulverize existing asphalt road pieces that remain, import recycled asphalt grindings and place 4-6 inches of grindings on a newly graded subgrade surface, and grade to drain. The grindings will be topped with an oil surface coat to hold grindings in the interim while funds are obtained for a more complete road repair. The not-to-exceed cost for this work is \$100,000 including all materials, labor, equipment, and incidentals."

A long-term fix on Preston Lane might depend on the State.

"A long-term solution to fully reconstruct Preston City Repairs Continued on page 19

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News

Athletic Achievement From page 1

organizing fun run fundraisers in Baywood Park for nearly 30 years.

Roundy’s daughter, Faye Padayachee (“Faye Roundy” when she attended MBHS and was a cross country stand-out), spoke for the family and said that her father continued to support the cross country program long after she and her brothers had graduated.

She said they estimated that over the years, the Oktoberfest and June Fest Fun Runs raised about \$75,000 for the program. The first of the Roundy Family scholarships was given to Dylan Bueno.

The Athletic Boosters Club handed out four scholarships, going to: Alejandro Alvarez, John Skaggs, Samantha Rocha, and Carmen Spahr.

The Platinum Pirates Awards are more than Most Valuable Player Awards and also take into consideration a more, well-rounded student athlete, one who helps and encourages his or her teammates, contributes to their teams on and off the field and positively contributes to the school community.

Award winners this year were: Gabe Paul for Baseball; Alfredo Castillo and Bella Musloff for Boys and Girls Basketball respectively; Isa Rojas for competitive cheerleading; Michael Carbajal and Noleena Fahy for Cross Country; Nami Hoag for Football; Jonas Smith and Sydney Laughlin for Boys and Girls Golf respectively; Sammy Sweeney for (girls) Sand Volleyball; Jessica Chavez and Jesus Ruvalcaba for Girls and Boys soccer; Channell Thibodeaux for Softball; Jude Moore and Maya Hitchcock for Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving; and Jackson Hanson and Nellie Calderwood for Boys and Girls Tennis.

Blackwood and Kate Avila were honored in Track & Field; Max Taylor and Reese Mischel in Boys and Girls Volleyball respectively; Emory Wishon and Devyn Downing for Boys and Girls Water Polo; and Laiza Lerio and Josiah Lieberman for Girls and Boys Wrestling.

Estero Bay News asked Hoyt how his first year as athletic director went?

“This was my first year as the athletic director for Morro Bay High,” Hoyt said. “In the fall, we had seven out of eight teams make the CIF Playoffs with girls water polo making a deep run to finish second in the Division II Playoff bracket for their second year in a row.

“In the winter, we had five out of six teams making the playoffs with boys and girls soccer both making deeper runs in the playoffs than they have in years. In the gym, we hosted CIF for both boys and girls wrestling, and we had the honor of watching sophomore, Shea Dawson, win a CIF title in his home gym.

“In the spring, five out of 11 teams made the playoffs.”

The sports program as a whole is in fine shape. “With a school population just under 800 students and 25 teams,” Hoyt said, “we have done an incredible job fielding competitive teams locally and across the Section.

“Looking forward, I am excited to continue to build on our successes and foster more partnerships across the youth athletic programs in Cayucos, Los Osos, and Morro Bay in the years to come.”



Gabe Paul, left, was the Platinum Pirate for baseball, with his coach Bob Botello making the announcement.



Josiah Lieberman got the Platinum Pirate Award for boys wrestling from coach, Albert Garza.



Alfredo Castillo, left, gets a Platinum Pirate Award from Coach, Emily Dunn



Laiza Levio was the Platinum Pirate for the Girls Wrestling Team.



This year’s Good Gal and Guy Awards went to Hannah Colleti and Charlie Fryer.



Jonas Smith received the Platinum Pirate Award for golf.



Jesus Ruvalcaba was the Platinum Pirate for boys soccer.



Sydney Laughlin was Platinum Pirate for the Girls Golf Team.



Bella Musloff was Platinum Pirate for the Girls’ Basketball Team.



Jude Moore won Platinum Pirate for the Boys Swimming & Diving Team.



Aiden Blackwood got the Platinum Pirate Award for Boys Track & Field from hurdles and jumps



Maya Hitchcock was the Platinum Pirate for the Girls Swimming & Diving Team.



Nellie Calderwood was the Platinum Pirate for the Girls Tennis Team.



Max Taylor was given the Platinum Pirate Award from boys volleyball coach, Shelby Frey.



Reese Mischel was the Platinum Pirate for the Girls Volleyball Team.




Devyn Downing was the Platinum Pirate for Girls Volleyball.




Dylan Bueno, left, received the first Ron Roundy Family Scholarship from Faye (Roundy) Padayachee.

Congradulations
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Writing Contest

From page 1

titled, ‘War at Its Most Pointless: ‘All Quiet on the Western Front,’ and in less than 450 words he captured the attention of the NYT review board judges securing a spot as one of the 10 top finalists.”

Rea’s teachers were impressed. His English teacher, Kate Kosteck, said, “Orion is an incredible student and talented writer. He brings such insight and nuance to his written assignments, class discussions, and casual conversations. I am beyond thrilled — and not at all surprised — he has been recognized by the New York Times!”

His school newspaper advisor too was not surprised by the achievement.

Ryan Mammarella, MBHS journalism teacher, said, “Orion is a gifted writer. When he joined journalism his freshman year, he already possessed all the skills necessary to craft insightful, engaging, and exciting critiques of popular culture including movies, television shows, and music. As an advisor, my role was simply to provide him a platform and then sit back and watch the magic happen. I’m thrilled that he is being recognized at a national level.”

Oddly enough for a newspaper with such a grand tradition for reporting “All the News That’s Fit to Print,” it never printed contest results or at least didn’t notify Rea, who said he hadn’t heard the contest results for three months after it was apparently quietly announced online.

Rea said a friend discovered the good news during a Google search.

“I was surprised because I wasn’t contacted personally and that was the first time I had heard about the win,” said Rea, who is 15 and finishing his sophomore year.

Asked how it felt to be recognized by the Times, Rea said, “It feels amazing and I’m proud of what I’ve done. It’s just an honor. I want to continue to write and analyze because studying humans through the media is an area I’m very compelled by.”

According to a news release from the Times, “We received nearly 4,000 submissions from teenagers around the world, and have crowned dozens of finalists.”

Entries were about a variety of things — video games, movies, books, music, restaurants, theater and more.

The start of Rea’s critique of the film, All Quiet on the Western Front,” begins a bit like a face slap: “All Quiet on the Western Front” is a film that aims to immerse the viewer in war itself. It is a battle just to keep watching, to continue breathing as each horrible moment unfolds.

“The soundtrack from Volker Bertelmann, thumping yet somber, mirrors war’s every mood, scream and sneeze.

“The cinematography, production design, and makeup paint a portrait lined with dull hues and wretched substances: blood, pus, excrement, snot... and then, there is the dirt.”

If Estero Bay News readers would like to check out Rea’s article and the other winners, see: www.nytimes.com/2023/02/15/learning/the-winners-of-our-eighth-annual-student-review-contest.html.



Morro Bay High School STUDENT

Speed Limit

From page 1

The speed surveys must be updated every 7-14 years, according to a city report. Without a valid survey in place, speeding tickets issued by traffic cops could be challenged on a technicality.

“Speed surveys serve as legal justifications for speed limits,” reads the report, “and are necessary to maintain enforceability of speed limits by the Police Department. Speed surveys do expire, and they must be updated every 7-14 years. The City’s prior speed survey was set to expire on May 23, 2023. Completion of the recent speed survey allows for continuity of speed limit enforcement of Morro Bay.”

To change speed limits requires amending the City Municipal Code (Section 10.56.010), and with the vote by Council on May 23, the new speed limits go into effect immediately.

Among the changes are: dropping Main Street from Atascadero Road to Yerba Buena Street down to 35 mph from 40; dropping Main from Radcliff to Atascadero Road (Hwy 41) from 35 to 30 mph; and dropping Main from Marina to State Park Road from 30 to 25 mph.

That last stretch of roadway and the excessive speeds people drive on what is a long, downhill straightaway has been a bane for people who live in that area. Indeed, residents living around the Pacific Avenue and Main Street intersection once petitioned for a 4-way stop to be installed. And while the City Council capitulated to having stop signs added to Main Street, the staff later declined to do so, citing a lack of evidence (i.e. accidents) reported at that intersection to justify it.

Instead they tried traffic calming measures — painting big white striping in crosswalks and exaggerated bulb outs at the corners — which oddly enough often cause drivers on Main Street to stop thinking there must be a stop sign too, though there isn’t.

Other streets to get new speed limits include the Embarcadero from Beach Street to Coleman Drive dropping from 30 to 25 mph. Quintana Road from Main to Morro Bay Boulevard is now being set at 25 mph, and Pacific Avenue from the Embarcadero to Kings Street is also now set at 25 mph.

Morro Bay Boulevard from Piney Way to Quintana Road is now 25 mph, as are Ironwood Avenue from Del Mar Park to Hwy 41, and Kern Avenue from MBB to Ridgeway Street.

The new speed limits will be fair game for traffic enforcement once the maintenance crew gets the new speed limit signs erected.

It should be noted that residential streets while not posted are generally limited to 25 mph, though several streets in the Heights with blind corners, behoove drivers to drop it down to about 15 mph for the safety of other drivers, pedestrians and children playing.

And a dearth of sidewalks in the Heights and North Morro Bay neighborhoods also warrants slowing down for pedestrian safety, as people and pets have to walk in the street.

Of note, not one speed limit on any city street was increased, and seven went unchanged in the new ordinance.



City Repairs

From page 17

Lane is dependent on future capital funding and necessary storm water system upgrades.”

The staff submitted a “Notice of Interest” for a “long-term project to CalOES [State Office of Emergency Services] for hazard mitigation funds to redesign and upsize the storm drains in this area to capture more surface water runoff, which could help mitigate against future flooding, and this work would require the reconstruction of Preston Lane.”

That area along Main Street from Radcliff Street to Atascadero Road was inundated with rain runoff in the Jan. 8-9 storm and is roughly the same area that flooded in a huge storm in March 1995.

As for the Pavement Management Project for FY 2021/22, which Papich has been working on for months, Riddiough said Papich completed most of that work in January-February in between storms. The South Bay repairs haven’t been completed yet, which allows for the amended contract and added work.

The budget shows Papich’s original contract of \$1.27M; plus Amendment 1 for \$63,700; and Amendment 2 for \$300,000 (\$200,000 for South Bay and \$100,000 for Preston Lane); for a total contract amount of \$1.63M. Add into that \$74,000 for construction management, inspections and testing, and the overall budget rises to \$1.71M.

Money for these repairs comes mainly out of the Measure Q sales taxes (a 0.5% voter-approved local sales tax) and State and Federal roads monies, which are amassed through gasoline and diesel fuel taxes paid at the pump.

Letters

From page 17

Be Heard - Vote

The “Voter Initiative Filed on Battery Plant” article focuses on the most recent voter initiated legislation in the City of Morro Bay. I allowed myself to be distracted from the topic by reflecting on the number of successful initiatives mentioned.

Morro Bay voters have demonstrated repeatedly a desire for a direct say in major changes affecting who we are, our identity. The quantity of initiatives may also demonstrate voters’ dissatisfaction with the direction elected leaders chose to take.

Here are a couple of other examples not mentioned in the article.

Measure F passed in 1984. Measure F established a population cap of 12,200 in order “to avoid an unanticipated decrease in available water supply.” Sufficient water has been an issue for 40 years.

More recently in 2021, there was the “No RV Camping on the Embarcadero” initiative. Voters were concerned about the consequences of turning tourist parking lots into overnight RV parks. City Council chose to adopt the measure rather than put it on the ballot. However, it still carries the force of an initiative: it cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

Morro Bay, we have now another chance to have our say.

Sincerely, Betty Winboltz
Morro Bay

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By Michael Walker

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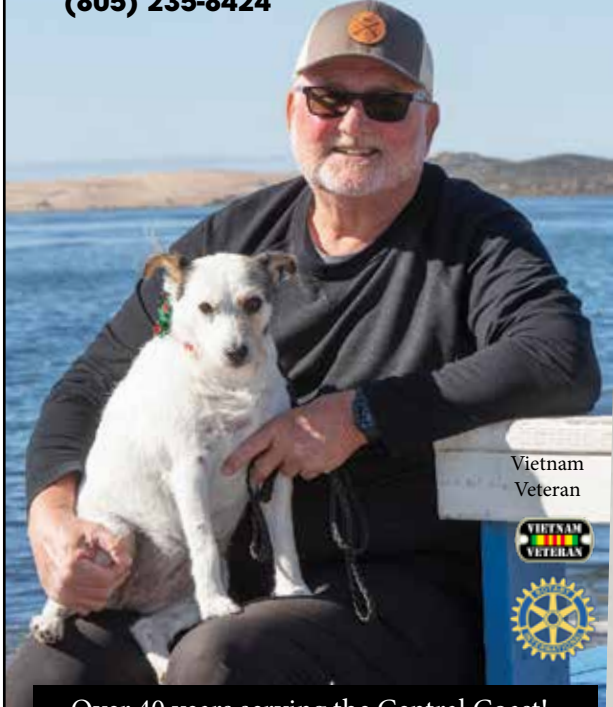
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Messages From Our High School Principals

Morro Bay High School's Principal
Scott Schalde

The Class of 2023 has accomplished true greatness at Morro Bay High School, and now it is time for them to shine their brilliance on the rest of the world.

Our Seniors continue to outscore both state and national averages on the SAT and ACT College Admissions Tests, many will use their incredible AP scores to bypass freshman course requirements and move more quickly into their major and onto their chosen career. Much of the Class of 2023 both meets and exceeds the requirements for admission to a 4 - year university and many of our best and very brightest, many of our most accomplished students will choose to begin their post high school education at a California Community College.

Here are a few of the accomplishments of the MBHS Class of 2023

- This class has collectively earned more than \$356,000 in local and outside scholarship awards, \$173,983 of that total are local scholarships! Our local community is incredibly supportive and we are thankful.
- 29.2% of the students have a 4.0 GPA or better
 - 75.8 of the students held a job during high school
 - The class of 2023 includes nine international exchange students from Belgium, Italy, Norway, Vietnam, Brazil and Germany.
 - 79.8% of the students completed at least 80 hours of community service



- 96 students will continue their education at a Community College or trade school, with many of these students having been accepted to universities, but making the best decision, financially and personally, for themselves.
 - 59 students who have decided to enroll at 4-year universities. Here is a brief list of some of the universities that MBHS seniors will attend next year: UCLA, Boston University, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, University of Oregon, UC Santa Cruz, Westmont, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, California Baptist University, Fresno State, Havey Mudd, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, San Diego State University, Long Beach State, University of Redlands, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Mexico, Oregon State, University of Arizona, Occidental and, of course, Cal Poly SLO.
 - Six of our students intend to play sports at the collegiate level.
 - One of our students has made the courageous decision to serve our country in the United States Army.
 - 117 (65%) of the students in the class of 2023 have completed at least one CTE (Career Technical Education) pathway. Pathways industry sectors include: Agriculture & Natural Resources, Arts Media and Entertainment, Education, Child Development and Family Services , Engineering and Architecture , Health Science and Medical Technology, Public Service and Automotive services and Transportation. 43 of the students have completed 2 pathways. And an outstanding 7 students completed 3 pathways.
- Class of 2023, I personally thank you. I know I speak for our entire staff when I thank you for an amazing 4 years. You have exceeded every expectation. Once again, my heartfelt Congratulations!!!

Scott A. Schalde
Principal
Morro Bay High School

Cambria's Coast Union Principal
Ed Arrigoni

The 2023 CUHS seniors class is a special group that has made many achievements academically and athletically over the four years at CUHS.

We have 31 graduating seniors and all have committed to continuing their education and training after graduation.

About a third of the seniors are going to Cuesta College to take advantage of the Cuesta Promise. The rest of our seniors are attending colleges and universities in California and some traveling out of state to attend Boston College, Duke and Creighton. We are proud to have six graduates attending our hometown favorite, Cal Poly.

I want to recognize Shanyra Cardenas, Caiden Kennedy and Robert Saunders as our salutatorian.

Twenty-eight of our seniors earned scholarships totaling \$160,000. I want to thank community organizations for supporting our students. The scholarships they provide will help our graduates take the first step towards making their dreams a reality. I could not be prouder of the class of 2023 and I look forward to handing each of them their diplomas at our graduation on June 1.



Edward Arrigoni,
Principal
Coast Union High School



Wishing all the graduates of 2023 many more successes in the future!

Congratulations!

From your friends at Bear Valley Realty



Morro Bay High School - Class of 2023



Morro Bay High School



Aguilar, Hayley



Aguilar, Mariana



Alfaro Verastegui, Samantha



Alvarez, Madeleine



Andrews, Forrest



Appell, Ruby



Arrigoni, Christian



Asquith, Marina



Avellar, Kian



Avila, Kate



Avila, Mikaela



Barajas, Juan



Baron, Perrine



Bates, Makayli



Berlanger, Louise



Bhatti, Wafa



Bishop III, Robert



Blackham, Rylee



Blacketter, Katherine



Blackwood, Aiden

Senior Portraits by:
Charlotte ‘Ginger’ DiNunzio
Chief Photographer/Owner



To the Graduates of 2023:

Congratulations on this significant step into the next phase of your life! I wish you the very best as you celebrate with family, friends and loved ones – you certainly deserve it!

You have come of age during unprecedented times: The world seems especially unsettled as we confront racism, climate change, gun violence, as well as economic inequality and uncertainty. All of

this – and the pandemic – have strained our relationships with each other, but I’m hopeful you will be able to strengthen the bonds of community.

During the years you’ve spent in school, you’ve had to deal with lots of different people and you’ve forged relationships, some of which could last a lifetime.

What also strikes me about the Class of 2023

is that while your school journey has been shaped by these remarkably chaotic times, you have persevered. It hasn’t been easy – and I know some have struggled greatly – but I’m impressed by your resilience.

I’ve seen some of you offer wonderful acts of kindness to others and I’ve heard some lay out big plans to work on our most challenging issues.

Morro Bay High School - Class of 2023



Blanchard, Luke



Botello, Jonathan



Boughton Proano, Lyla



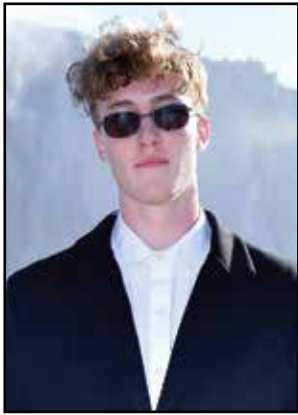
Bravante, Matilda



Brebes, Devon



Bridges, Jeremy



Bruce, Lucas



Brum, Nicola



Brumit, Olivia



Brush, Gavin



Bueno, Dylan



Calderwood, Nellie



Carbajal, Michael



Carranza, Fabiola



Carrea, Leonardo



Carreno Diaz, Chris



Castaneda, Isabella



Castillo, Alfredo JR



Castillo, Colin



Castillo, McKayla Kai

That's hugely encouraging!
In those of you I've met, I also see an emerging sense that community is fundamentally important and that sense of connectedness is a good sign for your individual and our collective future.
We're going to need that connectedness to figure out our big problems – the challenging issues like housing,

healthcare, the economy, and the environment. Personal relationships, especially those forged in person, face-to-face will be crucial as we deal with a world that is so influenced by social media and now supercharged by artificial intelligence.
I hope you take great strength from the relationships you have built, the remarkable communities you've grown

up in and the extraordinary place we call home. I'm confident you understand the world better than many older folks might think – and I can't wait to see how that insight will inform what you accomplish next.
Once again, congratulations!
Bruce Gibson
Supervisor, District 2, San Luis Obispo County



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Chrisman, Titan



Clark, Charlie



Cliff, Logan



Colletti, Hannah



Contreras, Alexa



Correia, Malachi



Cruz, Abraham



Czach, Tiana



Davis, Ryder



Deichen, Aiden



Demarest, Reese



Di Franco, Letizia



Diaz, Emily



Dougherty, Lily



Downing, Devyn



Echibani, Abuobayda



Edgington, Julia



Endersby, Owen



Escalante, Evita


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Falat, Ryan



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Fiorelli, Guido



Fishback, Drake



Flores, Jonathan



Fryer, Charles



Fuentes Korodini, Marcello



Gabatin, Julius



Garcia Alvarez Jr,
Alejandro



Garcia, April



Garcia, Brisa



Garcia, Jose



Gentry, Quentin



Gomez, Ian



Gonzales, Kaylie



Goron, Laettner



Gray-Musolff, Isabella



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Jones, Heath



Kautz, Steven



Kressin, Jonah



Laughlin, Sydney



Leage, Trason



Leahy, Donovan



Lehrmann, Shawn



Lerio, Laiza



Lertwachara, Ben



Lewis, Teaghan



Lieberman, Josiah



Lin, Aidan



Little, Rory



Loeza, Angel



Lopez Novelo, Diego



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Mann, Selena



Mariant, Riley



Martinez, Mars



Martinez, Sonia



Mehiel, Jackson



Mendez, Irais



Mendoza, Hugo



Mendoza, Venise



Miller, Avery



Mischel, Reese



Molina, Angel



Moore, Wesley



Morales, Nadelin



Muff, Gwendolyn



Nelson, Ruby



Olmos, Clarissa



Olmos, Jose

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Osorio, Matthew



Panian, Carmen



Parra, Martha



Patel, Lindsay



Patrick, Kayden



Paul, Gabriel.



Peeters, Rosalie



Peffly, Eva



Perez, Victor



Petersen, Benjamin



Phillips, Sydney



Pita, Evelyn



Pizzo, Nina



Popp, Titan



Puentes, Jennifer



Ratzat, Keenan



Resnick, Ben



Ridout, Summer



Rivera, Samantha

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Rodrigues, Neve



Ruane, Rae



Ruck, Bryson



Ruiz Nunez, Getx zemany



Russell, Jesse



Ruvalcaba, Jesus



Sabovich, Alysa



Sachs, Alana



Sanchez. Mason



Sanders, Allison



Shaffer, Shawn



Shakti, Raphael



Skaggs, John



Sky, Talyn



Somers, Isabella



Sook, Divine



Spahr, Carmen



Specker, Kai



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Stouwie, Mary Grace



Tavira, Kimberly



Thibodeaux, Chanell



Tinoco Gonzalez, Javier



Toledo, Carmen



Tomlinson, Evan



Truong, Nghi



Turner, Ellis



Uyeda, Lani



Vidati, Lola



Villaba, Isaac



White, Trey



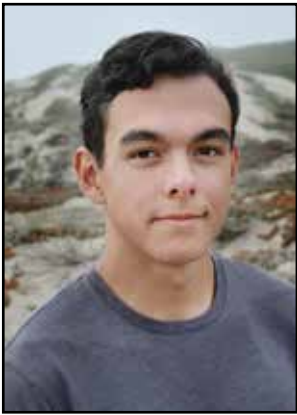
Whitson, Hunter



Wilder, Eleanor



Wilson, Jax



Wilson, Myles



Winn, Gabriel



Woodbury, Magic



Young, Benjamin



Zaffani., Gustavo



Zales, Alexceia

Morro Bay High School

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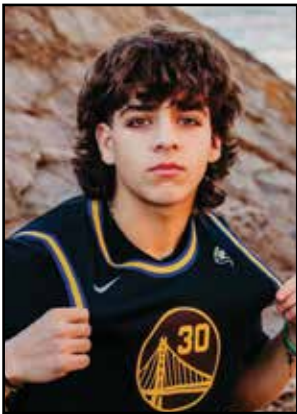
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Coast Union High School



Acosta, Patricia



Avina, Jovan



Bonilla, Alexa



Buhl, Sierra



Calvin, Kaya



Cardenas, Shanyra



Cruz, Eduardo



Fabela Trujillo, Daniel



Fabela Trujillo, Oliver



Fernandez, Diego



Francis, John



Garcia, Esteban



Garcia Sanchez, Brenda



Glennon, Ava



Gomez Urbina, Cesar



Kennedy, Caiden



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Lopez, Martin



Martinez, Yara



Mercado Cabrera,
Emmanuel



Merced, Alexander



Mondragon Bastida,
Jennyfer



Pena Garcia, Wendy



Reed, Elizabeth



Saunders, Robert



Smith, Luke



Tatham, Cyrus



Valenzuela, Philip



Venegas, Oscar



Wade, Ethan



Wills, Violet

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