

Independence Day Events



Celebrate our nation's independence with a slew of family friendly events throughout the county.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Morro Bay's 4th of July Family Fun Day

The City of Morro Bay and Morro Bay Recreation Services will host the Annual 4th of July Family Fun Day at Tidelands Park. This year's begin at 10:30 a.m. and wrap up at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023.

Start the day with the 2nd annual "Red", White, and Blue" bike parade in honor of late Councilmember Red Davis. The bike parade begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Northside of the Morro Creek Pedestrian Bridge and ends at Tidelands Park. There will be bike parking and a memorable souvenir for all participants.

Come out, bring your picnic blanket, and enjoy the live music, family games, and so much more. Kids can play carnival games and use the bounce house with the purchase of a carnival wristband for \$5 (cash

only). Enjoy BBQ hot dogs and hamburgers and support the local Kiwanis's organization and visit 3 Stacks and a Rock beer garden while listening to local performers.

Schedule of Events:

- 10:30 a.m. – Bike Parade
- 11: a.m. – Live music by local Elyse Black
- 12 p.m. – Opening Flag Ceremony presented by the US Coast Guard
- 12:30 p.m. – Family Magic Show with magician Derek Hood
- 2 p.m. – Live music by Sound Investment (band will play until 5 p.m.)

Organizers thank their sponsors Bay Osos Kiwanis, Aleshire and Wynder, LLP, and the City of Morro Bay. For more information, call Recreation Services at 772-6278 or visit the City of Morro Bay Facebook page.

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County to Further Study Offshore Wind Needs



The 67-foot research vessel, Fulmar, is scheduled to come to Morro Bay in early July for a series of studies to survey marine mammals in the local waters as part of the environmental study for offshore floating wind farms. Fulmar is the primary vessel assigned to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Photo courtesy MBNMS

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors have voted to accept a grant meant to further identify onshore infrastructure needs for proposed floating offshore wind energy farms being studied now for installation on a patch of ocean far offshore from San Simeon.

Supervisors agreed to accept \$1 million from the State from something called the "Deep Water Port Feasibility Study for Offshore Wind Energy Procurement" project that is allocating the money to SLO County via Caltrans.

It's the next step in studying the needs for both offshore wind and aerospace industries on the Central Coast.

That initial study was managed by REACH, a regional economic action coalition, and published on Dec. 15, 2022, according to a County report.

The study, called the "Central Coast Emerging Industries Waterfront Siting and Infrastructure Study," "was the first to examine in detail how waterfront infrastructure constructed specifically on the Central Coast could support the emerging offshore wind energy industry," the County report said. "The

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Moving Forward: Estero Bay Newcomers Group



Members of the Estero Bay Newcomers Club. Pictured (top) Beverly Yoshida, Janis Siems, Karen Matteson, Ted Leibman, Nanci Teter, and David Cheney. (bottom) Marianne Davis, Kathy Ulsh, Theresa theiler, Pam Jackson, Patrice Promack, Marianne Frost, Mary Chicchillo, Kathy Scruton, Susan Skalla. Photo by Judy Salamacha

By Judy Salamacha

Well, my loyal reader friends, do I have a group for you! I had the

pleasure of meeting several welcoming ladies and gentlemen having too much fun at their monthly board meeting in Los Osos. It's called Estero Bay New-

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LOCSD to Study Connection with S&T



By Neil Farrell

One of the water purveyors in Los Osos is hoping to further connect with the main supplier by buying-in on a new drinking water well being constructed now across town.

Los Osos Community Services Director, General Manager Ron Munds said his Board voted in concept to work on an agreement between the CSD and S&T Mutual water company that would allow them to in-

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County-City to Work on Homeless Housing Project

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County is hoping to land a huge State Sgrant and build a homeless housing project on Morro Bay's Quintana Road, albeit a temporary one.

The City Council recently gave a nod of support to a County-led effort to finally bring some kind of homeless sheltering to Morro Bay, and in the process tidy up Willow Camp Creek that's become one of the main areas for homeless encampments in town and has a lot of trash

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News

City Puts Three Waterfront Lease Out for Bids



The City of Morro Bay has put tidelands lease sites 50-50W and 51-51W along with lease site 49-49W out for redevelopment proposals. Shown here are the vacation rentals currently on the property. Photo submitted

By Neil Farrell

Want to get your hands on a piece of the Morro Bay waterfront? This might be your chance.

In a fairly rare occurrence, the City of Morro Bay is putting up for lease a trio of Tidelands lease sites on the southern end of the Embarcadero seeking someone that will redevelop what are now bay front vacation rental units and vacant land.

The three lease sites include the land and water areas off the VRs, located at 451 Embarcadero, as well as the land and water areas next door, at 431 Embarcadero, that are currently vacant.

The 50-51/50W-51W sites had been leased to the late-Reg Whibley who lived in one and rented out the other. Though they aren't for sale, the website Zillow lists the VRs with a value of \$1.03 million but where they got that estimated value is unclear, as it is currently not for sale or rent.

These are among the few VRs on Tidelands Trust lands, which are owned by the State and leased to the City to manage for public benefit.

Revenues from the lease sites account for a majority of the revenues for the Harbor Department, which has fallen far behind in maintenance projects due mainly to a lack of money. During a 2022 push to pass a parcel tax of \$120 a year on all private properties to support the harbor department (Measure B-22), which failed at the ballot box, it was estimated the harbor needs some \$10 million in maintenance repairs.

The water leases at Sites 51-50 did have a side-tie dock/wharf where boats could tie up.

But the other site has been vacant for decades and would be a blank canvas for redevelopment. This isn't the first time the City has tried to get someone to lease and build something on that site. A previous RFP that went out several years ago got zero takers, most likely because it is a very small lease site, with just 1,000 square feet of land out past the sidewalk and 2,500 s.f. in water area.

The site with the VRs is 2,000 s.f. of land area and 3,611 s.f. of water, so they are considerably bigger but still among the smallest of the dozens of lease sites the City controls and leases long term to business people.

Just what is the City looking to have built there? They've left that up to the potential bidders, with a few, broad guidelines.

"The Morro Bay City Council," reads the RFP by Harbor Director Ted Schiafone, "has determined it

is in the best interest of the City and public to consider redevelopment proposals for the Site. The City desires to have the Property redeveloped to continue to provide affordable visitor-serving opportunities that provide access to the bay, as well as an economic return to the City, while meeting modern design criteria that incorporate current planning and building codes for uses that are the most beneficial to the Embarcadero visitor-serving and business environments."

Being so small, it probably makes sense to combine them to allow for a larger development footprint, but also likely severely limits what one might do there.

There's one thing for sure, the City does know what it expects from a project. Among the "key objectives" are: the best and highest use of the land and water portions "to maximize revenues and return on investment."

They want an improved view shed, beyond the single-story VRs on the site now that sit adjacent to the sidewalk, the front door to one unit literally a step off the 4-foot sidewalk.

The Council wants whatever is built to add to the tourism draw; restore and enhance the environment "where applicable;" and put in a public restroom, too — "if practical."

The nearest public restrooms to these lease sites are at a small VR development a few doors down (571 Embarcadero), and at Tidelands Park to the south.

Any redevelopment will of course have to comply with the City's various planning and zoning rules, as well as its Local Coastal Program.

And any project the City ultimately approves will automatically have to be reviewed and affirmed by the Coastal Commission, which has jurisdiction over all the so-called, Tidelands Trust lease sites.

That's often where potential projects run into difficulty, as the Commission staff sometimes calls for things outside the City's requirements, like when they expanded the required Harborwalk to 10-foot wide from the City's standard 8-foot width.

This will be the first redevelopment of those sites in decades, and once a project receives conceptual approval by the City as part of the lengthy permitting process on the waterfront, the Harbor Department will begin discussing lease terms.

Among the design parameters are: minimum of 8-foot sidewalks and a 10-foot wide extension of the Harborwalk on the water side.

That would seem somewhat moot considering that the next lease site over is the Associated Pacific work dock and yard, which is not open for the public



Tidelands lease site 49-49W is currently vacant, consisting of land and water areas. Photo submitted

to stroll across and will likely never install that segment of Harborwalk, if and until it too gets torn down and redeveloped some day.

Three doors down is the Yacht Club, which is also not open for the public to cross, and isn't likely to become part of the Harborwalk.

The new development(s) must be handicap-accessible throughout — adhering to Federal ADA rules and standards.

The City wants it to have a, "fishing village/marine heritage/working waterfront/national estuary" themes.

Potential uses are listed in the Municipal Codes (Section 17.24.170) and include: "Visitor-serving commercial and recreational uses," including uses listed in Section 17.24.120." "Retail Businesses" means "any establishment for the retail sale of any article, substance or commodity, but not including the warehousing or storage of lumber or other building materials, or the outdoor sale of used or secondhand goods or materials of any kind."

Someone could also put in "retail and wholesale seafood markets and seafood processing" facilities, though the foot traffic along that stretch of the waterfront is pretty light.

They could build docks and slips for commercial or sport fishing uses but the Planning Commission before it approves something like that has to assess whether there is demand for it. Ordinarily, the City has a waiting list for commercial fishing slips.

Also, neither lease site has any existing parking, so whatever number of required parking spaces a



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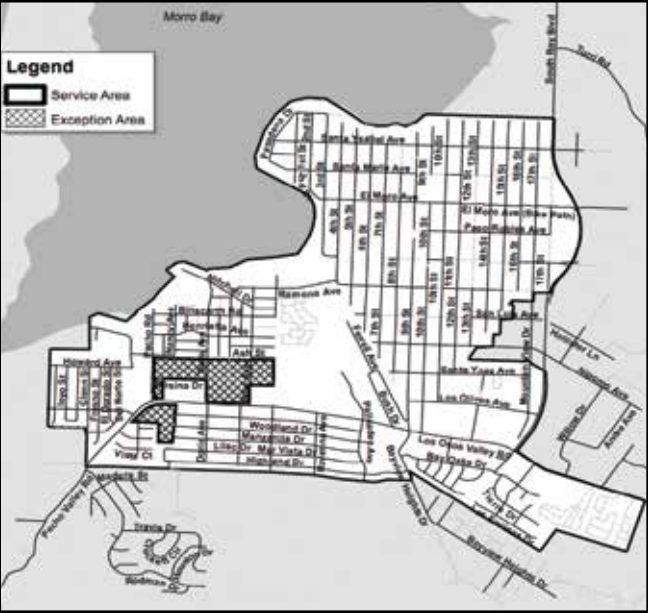




HAPPY 4th of July

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Los Osos Sewer Rate Protest Set



Map shows the boundaries of the Los Osos Wastewater District, administered by SLO County Public Works. The Supervisors have set July 18 as the hearing date to protest proposed rate increases for next year. Map courtesy SLO County Public Works

By Neil Farrell

Los Osos property owners will soon have a chance to speak up about proposed sewer rate changes from the County, as the annual Right to Vote on Taxes process is held.

County Supervisors were asked to set July 18 as the formal date for protest voting on new sewer charges for next fiscal year (2023-24).

The charges appear on property tax bills and are paid by anyone hooked up to the community sewer system. They cover just the financing part of the \$183-million project and not the actual flow coming from a home or commercial property.

That charge is dependent on water use and varies for everyone.

Sewer service to Los Osos is provided by County Public Works, which got the system — collection, treatment and disposal — built and operates it too.

This latest round of charges will include the homes in the Monarch Grove subdivision, which is next to Sunset Terrace off Los Osos Valley Road.

The County’s assessment district doesn’t cover the entirety of Los Osos as several areas were not required to hook up to the communitywide system. They include the Willow Drive neighborhood east of

South Bay Boulevard and larger parcels off Mountain View Drive.

The County passed an ordinance in 2020 allowing for increases under the State’s Prop. 218 the so-called “Right to Vote on Taxes” law that requires an annual protest vote of ratepayers to protest increases.

Mainly, a Prop. 218 protest is a formality, as residents and businesses must have basic services like sewer and water or risk becoming uninhabitable.

With this 218 vote, ratepayers have a chance to

County to Process Zoning Change on Cayucos Property



County-produced map shows the property at 673 S. Ocean Ave., Cayucos, that the County will process a General Plan Amendment and zoning change on, going from office-professional to residential multi-family.

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors approved the processing of a zoning change on an Ocean Avenue property in Cayucos that was first developed in the 1930s.

Back in May, the Supervisors were asked for permission to process the change in zoning from office and professional to residential multi-family on a 0.13-acre property, located at 673 S. Ocean Ave.

The applicants, Andrew and Merry Joslin, wanted the change in order to improve their property, which already has a 1,195 square foot, 2-story house on it.

“If approved,” reads the staff report from Senior Planner Shawn Monk, “the applicant intends to continue the existing residential use as the primary use, add a 2-car garage, increase the interior living area by 600-800 square feet, add an exterior deck extending 4 feet from the upstairs room, and add solar panels to the roof of the existing single-family residence.”

The 6,000 s.f. lot sits at the northern edge of the O&P zoning district, Monk said, and well south of the Central Business District.

The owners have used it as a residence since 1984 and the property has had a home on it since 1932, according to Monk’s report.

In 1994, the Joslins added a second story and demolished part of the house including a garage and shed. Though it might seem a simple thing to make a change in zoning, because Cayucos sits in the Coastal Zone, it requires a full blown General Plan Amendment that is also part of the Local Coastal Program and thus subject to jurisdiction by the Coastal Commission. In essence, the amendment would bring the property into conformity in terms of the zoning vs. the actual use. It could also bode well for potential future redevelopment into condos or apartments under the multi-family zoning.

“The residential uses are currently classified as a special use,” Monk’s report said. “However, by approving the requested land use change the site will become a conforming use in the [residential multi family] RMF land use, and continue with the single-family use.”

The uses in the immediate area around the site are varied including a motel, a laundry mat, Cayucos Community Church, a mortuary, a vacation rental office and two mixed-use buildings with retail shops on the ground floor and residences on top.

Monk’s report concluded that making the change, which the owners will pay to have done, would not be out of line with the neighborhood nor adversely affect the O&P zoned area, nor the Central Business District several blocks north.

Barstow Pair Arrested for ID Theft and More

A Sheriff’s deputy stumbled upon an alleged identity theft ring out of Barstow after making a traffic stop in Arroyo Grande.

According to the Sheriff’s Sgt. Kevin Norris, deputies out of the South Station in Oceano stopped the suspicious vehicle on Thursday, June 8 at about 1:45 p.m. in the 600 block of Mesa Dr., Arroyo Grande.

According to Sgt. Norris’ news release, the deputy got suspicious of the vehicle when he realized it had two different license plates, and further suspicion arose when it was discovered that neither plate belonged with the vehicle. Inside were a man and woman, both from Barstow, Calif.

“Further investigation by the deputy,” Sgt. Norris said, “led to a search of the vehicle, which resulted in the arrest of the male driver and female passenger for various charges.”

According to the news release, the search uncovered “multiple stolen access cards, stolen checks, illegal narcotics, narcotics paraphernalia, shaved car keys [which are used for vehicle thefts], a lock pick set, and a Billy Club.” Needless to say, they were both arrested.

The driver, Christopher Mongenel, 43 of Barstow, was arrested and booked into County Jail for suspicion of possession of a Billy Club, possession of a controlled substance, possession of narcotic paraphernalia, and possession of burglary tools.

The female passenger, Anna Applegate, 39 of Barstow, was arrested and booked into County Jail for suspicion of possession/theft of identifying information of 10 or more persons.



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News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cuesta Inlet Boat Creep Check July 15

Abandoned watercraft at a Los Osos treasure have doubled since the pandemic.

Cuesta Inlet is a wonderful local resource for walking and active boat/kayak/SUP enthusiasts. On July 15, boats will be inspected and noticed if they are out of compliance. Celebrate Los Osos volunteers will inspect each boat at the inlet starting at 9 a.m. Readers that want to volunteer for the Cuesta Inlet cleanup can contact Ellie Malykont at: Volunteer@Celebrate-LosOsos.org



Just one of the vessels clearly abandoned leaving trash and potential breeding ground for pests at Cuesta Inlet. Photo submitted

"The property is private, and the owners require only two things of folks keeping boats at the inlet: you must have current registration and contact information," said Pandora Nash-Karner of Celebrate Los Osos. "For the gift of easy access to the bay, it's not too much to ask."

For 27 years volunteers have attempted numerous efforts to control "boat creep," the number of kayaks, canoes, skiffs and small sailboats at Cuesta Inlet, many just dumped and abandoned. For the past fourteen years, volunteers from Celebrate Los Osos have worked with the property owners, county code enforcement, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, the sheriff's department and their dive team, and the California Highway Patrol to clean up the inlet area. They have removed over a ton of litter, refloated sunken boats, attempted to find owners, and towed away orphan boats. Boats have increased from 286 in 2010 to now nearly 700!

"Health and disease problems caused by abandoned boats can be serious. Water-filled boats are perfect mosquito breeding grounds," Nash-Karner said. "Mosquitoes won't travel more than 100 feet or so from standing water. That's because the female mosquito (they do the biting) needs water to deposit her eggs. The only reason a female mosquito bites is to get the proteins necessary to form her eggs. So, after she's gone to town on your blood, you can guess what her next stop is! All she needs is about an inch of water to lay the eggs that will become a whole new swarm taking over a kayak, canoe or sailboat

at Cuesta Inlet."

Mosquitos aren't the only pest running amuck. Rats are now living and breeding under some of the upside-down abandoned canoes and kayaks, especially those with ice plant growing over them, making those vessels perfect hiding places to shelter the rodents.

On July 15, volunteers will inspect every boat at the inlet looking for the two things that would allow the boats to be compliant: a) boat registration if applicable, and b) contact information.

All vessels must be registered except boats that are manually propelled; sailboats 8 feet or shorter, boats from outside the state that are registered currently in their home states. Notices will be taped to all boats out of compliance and request that contact information be placed on the boat with something permanent, not so called "permanent Magic Marker" because they are not permanent.

"After all the years of public outreach about the two simple rules at Cuesta Inlet, it is disappointing to see so many people taking advantage of the storage and launching privilege and still flagrantly not complying with the owner's requests," stated Will "George" Kastner, Celebrate Los Osos board member.

The group Save Cuesta Inlet is raising money to purchase the land so that it can be permanently held as public property. To learn more, go to <https://savecuestainlet.org/sci/>

Poly to Research Strawberry Farming Automation

Automation in the Strawberry industry could increase the sustainability one of the State's biggest agriculture crops.

The Cal Poly Strawberry Center, in collaboration with the California Strawberry Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service in Salinas was awarded \$1 million in federal funding to expand its research in strawberry automation leading to enhanced sustainable farming practices, including workforce development.

The program will bring together stakeholders to focus on development and deployment of innovative automation and mechanization technologies related to planting, pruning, pest management, picking and processing in the strawberry industry.

In 2021, California produced 90% of all strawberries grown in the U.S. Strawberries are California's highest-value per-acre crop, generating \$3.1 billion in direct impacts

and an additional \$2.1 billion in indirect impacts. In all, California strawberry farmers contribute a total of \$5.2 billion to the economy.

The Census Bureau projects that the U.S. population will reach 438 million by 2050, increasing the demand for sustainably grown foods. At the Cal Poly Strawberry Center, the first year of this multi-year project will be focused on developing high-tech machinery to autonomously cut runners off strawberry plants. Subsequent years' work will include focused technological advances on the removal of weeds and unhealthy plant material in commercial, open-field production. This increases harvest yield and provides a non-chemical approach to decreasing concomitant pests and disease vectors.

Over the last five years, the Strawberry Center has successfully developed and commercialized several types of enhanced strawberry production equipment such as the Lygus bug vacuum, spray rig, strawberry decapper, plastic hole puncher and hoop house disassembler.

The funding, awarded through the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023" bill, was championed by members of the California delegation in the House and Senate and will be reoccurring in future years.

Parking Fees Jump in SLO

It will cost a bit more to work and play in the City of San Luis Obispo if you have a car to park. Starting on July 1, parking rates will increase to pave the way for community-building projects and support the long-term vibrancy of downtown San Luis Obispo.

The two-hour street parking in the main downtown core will go up to \$4 per hour from about \$2. The 10-hour street parking in the outer downtown area will go up to \$3 per hour from \$1.50. Structure parking will be \$3 per hour or a maximum daily rate of \$12.

The City's Parking Services Program provides on-street and off-street public parking facilities including: five public parking lots downtown, three parking structures, 11 residential parking permit districts, 55 multi-space pay stations, and over 700 single space parking meters.

Residents of San Luis Obispo County can keep their first hour of free parking at the 842 Palm St. structure starting when new rates go into effect. Registration for the Park Local program is available at slo.thepermitportal.com.

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

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Supervisors Sign CalWORKS Program Contracts

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors recently approved one new contract and renewed an existing contract under federal employment training and worker’s assistance programs.

On June 20, Supervisors approved a new, \$600,000 contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc., for the 2023-24 fiscal year under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth services.

They also signed a \$325,000 contract with Community Action Partnerships of SLO (CAP-SLO), to provide child care services under the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids or CalWORKs Program.

The CalWORKS Program began in the 1990s. “In 1997,” reads a County staff report, “our federal/state public assistance program was drastically changed to focus on minimizing ‘welfare dependency’ by increasing the number of working adults through expanded training and supportive services opportunities, and by giving states greater flexibility in the design and implementation of programs.”

Federally, the program was called “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families” or TANF, which left it up to the individual states how best to spend the money based on demographics. CalWORKS arose out of the TANF (a.k.a. Welfare-to-Work) and laid out specific ways to help families get into or back into the workforce.

In California that meant Counties have to provide child care for those in the CalWORKS Program, the report said. “If supportive services [i.e., child

care] are not provided,” the report said, “counties must give ‘good cause’ for non-participation in the WTW program.”

Here, child care is essential for the CalWORKS program families. “Child care is necessary for most of our participants to support participation in assigned activities including work, training, education, drug and alcohol treatment, and/or mental health services.”

There are three basic categories of families that can get these child care subsidies: TANF/CalWORKS families; families transitioning off TANF/CalWORKS; and, “other low-income working families.”

In 2019, the State changed the program. “The approval of Senate Bill 80 [SB 80], in 2019 increased access to child care services for CalWORKs families by requiring a full time [30-hours or more per week] authorization to CalWORK’s Stage One Child Care immediately upon CalWORKs cash aid approval and continuously for 12 months or until the participants are transferred to Stage Two. This Immediate and Continuous Child Care was implemented as part of a two generational approach to disrupt the cycle of poverty by simultaneously focusing on the needs of parents and children. This has led to increased need for provider services and costs.”

Stage 1 is under the California Department of Social Services and is for welfare recipients; and Stages 2 and 3 are under the California Department of Education and for all low-income working families.

“The intent of the three stages,” the

County report said, “is to avoid a break in child care services as a participant moves closer to self-sufficiency. In each of the three stages, families may choose their own provider. The provider must either be licensed or exempt from licensing [e.g., a family member providing care], and child care providers are paid directly for services performed.”

CAP-SLO, which is a private non-profit organization, and County Social Services have been working on this together since the program’s inception, having first entered into a contract in 1998.

CAP-SLO’s responsibility with this program “includes facilitating child care services and making direct payments to child care providers.” CAPSLO is approved by the California Department of Social Services “to handle State child care funds and generally serves an estimated 400 County children per year.”

CAP-SLO provides the County with the Resource and Referral Child Care Program to assist CalWORKs participants “in accessing immediate, quality and affordable child care as they begin their CalWORKs WTW activities and move towards employment and self-sufficiency,” according to the report.

CAP-SLO has one of its employees stationed in each Social Services Regional Office in the County, which the report said handles all referrals from the State DSS. CalWORKS participants are given a list of approved providers to select from.

“The process,” the County report said, “promotes parental choice and ensures that families have stable childcare that they are comfortable with.”

For more information about services offered by CAPSLO see the website at: www.capslo.org.

The contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives is for \$600,000 and falls under the “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act” or WIOA. Passed in 2014, WIOA is designed “to strengthen and improve the public workforce system and put job seekers back to work by helping workers acquire the skills employers need and help employers access the talent pool needed to compete in a global economy. WIOA Title I services include the provision of youth employment, training, and education programs in local workforce areas.”

Eckerd is a non-profit company and one of the biggest privately funded WIOA service providers in the U.S. The company operates over 60 WIOA programs nationwide including California and eight other states. The company began working in California in 1986 and is already under contract in SLO County to run a 1-stop career center, and WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Services. “Eckerd is also the current provider of CalWORKs Expanded Subsidized Employment services for the County.”

Eckerd’s contract came through a request for proposals bidding process, the report said, and with this first-year contract comes options for a second and third year extension.

The RFP identified the services the County was looking to provide, including: “the 14 required elements identified in WIOA [and identified below in Program Year 2023-2024 services]; a focus on out-of-school youth [OSY]; a minimum requirement of 75% of funding allocated towards WIOA eligible OSY; a requirement to serve transitional age youth 16 to 24-years old; and a requirement to expend at least 20% of WIOA Youth funds on work experience learning opportunities.”

Of note, Eckerd was the only one that responded to the County’s RFP and their proposal met all the State policies and Federal regulations under the WIOA; and passed through a technical review and a County committee put together to go over proposals.”

This WIOA Youth Program is comprehensive and “links local community, youth, and education stakeholders,” the County report said. “Specific types of services include tutoring, study skills training, instruction leading to completion of secondary school, alternative school services, mentoring, paid and unpaid work experience, occupational skills training, and appropriate supportive services [clothing assistance and transportation].”

Eckerd will work countywide and has offices in SLO at 3450 Broad St.

“Eckerd has a flexible approach for service delivery by providing access to WIOA Youth services through partnerships with local libraries, a satellite Eckerd facility in Atascadero, and community-based locations throughout the community. These various access points, in addition to an array of virtual services, allow youth to participate in career services within their local community.”

The money for WIOA Youth Program comes from the Federal Government to the States for allocation. SLO County gets money through a subgrant from the California Employment Development Department and requires no matching funds from the County. Amounts can vary year-to-year and if all the money isn’t spent one year, it can be carried over to the next year.



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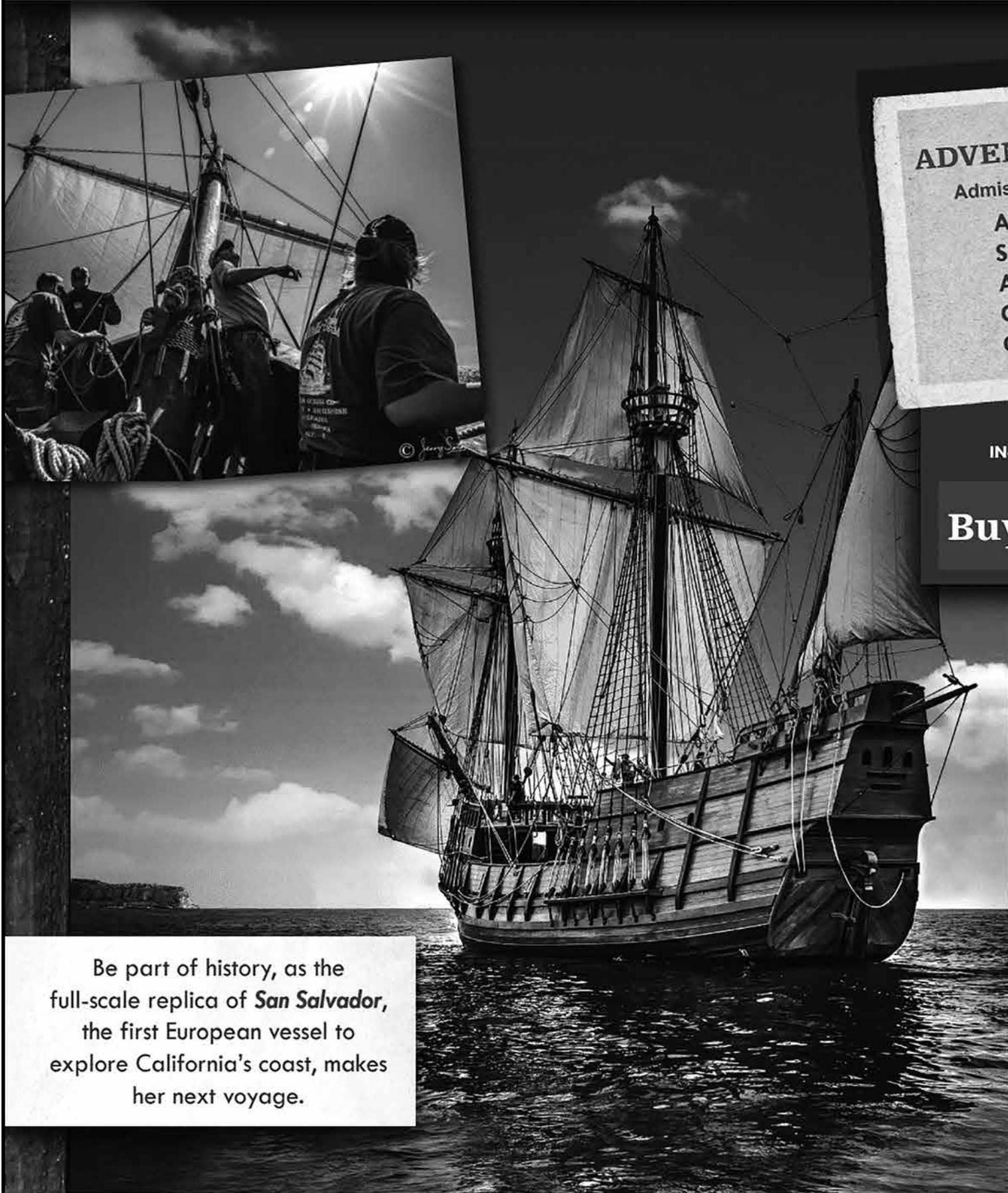
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Police Blotter



• **June 11:** Police stopped a suspicious but apparently familiar vehicle at 9:44 p.m. at Coleman Drive and the Embarcadero. Logs indicated the 57-year-old driver was arrested for a third drunk driving offense, for which he was also on probation and can no doubt kiss his license good-bye for the foreseeable future.

• **June 11:** Police contacted some swizzle stick traipsing down the 800 block of Main at about 6 p.m. The 30-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of being blindo in public.

• **June 11:** Police responded at 1:38 p.m. to a disturbance in the Rite Aid parking lot on Quintana Road. A 46-year-old shrew was the apparent cause of the ado and got arrested too. It was her second such run-in with the law in so many days, as on June 10 she also got popped for being corked.

• **June 11:** Police contacted a regular squit, 38, at 9:30 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The apparent Illuminutty had six bench warrants and finally was checked into the Parkinson Plaza, formerly the Hedges Hilton.

• **June 10:** Police responded to a disturbance at 9:07 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated they arrested a 30-year-old ruffian for suspicion of trespassing, battery and public inebriation, which explains a lot. He was taken to Sierra Vista Hospital to be checked out medically, apparently to make sure he was healthy enough to take to County Jail.

• **June 10:** Police responded at 1:24 a.m. to the 1400 block of Teresa Dr., for a disturbed fellow apparently raising Caine. A 52-year-old swamp donkey was arrested for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs.

• **June 9:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 400 block of Atascadero Rd., where they encountered a 20-year-old scofflaw who had 10 outstanding warrants, which while a lot is not the local record. He was of course cited and released with No. 11 no doubt soon to follow.

• **June 8:** Police searched for a juvenile girl that was reported as missing and found the wayward lass at the Morro Bay State Park Campground.

• **June 8:** Someone turned in ammunition they were shootin' to get rid of.

• **June 6:** Police contacted a 37-year-old suspicious hombre at 7:19 p.m. in the 300 block of Atascadero

Rd. Logs indicated he was allegedly drunk, which broke his felony probation and so police violated him into the County lockup.

• **June 6:** Police responded at 9:34 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated they arrested a 27-year-old apparent maniac for suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and making criminal threats with the intent to terrorize or intimidate whomever he was assaulting.

• **June 4:** Police contacted a local wanderer, 34, at 2:23 p.m. in the 700 block of Main. The dear fellow had a bench warrant and was allegedly trespassing on private property without the consent of the aggrieved, sending the unwelcomed suspected interloper to the hoosegow for the night.

• **June 3:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at high noon in the 1800 block of Main. The vehicle was towed for expired registration and the villain cited for the hanging offense, somebody get a rope!

• **June 4:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 11:37 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. The scofflaw had four bench warrants and was issued a fifth and told to appear in court where he's apparently never been.

• **June 4:** Police responded at 10:50 a.m. to the 800 block of Napa where some poor soul had passed away.

• **June 4:** Police contacted at 7:41 a.m. another model citizen, 44, in the 1700 block of Embarcadero who'd missed a couple of court dates. He was hauled off to the gaol for a lesson in scheduling.

• **June 3:** Police responded at 10 p.m. to the 2600 block of Main where they contacted a 20-year-old man at his house and arrested him for violating a restraining order and violating probation, a case of even duct tape can't fix stupid.

• **June 3:** At 3:15 p.m. police towed away an offensive vehicle parked in the 2000 block of Ironwood for an expired registration. On June 2 they hauled another vehicle from the 700 block of Shasta for the same pressing need — to feed the DMV kitty.

• **June 3:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to a disturbance at City Park in the 700 block of Harbor. A 38-year-old beclowned fellow was nicked for suspicion of being stir fried in public.

• **June 3:** Police responded at 9:36 a.m. to the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for yet another dingus causing a ruckus. The 43-year-old Bacchanalian was busted for suspicion of being too soused not to arrest.

• **June 3:** Someone found something sometime around noon somewhere in the 600 block of Quintana. They turned it over to some police officer that will no doubt do something with it.

• **June 2:** Police contacted yet another wanted desperado at 10:08 a.m. in the 2000 block of Ironwood who had a bench warrant. He was cited and released to no doubt catch again when he fails to appear... again.

• **June 2:** Police responded at 9:58 a.m. to a car burglary report in the 500 block of Mimosa. Logs indicated some tool stole undisclosed tools out of a vehicle.

• **June 2:** At 9:32 a.m. officers responded to the 500 block of Anchor where a fellow said some anarchist stole his golf clubs out of the wash room at his house.

• **June 1:** A family arrived at their vacation home in the 200 block of Main only to find the back door wide open and several drawers rifled through. Police are hunting the nefarious burglars.

• **June 1:** A woman with a warrant, 53, came to the police station apparently to turn herself in, but was issued another disappearance ticket and released.

• **June 1:** Police responded at 2:47 p.m. to the 1100 block of Front St. where some nodcock had broken into a parked car.

• **June 1:** Police responded at 1:30 p.m. to Albertson's Market where some apparent millinaire said several "consumable goods" were stolen out of his Albertson's shopping cart. Police found the cart over by McDonald's but the Hamburglar apparently isn't a suspect.

• **June 1:** Police responded at 1:29 p.m. to a report of a fight in the 700 block of Sequoia Ct. A crime report for battery was written and arrests are no doubt imminent.

• **June 1:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 22, at 10:54 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated she had a felony warrant and was hauled away.

• **June 1:** Police contacted yet another fellow, 45, with a felony warrant at 9:23 a.m. in the 900 block of MBB. He was shackled and tossed into the dungeon.

• **June 1:** Police contacted a woman, 39, at 2:16 a.m. in the 900 block of MBB. The night owl had a felony warrant and was jailed, only for officers to find she was also allegedly in possession of drug paraphernalia, as she no doubt had burned through her stash.

• **May 31:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to a car crash in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd. Sorry, no sordid details were available.

• **May 31:** At 3:44 p.m. police responded to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Market. Logs indicated a 50-year-old borracho was detained for allegedly being schnookered but logs said they released him without charges after he was turned over to medical personal, an apparent case of being so drunk you're sick.

• **May 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:39 p.m. in the 1000 block of Monterey in the heart of the danger zone. Logs indicated the 38-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving stoned, without a valid license no less, three out-of-county warrants and of course possession of suspected illegal drugs.

• **May 29:** Police responded to the 700 block of Main where some graffidiot tagged the fence of a local business.

Man Dies in Fall Off Cliff

By Neil Farrell

The County Sheriff's Department said that a man who fell to his death off a cliff at a popular Avila Beach spot was the result of a terrible accident.

Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said they got a call about 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 21 of a man who fell off a cliff from someone at Pirate's Cove, a secluded public nude beach just down the coast from Avila Beach proper.

Cipolla said, "Deputies, Cal Fire, and [Port San Luis] Harbor Patrol responded to the incident to begin a rescue operation. When they arrived, the man had no pulse, was not breathing and was pronounced dead at the scene."

Cipolla said witnesses, presumably on the beach, told officers the man had been sitting on the cliff high above the beach facing the water. He lost his footing when he stood up to leave, Cipolla said, and fell off the cliff about 200-feet to the rocks below.

"At this time," Cipolla said on June 21, "the death appears to be accidental." On June 22 Cipolla released the name of the man, identified as Francisco Javier Velasco Garcia, 33 of Nipomo.

Those cliffs at Pirate's Cove border the edge of a roadway and numerous people have fallen off over the years. Many died but a few somehow survived.

Like climbing Morro Rock, the Cliff's at Pirate's Cove can be treacherous for anyone and the reason firefighters and search and rescue teams train in rock climbing and helicopter rescues.

It was the second tragic death in Avila Beach in

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Community

Food Trucks and Fundraiser — Food for a Cause



Event organizer Rita Erwin checks out a menu at one of the Food Truck Friday events at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Morro Bay. Photo submitted By Theresa-Marie Wilson

For many folks Friday signals the end of the work week. If preparing an elaborate meal for a picky family, guests visiting for the weekend or for yourself doesn't top your list of ways to relax, head on over to St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Morro Bay and grab some eats at Food Truck Fridays — a fundraiser for the church.

"Years ago, we were visiting our daughter in Los Angeles and her church did the food truck Fridays, and I just thought it was a neat idea," said event organizer Rita Erwin, the chairperson of the resource development team for St. Timothy's. "Everybody loves food trucks. I've gotten very positive feedback from people about the event, the chillness and fun."

Every other Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. about five food trucks selling everything from pizza to sushi and non-alcoholic beverages arrives and serves up close to 150 people alfresco style while a live bluegrass/folk band plays. There are tables and chairs available, or folks can take food to go.

"One of the difficulties with chairing this is that I have to go around and try all the food trucks. It's quite a sacrifice," Erwin said with a laugh.

Her goal for the foodie event is three-prong, raise needed funds, give the church an expanded presence in the area, and build bonds among the community. Erwin said all three goals have been met. Funds raised so far paid for the permit, so the remaining will go directly to the church. Members of the church and non-parishioners fill the parking lot every other Friday, and friendships have formed.

Erwin tells the story of two people who had "words" between each other on the social media site Nextdoor, but that relationship changed one Friday evening.

"They met in person and found common ground at one of the food truck events," Erwin said. "They talked and mended fences, which I was ecstatic about."

Food Truck Fridays are just one way church members hope to raise about \$20,000 for repairs and upkeep.

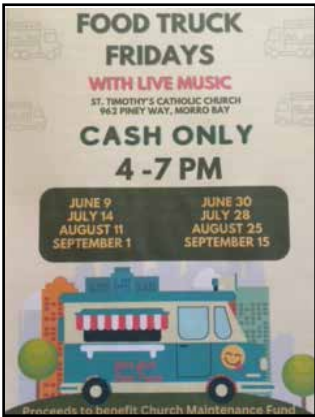
"The proceeds from these events will be used for our building and maintenance account, as we have installed solar and will be installing a non-harmful bird deterrent program to make sure the solar panels stay as clean as possible," Erwin said. "We had the solar put on a couple of years ago. Then last year, it wasn't producing as much as it was supposed to because the seagulls decided to nest up there and then leave a lot of residue."

As with any event of a large size, there are rules to abide. St. Timothy's had to get a permit from the city for about \$700 to hold Food Truck Fridays. It allows for a max of five food trucks at 10 events over six months. Not so common for event protocol, the church also had to get permission from the Diocese of Monterey.

"The attorney said if we just charged space rent [to the vendors], then we were basically running a business and that might endanger the nonprofit status of the church, legally," Erwin said. "The church has to sell tickets, and then the people take tickets to the food trucks for the food. At the end of the night, we pay the vendors what they brought in, and then they donate at least 10% back to us. Some of the vendors have been very generous and given more than 10%."

That said, cash is the only form of payment taken at the events.

The food truck events takes place from 4 to 7 at St. Timothy's Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay. The remaining schedule is June 30, July 14, July 28, Aug. 1, Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and Sept. 15.



resents the festival," said Chamber Executive Director Lorienne Schwenk.

The winner receives:

- \$300 cash prize
- A bottle of wine and two souvenir event wine glasses
- Two party package event tickets (a \$250 value)
- Opportunity to sell other works throughout the festival

The winners will be featured at the event in marketing elements will also have an opportunity to speak about their work at the kick-off party.

There is a form to fill out when submitting your creation, call the Chamber at 805-927-3624 or get the information at <https://bit.ly/3NEN01P>. The Chamber office is located at 767 Main St. in Cambria.

Literacy for Life Receives Largest Donation Ever




Funds to help adults throughout SLO County learn to read and write got a boost that will last for years to come.

Literacy for Life recently announced the single largest donation in the organization's history. An estate gift of \$180,000 was left by longtime community member James "Jim" Sargen, who passed away on October 2, 2021.


"We are so grateful to the Sargen family for their longtime commitment to our community," said Literacy for Life CEO Bernadette Bernardi. "Jim was always very supportive and an advocate for adult literacy, but we didn't know he had included us in his estate planning. A donation of this size can cover the cost of tutor training, books, materials, and administrative oversight for 200 people over the next two years."

This donation coincides with a change in Literacy for Life's funding. After 41 years, their partnership with the SLO City/County Library will end, meaning the organization will lose their state library funding for adult literacy, family literacy and ESL programs. "We are going to be more reliant on private donations in addition to federal and local grants,"

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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

Artists Wanted for Cambria Art & Wine Festival

The Cambria Chamber of Commerce's Twentieth Annual Cambria Art & Wine Festival 2024 is approaching, and work is wanted for the featured art competition by August 1.

They are looking for two pieces this year to feature in promotional posters, social media posts, and to display at the event.

"We would like a painting, and either a sculpture, mosaic, ceramic, textile, or other piece that rep-



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Community

Bernardi explained. “Jim’s bequest gives us a strong foundation for our programs moving forward.”

Literacy for life has provided services to empower adults in San Luis Obispo County to learn to read, write, and speak English since 1982.

“There are successes every day at Literacy for Life’s eight learning centers, where people’s lives are changed by their learning to read and write English,” officials said. “From someone being able to text in English for the first time in our digital society or being able to read a book to their child, to someone getting promoted at their workplace because they can better communicate in English. One such inspiring story is the recent journey of a women from Ukraine who worked tirelessly to learn to read and write English, then obtained her real estate license and can make a living and support her family. Numerous other students have reached their personal goals through perseverance and hard work, resulting in an improved quality of life.”

To find out more about Literacy for Life services and programs or to donate, go to literacyforlifelo.org or call (805) 541-4219.

Cal Poly Cat Program Urgently Needs Summer Volunteers

The Cal Poly Cat Program is in dire need of volunteers to keep operating at full speed through the summer.

During summer quarter, the majority of Cal Poly’s students leave the area to return to their places



of permanent residence or to take part in internships, international travel, or other activities outside the area. This leaves the Cal Poly Cat Program in need of volunteers.

“Our volunteers are the rock and the heart of our organization, and we treasure each and every one for their dedication to our feline friends,” said Dana K. Humphreys, a community volunteer with the cat program.

This year, the need is particularly stark, with so few volunteers signing up that the program currently lacks the people power to maintain the health and wellbeing of its cats.

“Since 1992 we have provided shelter, medical treatments, and unconditional love to countless homeless cats & kittens; working diligently to find them new homes,” Humphreys said. “We are absolutely crushed at the thought of not being able to fully maintain our mission. The staff and our devoted volunteers are using every tool to recruit new volunteers. We are desperately looking for community members to come to our aid.”

To become a volunteer contact volunteercpcp@gmail.com.

The Cal Poly Cat Program was started as a senior project to solve the problem of a rising cat population on campus. Feral cats were trapped as an attempt to decrease the cat population, yet it did not alleviate the problem. The solution was modeled on the “Trap, Test, Vaccinate, Medicate, Alter, and Release” (TTVMAR) technique, developed by the National Feral Cat Resource Center.

A second senior project resulted in an adoption program in which students domesticated feral cats and found good homes for them.

The Cal Poly Cat Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) cat rescue and sanctuary run by student, employee, and community volunteers who care about the health and happiness of feral and domesticated cats. The program operates a Trap, Neuter and Release program to responsibly maintain the local feral cat population as well as an adoption program that has placed more than 3,000 cats and kittens into caring homes. For more information, go to <https://www.calpolycatprogram.org/>.

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Community

Coelho-Holm, July 20. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.

• Stay Young with Qi Gong! - Fridays, 9:00-10:00 (rain cancels).

Qi Gong is a system for physical, mental and spiritual development that has roots dating back thousands of years in China. It consists of flowing movements and meditations that cultivate life force energy (called qi by the Chinese). The basics of Qi Gong are not difficult to learn and practice, and are particularly beneficial for older adults.

• Macrame Art Class - Saturday, July 1, 10:30-11:30 a.m. In this free art class, you'll learn simple knots and create a mini air plant hanger. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited; registration required. For adults.

• Teen Crafternoon - Saturday, July 1, 2- 4 p.m. This Saturday's craft is paper-crafted flowers. All materials provided! For ages 11-18.

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

• Magician Jim Wilson - Saturday, July 8, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for a fun morning of magic by magician extraordinaire Jim Wilson. He will levitate people and make things disappear; you will laugh and be amazed! All Ages.

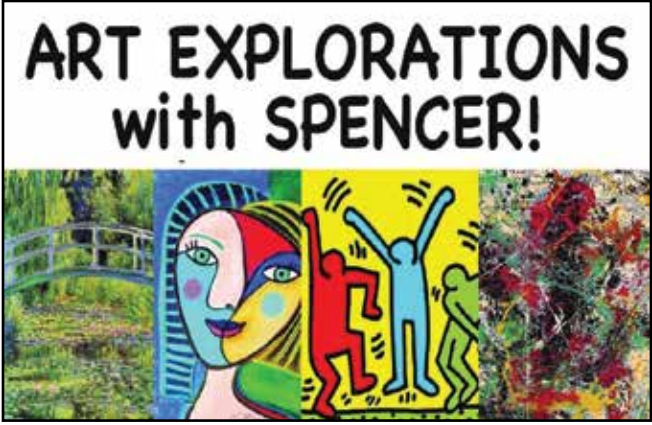
• Read Together - Wednesday, July 13, 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Jonniepat Mobley facilitates the group reading of a play/script. No audition necessary. Come in, take a script and we will read the play aloud together. This month is "Lights Out at 9:30: Tales From the Homeless Shelter"

*Marble Run - Friday, July 14, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Play with marbles! Build your own creations and have lots of fun

• Sweet Springs Field Trip - Saturday, July 15, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Meet at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve for a family fun day! Spot birds, local plants and beautiful views. This event is held at 660 Ramona Ave in Los Osos. Stop by the library afterwards for your next great read! All ages welcome. Note: pets are not allowed and there are no restrooms on site.



Summer Art for kids 2-Part Series. Enjoy Art in the Afternoon with Zoe for ages 6-12 from 2:30 – 5 p.m. The cost is \$120/week. Each week offers three creative sessions with an experienced art teacher using a wide variety of art techniques and mediums. All materials and snacks are included.

• July 5-7 (W/Th/F) Marine Marvels: Exploring the Sea life of Morro Bay

• July 11-13 (T/W/Th) Wonders of Art: Exploring Cultures through the Seven Wonders to inspire artist's own mixed media creations.

• July 25-27 (T/W/Th) Face Time: Exploring Portraits in Diverse Styles: faces & expressions and experimenting with different artistic styles & approaches.

• August 1-3 (T/W/Th) Artful Narratives: Exploring Storytelling in Art by exploring visual imagery to tell stories, convey emotions and ignite the imagination.

Also check out Art Explorations with Spencer for ages 6-12 on Thursdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$40 per class.

In this class series, students will explore drawing and acrylic painting focusing on an influential artist and recreate a famous piece of art from history.

• August 3: Abstract Expressionism & Jackson Pollock

• August 10: Pop Art & Keith Haring
Register online at www.artcentermorrobay.org
Questions? Email artcenterkids.morrobay@gmail.com



The 27th Annual Concerts in the Plaza season, hosted by Downtown SLO and presented by Sunset Honda runs on Fridays from 5–8 p.m. On July 7, check out IMUA (r&b/soul/funk) with Jon Millsap.

This summer, the community is invited to gather every Friday for free live music in San Luis Obispo's Mission Plaza. Concerts in the Plaza is the largest free concert series on the Central Coast, featuring live local music, dancing, and drinks in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo. All concerts are free to the public and family friendly. The 2023 series will run every Friday through September 8, 2023. The opening singer-songwriter begins at 5 p.m., and the band performs from 6–8 PM. Food and drink will be available, and guests are welcome to bring outside food; outside alcohol is not allowed. Enjoy beers from Firestone-Walker Brewing Company, wine from Dunites Wine Company, and hard cider from SLO Cider, along with eats from Woodstock's Pizza and Quesadilla Gorilla. The official 2023 bar menu can be found here. Downtown SLO is eliminating single-use plastics at Concerts in the Plaza; all beverages are sold in reusable cups or aluminum cans. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own reusable cups (no glass) 12oz souvenir cups will be available for purchase. Free bike valet is provided by Bike SLO County and located off Chorro Street. Pets are not allowed at Concerts in the Plaza.

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OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

Walking San Luis Bay Pier



By Susan Vasquez

Golden arms of seaweed wave in the lazy current of San Luis Obispo Bay. The waters turn from opaque moss green to shining turquoise and several shades between as the clouds and the sun do their daily trick of minute-to-minute change. Warm up two degrees with the sun, cool down one degree with the clouds. A bit of breeze refreshes us walkers for two minutes, then eases off to let the sun dominate.

I am walking the Port San Luis Pier. It's a good thing that the distance is short. Today, the calm of the weather, the pleasant warm-and-cool feel of the air, the fresh of the breeze and the slow bake of the sun, all blend to make me lethargic. Shouldn't every day be like this? Wait. This is the Central California Coast. Each day is like this.

Such weather might persuade residents to feel entitled to every-day perfection. All we ever get here is the push-pull of 65 degrees F against 70 degrees F. What did we do to deserve this weather bliss? Nothing. It is ours not because we are clever people or thoughtful or smart. All we did was manage to live here, in weathered perfection.

I laze against the railing with a crowd. A sea lion resting on a floating platform wakes up, disturbed by a seal's dive or by the plunking down of another sea lion right on top of the first. The yelp is loud. Who wants to be woken up in the middle of a nice summer's sleep, interrupting the soothing mist and warm sun? A clamor sets up and a domino of sea lion voices rolls up and down the platform. We humans laugh and remark that the sea lions are not so different from us.

A fishing boat whose home port is Morro Bay, where I live, just north up the coast, pulls away from the pier. Too late, I wonder what kind of fish they have sold to the fish markets here. The boat looks old, but tidy. I mourn the lost adventure of watching the

catch lifted onto the pier, and the skill of how that is done. But, I am still in a haze of laziness, and glad that I didn't have to expend even the energy to watch such a demanding physical task.

The seal that had dived into the water swims alongside the fishing boat, arching up from the waves, watching for handouts. When no leftover fish is thrown overboard, the seal jumps completely out of the water, perhaps a last-ditch effort to beg a scrap. The boat moves away, appearing to be in that slow-moving summer haze that has infected us all, except the graceful and fast-moving seal in its artful act of begging.



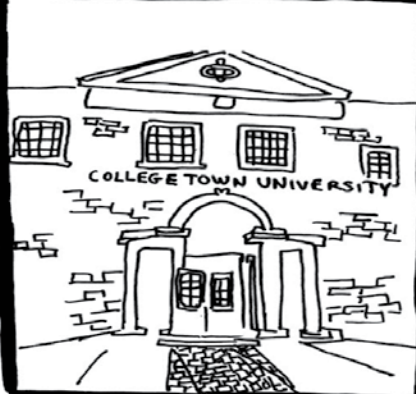
The wood of the pier itself is a million connect-ed heavy pieces of timber that look like they could withstand long bouts of inclement weather, unlike any they will ever encounter here. My steps are soundless on the enormous planks, and I feel nothing that tells the pier of my presence. No rocking, no vibration. So many people walk this pier every day, my footstep has no impact - there will be nothing left for the pier to remember me by.

Individuals and whole family groups gather to fish off the side of the pier. I am tempted to stay and watch, soothed by the contemplative non-activity of fishing. I have always thought of fishing as a philosophical pursuit, maybe because I so rarely wait around to see the catch.

Today is spent in bliss: one small walk in perfect weather along a pier that takes my footsteps as if they were nothing at all.

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

COLLEGETOWN






By Michael Walker

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Community

Four Named to Cayucos Tourism Board

County Supervisors approved reappointing four members of a Cayucos tourism advisory board. On June 20, Supervisors voted to re-appoint Richard Shannon, Toni Legras-Price and Carol Kramer to the Cayucos Local Area Advisory Board of the County Business Improvement District for 2-year terms with their expiration dates set for Jan. 31, 2025. They also appointed Melissa Kurry to a 1-year term on the all-volunteer board. The board makes decisions on how to spend monies from a special assessment district generated within Cayu-

cos. That special tax is a 2% surcharge on the cost of a room night in motels, hotels, B&Bs and vacation rentals. The tax is charged by all lodging properties in unincorporated towns in SLO County. Half the money goes to market the area as a whole and half stays within each community to be spent as the advisory boards deem proper. The money can be used to promote or support special events and promotions that benefit the lodging industry, and in turn the town and county as a whole.

Brunch to Benefit Pacific Wildlife Care

A local wildlife rescue organization is selling tickets now to a fundraiser to support the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, abandoned and injured wildlife and return them to the wild. Pacific Wildlife Care is holding a “Wild at Heart” benefit brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4 at the Octagon Barn, located on South Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo. Tickets are \$100 a person and there are just 200 available. The event would be a chance to join “wildlife lovers to celebrate PWC’s mission and to support SLO County wildlife through rehabilitation and educational benefits,” reads the event poster. On the schedule is a chance to sip adult beverages (non-alcoholic too), enjoy a sumptuous brunch catered by Taste!, meet PWC’s educational wildlife ambassadors; watch plein air painters at work; shop silent auction items and



hear special announcements. PWC operates a triage and rehabilitation center on the Morro Bay Power Plant property and is in the process of fundraising to build a new, modern facility on a piece of donated land by the SLO County Airport. Get tickets online at: PacificWildlifeCare.org and email to: info@pacificwildlifecare.org for more information.

Renaissance Festival Returns July 15 and 16



The Central Coast Renaissance Festival returns for its 37th annual festival on July 15 and 16 in Laguna Lake Park. This event celebrates the history, culture, and entertainment of the Renaissance era, and promises to be an unforgettable experience for all attendees. This year’s festival features a wide range of activities, including live performances by talented musicians and actors, exciting full armor combat matches, interactive demonstrations by skilled artisans, and delicious food and drinks inspired by the Renaissance era. Attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of the Renaissance, with countless opportunities to explore and learn about the customs, traditions, and technologies of this fascinating period in history. “One of the highlights is the twice daily armored combat battle,” said festival spokesman Rick Smith. “Contests include one-on-one single combats, as well as brutal team battles of five against five, which are contested until

one team is driven from their feet. Using steel swords, axes, and polearms, combatants are permitted to strike with weapons, shields, fists, and feet.” Falconry stage shows include flights over the audience with hawks, falcons, and owls, demonstrations of training, and ancient hunting techniques still used today. Children can swashbuckling fun with balloon swords, games, face painting, and participate in a daily costume contest where everyone gets a prize. And don’t forget to join the pirate treasure hunt on Sunday. The festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Admission is \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors and children ages 6-15. Children under 6 are admitted free of charge. Ticket discounts are often available on the website. Parking is available at Laguna Lake Park for \$10 per vehicle. For more information about the Central Coast Renaissance Festival, including ticket sales, visit the festival website at www.ccrenfaire.com.

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A Dose of Good Dogma

Set a Shining Example

By Lisa Ellman



Clients often ask me, “How long will it take to train my dog?” Or, “How many sessions do you think we’ll need?” These are questions I can’t answer. It doesn’t depend on me, or the dog for that matter. It depends on you, the dog owner. How much time are you willing/able to give to training? The time that your dog spends with me, about an hour, or any trainer (not including board/train facilities) is trivial. My job is to train and educate you, the owner, and provide you the necessary tools for what to do with the other 23 hours you spend with your dog. I’ll give you homework, but if it’s not done, well, you know.

I ask my clients to take into consideration two types of training. I refer to them as formal and informal. Formal training includes setting aside time to teach physical, concrete commands, like stay, come, down, etc.

Informal training refers to the dynamics in every way you engage your dog during the day and night. Keep in mind that everything you do with your dog can be called training. This includes snuggle time or feeding time. You don’t want your dog chewing on you or pawing you when you snuggle. You don’t want your dog jumping on you as you attempt to put its feeding dish on the floor. You also may not want the dog in the kitchen with you, underfoot, as you prepare a meal. Rules and boundaries must be learned. This can be as simple as using “uh uh!” to distract and redirect the dog or using a body block to keep the dog from entering a room, or simply getting up and walking away when play gets too rough. I consider this informal training; it happens spontaneously, as the dog is behaving in a way you want to change.

It’s still work, make no mistake, and requires your

focus, but it can be fun! Training is a process, because learning is a process. When you’re aware that every day, every minute, with your dog is a training opportunity, you are looking at the big picture. Which, in my opinion, is to ultimately bring forth a well socialized, attentive, happy, responsive dog.

To support either type of training, consider your dog’s learning style; be aware of what “drives” your dog to learn. Is it treats, praise, toys? All of these? Switch it up! These are all tools you can utilize to motivate and hold your dog’s attention when training, formally or informally. Does your dog need to run and play before training or after? Is your dog getting the exercise and activity it needs to be able to focus on learning? I like to use the analogy of kindergartners. They are a squirmy bunch, with short attention spans. In all fairness, if they couldn’t get out to run and play a few times a day, that pent up energy would be so distracting that it would be extremely difficult for them to focus, learn or retain any information being taught.

So, spend time on formal training, but think about the big picture; the end result of time, consistency, activities and connecting every day with your dog. Putting in the hard work now and being reliable, will pay off in the future. Whether your dog is young or old, consider yourself the role model for training. If you slack off or decide you don’t have the time, the dog will follow your lead, “Oh, we’re not doing this anymore? Great!” Your dog can only be as consistent as you are.

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



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Poly Concrete Canoe Wins Seventh National Title in 13 Years



The Cal Poly concrete canoe team Brought home another national title. Photo submitted

The defending national champion Cal Poly concrete canoe team was the team to beat at the 2023 American Society of Civil Engineers Concrete Canoe Competition at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on June 10-12, and their repeat became official at Monday’s awards presentation at the end of day three.

“We just won our seventh national title!” said civil engineering senior Heather Migdal, the team’s project manager and one of four paddlers of Cal Poly’s canoe, Oceana.

Twenty university teams from the U.S. and Canada advanced to the finals from a series of ASCE regional qualifiers.

It was a dramatic defense of last year’s national victory at Louisiana Tech University. Cal Poly’s 2022 victory snapped what had been a four-way tie of five titles with UC Berkeley, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the University of Wisconsin. The seventh win (in 13 years) of the 36th annual competition adds an exclamation mark to the title.

“This year, we’ve had our fair share of obstacles, but we’ve all come together and put in a tremendous amount of work and effort into this,” Migdal said. “The five senior captains were all on the team last year. We all know what is expected, and I’m just beyond excited and happy that we’re able to say, ‘We’re a two-time, national-winning team.’”

The team secured the overall title by finishing in the top two in each of the 100-point competition’s four sections. These are: oral presentation (30 points); technical proposal (25 points); final product prototype (25 points); and racing (20 points).

Cal Poly racked up 55 points with first place finishes in the oral and technical presentations, 22.5 points for second in the product prototype, and second in racing (17.4 points) behind Canada’s Université Laval (18.9 points), which finished fourth overall in the competition. Youngstown State University ultimately finished second, the University of Florida was third and Western Kentucky University came in fifth.

In addition to Migdal, the Cal Poly team also includes: Clarissa Arredondo of Santa Maria, California; Aiden Buckingham of Bellingham, Washington; Peter Cline of Modesto, California; Adam Loewenherz



Caption Poly’s canoe, Oceana. Photo submitted

of Bellevue, Washington; Jonathan Maas of San Luis Obispo; Sarah Sakakihara of Wailuku, (Maui) Hawaii; Sarah Scherzinger of Salinas, California; Nicholas Toma of Alamo, California; and Ryan Trainor of La Mesa, California. Arredondo is an environmental engineering major; her teammates are studying civil engineering.

Cal Poly concrete canoes are known for their aesthetic design while being surprisingly light (175 pounds) and strong. Oceana is 18 feet and 8 inches long, with a quarter-inch, carbon fiber and fiberglass reinforced hull. Since a new ASCE rule change allows the use of concrete dyes, the canoe features ocean flora and fauna all in an artist’s palette of realistic hues. Oceana’s bow deck includes the team mascot: Ellie the otter.

There were plenty of ups and down for Cal Poly at the competition.

Not happy with an earlier third-place finish in the oral presentation part of the competition at the Pacific Southwest Regionals, Migdal credited some last-minute changes to the team’s script for the win in Platteville, located west of Madison, the Dairy State’s capital.

“We talked to some alumni, and they gave us some pointers on how to change up the presentation and so, between regionals and nationals, we edited our script — quite heavily actually,” she said. “We were confident that we made the right changes. When we did the speech portion, we hit all of our marks. It was probably the cleanest time we had ever practiced it.”

Migdal said the Q&A part of the presentation was a noteworthy highlight.

“We were able to answer the exact questions the judges were asking and really demonstrated how

invested we are in our canoe,” she said. But even that was not without drama. Cal Poly had to sit through more than seven hours of presentations that began at 8 a.m. on Sunday in the university’s 500-seat Brodbeck Concert Hall seats.

“We were like the second-to-last to go on, so that was definitely some added pressure,” said the Cupertino, California, resident. “But the round of applause that we got afterwards was just so amazing.”

Conditions were equally challenging out on Blackhawk Lake, a 40-minute drive northeast of the campus, on Monday’s five-event race day. Despite injuries, Migdal and her slalom and sprint partner Scherzinger took first in the 200-meter sprint and second in the 200-meter slalom. Scherzinger paddled with a shoulder issue.

On the men’s side, Cal Poly’s Toma and Buckingham were second in the slalom and third in the sprint. In the four-person sprint race that has four, 100-meter legs with three 180-degree turns, the paddlers battled soreness, fatigue and inclement weather to finish third.

“We just went and gave it absolutely everything we had to finish out that race,” Migdal said. “I’m just so proud of what we were able to finish. That last leg, there was lots of yells to get over the finish line — but we did it right.”

Masons Honor Firefighters



MBFD’s Hames, County Fire’s Cameron, and Cal Fire’s Chief Flemming. Submitted photo

The San Luis Obispo Masonic Lodge recently honored four local firefighters making a donation in their name to a non-profit that helps childhood burn victims.

The King David’s Masonic Lodge, No. 209 F&AM, honored Morro Bay Fire Department Engi-

Firefighters Continued on page 18

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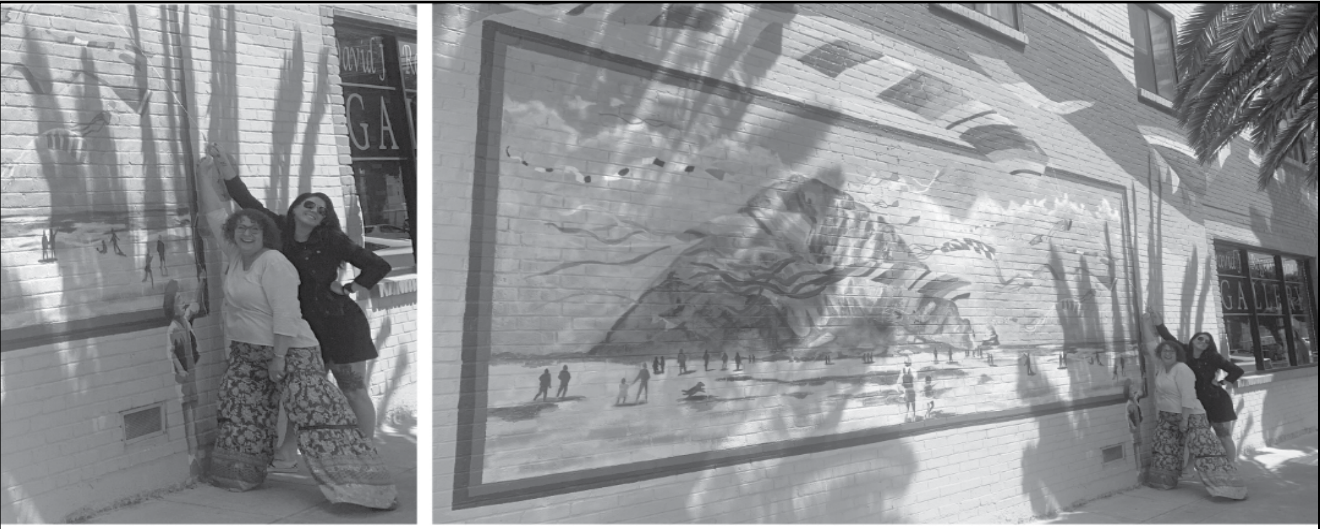
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The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce attended a Ribbon Cutting and 5th Year Anniversary Celebration at David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery in Downtown Morro Bay. Business owners David and Peggy Rogers welcomed the community with wine and appetizers for the celebration. Stop by their location at 407 Morro Bay Blvd. and tell them congratulations. For more information, go to <http://www.davidjrogersart.com>.

Letters To The Editor



Leave Intersection as is

At the last City Council meeting: June 13th, The City Council gave thought to putting a round-about at the intersection of Main Street and Hwy. 41. I've lived here 33 years, and on a very rare occasion, I've encountered a traffic jam at that intersection, causing me to be immobile for a few minutes. When the school is on "lunch-hour", quite a few of the students meander over to Taco Bell, causing this intersection to be overly populated with pedestrians; it's been through this daily occurrence for years; some of us are able to avoid it, but for those who can't, a little patience would be an asset. So, I would like to suggest that the Council, for now, not go down this path; and instead leave it as it is...we can handle it; we've been doing it for years. And as a sidebar, how are "emergency vehicles" going to navigate this round-about? Respectfully, Roger Ewing Morro Bay

Take the Driving Quiz

A fun pop quiz for folks who live in Morro Bay View neighborhood or visit. When driving down or up Radcliffe or any of the residential streets, what do you think is the appropriate speed? A. 45 MPH B. 25 MPH OR C. Whatever I feel like driving at the moment, pedestrians can watch out for me. When making a left-hand turn from Main Street to Radcliffe, is it appropriate to cross over the double yellow line? A. Yes, I am in a hurry and the person approaching in the opposite lane can brake for me and the pedestrian that is still in the crosswalk better hurry. B. No I should stay in my lane and take the turn safely. C. Who cares? And finally, when I am turning off of Radcliffe to one of the residential streets I should A. Take the turn safely and look to make sure there are no kids etc. in the street. B. I should accelerate as I am making my turn. C. I should make a wide turn and come towards any oncoming cars. Hopefully the correct speed and behavior is obvious, however lately I have observed it is not so obvious. Let's be good drivers and good neighbors. Michelle Cobbs Morro Bay



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Firefighters From page 17
neer/Paramedic, Kevin Hames; Cal Fire Battalion Chief Chad Flemming; SLO County Fire paid-on call firefighter, Mark Cameron; and SLO City Fire Engineer, Patrick Larsen. The Masons honored the men because, "Their zeal and endeavor, have been of significant and outstanding service to their communities," the Lodge said in a news release.

The Masons awarded the firefighters a framed certificate at the awards banquet held May 30 at the Masonic Lodge in Downtown SLO. They also made a \$2,500 donation to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, a non-profit that supports burn victims and is supported by firefighters countywide with their annual Fire Engine Relay. The relay visits elementary schools in SLO County delivering a fire-safe message to the children.



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Kevin says,
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KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

SLO REP Welcomes New Board Member

A former executive with Martin Resorts has joined the San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre Board of Directors.

Now retired, Morris Whitaker enjoyed a decades-long career in the hospitality industry, including marketing roles at several of California’s top hotels in Los Angeles and San Diego. She came to San Luis Obispo County in 2005 as Chief Operating Officer of Martin Resorts, overseeing four hotels and two restaurants.

Morris Whitaker joins the board at an opportune moment in SLO REP’s history as the theater company seeks to complete a \$15.3 million capital campaign to build a new venue for live theater in downtown San Luis Obispo.

SLO REP has raised more than 75% of its \$15.3 million goal to build a venue that will house two theaters, a 215-seat mainstage theater and a 99-seat black box theater. The project also includes the acquisition of a headquarters building that houses SLO REP’s administrative offices, rehearsal studios, and classrooms for its rapidly expanding theater-education programming for young people, the Academy of Creative Theatre (ACT).

Construction of the new theater is expected to begin in 2025 adjacent to the City of SLO’s long-planned Cultural Arts District Parking Structure at the corner of Monterey-Nipomo-Palm streets. Site preparation for the parking structure has begun, and the new SLO REP venue will begin once the garage is fully underway.

“This is an exciting time in SLO REP’s history,” Morris Whitaker said. “I’m looking forward to helping SLO REP complete its new venue and realize its vision to become a nationally recognized regional theater. SLO REP’s plans will have an enormously positive impact on the region, both economically and culturally, for residents and visitors alike.

In addition to her volunteer efforts at SLO REP, Morris Whitaker continues to advocate for diversity



Myraline Morris Whitaker

in the workplace and community. She is a member of the Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County, the Cal Poly Black Faculty and Staff Association, and the NAACP. Among her many efforts, her “Sister Soldier Project,” which benefited thousands of U.S. Military women, has drawn favorable attention in national media.

After assisting Martin Resorts at a critical time in that company’s history 2005-09, Morris Whitaker formed Central Coast of California Hospitality in 2009. Her company operated the SeaCrest Ocean-front Hotel, the Inn at the Cove in Pismo Beach, and the Inn at Morro Bay.


Her firm consistently appeared on the Pacific Coast Business Times’ list of Top 10 Minority-Owned Businesses and Top 20 Women-Owned Businesses in the Tri-County area. She also was recognized three times among the Times’ “Top 50 Women in Business.” In 2019, the South County Chambers of Commerce honored Morris Whitaker as Pismo Beach’s “Citizen of the Year.”

A graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, with an MA from Syracuse University, Morris Whitaker is an expert on all facets of California tourism. She has served on the Board of the San Luis Obispo Tourism Bureau (now Visit SLOCAL), the Economic Vitality Corporation of San Luis Obispo County and the California Lodging Industry Association (CLIA).

Her work on diversity and belonging was featured in the February-April 2020 San Luis Obispo County R.A.C.E. Matters exhibit entitled “Belongings.” The archives of her non-profit “Sister Soldier Project” are housed in the Schlesinger Library of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute. The Schlesinger Library is considered the leading center for scholarship on the history of women in the United States.

Morris Whitaker regularly attends SLO REP performances and has been an avid theatregoer since age 14 when she saw, for the first of many times, “A Raisin in the Sun” in New Orleans. Since then, she has kept a playbill from every play she has seen.

SLO REP is the only regional nonprofit theater company in SLO County.





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Community

Independence Day Events From page 1

The Morro Bay events are a great mix of family fun and celebration. Hope for clear skies and make a day of it.

Cambria’s 42nd Annual Picnic in the Park-4th of July Celebration

Cambria American Legion Post 432 is sponsoring the 42nd annual 4th of July celebration with the Picnic in the Park and fireworks display. This event has been held at Shamel Park every year since 1981 with the exception the pandemic years.

The event starts with a patriotic opening ceremony at the flagpole at 11 a.m. The opening ceremony is followed by children’s games such as sack races, three legged races, water balloon tosses and so much more, all starting about 12 p.m. The children’s games are followed by more adult activities such as pie eating contests and waiter/waitress races. Food and beverage concessions are available throughout the afternoon.

At dusk, about 9:15 p.m., Independence Day will be celebrated with a 25-minute fireworks display from the beach. Organizers said, this year there will be a larger number of fireworks than in previous displays, but they will be at lower altitude to reduce any problems associated with falling embers.

Before the fireworks start take some time to check out the shops and eateries in Cambria.

Avila Beach 4th of July Doggie Parade

The Doggie Parade and Doggie Costume Contest takes place at the Avila Beach Promenade, 404 Front St, July 4 11 a.m. 12 p.m. All dogs must be registered and checked in to walk in the parade.

They can be pre-registered by completing the registration form available online or from 10-10:45 a.m. on the Promenade.

For more information or register your dog(s), visit www.avilabeachcc.com or call 805.627.1997.

For your safety and the safety of all Participants, dogs, volunteers, and spectators, organizers ask that people abide by the following rules:

- Have proper bags to clean up after your dog
- Keep all dogs on leash at all times
- No female dogs in any stage of heat
- If your dog wears a costume, it should be safe and comfortable.

This parade is cute and short. Many of the spectators know the dogs by name and cheer them on. Parking can be a far walk in, so bring supplies to hang out on the beach after.

Pismo Beach July 4th Celebration

The City of Pismo Beach welcomes all to the July 4th Celebration. The pier food and fireworks even has sold out, but the beach is still available for fireworks watching. If you are new to the area, it gets packed and finding a place to park is not easy. It also takes a couple of hours to get out after.

Paso Robles 4th of July Celebration and Fireworks Show

The City of Paso Robles is hosting a free 4th of July celebration at Barney Schwartz Park from 2-10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

More information and the event map is available at www.prcity.com/July4.

This year’s festivities include:

- Activities from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. include bounces houses, an obstacle course, cornhole, giant Yahtzee, bocce and more
- Limited free parking is available, please carpool
- RV parking area opens at noon, first come first serve
- Music by KJUG from 2-5:30 p.m.

- Two bands – Stephen Styles Band (country rock) at 5:30 followed by the world famous Young Dubliners at 7:15
- Food will be available for purchase from food trucks and the concession stand. There will not be alcohol sold at this event
- Program begins at 9:15 with the National Anthem, followed by fireworks

Keep in mind that Paso can get blazing hot this time of year, so lather on that sunscreen, grab a hat and hit the park for a day of fun with the family.

Annual Atascadero 4th of July Music Festival

The festival takes place at Atascadero Lake Park on July 4th, 2023 from 4-8 p.m.

General admission is free to the music festival, however, if you want to be closer to the music there is a reserved VIP area and VIP Plus to get to the front row. Don’t forget to bring your low-back chair or blanket.

Annual Cayucos 4th of July Celebration

The free event goes from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on N. Ocean Avenue. It starts with a town parade in the morning to a spectacular fireworks display at night. Early risers can participate in a sand sculpture contest that starts at 4 a.m. and wraps up by 10 a.m. with prizes. Throughout the day the street fair will be open to shop and purchase food. After a day of celebrating, see the fireworks show displayed from the historic Cayucos Pier.

The sandcastle art is astounding, and the parade is true small-town fun. Arrive early for the party because the event packs people in.

Morro Bay Art in the Park

Don’t miss the multi-day Art in the Park at 747 Morro Bay Boulevard, Morro Bay July 1-3

The 67th annual show offers over 100 booths for artists and craftspeople to see and display goods in an outdoor setting. There will be a wide variety of food and drink available, beginning Saturday, July 1, and running through the 3rd.

Pop on over and show some support for the independent artists that fill our local area and beyond.

Concerts in the Park in Downtown Arroyo Grande

Get ready to tap your toes and grove to the beat on July 4th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Heritage Square Park. The 4th of July show kicks off the 2023 concert series with two concerts from the Village Band (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) and Unfinished Business (2-4 p.m.) Festive activities and entertainment for the whole family will be offered during intermission. The South County Historical Society will sell their famous hot dogs and the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club will provide beer and wine sales. As is the tradition in Arroyo Grande, local non-profits provide a raffle at each of the events, and on the 4th of July, Arroyo Grande in Bloom will be raffling off amazing prizes in addition to selling a variety of plants.

In addition to free music, the Recreation Services team will partner with the Central Coast Athletics Foundation to host the first 4th of July Firecracker Run for youth ages 5-12 starting at 10 a.m. in the Village. Registration for the race is available online and will be open on-site starting at 9:30 a.m. at Heritage Square Park. This fun and rewarding race will take adventure seekers on a race through the back alleys of the Village of Arroyo Grande, on a firecracker-inspired course.

Firecrackers, running, live music all in the Village setting is darn picturesque.

Wind Needs From page 1

study explored the breadth of possibilities on the Central Coast to inform further examination and decision-making on policy and investment.”

The REACH study, like many such studies, concluded that more study is needed “to narrow the breadth of options presented to focus on a limited number of sites for further technical analysis, including matters related to infrastructure, workforce development, environmental matters, etc.”

One sticking point in the push for the offshore wind farms has been the lack of a deep water port where the 600-800 foot turbines, moorings and chain, could be assembled and readied to tow to the wind farm site, some 20-30 miles off San Simeon.

The State Legislature and Governor’s Office doubled down on the wind farms in the 2022 State Budget Act, where the \$1 million for the continued study came from.

“With the \$1 million in state funding,” the County report said, “the County has the opportunity to undertake the second phase of a study to inform offshore wind related decision-making by identifying opportunities and constraints for the San Luis Obispo County region.

“The ‘Deep Water Port Feasibility Study for Offshore Wind Procurement’ will analyze the factors related to offshore wind development at San Luis Obispo County locations.”

The money will be used to hire a consultant to do a “technical analysis pertaining to topics related to offshore wind development, including infrastructure, workforce development, and environmental matters in San Luis Obispo County,” the report said.

It will also “develop a communication and community engagement strategy for promoting the Study and related offshore wind matters; and provide County administrative resources to accomplish the aforementioned scopes of work, including internal staff resources and external consultant resources.”

The issue of the offshore floating wind farms has entered a somewhat quiet stage as the three companies — Equinor Wind US, LLC; Central California Offshore Wind, LLC; and, Invenergy California Offshore, LLC — study the environmental impacts of their proposed operations.


The three companies plus another off Humboldt County bid a total of \$757.1 million for the initial four West Coast leases. The Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM, concluded the lease sale last December.

Along those lines the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is slated to send a research vessel to Morro Bay in early July to conduct surveys on marine mammal populations whales and dolphins — migrating through the area in an attempt to judge the impacts and advise on mitigation measures.

Underwater recording devices are slated to be deployed on buoys to listen for whales swimming past the Central Coast, among other scientific studies.

The 67-foot research vessel, Fulmar, operates under the National Marine Sanctuary Program and is used for research, education and emergency response, according to the website for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (see: montereybay.noaa.gov/marineops/about/fulmar/welcome). The marine sanctuaries are a division under NOAA.

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Community

ed, aluminum-hulled catamaran that was designed specifically to handle the wave states and conditions found in this region,” the MBNMS said. “The vessel strengthens, streamlines and connects efforts along the almost 400-miles of Central and Northern California coastline protected by these National Marine Sanctuaries.”

Also, Congressman Salud Carbajal recently presented the Morro Bay Harbor Department with some \$1.5 million to make “repairs and upgrades to the structure [North T-pier], which is critical to the City’s residents, industries, and tourism revenue,” reads a news release from Rep. Carbajal’s Office. “The T-Pier is a perfect example of how supporting the improvements to one piece of community infrastructure can pay exponential dividends down the road. Whether it’s Morro Bay’s commercial fishing industry, its year-round tourism, its residents, our coasts, or even our local Coast Guard and Fish and Wildlife operations — funding repairs to this pier is a tide that will raise all of those boats.

“The T-Pier will also serve as a primary hub for operations of any offshore wind infrastructure constructed off the Morro Bay coast, making these funds another early investment in the clean energy transformation that our region is poised to lead.”

Just what those improvements will look like remains to be seen as the City and the offshore wind lease holders have to work that out.

Also, the City has Measure D, which designates a “commercial fishing” zoning area from Beach Street northward on the west side of the Embarcadero. Measure D requires all development in that zoning to be related to or support commercial fishing or sport fishing, neither of which apply to offshore wind energy.

As a locally-approved voter initiative, the State and Federal Governments don’t have to obey it, but City officials do, and to justify it will have to somehow get around it or ask voters to change it or repeal it.

That World War II-era T-pier needs a lot of work. “The City will use the federal funds secured by



The City of Morro Bay recently received \$1.5 million to make repairs and upgrades to the North T-pier as part of the effort to bring floating offshore wind energy to the area. Pictured from left are: Morro Bay Interim City Manager, Greg Carpenter; Councilwoman, Cyndee Edwards; Mayor, Carla Wixom; Congressman, Salud Carbajal; Councilwoman, Jennifer Ford; Councilwoman, Laurel Barton; and Harbor Director, Ted Schiafone. Photo courtesy Rep. Carbajal

Carbajal,” reads the Congressman’s news release from May 4, “in combination with other funding sources to replace a majority of the pier’s structural and fender pilings, which were rated with ‘moderate’ structural deterioration in the 2011 assessment, as well as replacing the fire suppression automatic sprinkler system, electric systems, and other pieces of the pier’s infrastructure.”

Also, on May 9 the Port of Long Beach in Orange County announced that it intends to try and become the home port for West Coast offshore wind farms.

“The Port of Long Beach,” reads a May 11 article on the American Journal of Transportation website, “has announced a bold plan to establish a 400-acre wind port called Pier Wind that could centralize the manufacture and staging of floating offshore wind turbines on the West Coast and provide a major infrastructural boost to California’s planned goal of building floating wind farms so as to generate 25 Gigawatts by 2045.”

Long Beach produced its own study on offshore floating wind entitled, “Pierwind Project Concept Phase Final Conceptual Report” which said, “port infrastructure on the U.S. West Coast, including California, is not adequate to support the development of the offshore wind industry, and significant port investment is required to develop purpose-built offshore wind port facilities.


“This is because offshore wind components are large and require port facilities with significant laydown area and infrastructure with heavy loading capacities to assemble the turbine systems.”

REACH’s first study said a wind turbine assembly facility needs 40-50 acres of laydown yard, a deep water port and a huge floating work quay, room for which can’t be found anywhere in San Luis Obispo County.

The study did however, suggest that the man-made harbor at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant might be able to be enlarged to accommodate the wind farms’ needs.

Whether the offshore floating wind farms ultimately pencil out environmentally or economically, one thing seems clear, the State and Federal Governments are willing to allocate significant amounts of money to make it so.



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Community

Newcomers From page 1

comers Club and it exists to enjoy living life every day in the Estero Bay.

EBNC originally formed in 1971 as a committee within the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce. Currently Co-President Kathy Scruton shares leadership with Pam Jackson. Scruton explained, “There are Newcomer Clubs all over California, but they operate differently and are non-affiliated.”

The mission prominently stated on their monthly newsletter reads, “Estero Bay Newcomers Club (EBNC) is a social club, whose mission is to promote fellowship among newcomers to the Estero Bay community. EBNC provides opportunities to acquaint all members with the social, cultural and community service opportunities available in the areas surrounding Estero Bay.”

Who knew SLO County has a donkey sanctuary? A planning committee of Estero Bay Newcomers Club was looking for an adaptive horse ranch facility to visit and discovered Rancho Burro. Several members enjoyed petting and learning about Romeo, BoBo, Norton, Rosie, Cassanova, Teddy, Tutti, Bella, Ruby, Chile, Dory, Polly, Henry and Gracie. The ranch, a nonprofit, is dedicated to giving homeless, abused, abandoned and neglected donkeys a safe, loving and healthy home.

Maybe on that same day or some other day during that month, a different Newcomers’ group was out playing golf or pickleball together. Some are hiking somewhere like Bishops Peak or Montano de Oro. Others are enjoying a slower paced ‘walk & talk’ along Morro Bay’s Harbor Walk. The Newcomers Club has two book groups. Some members travel together. Others play bunco or create craft projects together or meet to share gardening tips. And just as its group name infers, “It’s 5 o’clock Somewhere” and somewhere in the Estero Bay, a group of the Estero Bay Newcomers Club is toasting another day living in paradise.

Susan Skalla is the activities director. Each activity group has a lead person, so Skalla doesn’t micro-manage all the groups within the Newcomer’s network. The Bridge group will determine where they play, and the Wine Tasting group will decide which winery to visit, and members of the Cuesta College Performing Arts group will buy their own tickets to sit together. Skalla keeps tabs on what and how each group is doing, refers new members based on their interests, and when someone has an idea for a new group activity, she passes the concept by the board and helps the group get started. EBNC’s newest group is called “Explorers & Meanderers.” Their plan is to attend cultural events, art shows, and museums.

Their biggest gathering of the year is typically the fashion show at Madonna Inn coming up on Wednesday, July 19. Scruton said, “We’ll have about 100 members attend. This year Lavender Blu Boutique of Morro Bay is producing the show.” It is a members’ only event, but the Newcomers Club is always open for new members to join – even before July 19 just to go to the fashion show annually. Check out www.EBNC.WildApricot.org for more information.

Membership director Kathy Ulsh reported, “We have 163 members and dues are only \$20 per year.” It used to be considered a club for women, but many of the activities were just as attractive to men, so there is a growing number of men who have joined and regularly participate. Ulsh smiled and added, “Well, maybe not so much the fashion show.”

Who qualifies as an Estero Bay Newcomer? Originally membership was limited to two years. It was later extended to five years. “Some move on, but many

enjoy the activities and the friendships they have created and want to continue to participate as members,” said Scruton.

EBNC eventually decided members could remain active as long as they supported the group with the \$20 fee annually, continued to enjoy the activities they were participating in and lived in the Estero Bay area or regularly visited the Estero Bay. Well worth the investment might be another favorite annual event that happens in October. It’s a luncheon hosted on the Chablis Dinner Cruise Boat in Morro Bay.

Marianne Frost is the arrangements director. She might have the most challenging of the club’s jobs. Consistent with their mission to learn and experience what is available in the community, Frost locates a different area restaurant for each of their monthly meetings. The restaurant needs to accommodate 25 to 30 people and be open to a guest speaker that won’t be a disturbance to their other guests. In June they met at Maya’s new restaurant on Morro Bay’s Embarcadero. Maya’s outside patio area was able to fit their needs.

Treasurer Nanci Teter explained, “It’s my social club.” Nanci and Pat Teter recently retired and moved from the Central Valley. It was always their goal. For 25 years they have had their retirement home and vacationed in Morro Bay. “But once we were here full time, we realized that we were not really plugged into our community and we both enjoy being involved.” A local friend introduced Nanci to Newcomers and Pat joined Morro Bay Rotary.

Most of their members have been referred by a Newcomers member or their realtor or a neighbor. It is not unusual for someone to move to the area and not know anyone. Even retirees might think they want to slow down but realize enjoying their new life in their new hometown is more fun when they find new friends and explore what the area has to offer.

And so I repeat, “Do I have a group for you!! It’s called Estero Bay Newcomers Club.”

LOCSD From page 1

vest in the CSD’s Program C Well located at Bay Oaks Drive and South Bay Boulevard.

That well has been drilled and work is underway for the connecting pipeline that will connect the water with the CSD’s distribution system some 3,200 feet away.

The pipeline will have to run from the wellhead to a connection point on Nipomo Avenue at Mountain View Drive. The pipeline portion is under contract with Hartzell General Engineering Contractor, which was awarded last March for \$861,677.

The overall project was budgeted at \$2.6 million and was broken up into three parts — design/drilling of the well, the pipeline transmission connection, and

the well equipping design work that will connect up the other two.

“We are almost finished with the well equipping design phase,” Munds told Estero Bay News, “which should go to the Board on July 6.”

The Program C well will be the first new well the CSD has drilled in many years and is part of a Basin Plan amongst the water suppliers that resulted form a court settlement to better manage the groundwater basin, which is Los Osos’ sole source of drinking water.

That groundwater basin has been in severe overdraft for nearly 20 years and has been infiltrated in some areas by seawater. The Basin Plan is supposed to move well production away from the area around Palisades Avenue where the seawater intrusion has been detected.

S&T Mutual which is comprised of homeowners in the Sunset Terrace neighborhood, has been getting CSD water for some time and lobbied the CSD to let it share in the Program C well’s bounty, as the well it currently has is suffering from rising nitrate levels in the water.

Back in 2022 S&T Mutual asked to set up an emergency connection to the CSD’s system and that December, the CSD Board approved the emergency hook up.

“S&T is looking for water supply redundancy because of the elevated nitrates in their only well and the uncertainties of water supply in the future,” reads a report from Munds.

“Nitrates” is practically a 4-letter word in Los Osos, as the naturally occurring element found in the soil and groundwater led to the eventual building of a community sewer system on the orders of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in a pitched battle that lasted over 30 years. Nitrates have been linked to “Blue Baby Syndrome” (indicating low oxygen levels) and was the main driving force for the \$183 million sewer project.

Munds said S&T had been looking for grant funding to help pay for the emergency tie-in and now wants to go further.

“It is very conceptual at this point,” Munds told EBN, “with many details to work out including cost of the buy in, wheeling charges to move the water to S&T’s point of connection to our system and operation and maintenance costs.”

He’s not sure when a contract would be ready to sign but figures it will take time. “This will take a while to work through,” Munds explained, “so the direction from the Board was to come back to the Board as information is available.”

In a May 23 letter to the CSD, S&T Mutual’s Board President, Julie McAdon said the private com-



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Community

pany was seeking an agreement that would “purchase some ownership in the LOCSD Program C Well drilled inn 2022. S&T would like to use the new pipe-line as a means for progressing overall water supply sustainability and resiliency.”

And relieving pressure on S&T’s well, which is on the western edge of the community and in the poten-tial path of seawater intrusion, too, could help ease the pressure on the overall water basin and would be another shift away from the ocean with the town’s water supply.

S&T also made a deal with the County to hook into the communitywide sewer system run by Public Works and disconnect from a small treatment system it had been using.

Housing Project From page 1

strewn about.

The other main area where folks pitch tents and beat out a hard-scrabble existence, is the forested land along Morro Creek as it runs past Lila Keiser Park and empties onto the beach.

\$5 Million Grant Sought

SLO County’s Homeless Services Division is apply-ing for a \$5 million grant from the State’s “Encampment Resolution Funding Program,” in the second round of funding for the program originating from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, according to a City staff report prepared by Community Development Director Scot Graham.

According to California.gov website, the program is a \$350 million competitive, grant program, made available “to assist local jurisdictions in ensuring the wellness and safety of people experiencing homelessness in encampments by providing services and supports that address their immediate physical and mental wellness and result in meaningful paths to safe and stable hous-ing.”

Of the total, some \$237 million is up for grabs in the second round of funding, Graham said. June 30 is the stated deadline for applications and the program is slated to continue until the money runs out.

“The purpose of the grant,” Graham said, “is to resolve critical encampment concerns and funding can only be used for programs that connect people experi-encing homelessness in encampments to interim shelter with clear pathways to permanent housing.”

Vacant Lot Eyed

What the County has in mind is leasing a vacant lot on Quintana Road just south of the Couch Potato Furni-ture Store’s property.

That patch of dirt runs along Willow Camp Creek for about 50 yards or so, and has a visible pathway lead-ing through vegetation that lines the creek channel.

It should be noted that Willow Camp Creek is not a riparian, natural habitat, as the creek running between Hwy 1 and Quintana Road is really mostly a cement-lined drainage ditch.

The creek starts in the hills on ranchlands on the east side of Hwy 1 above the end of Morro Bay Boule-vard. Rain runoff collects in a drainage swale that ducks underneath the highway and daylights behind what used to be the U-Haul Store (which moved to Atascadero Road and Main Street during the sewer project con-struction).

It runs behind auto shops, a tow service yard, Burg-er King and other Quintana businesses to Main Street where it then ducks under the pavement, coming back up on the Power Plant Bike Path.

The creek channel flows through the plant property and empties into Morro Creek west of Hwy 1.

It’s pretty much a seasonal creek that is dry most of the year. The creek carries runoff from the highway’s storm drains, too.

Modeled After Grover Beach

The “temporary” sheltering would consist of



Photo is of one of the little cabins (tiny homes) in the ‘Cabins for Change’ facility in Grover Beach and being proposed for Morro Bay. The 100-square foot tiny homes would have heating and air, and electricity, and residents would be able to stay in them day and night. Photo courtesy5 Cities Homeless Coalition

100-square foot wooden structures, sheds really or perhaps “tiny homes,” copying a model being used in Grover Beach that the County also set up last December.

Called “Cabins for Change,” that 20-unit “emer-gency housing” facility was built on County-owned property at 16th and Long Branch Avenue adjacent to the Superior Court building, and “is the first of its kind in South County,” the 5CHC website explained, “and will provide shelter space and other important services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The City of Grover Beach, County of San Luis Obispo and 5Cities Homeless Coalition partnered on this innovative facility, which will be operated by 5CHC.”

The facility uses what’s called a “non-congregate housing model,” which means each person would have his or her own little cabin to stay in.

The Coalition provides round-the-clock support and case management, the website said, with “connec-tions to food, recovery and housing stabilization guid-ance.”

Each cabin has a bed(s), heat and electricity. Res-idents share dining, bathroom and shower facilities housed in a separate building.

How it Works

Graham said the Grover Beach facility is a “90-day temporary supportive housing model.” And it, “operates a closed campus, 24-hours a day and features 20 sup-portive housing units, communal restrooms and bath-ing facilities, a shared dining hall, a dog wash, assigned storage space, a staff-operations building and two case worker offices.”

The County is modeling the Morro Bay temporary housing project after the Grover Beach facility, however, at this point, it’s unclear how it would be laid out or who would run it. The City doesn’t even know what a permit review looks like at this point.

Those are some of numerous questions that will have to be answered if the County lands the grant and puts together an actual project for review.

Supervisors Support Concept

County Supervisors lent their support for this type of housing with an ordinance passed back in 2021. “To move forward with this model,” Graham said, “a tem-porary County ordinance was approved to establish minimum safety standards for any subject emergency housing facility located on County owned or leased public facilities.”

Graham told Estero Bay News that what the Coun-ty is looking for would be 10-20 units and have a local non-profit be in charge of the operation and provide housing services, and more.

The preferred site being used for the grant appli-cation, is the oddly shaped lot by Couch Potato. The current owner is Habib Tabrizi, according to Graham’s report, and the County is negotiating on a lease.

Differences with Morro Bay Project

While a County project in Morro Bay would be similar to the one in Grover Beach, there are differences. “It would likely be fewer units than the Grover Beach project,” Graham told EBN, “but they may look at using



Photo of the vacant lot on Quintana Road where the County and City hope to put a temporary homeless person housing facility. Photo by Neil Farrell

a different format as well — attached units to make more efficient use of space.”

As far as environmental issues go, Graham said they would figure out how to review it once they have a for-mal application. Though the creek is cement lined, it’s still considered a protected public waterway under State and Federal environmental laws with special require-ments, for instance a required 50-foot setback from the creek that if enforced, wouldn’t leave much space for the tiny homes.

Graham isn’t sure at this point what the permitting process will look like.

“We would go through some type of permitting process,” Graham said. “We won’t have that nailed down until we have an actual project.”

What ‘Temporary’ Means

Another issue would be the meaning of the word “temporary.”

“Temporary in this instance,” Graham said, “would likely be a year or two but could be longer depending on funding and success of the program.”

But “temporary” doesn’t mean “permanent,” and Graham said the project will need to have a plan in place for when it’s to be closed and removed.

“A full de-mobilization plan will be built into the grant application,” Graham’s report said, “to ensure the selected site is restored if the program is unsuccessful.”

Why so Expensive?

So why would a handful of little, shed-like shelters cost \$5 million?

Out of the grant will come money for an Encamp-ment Project Manager and a “dedicated service provider for the duration of the grant period, which runs through July 2026.

“On-site wrap around services,” Graham said, “will be prioritized, as well as a closed campus location that is within walking distance to additional critical services.”

The Quintana Road property is a couple of blocks away from a County Department of Social Services of-ice, located at Quintana and Kennedy Way in a, former Security Pacific Bank building.

The County should know sometime this summer if it got the grant and can begin what promises to be a well-scrutinized project by the public.



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