

'No Story Should End Too Soon'

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

One of the biggest challenges animal shelters face today is rising populations combined with declining adoption rates. In some shelters that means more animals in need of homes are euthanized every day. A Los Osos woman is hoping to change that, one dog at a time.

Kaya Gwinn is a firm believer that everyone deserves a "fair chance in life," and a little more than a month ago the 21-year-old took action. She started Shiloh's Animal Rescue with the mission of rescuing dogs who had been red-listed, meaning they were soon to be killed.

"Most of the shelters that are overcrowded are those in the LA area," Kaya said. "Due to inflation, many pet owners have surrendered their animals or abandoned them on the streets. It's really bad right now. Seeing the staggering number of red-listed dogs is what drew me to the cause."

According to the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), each year, approximately 920,000 animals are euthanized (390,000 dogs and 530,000 cats).

While looking at red-listed dogs online, Kaya was repeatedly drawn to one in particular named Stella, a 1-year-old German shepherd/Doberman pinscher mix.

"I saw her picture for a couple of days," she said, "and I knew it was an urgent list. I just couldn't wait any longer. I was like, 'Okay, nobody's coming for her. I have to. I can't say no.'"

Kaya, who holds an associate's degree in criminology and is studying animation, hit the road, drove about eight hours round trip using her own money for gas and came home with Stella. Since then, in the last month she has saved a total of six dogs from euthanasia, two have been adopted and the rest are living with pet fosters. Stella is



Kaya Gwinn, founder of Shiloh's Animal Rescue, with Stella, a dog she saved from euthanasia at a Los Angeles shelter, and her adopted dog Shiloh. Stella is available for adoption in Los Osos. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

among the dogs looking for a forever home.

Animal rescue is a difficult undertaking and not something everyone can handle. In addition to the time, the travel and the cost, there is an emotional cost knowing there is an overwhelming number of animals that need to be saved. A number that would drop dramatically if more pets were spayed or neutered.

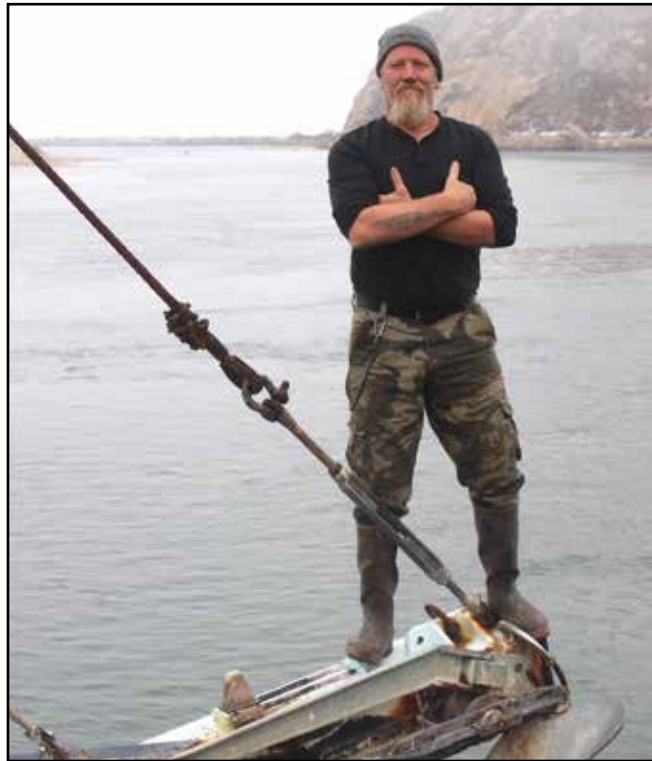
"It is very emotionally taxing," Kaya said. "I have a hard time knowing I can't rescue them all, and an even harder time leaving them behind. It's extremely difficult, but I would also say that at the same time it's one of the nicest feelings in the world. The most rewarding part of this is seeing how the dogs lighten up as soon as they leave the shelter, seeing how many dogs lives I have changed and watching them get adopted to live a long happy life."

Future plans for the young animal advocate include registering Shiloh's Animal Rescue as an official non-profit.

"I think a non-profit would be highly beneficial, because then I could partner with larger companies because they'll see the certification," Kaya said. "It would help in

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'She Called to Me' Washington Man Says of the F/V Windwalker



Kelly Hokanson stands on the bow of his new fishing boat, Windwalker, which he bought at auction from the Morro Bay Harbor Department. His plans are to return the boat to tuna fishing.

Story and photos by Neil Farrell

A Washington State man was giddy with excitement and counting his blessings after he took a chance on a fishing boat being auctioned in Morro Bay, and is now planning a grand adventure to take it tuna fishing in the South Pacific.

Kelly Hokanson, who hails from Lincoln in Placer County and now resides in Ilwaco, Wash., was the winning bidder for the fishing boat Windwalker, which the Morro Bay Harbor Department auctioned off on July 13.

The City put the Windwalker through a Federal seizure process after the previous and sole owner fell behind on dockage fees.

Windwalker is an unusual type of fishing boat, different

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An Affordable Housing Gold Rush



Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) Construction Director, Mike Burke and HASLO Executive Director Scott Collins, overlook the courtyard of the Rockview at Sunset apartments in Morro Bay.

By Neil Farrell

Like a modern gold rush, applications are being accepted now for 35 low-income apartments nearing completion in Morro Bay, and from the early response — it truly will be a rush for housing gold.

Scott Collins, the former Morro Bay City Manager and now Executive Director of the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO), along with HASLO

Construction Director, Mike Burke, gave a reporter an early peek at the town's newest and most visible affordable housing project.

Project Description

Located at 405 Atascadero Rd., (at the intersection of Sunset Avenue), the "Rockview at Sunset in Morro Bay" is a 35-unit 3-story development at the main entrance to Morro Bay (Hwy 41), from the east.

Of the 35 apartments nine are 3-bedrooms, Collins explained standing inside

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Recording the Din of the Pacific Ocean

By Neil Farrell



As part of the effort to bring floating offshore wind turbines to the West Coast, a team of scientists has embarked on a study of the underwater sounds made by sea creatures in the wind area planned for off the Coast of San Simeon.

The study is being led by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center down in LaJolla, in cooperation with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which provided the research vessel Fulmar, and other agencies, as well.

Cory Hom-Weaver, a Cal Poly graduate with the

Recording the Din Continued on page 19

Wildlife Group Urges an End to Rodenticide

By Neil Farrell



Got pesky mice scampering about every time you go into your garage? Tired of finding little black specs of droppings everywhere in the garage, or maybe even inside your house?

As troublesome as these little buggers might be, if you poison them it could do more harm than good when predators — especially birds of prey — catch and gobble them down.

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College
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Anti-Battery Plant Group Defends Battery Killer Initiative

By Neil Farrell

The folks leading the effort to qualify a ballot initiative that would give voters a say over a proposed giant battery storage plant in Morro Bay, defended their efforts before a group of local business people, as concerns about public safety and economic harm clashed.

The Embarcadero Master Leaseholders Association sponsored the July 11 event at Dutchman’s Seafood House. The Dutchman’s dinning room was filled with about 40 people, there to listen to the goals and ask questions on the initiative’s impacts on the future of the waterfront.

World’s Biggest

Called a Battery Energy Storage System or BESS, the project proposed by power plant owner Vistra Energy, would see a 600 megawatt lithium-ion battery plant built on about 22-acres of the 100-acre power plant property. The BESS would be housed in three huge buildings and have about 75,000 battery packs. It would be the largest such facility in the world.

Vistra is currently in the environmental review stage of its project, with a consultant working on an environmental impact report that should be released sometime around the end of this year or early next.

Industrial battery plants like this are touted as vital cogs in the State’s push toward clean energy generation in the power grid. The plant would store excess solar and wind energy for use when supply falls off and demand remains high. The plant is expected to be in operation for 20 years.

Opposition Group

The citizens’ group, Preserve Estero Bay (see: www.PreserveEsteroBay.com) was represented by Barry Branin, Betsy Cross and Rachel Wilson.

Fearing the inherent fire dangers of lithium-ion batteries, Preserve Estero Bay is gathering signatures of registered voters to place their initiative on a future ballot. In essence the measure would lock in the current zoning that was placed on the power plant property by the recent update of the General Plan/Local Coastal Plan (GP/LCP).

That document lists the power plant as Visitor-Serving/Commercial and would have to be changed to allow the industrial BESS project to be built there.

Normally, such a change is done as part of a regular project review — simply put, if you approve a conceptual project (issue a use permit), you approve the zoning change that goes with it.

But the Preserve group’s initiative would deliver a curbepall and require the City to seek approval from a majority of voters in order to approve a zoning change. So the matter boils down to no zoning change means no project approval.

Measure D

It would also reaffirm the voter-approved Measure D zoning for the Embarcadero from Beach Street north to Morro Rock. That zone is reserved for commercial fishing uses and uses that support commercial fishing, as well as recreational fishing.

Before the meeting, the Master Lease Holders group sent out a set of questions to guide the presentation towards the issues they are concerned about most.

Their biggest concern was about the sheer size of the V-S/C zone of the power plant plus the soon-to-be demolished sewer plant site on Atascadero Road, saying it’s bigger than Disneyland and many times larger than the existing Embarcadero is now. What do the proponents propose be built there?

They sought to know how many new hotel rooms, retail and restaurant spaces, and what other visitor serving uses do they see being built?

Branin responded that “This initiative affirms the General Plan. We’re not changing anything.”

Event Center

Wilson put up one slide suggesting a possible alternative use — an events center with a 500-600 seat outdoor amphitheater, two, big exhibit buildings with kitchens for

private parties and public events, and leave the rest open for parking, a carnival or circus. The open area could also be used for RV camping to support the Harbor Department.

The room was a bit chaotic when the slide went up and no real consideration was given to it, though someone did blurt out “Who’s going to pay for that?”

Brown Site Be Gone

Branin said over the years, the big industrial facilities in town have closed and been removed. He pointed out the Chevron Marine Terminal closed in 1999 after 70 years of shipping oil out of Estero Bay.

There was also a Navy Fuel Depot supplying the Lemoore Naval Air Station on Panorama Drive at one time that was closed and just recently torn down and cleaned up; and the power plant, which Vistra closed in 2014 and has agreed to tear down by 2028 or pay the City \$3 million.

Branin said the power plant is a “brown site,” i.e., an old industrial site presumed to be polluted to some degree. “It needs to be cleaned up,” Branin said.

He said the General Plan zoning change was meant to remove the last big brown site in town. It was also changed before Vistra proposed the BESS.

Change Could Be Bad

Several folks in the audience were concerned about the effects on Measure D — with business owners in that zone worried their grandfathered-in, protected status could be changed or that the Measure D area was being expanded. Where are the protections for them?

On the other hand, fishermen were concerned they’d lose the Measure D protections for the facilities they need to survive.

Branin, Cross and Wilson all reiterated that the initiative does not change the zoning, it just gives voters a chance to veto or approve whatever project eventually goes before the City Council, if it means a zoning change.

Roadblocks Put Up

Bob Fowler of Morro Bay Landing and the Master Lease Holders group was very concerned about putting up a significant roadblock to all future development projects.

No developer, “would want to go through a process like this,” Fowler said. It would put the area into visitor-serving/commercial zoning in perpetuity, and bypass representative government.

“The land use process is an important process,” Fowler said, one that he’d rather have elected representatives make decisions on than voters.

Fowler mentioned Assembly Bill 205, a State law that gives the California Energy Commission power to take over land use authority on projects like this BESS from the local authority should the project reach an impasse.

He was concerned about losing local control over the project, and losing the ability to put special conditions on Vistra that would benefit Morro Bay.

If the project stalls locally, Fowler said Vistra could immediately appeal to the Energy Commission.

Zoning Isn’t Secure

Someone asked why do an initiative? Did they not trust the City Council?

“You can change zoning on any property,” Branin responded. “All it takes is three [council] votes to change the land use.” And if it’s a ‘non-conforming use’ meaning the zoning doesn’t match the proposed use, it could be denied by the City Council. But Vistra could then appeal to the Coastal Commission.

So it seems the City could lose control of the project to more than one State agency.

Petition Drive

Preserve Estero Bay needs over 800 voter signatures from people registered in Morro Bay with a deadline in mid-October. If enough signatures can be verified it goes to the City Council for a vote on whether to accept it as presented into the municipal codes or let it appear on the ballot.

If it goes to a vote, the next election is the March 2024 Primary. The council could also call a special election, but the costs would be high. How that jibes with the BESS project’s EIR work schedule remains to be seen.

If the initiative qualifies for the ballot, the City Council could be expected to wait to hear from voters before taking any actions on Vistra’s \$490 million project and put off consideration of the EIR.

Wedge Issue

Also, a majority of council members — mayor and two council seats — are up for election in November 2024, and the issue is likely to be a factor in those races.

Big issues like this, which Morro Bay has faced before, become wedge issues to distinguish candidates vying for city council. How that shakes out is usually split with one side staunchly in favor and the other equally committed against.

Opponents of the project already have yard signs out around town with a circle with red slash over a computer rendering of the plant that Vistra created.

It’s also conceivable that the initiative could be approved in March and come into play in November, depending on where Vistra’s project stands at the time. The initiative would go into effect immediately, should it pass.

If it fails, the project could be expected to move forward quickly, it’s fate placed solely in the hands of representative government.

State Fund Promotes All-Electric Housing

Are you planning on building a new house? The State might have a way to subsidize it, if you shun using natural gas for heat, cooking and hot water.

The California Energy Commission is taking applications now for a piece of a \$58 million grant pie available to builders and developers to help them move away from gas appliances and make their buildings all electric and “climate friendly.”

The so-called “California Electric Homes Program” or

Correction

Last issue’s cutline for the photos of the Cayucos Independence Day Parade didn’t properly identify Carol Kramer and Billy Shea as the Grand Marshalls. Also, poster winner Hazel Bombardieri is a seventh grader.

Correction

On our website, we mistakenly placed the wrong headline above a story in the Jan. 29, 2021 issue. The correct headline is “Police Arrest Man-Wife Alleged Burglars.”



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News

CalEHP, “helps advance the state’s energy efficiency goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings by spurring significant market adoption of all-electric construction and on-site energy storage,” the CEC said in a news release.

“The program offers financial incentives and technical assistance to builders and developers of new, market-rate homes with all-electric appliances and equipment.”

Grant funds are on a first-come first-served basis and the program is planned over the next 5 years or until the money is all spoken for.

With construction costs and the price of land at extreme highs, the grants aren’t for a whole lot of money but every dollar saved can help with affordability.

“In 2023,” the CEC said, “incentives for multi-family and single-family dwellings start at \$1,750 and \$3,500, respectively, per residential unit. Additional incentives are available based on geographic location and the installation of above-code measures such as energy storage.”

The program is meant to move the agenda of climate change forward and to reduce so-called greenhouse gases — carbon dioxide in the case of natural gas — “by encouraging the use and acceptance of all-electric construction practices and focusing on energy savings.

Participating projects are required to install:

- Heat pumps for space and water heating;
- Induction cooking;
- Thermostatic-mixing valves;
- Segregated circuits; and
- Communicating thermostats.

The program website (Google: CalEHP) has information on incentives, technical assistance and building project requirements, as well as links to an online application and program contact information.

CEC Commissioner, J. Andrew McAllister, said, “Electricity is the backbone of California’s clean energy transition. All-electric buildings are simply a better product. They are healthier for occupants and save energy by using the most efficient technologies.

“CalEHP is helping accelerate all-electric construction so that more Californians can experience the benefits of low-emission living.”

CalEHP is part of the CEC’s “Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development” Program (BUILD) “that offers \$60 million in financial incentives and technical assistance to builders of new, all-electric homes for low-income residents.

“Each eligible developer can use up to 300 hours of free building electrification technical assistance and up to \$2 million in incentive monies.”

As of July 17, BUILD “has awarded \$10.8 million for 21 low-income multi-family projects, with another \$23 million requested for 60 projects,” according to the CEC.

The goal of this and other climate change targeting

programs is to make all-electric construction a normal part of advanced building designs and provide market demand for better and better, more energy efficient appliances for homes.

“The barriers to building de-carbonization are falling in California,” the CEC said, “thanks to new developments in technology, updates to the state building energy efficiency standards’ Energy Code, and programs such as CalEHP and BUILD.”

There’s even help for owners of existing homes to de-carbonize their abodes. “For homeowners of existing buildings, funding from the CEC’s Equitable Building De-carbonization Program, which will pay for low- and no-cost retrofits and incentives, and laws such as the [Federal] Inflation Reduction Act address the same issue,” according to the CEC.

Former SLO County Prosecutor Named Best in California



In the top picture left to right: Monterey County DA Jeannine Pacioni, San Luis Obispo County District Attorney Dan Dow, Monterey County Assistant DA Chris Peuvrelle, and CDAA Chief Executive Officer Greg Totten. Submitted photo

By Neil Farrell

The former San Luis Obispo County prosecutor who brought justice to the family of murder victim, Kristen Smart, has been given a statewide award for his efforts.

Former SLO County Deputy D.A. Chris Peuvrelle received the award for the “2022 Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year” for rural and medium-sized counties in California, D.A. Dan Dow said in a Facebook post. The award was formally presented at the recent California District Attorneys Association Summer Conference.

Dow nominated Peuvrelle for the award for the “enormous effort that resulted in the successful prosecution of People v. Paul Flores for the 1996 murder of Kristin Smart.”

Smart was a Cal Poly freshman in May 1996 when she

disappeared after an off-campus party on Memorial Day Weekend. Paul Flores was the last person to see Smart alive and has been the only suspect in her disappearance since she first vanished. Her body has yet to be found.

Flores’ father, Reuben Flores, was also charged as an accomplice after the fact in the case, accused of aiding and abetting his son to hide Smart’s body.

The case took over a quarter century to bring to trial.

The Flores’ cases were moved to Salinas in a change of venue because Smart’s disappearance had captured the attention of most SLO County residents over its long history, including special documentary stories on TV. A popular Podcast, “Your Own Backyard,” delved deeply into the case and was actually credited by the County Sheriff for helping them crack the languishing case.

Smart’s disappearance — now officially a murder — was always considered to be “open” and actively investigated, though it fell off the public radar for years at a time.

And while it took an army of law enforcement, from several agencies to gather enough evidence to charge the younger Flores for the killing, it was on Peuvrelle’s shoulders to present the case.

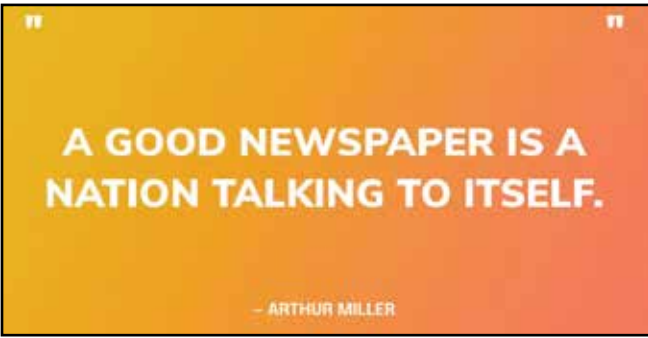
Paul Flores was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. The conviction came with a purely circumstantial body of evidence, and despite no body to definitively prove her death.

But the two cases resulted in a split decision as the elder Flores was acquitted on his abetting charge.

In what was an unusual circumstance, father-son had separate trials judged by separate juries, though the trials were conducted simultaneously and before the same judge. There were even separate defense attorneys for the defendants, against a single prosecutor.

Shortly after the Flores trials concluded, Peuvrelle left the SLO County District Attorney’s Office to become Supervising Assistant District Attorney for Monterey County in January 2023, after receiving the appointment by Monterey County D.A. Jeannine Pacioni.

“We are incredibly proud of Chris and the entire prosecution team,” D.A. Dow said, “for their tremendous work to bring accountability for Paul Flores and Justice for Kristin Smart.”



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Interim CAO Contract Extended



Interim County Administrative Officer John Nilon.
Photo submitted

Apparently finding a new leader of the County Government will take longer than expected, so County Supervisors extended the contract of a man they brought in as an interim County Administrative Officer.

Supervisors on July 11 approved a 1-year contract for Interim County Administrative Officer John Nilon, who was brought in to fill in for departed County CAO Wade Horton, who resigned in April.

“When Nilon was appointed in May,” reads a news release from the County Admin Office, “Supervisors approved a 3-month agreement with him, with options to extend his contract on a month-to-month basis thereafter.”

His contract was extended through May 1, 2024, “with automatic renewals every thirty days unless modified by mutual agreement of the County and Mr. Nilon.”

Nilon worked for some 32-years for Kern County, retiring as Kern County CAO in 2016, according to the news release. He has a ton of experience.

“He led five county departments before serving 8 years as CAO,” according to the release. “After his retirement, he has lived full-time with his wife in Cambria and served that community with roles on the North Coast Advisory Council Board of Directors and the Cambria Community Healthcare District.”

Nilon is happy to help. “I’m honored to continue my service to the residents of San Luis Obispo County and to work alongside the talented team of employees that make up the County of San Luis Obispo’s workforce,” he said.

Supervisors are apparently not in a big hurry to find a permanent replacement for Horton. “The County does plan to partner with a consulting firm to begin nationwide recruitment in early 2024,” the news release said, “to fill the CAO role on a more permanent basis.”



News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Free School Meal Sites

Coast Unified School District announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast Programs for the 2023-24 school year. All students will be served breakfast and lunch at no charge at the following sites: Cambria Grammar School, Santa Lucia Middle School, Coast Union High School and Leffingwell High School.

For additional information, contact your school site.

Ready, Set, Register at Cuesta

There is still time to take part in Cuesta College’s Fast Track Registration Days, an event dedicated to helping current and prospective students seamlessly enroll in classes for the fall semester. Taking place in a one-day, in-person format, this event offers comprehensive support and assistance with academic counseling, financial aid, online orientation, class registration, and more.

Fast Track Registration Days will be available on the following dates and times, accessible at both Cuesta College campuses as well as online:

- August 2, 9, and 10 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the North County Campus
- August 2 and 9 from 4 p.m. – 6p.m., virtual on Zoom
- August 1 and 8 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Campus
- August 1 and 8 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Campus
- August 12 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Campus

The Fast Track Registration Days event at the San Luis Obispo campus take place in Building 3100, Room 3131. For the North County campus, participants can visit the Campus Center, Building N1000, 2nd Floor. Free parking is available at the San Luis Obispo campus in Lot 3 and the North County campus in Lot 10.

Participants are encouraged to register at form. jotform.com/230665216446153 to secure their spots. However, walk-in registration will also be available. New students are advised to submit a Cuesta College application prior to attending a Fast Track registration session unless application support is needed during the event.

Boat Inspection at Cuesta Inlet Surprises

All boats at Cuesta Inlet were inspected on Saturday, July 15 by Celebrate Los Osos volunteers.

“Several surprises were encountered. Just in the last week there was a flurry of boat owners who rushed out to the inlet to affix current license tags next to the CF numbers on their boats,” said Celebrate Los Osos President Pandora Nash-Karner. “We knew all along those annual California Boat registration stickers were lurking on the boat owner’s desks just waiting to be placed on their boats. While the number of boats didn’t decrease, the number of boats who had contact information on them dramatically increased. To us, that means our annual reminders to license boats and place contact information on the boats is paying off.”

Currently there are 408 kayaks; 128 canoes; 20 mono-hulls; 34 multi-hulls; 1 trimaran; 24 dinghies and 9



“other” or mystery boats.

There were two kayaks that were deemed far beyond repair and were cut into pieces for disposal. Several years ago, an orange and yellow catamaran was abandoned at the inlet, the CF numbers had been sanded off and there isn’t any way to identify the former owner. The catamaran is on a trailer and with some TLC, new rigging and sails it may be an inexpensive way to get into sailing, Nash-Karner said. There is also a blue and white monohull that might make a great piece of yard art, filled with topsoil and succulents. Both of these boats are available for free to whoever takes them away.

Future of Natural Gas Bans in Question

A halt to bans on natural gas infrastructure in new construction in the City of San Luis Obispo and beyond could impact the North Coast depending on which way court decisions go.

As an ongoing court case leaves the future of natural gas bans for new construction in question, the City of San Luis Obispo has paused enforcement of its all-electric new buildings ordinance and until further notice will not deny building permit applications on the basis that the project includes natural gas.

Property owners and developers may submit building permit applications for new mixed-fuel buildings, meaning some new future buildings could potentially install and use natural gas infrastructure. It’s important to note that mixed-fuel applicants may have to modify their building plans to be all-electric during construction if the court’s ruling is overturned, even if the project has an approved permit to include natural gas.

“The City remains committed to its Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery and becoming a carbon neutral community by 2035,” said Michael Loew, chief building official and deputy director of community development in SLO. “City officials encourage developers to consider all-electric new builds because they are cost-effective, use highly efficient appliances, are connected to an increasingly green electricity system, and include state-mandated solar energy systems.”

In April 2023, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals court overturned Berkeley, California’s first-in-the-nation ban on natural gas in new construction, agreeing with restaurant owners who argued the city bypassed the Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act when it approved the ordinance. Following the decision, the San Luis Obispo City Council authorized staff to order a temporary suspension of its similar ordinance. By Administrative Order issued in June 2023, the City of San Luis Obispo has now suspended enforcement of its all-electric ordinance for new buildings.

However, the Berkeley case is not yet finally resolved. The City of Berkeley has appealed the panel ruling, asking the full Ninth Circuit overrule the panel’s decision. If that happens, and no Supreme Court review is sought or granted, the City of San Luis Obispo will immediately resume enforcing its all-electric new building ordinance.

“It is important for developers to understand that, depending on the timing of any court decisions resolving this case in Berkeley’s favor, a developer might not be able to construct a mixed-fuel building, even if they have received a building permit for one,” Loew said.

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Community

Grant for County Dementia-Alzheimer's Help

County Supervisors have accepted a State grant to pay for a program aimed at slowing dementia amongst San Luis Obispo County seniors.

Part of the State Public Health Agency's "California Healthy Brain Initiative State and Local Public Health Partnership to Address Dementia" program; the grant would cover from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025, or two fiscal years.

The grant totals some \$708,000, and would go "for expansion, planning, and/or special support activities to increase services that prevent and delay dementia among all senior-focused residents," reads a staff report from the County Health Agency Director, Nicholas Drews.

The agenda item also asked Supervisors to amend upward the budget for this program by \$103,000, as apparently the check from the State was for more than they'd thought when the budget was adopted in June.

The State approved SLO County's share of the Healthy Brain cash back in April, "to support the implementation of the California Healthy Brain Initiative [HBI] in San Luis Obispo County."

That money came out of an overall funding of \$4.5 million allocated as part of the State's General Fund. How does a bureaucratic program fight something as seemingly unstoppable as dementia and Alzheimer's disease?

"The HBI," Drews' report said, "aims to promote cognitive health, address cognitive impairment in the community, and meet the needs of caregivers. It recognizes the significant increase in the elderly population in SLO County, with projections indicating a continued rise in the number of residents over the age of 65.

"This demographic trend is expected to contribute to a higher prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the county."

Dementia is one disease that doesn't seem to affect any particular type of person more than another, but seems inevitable for anyone, as they grow old.

But the grant money isn't going to everyone; the County wants to concentrate on a specific population of local residents. "SLO County has experienced growth in its Latinx population," Drews said, "particularly in the agricultural and hospitality sectors, with a significant percentage falling into the low-income category. Recognizing the emerging needs of these communities, the SLO County Public Health Department has prioritized public education to raise awareness about healthy brain habits, early detec-

tion of dementia, and available community resources. "It is crucial to provide information and support to individuals beginning to experience dementia and their caregivers. Additionally, training healthcare providers on interacting with individuals with dementia and enhancing community planning and coordination are essential components of SLO County PHD's approach."

County Health works with local non-profits and support groups, including the Alzheimer's Association Central Coast Chapter, and the Promotores Collaborative, a Hispanic-centric group working to help bring health care to the Hispanic community (see: www.facebook.com/promotoreslo).

And County Health is a member of the "SLO County Adult Services Policy Council [ASPC], a collective effort of over 50 organizations dedicated to addressing the needs of adults in the SLO County," Drews said.

So how will the money be spent? The County was required to give the State a spending plan identifying costs related to the program, according to the report. Most of the money goes to salaries and benefits of the people working in the program.

A budget breakdown included in the report showed FY 2023/24 to spend \$205,400 on salaries and benefits, and \$103,300 on services and supplies, leaving \$42,800 in "indirect costs."

In FY 2024/25 the salaries and benefits show \$215,600 and \$95,700 for services and supplies, with \$87,700 in indirect costs. Annually, the budget shows \$351,600 budgeted for spending in FY 2023/24 and \$356,300 in 2024/25.

Drews' report listed several goals of the County program over the 2-year span of the grant. They are:

- Monitoring data and evaluating programs to contribute to evidence-based practice and development of a needs assessment;
- Education and empowerment of the public regarding brain health and cognitive aging;
- Implementation of a widespread multilingual awareness media campaign to promote brain health, reduce stigma associated with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, and promote resources in SLO County;
- Development of an Advisory Committee to engage public and private partners in ongoing planning efforts to establish services and policies that promote supportive communities and workplaces for people with dementia and their caregivers;
- Provide training to stakeholders about ADRDs, to support subject matter competencies; and,
- Strengthen the competencies of professionals who deliver healthcare and other care services to people with dementia through inter-professional training and other strategies.

By the Sea Productions stages "Barefoot in the Park"



Neil Simon's classic romantic comedy, "Barefoot in the Park," is the summer show at By the Sea Productions.

Up-tight attorney Paul, and free spirit Corie are newlyweds in a 5-story walk-up apartment in New York City. Adjusting to their new marriage and home create comedic chaos, helped along by their eccentric neighbor, who makes a play for Corie's widowed mother.

Directed by Lisa Woske, the cast includes Kate Kosteka, Redzuan Abdul Rahim, Jill Turnbow, Tom Ammon and Tim Linzey.

"Barefoot in the Park" plays four weekends, July 14-August 6, at 545 Shasta Ave. in Moro Bay. Ticket reservations at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-2387.

In the photo are: Standing from left: Tim Linzey, Jill Turnbow, Tom Ammon
Seated: Redzuan Abdul Rahim and Kate Kosteka
Photo by Janice Peters

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Historic Submarine Gets Refurbished



Rich Pescatore, member of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum Board of Trustees, with Danyelle Owens, assistant program manager at the Ludwick Family Foundation.

Photo and story by Judy Salamacha

Wowzer! Visitors knew the submarine fronting the Embarcadero entrance to the Morro Bay Maritime Museum was humongous and attractive, but who knew it was green and gorgeous!

The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Avalon is one of two machines built to rescue the crews of downed submarines. Once deployed in 1971, the rescue vehicle completed several exploratory missions following the USS Thresher accident in April 1963, while the US Navy developed strategies for a new and improved submarine rescue system.

MBMM is proud to be the custodian of such an important and rare piece of US Naval History and maritime technology for the past ten years.

“A generous grant provided by the Ludwick Family Foundation of Glendora, CA allowed the museum to complete its

Avalon Preservation Project,” said Rich Pescatore, a member of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum Board of Trustees “The refreshed paint not only restores the splendor of this unique vessel, but it will help preserve it from the elements so that the public can enjoy the Avalon at its best.” Restoration specialist Bill Haynes sailed down from his home in Oregon spending more than two months living onboard his boat in Morro Bay’s harbor while completing the job.

Pescatore reported that the work received positive comments from Naval History and Heritage Command, which is responsible for the preservation, analysis, and dissemination of U.S. naval history and heritage located at the historic Washington Navy Yard. “Several Navy veterans who were familiar with the Avalon when it was active have been by the museum and noted how beautifully she has been restored,” Pescatore said.

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Calling all Scarecrows



Businesses get your donations in for the Cambria Scarecrow Festival and be one of the first to have a scarecrow made to be placed in front of your location.

“We have already heard of many bus tours that will be coming to town, so you want a scarecrow in front of your businesses for them to stop to look at and then come in to see what you have to offer,” said Paulla Ufferheide, president of the Cambria Scarecrow Festival in a press release. “All you must do is go to our website, www.cambriascarecrows.com, and click on the donate page. This festival has been very important to our town, but we can’t put it on without your support.”

Folks who don’t have business and just love the festival can donate and the scarecrow will be put in front of your business of choice, or the festival will place it for you with your name on it.

For a little preview of the festival this year, Cambria Scarecrow Festival commit-

tee has offered more scarecrow making workshops than ever before to showcase more unique scarecrow displays with fun themes. Some of these include a large display featuring a knockoff of the Netflix series Wednesday, a display of the bar scene from the first Star Wars movie along with a takeoff of the movie Encanto being displayed in San Simeon. The new Woodland Animals Sculpture Workshop taught scarecrow makers how to sculpture animals for the Wildlife of Cambria display. Other workshops include our “Make It In A Day” Workshop, where the public can come and try their hand at making scarecrows. At the Children’s Workshop, the children will be making crows to fly all around Cambria. The Friends of the Scarecrows program began in May and our Dr. Crow volunteers have been busy making scarecrows to be put in front of local businesses who are part of the “Friends” program.

To learn more about this multi-tier

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 9

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The Estero Bay News has provided coverage of our community since 2019

We are a small staff who works hard to bring you local news, people and events. we also cover local non-profits and community organizations. Below is a sampling our reach:

- 4-H
 - Achievement House
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Businesses
 - By The Sea Productions
 - Cal Poly and Cuesta
 - Cambria Film Festival
 - Cambria Scarecrow Festival
 - Camp Ocean Pines
 - CASA
 - Cayucos Vets Hall
 - Celebrate Los Osos
 - Central Coast Dragon Boat Assoc.
 - Central Coast State Parks Association
 - Central Coast Veterans
 - Central Coast Women for Fisheries
 - Central Coast Writers Group
- Community Foundation
 - County Supervisors
 - Estero Bay Community Radio
 - Estero Bay Kindness Coalition
 - Friends at Hearst Castle
 - Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest
 - Friends of Morro Bay Harbor Dept.
 - Grizzly Academy
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Harbor Patrol
 - Hospice
 - Kiwanis
 - Lions
 - Local Art & Music
 - Local Fire Depts
 - Local CSD
 - Local Events and Activities
 - Local Government
 - Local History
- Local Libraries
 - Local Parks
 - Local Schools
 - Local Sheriffs
 - Los Osos Cares
 - Los Osos Valley Garden Club
 - Lost at Sea
 - Masons
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Morro Bay Art Center
 - Morro Bay Beautiful
 - Morro Bay Bird Festival
 - Morro Bay inBloom
 - Morro Bay Car Show
 - Morro Bay Merritime Museum
 - Morro Bay Police Dept
 - Morro Bay Seniors
 - Morro Bay Yacht Club
 - Morro Coast Audubon Society
 - Natural Estuary Program
- Oktoberfest
 - Pacific Wildlife Care
 - People Helping People
 - Project Surf Camp
 - PTA
 - Rotary
 - SLO Botanical Gardens
 - SLO County Sheriff's dept
 - San Luis Symphony
 - SCORE
 - SLO Food Bank
 - SLO Noor Foundation
 - South Bay Community Center
 - South Bay Womens Network
 - Spokes
 - Sports
 - The Chamber of Commerce
 - Visit Morro Bay
 - Woods Humane Society
 - and many more

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Births • Obituaries • Weddings



Police Blotter



• **July 16:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 11:37 p.m. on Teresa Drive. Logs indicated the 44-year old was arrested on a single, no-bail, misdemeanor warrant from somewhere out of the county.

• **July 15:** Police caught up to a gambling fellow, 41, at 11:37 p.m. at Main and Las Vegas. He had nine bench warrants and crapped out at the Iron Bar Hotel.

• **July 15:** At 6:46 p.m. police arrested a 22-year-old woman for three bench warrants in the 11900 block of Los Osos Valley Rd., which is far outside of Morro Bay, and begs the question — Is the juice worth the squeeze?

• **July 15:** Police responded at 4:34 p.m. to a reported car crash out by Morro Rock. Sorry, no gory details were available. Earlier, at 10:30 a.m. there was another fender-bender reported in the area of Rennel and Tide.

• **July 15:** Police contacted a suspicious woman sashaying down the 200 block of Harbor at 3:40 a.m. The swizzle stick, 37, was nicked for allegedly being tore up from the floor up.

• **July 14:** At 5:55 a.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow at Main and Atascadero Road. Logs indicated the 30-year-old gent was allegedly in possession of drugs and a glass crack pipe and got his buzz killed in County Jail.

• **July 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:52 a.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 54, had a suspended license and got cited and released.

• **July 12:** Police were called to a melee involving three people at 11 a.m. in the 200 block of Main. Logs indicated when officers arrived they arrested a 48-year-old woman for suspicion of being bent in public, which might explain a lot.

• **July 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:20 pm. in the 1100 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 24, was cited for having “prohibited window tinting” and no registration, hanging offenses in this state.

• **July 11:** At 2:30 p.m. police contacted an apparent wild woman actin’ a fool in the 800 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 38-year-old belle of the ball was nicked for suspicion of being high on drugs, possessing drugs and possessing a crack pipe.

• **July 10:** Police responded at 11:39 a.m. to a car crash at Main and Atascadero Road, where the city council decided a Roundabout is safer than 4-way stop signs.

• **July 11:** A citizen in the 500 block of Monterey told police that some apparent kleptomaniac stole his motorcycle helmet, proving once again that people will steal anything.

• **July 10:** Police contacted a familiar woman, 29, at 10:17 p.m. in the 500 block of Harbor. Logs indicated she had a warrant and was issued another disappearance ticket and let

loose.

• **July 9:** At 11 p.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated he was hauled away for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and paraphernalia. A 27-year-old woman there had two bench warrants and was issued a future third and released.

• **July 9:** Police contacted another suspicious subject at 10:53 p.m. in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd. This hombre had four bench warrants and chilled in the cooler.

• **July 9:** Police responded to a disturbance at 6:30 p.m. in the 1600 block of Main. Logs indicated they took a woman to County Mental Health for a 72-hour timeout.

• **July 9:** Police responded to a hotel in the 900 block of Morro after someone found a firearm in a guest room.

• **July 9:** Police responded to Bayshore Park in the 100 block of Bayshore Dr., where some apparent nature lover said someone paddled off with his or her kayak.

• **July 8:** police responded to a disturbance at 4 p.m. in the 400 block of Bernardo. Logs indicated they placed an apparently unsettled woman with County Mental Health for being a danger to herself.

• **July 8:** Police towed away a parked car from Morro and Surf because the owner failed to tithe the DMV for at least 6 months.

• **July 8:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 1:52 a.m. in the 900 block of MBB, near the Roundabout. Logs indicated the driver, 30, was hauled to the hoosegow for suspicion of driving sideways.

• **July 6:** Police towed yet another hooligan vehicle with expired tags from the 2400 block of Reno Ct.

• **July 5:** Police responded at 4:50 p.m. to the 400 block of Bernardo where someone told them a “mentally handicapped” woman hit two men while “en route to a program,” no doubt anger management class.

• July 5: Police contacted a suspicious woman, 46, at 9:37 p.m. in the 1100 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated all they could cite her on was alleged possession of drug paraphernalia, as her stash was no doubt already shot.

• **July 5:** Police took a missing person report in the 900 block of Carmel.

• **July 4:** Someone turned in some tool they found someplace for police to do something with.

• **July 4:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 10:08 p.m. in the 1100 block of Napa. The 42-year-old fellow was allegedly in possession of drugs and Independence Day became Incarceration Day.

• **July 3:** At 7 p.m. in the 1700 block of Embarcadero, police placed an apparently upset mentally ill fellow on a 3-day forced vacation.

• **July 3:** Police scampered over to the 2600 block of Hemlock for a reported theft via the Internet. No word on how much the scammers scammed out of the scam victim.

• **July 3:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:25 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the driver, 69, was allegedly drunk and was arrested, because the nail that sticks out gets hammered.

• **July 2:** Police espied a car driving without headlights at 8:54 p.m. at Morro Strand State Park Campground. Logs

indicated they stopped the 58-year-old dim bulb driving and she was plugged into County Jail for suspicion of driving lit.

• **July 2:** A citizen in the 2000 block of Greenwood told police that some unknown anarchist stole two firearms from his cache.

• **July 2:** A Harbor Patrol officer took a green fanny pack to the police station that someone had found somewhere that contained drugs. No word on who lost it, just like at the White House.

• **July 1:** Police cited a 49-year-old man in the 300 block of Quintana who allegedly stole a boat anchor from the Good Flea Thrift Store.

• **July 1:** At 9:36 a.m. in the 1500 block of Main police stopped a guy they allegedly saw yammering on a cell phone when he’s supposed to be driving. A DMV check revealed that his license was suspended for a previous drunk driving, a case of a toll charge for a cell call.

• **July 1:** Police towed away a bothersome car parked too long at Monterey and Morro Bay Boulevard.

• **June 30:** Police towed off a car parked at Atascadero Road and Main because the DMV hadn’t been fed its pound of flesh.

• **June 30:** At 11:40 a.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow, 45, at Monterey and the Boulevard and cited the scofflaw for a bench warrant.

• **June 29:** Someone turned a knife they had found someplace in town into the police station.

• **June 29:** At 12:06 p.m. police contacted a familiar foe in the 900 block of MBB. Logs indicated a 38-year-old woman was headed to jail for eight bench warrants and suspicion of being boozy in public. During a search they allegedly found drugs and paraphernalia in her possession, which ought to make the judge real happy to see her.

• **June 28:** Police responded to a disturbance at 8:55 a.m. in the 800 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 42-year-old mulish fellow was nicked for allegedly violating a criminal stay-the-hell-away order.

• **June 28:** Police contacted another lady on the lam at 12:12 a.m. at Main and Harbor. The 48-year-old bail jumper was taken to the County B&B on nine bench warrants, nowhere near a record for these parts, but a noteworthy attempt.

• **June 27:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to Main and Surf for a hit-n-split crash involving a parked car and a fence. Officers caught up to the fiend, 53, who admitted to being at fault and agreed to pay for the SNAFU.

• **June 27:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., where someone said his tricycle was stolen from outside his mobile home, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **June 26:** At 4 p.m. a fellow said his motorcycle was stolen from the 1400 block of Quintana.

• **June 26:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 12:30 p.m. in the 700 block of Monterey and charged the indecent fellow with suspicion of public indecency after he was allegedly seen shaking the lizard in public.

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Takin' Care of Business From page 7

donation opportunity, go to www.cambriascarecrows.com. Make note that a special display is being planned to celebrate the festival's 15 years of scarecrow whimsy. Scarecrows are on display throughout the month of October.

SLO City Council Backs Diversity in Business

The City of San Luis Obispo has awarded \$150,000 in grant funding to 10 local businesses seeking to foster a thriving and diverse economy and create a welcoming community for all.

The purpose of this grant program is to address equity gaps within the San Luis Obispo community and enhance the sense of belonging for those most disenfranchised. Grant recipients include:

- Alpenglow Industries, \$18,353 for six workshops to help underrepresented groups learn skills to seek entry level tech or manufacturing employment.

- Banchan Foods, \$25,000 to increase culinary diversity and promote Korean culture in San Luis Obispo.

- Certified Auto Repair, \$10,000 to cover vehicle repair

mini-grants for diverse communities members experiencing a lack of or no transportation.

- Concussion Navigation Services, \$10,000 for a program to provide specialty concussion rehab care to those who are uninsured, underinsured, marginalized, or economically insecure.

- Corazón Café, \$9,011 to showcase and create a safe cultural space for underrepresented artwork, while giving back to the community through a donation system and be a hub for cultural exchanges.

- Mission Headstrong, \$23,336 to ensure that 15 coaches get certified by Autism Fitness and provide coaching for the autistic and neurodivergent community.

- Seeds, \$14,800 for part of a program that will include

community events advancing DEI through wellness and environmental awareness.

- Ten Over Studio, \$15,000 for 5 affordable housing feasibility studies to local nonprofit developers.

- Texture, \$12,000 to provide product inventory for hair care needs of underserved and underrepresented communities.

- Twig & Arrow Salon, \$12,500 to educate and train salon staff on diverse and multicultural hair and makeup types, styles, and colors.

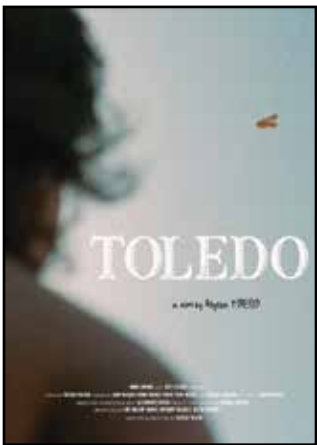
The City received 32 grant applications in March requesting a total of nearly \$1 million. This grant program is administered by the City's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, in partnership with the Office of Economic Development and Tourism. Funds will be distributed in the fall.

Deadline Approaches to Crowdfund Film

A crowdfunding page has been set up for the film “Toledo” that was, in part, filmed on the Central Coast.

“We are currently in post-production of the film which includes pulling together final funding before we submit to film festivals,” said Molly Radabaugh, marketing manager.

“Toldeo” is a latinx short film following the struggle against ingrained expectations and testing the boundaries of love and identity. Set amidst the hot summer cilantro fields in California, a brooding teenage cowboy works tirelessly, his heart entangled with unrequited love for a local girl who speaks



a different language. With an impending departure back to Mexico, our hero, Santos Toledo, must confess his feelings before it's too late.

“I wrote the script in early 2019, struggling still to find my voice as an artist and blend experiences of my own as a Mexican/American and LGBTQ+ female and the experiences of someone so close and yet to mysterious to me,” writer-director Alyssa Toledo said. “It’s a story I’ve re-written and re-structured many time and let simmer for years until finally I landed on something that felt very much my own, something I hadn’t seen before within Latinx films.”

Filmmakers are hoping to reach \$9,000. As of press time, a little over \$3,000 had been donated. The project will only be funded if it reaches its goal by Wed, August 9 2023. For more information or to become a financial supporter of the film, go to [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com) and search for Toledo.

Senior Dogs at Woods Humane Society Fetch \$7,500 Grant

Old dogs have something to wag their tails about this summer as The Grey Muzzle Organization announced the recipients of its annual grants, and dogs at Woods Humane Society are among the winners.

Woods in San Luis Obispo is one of 90 animal welfare groups chosen from 370 applicants to receive a grant to help local senior dogs. The winning groups received \$848,000 in grants to help save or improve the lives of at-risk old dogs in their communities. Woods Humane Society was awarded \$7,500 to help 18 senior dogs (over seven years of age) receive pre-adoption veterinary care.

“No one is more grateful or loving than an old dog,” said Emily L’Heureux, CEO of Woods Humane Society. “We’re looking forward to helping more senior dogs get the second chance they all deserve, with the support of Grey Muzzle.”

Over the past 15 years, the national nonprofit Grey Muzzle Organization has provided more than \$4.6 million in grants to support its vision of “a world where no old dog dies alone and afraid.”

"Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're delighted to help deserving organizations like Woods Humane Society make a difference in the lives of dogs and people in their communities," Grey Muzzle's Executive Director

**Takin' Care of Business** Continued on page 10

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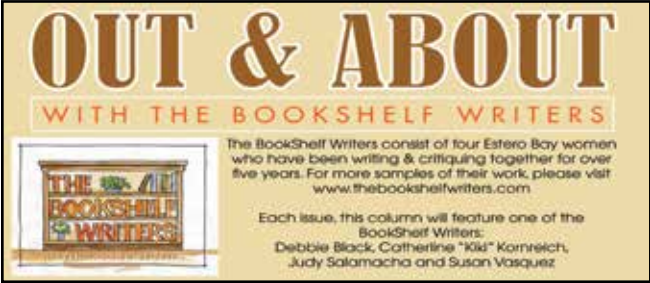
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RV Camping: Gadgets & Gizmos Part 1



Umbrella clamp and Luci Light. Photo by Debbie Black
By Debbie Black

This is the eighth article in my series “RV Camping in Your Own Back Yard” featuring RV camping on the Central Coast and beyond. For over fifteen years, my husband Garth and I have camped all over the West in our little 24’ motorhome. Come along with us as I share some of our discoveries of the best campgrounds to explore, unique things to do and camping tricks to try.

In this article, I’ll discuss gadgets and gizmos that make our camping experience easier and more fun. Please note: I’m not associated with, nor compensated by, the companies who make these products.

Umbrella Clamp: The perfect solution for campsites with no shade. This innovative device clamps to most picnic tables except reall thick ones (\$38 at mistercoolz.com). Amazon also sells different models. Just buy a simple beach umbrella and you have the perfect, moveable canopy for sun or drizzle.

Luci Lights: Boy oh boy, Luci Lights are one of my favorite inventions! They’re light-weight, inflatable solar LED lights that are indispensable for dry camping. We have several! They charge in seven hours, have three light intensities as well as a strap to hang them or carry them like a flashlight. Get them at REI for around \$30 or a little less at Walmart.com. The 5” diameter lights come in cool


Takin’ Care of Business From page 9

Lisa Lunghofer said. “Many senior dogs in San Luis Obispo County are enjoying their golden years in loving homes thanks to the wonderful work of Woods Humane Society.”

The adoption fee for senior dogs at Woods Humane Society is \$100 and includes a spay/neuter surgery, micro-chip, license, vaccines, parasite treatment, collar and Woods tag, temporary leash, and free wellness exam with a local veterinarian.

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

Are you or a neighbor Taking Care of Business. Is your business, including non-profits, supporting our community? Maybe you’re launching a new business, or you’re making updates to your current business model, or re-opening. Perhaps you have a job opportunity, or have been doing some volunteer work, or are collaborating with another business or a non-profit. Or maybe you know someone who is. Submit your awesome local efforts for publication to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com.



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Bench pads, camp chairs, and bungees holding the tablecloth. Photo by Debbie Black

or warm light. Additional hack: Go to a dollar store, buy two white, translucent, cylindrical “Tupperware” type containers about 4” diameter and about 6” tall. Remove lids, invert them on your picnic table. Put your Luci lights on top — elevating them gives off more light to illuminate the whole table. Warning: Luci Lights can be damaged by over-expansion at high altitude or when left in super-hot sun. I learned the hard way! Keep them slightly deflated.

Also great for power outages at home, which happens a lot in Cayucos. We keep one constantly charged on a window-sill. We also give them as semi-weird gifts but each recipient has thanked us when their power goes out!

Bench Pads: I spend so many hours writing at campsites picnic tables that I consider these a camping necessity! We go through a pair every 2-3 years because the straps tend to rip out. But they’re well worth the \$13 at campingworld.com. They fit most benches and fold neatly into thirds for storage. Amazon also has a variety of picnic bench pads.

Camp Chairs: We like these Timber Ridge chairs from Costco (2-pack for \$100). There are lots of companies who make similar chairs. It’s a personal preference. However, I think the pop-up side table (with drink holder) is a must—for books, phones, and of course, coffee cups and wine glasses.

Tablecloth Bungees: These elastic cords keep your tablecloth from going airborne into the next campsite. Super easy and they fit most tables. They’re only about \$7

at campingworld.com.

If you have suggestions for more gadgets, gizmos, and gear to share, please go to my website and send them to me. And watch for “Gadgets & Gizmos Part 2.” For the rest of the series, please visit www.debbienobleblack.com and click on the RV Camping tab. Happy camping, and we’ll see you out there!

Events & Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for Adults is having its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, August 2. Meetings are free and yearly membership is only \$65. Social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Meeting follows. Social and sports activities occur year around.

Happening tonight, July 27 — Check out a screening of the film “American Hospitals: Healing a Broken System” at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos at 7 p.m. Admission is free for this 1-hour video with a discussion following. “American Hospitals” was produced by the same team that made “Fix It, Big Pharma” and “Big Money Agenda.” It dissects the underlying economic structure of hospitals to reveal why healthcare costs are out of control and what can be done to reform the system.

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



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offered at \$1,290,000

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Community

Featured Wall Artist: Ken Christensen with landscapes in oil and watercolor.

Display Case: Central Coast Woodcarvers.

- E-Device Class - Wednesdays, 9:15-10 a.m.

Bring your electronic device in and Diana will do her best to answer any questions you have.

- Paws to Read - Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School Age.

- Storytime - Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.

- Stay Young with Qi Gong! - Fridays, 9 – 10 a.m. (rain cancels)

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

- Cartoon Club - Friday, August 4, 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.

- Ozobots - Friday, August 11, 2023 2:30-4:30

Come to the Los Osos Library and write code to control a robot with just markers and paper!

Tickets are on sale for the Central Coast State Park Association's Butterfly Ball on October 14 2023 at the Octagon Barn located at 4400 Octagon Way , San Luis Obispo. Join them for a night filled with dance and entertainment, informative presentations from local experts, plated dinner by Trumpet Vine Catering, a silent auction and an awards ceremony.

This year's gala, An Adventure in Wonderland, supports western monarch butterflies and expanding the Western Monarch Trail by increasing outreach and education to more locations along their migration route. Join the fun in your best cocktail attire and/or Alice in Wonderland inspired outfits!

For more information and to buy tickets, go to <https://centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball>.



Preparations for The Monday Club's Centennial celebration in 2024 begin in August with new Living History tours at the Club at 1815 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo from 1 – 4 p.m. on August 14, 21 and Sept 18.

When you enter the doors of the Julia Morgan designed Monday Club you will walk with docents who will take you back to the 1920's and 30's where the Depression was affecting every household, prohibition was in full swing, and women had just been given the right to vote. It was a time of social, forward-thinking women dedicated to civic duty to serve their community, to give a voice to the underserved and to strengthen the lives of those who had previously not found a place of community.

Here attendees will learn about the intersecting lives of early pioneer club members and their connection with Julia Morgan. Experience the Architecture of this very talented and overlooked woman that was awarded the first female architectural license in California as well as the first

Tours run approximately one hour in length. Doors open to the public every 2nd and 3rd Mondays, from 1- 4 p.m., unless otherwise scheduled

Get information about reservations and group sizes at <https://themondayclubslo.org/DOCENT-TOURS>

The 49th Annual Antique Gasoline Engine Show takes place Aug. 5-6 at North Ocean Avenue and D Street in Cayucos from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of gas and steam-driven engines from throughout the Central Coast will be on display will be on display. They will be seen grinding corn, pumping water, sawing logs, and animating various moving figures. Members of the Early Dan Gasoline Engine and Tractor Association will be on hand to discuss the history and use of the old machines. Learn about the early form of energy that was used before the internal combustion engine and electric motors were developed. The show is free and open to the public.



Free upcoming August programs at the Morro Bay Library - 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394.

- Cartoon Club - Wednesday, August 2, 3-5 p.m.

Learn how to create characters, draw backgrounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon! Paper, pens and pencils are provided, you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.

- Teen Crafternoon - Saturday, August 5, 2- 4 p.m.

Come on down for crafts & snacks! This Saturday's craft will be origami kusudama flowers and balls. For ages 11-18.

- Learn and Play Lotería – Wednesday, August 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Learn about traditional lotería cards! Presenter Luna will discuss the cultural significance of the game and

demonstrate how to play. Then we'll all get to play the game of chance! This program will be presented in Spanish and English. For ages 3+

- Nintendo Switch - Wednesday, August 16, 3-5 p.m.

Master your gaming and fine motor skills with our Nintendo Switch! We will provide one Switch for up to 4 players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart and Just Dance.

- Rock Paintings – Wednesday, August 23, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Learn about pictographs, petroglyphs and more before creating your very own piece of rock art to take home! Presenter Luna will guide us through the history and process of rock art. This program will be presented in Spanish and English. All ages welcome.



Tickets and sponsorships now available for the 8th Annual Gala and Auction, Sunset on South Beach

Step into the neon-soaked streets of South Beach at the 8th Annual Gala and Auction benefiting the Cancer Support Community California Central Coast (CSC) on Saturday, August 19. The extraordinary event is dedicated to raising funds and spreading awareness for those impacted by cancer here in San Luis Obispo County. Themed “Sunset on South Beach,” guests will enjoy dinner and dancing, along with a live and silent auction on the stunning grounds of Rava Wines in Paso Robles.

Marking another year of CSC's commitment to supporting individuals and families facing the challenges of cancer, the annual gala is the nonprofit's signature fundraiser. Showcasing a live and silent auction with items graciously donated by local individuals and businesses, the gala will help raise vital funds to enhance the organization's extensive programs and services. Additionally, the yearly gala highlights incredible individuals who have made significant contributions to the cancer community through their patient care, and philanthropic efforts.

The radiant ambiance of Sunset on South Beach will give attendees the opportunity to connect with fellow supporters, survivors, medical professionals, and community leaders. The evening kicks off with tantalizing appetizers and a Silent Auction before delighting in dinner and an energetic Live Auction. Both the live and silent auctions will feature unique trips, dining opportunities, surprises and more! Guests will then close the fun-filled night with a spin on the dance floor.

Events Continued on page 12

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Community

Events From page 11

Tickets are available for purchase at cscslo.org/gala. Various sponsorship opportunities are open for individuals, businesses, and organizations looking to make a lasting impact. Photo courtesy of Shelby Caitlin Photography

Join the Cayucos Library, 310 B St. for the following free events. Call them at (805) 995-3312, for more information or go to www.slolibrary.org.

- Finger Painting for Kids: Friday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m. Encourage your child's creativity through messy art on our patio! Dress for mess. Children of all ages welcome.
- Family Paint: Tuesday, August 8 at 2:30 p.m. Work together with your family to create an ocean themed painting. Presented by Debbie George. Registration required. Give us a call or visit slolibrary.org to register.
- Sensory Playtime for Babies and Toddlers: Friday, August 18 at 10:30 a.m. Let your little one lead the way in this open-ended playtime! Babies and toddlers will use their five senses to explore our play stations.
- We also have Chair Yoga every Tuesday at 11am (no class on August 1), Family Storytime every Wednesday at 10 a.m. (no storytime on August 30) and Booked for Lunch on August 11 at noon.

The Lazy Days of Summer and Central Coast Woodturners Juried Show takes place August 10, through September 18 at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St, Morro Bay. There will be an artist reception Sunday, August 13 from 2-4 p.m.

Artists were asked to create artworks en plein aire, (French for outdoors) inspired by the beautiful scenery and colorful wildlife found throughout the gentle sloping landscapes of the Central Coast. Enjoy the nature inspired scenes imbued with romance, desire and dramatic light often found in plein air paintings and other nature scenes.

In addition, Morro Bay Art Association present a juried show of the Central Coast Woodturners. This non-themed show focuses on selected wood turned artwork.

Woodturning is the craft of using the wood lathe with hand-held tools to cut a shape that is symmetrical around an axis of rotation. Like the potter's wheel, the wood lathe is a simple mechanism which can generate a variety of forms limited only by the imagination of the artist or craftsman.

The Central Coast Woodturners group have a working relationship with the Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation and Beads of Courage supplying lidded bowls and wig trees to both children and seniors dealing with cancer on the Central Coast.

Art Center Morro Bay is open daily, 12 – 4 p.m. For more information, call 805-772-2504 or go to www.artcentermorrobay.org.

You Can't Hurry Love

A Dose of Good Dogma



By Lisa Ellman

Learning takes time; and often there are several elements that can determine how quickly it takes us to retain the new information. Things like health, emotional trauma, age and life's distractions all contribute to our capacity to learn and process new information. Dogs are the same.

I work with a lot of rescues, of all ages, that have come from many different circumstances. Some have been picked up on the street (and who knows how long they've been out there?), some have been abandoned or just neglected, lived in a shelter for eight months, maybe some have had several different homes, were discarded and passed off because there was a behavior (or puppy) issue that people didn't want to deal with.

In this world of impatience and gravitating toward instant gratification, people forget that mastering knowledge takes practice and time. I've previously mentioned that clients ask me, "How many sessions will we need, how long will it take?" And, again, my reply is always the same, "It depends on how much you practice."

I've worked with many dogs that pick up on things really fast, and I've worked with dogs that are so shut down, anxious or fearful that just getting them to make eye contact is a triumph! Lots of people have more than one dog and trying to teach one, with the other distracting, is nearly impossible, another impediment to how fast new learning can happen. Most of the time though, I find it's the people with young dogs, puppies or adolescents, that expect results quickly. That's asking a lot from your dog.

When teaching a new behavior, I like to break it down into baby steps before putting it all together. For example, when people want their dog to learn "heel," I don't start with a short tight leash and yank on it every time the puppy

pulls. I like to first teach the young dog to follow me. Get them accustomed to being behind or next to me instead of in front of me. Make it fun, make it stimulating! Then, once they figure it out, I move on to using the actual "heel" command.

When I teach a dog to sit, I give the pup time to process putting the word and physical movement together. Lots of people need time to process information into activity, your puppy is no different. I often suggest giving the puppy five seconds or so to respond. More than once I've seen people start to push the dog physically into the position or repeat the word several times, without giving the puppy time to process the new information. This offers two issues that impede a quick, accurate response. One is that the dog waits until you stop talking to actually sit, You want your dog to learn to respond the first time you give a command, albeit with a few seconds of processing time.

The second issue is twofold. First, the dog knows the command, but you do it for them. Just give them a few seconds, don't do it for them. The other, more serious, issue is that if you just start pushing on your dog's spine, you may injure them. I've seen people squeeze and push right where the dog's kidneys are. Ouch! There is no reason for one to be forcing a dog into a sit position.

Take time and be patient when teaching new behaviors. Expect plateaus and celebrate progress before moving forward. You'll get there, it'll happen when the dog is ready.

Good Dogma has been helped 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

Quota Fashion Show Tickets On Sale

Quota International of Morro Bay is selling tickets now to its 24th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon set for Sunday, Sept. 17 at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo.

This year's theme is "A Toast to Fashion" with fashions from New Moon Boutique in Cambria. Weatherman, Dave Hovde of KSBY News is once again Quota's special guest. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to benefit the local community that include: meals for those in need; educational assistance and scholarships; help for the deaf and hard of hearing; aide for disadvantaged children, teens, young adults and families; help to women and children at risk; and aid to military veterans, service members and their families.

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College Readiness 101

By, Robin Haas, M.A.,Ed.

You've committed to college, sent the check, signed on the dotted line. Now what? In Frank Bruni's "antidote to the college admissions mania," he explains that it's not where you go to college, but what you do once you get there. Whether or not you know where you're headed, there are certain life skills and actions you can take that will prepare you for the challenges ahead, academically, socially, and financially. I've unpacked my bags. What's next? Move-in Day can be scary, but it doesn't have to be if you are proactive. Reach out to your roommate before you meet in person. Who will help you move in? Who will be in charge of setting up the space? When will mom and/or dad go home? Plan ahead to relieve anxiety.

Reach out to your Resident Assistant or Resident Director if problems arise for you or your roommate or classmate. They are specially trained and there to help resolve conflicts and keep you safe. Show up on time to the RA's orientation. Listen respectfully and ask questions. Family Communication: Before you go it helps to make a plan to determine the level of contact that works for you and your folks. Decide who will initiate communication, how often and when you will talk, and how you will communicate. FaceTime? Phone call? Snail mail?

Sharing Your Dorm Room: You may find yourself in a small space with three other people. It really helps to be honest about your daily routines when you fill out the roommate questionnaire. Sharing a tiny living space with a stranger can be a daunting prospect to say the least. However, cohabitating with a roommate will undoubtedly be one of the most pivotal experiences in your college career. Whether you want to or not, you're bound to discover a great deal about yourself and others in the process.

Filling Out Your School's Roommate Questionnaire First of all, now is not the time to create responses based on how you imagine you will be once you finally get to college. It's much better to tell the truth about your sleeping habits, study routines, and level of cleanliness than be unpleasantly surprised when you end up with someone

who is super tidy and you know that's not you. What to Expect Expect to be matched up with someone who shares your living habits but has a different background and life experiences. It helps to reach out to your roommate before move-in day. Be careful not to share too much too soon. Discuss ahead of time how you will share your space and items you plan to bring that could be shared such as a mini-fridge, microwave, and cleaning supplies. Some very important topics to iron out before, or upon arrival, include overnight guests, study habits, taste in music, typical bed-time, morning routines, level of neatness. Be honest, share important information but be willing to compromise. Adjusting to College Schedules and Responsibilities You are now your own boss. This means it is your job to ask for help when you need it. Professors will expect you to take initiative when you need support. Likewise, it's up to you to keep up, do the reading before a lecture or discussion, then integrate your reading and lectures in order to come up with your own ideas. Because there will be fewer assessments, there is going to be a lot more reading. You will need to take comprehensive notes. Class is in Session: Students often ask professors for information that has already been communicated, such as times of office hours and assignment due dates. Before sending an email to ask, check the syllabus and your class notes to see if the answer is there. It also doesn't hurt to ask someone else from the class before resorting to emailing your professor. Get at least one classmate's phone number or email address during the first week. Participate in Class! The more you engage, the more you will learn. Regardless of whether or not you receive points for participation, participating makes it easier to learn and remember the material when it's time for assessments. Plus, you may need the information in your next class and to succeed in your future career!

1. Listen carefully to your professor's question. 2. Answer the question presented. 3. Relate your answer to the assigned readings. 4. Listen to understand, not only to rebut. 5. Engage with or debate the ideas presented. Most likely, you are going to have a really tough time with at least one of your classes. Know that you are not the only one having this experience. While they will probably be putting on a good front, most everyone will be going through the same thing. Your college admission officers didn't goof when they accepted you. You deserve to be there, and you will prevail. It might be a struggle at first. Reach out for help and know that struggling doesn't mean you're failing.

Robin Haas is an independent educational consultant, a local educator, and the founder of Haas College Connections. She completed UCLA's Certificate in College Counseling with Distinction.

Letters To The Editor Roundabout Article Missed Some Points



Your article (Vol. 5 Issue 14) failed to include the future problems of density at the Highway 41 / Main St. intersection. With the new Hampton Inn, right next to the Morro Bay High School, and the new high volume apartment complex near the northeast corner of 41 / Main St., traffic will become even more congested. Plus, comparing the Morro Bay Blvd. roundabout to the one at 41 / Main St. for pedestrian traffic is totally wrong as there is no school, especially a high school, nor a hotel near the Morro Bay Blvd. roundabout.

What should also be taken into account is the problem of the Highway 41 offramp from Highway 1 northbound. Try going east on 41 at 8 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. on a weekday during the school year. And, last but not least, the size of the roundabout - big as the one at Vineyard & Highway 46 West or bigger as 18 wheelers and vehicles need room to maneuver.

Keith Dekker Morro Bay

Petition Seeks Wildlife 'Bridge' on South Bay

As anyone knows who drives between Los Osos and Morro Bay, or visits the State Parks and Montaña de Oro, we lose a lot of creatures trying to cross this busy road. With the large expanse on either side, the toll on South Bay Boulevard is staggering and takes a toll on the biodiversity of our newly designated Marine Protected Area

Letters Continued on page 17

Kiki Ebsen: My Buddy "The Other Side of Oz"

Singer/songwriter KIKI EBSen in an intimate evening of music and reflection on the life of her father, BUDDY EBSen

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CLIFF LIPSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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Image of two women sitting on the floor, one holding a pair of sneakers.

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Community

End to Rodenticides From page 1

Pacific Wildlife Care is sending out a message to everyone, urging people to not use poison — called “rodenticide” — to get rid of rodents.

Kelly Vandenheuvel, one of PWC’s long-time raptor rehabbers and original volunteers, asked Estero Bay News to help spread the word about the dangers of introducing poisons into the environment.

Vandenheuvel recently posted a really cute photo of a brood of five fledgling barn owls born and raised in her barn that her neighbor, Paul Adreano, took and the photo got such great response, she asked EBN to do a story.

Vandenheuvel said she talks about the dangers of rodenticides when she and other volunteer rehabbers do educational presentations at schools and community organizations, but school children could be a little young to truly understand how devastating poisons can be to other animals higher up the food chain.

And while her specialty is birds of prey — owls, hawks and eagles — other predators also have mice on their menus.

“Sadly, a large percentage of raptors do not survive their first year for various reasons,” she wrote on Morro Bay Next Door. “One of the main ones is rodenticide. People use poisons to kill rodents, and inadvertently end up killing our raptors, who eat the rodents that have been poisoned.”

Unfortunately, when a mouse (or rat) ingests this poison, it doesn’t kill them immediately, as a snapping mouse-trap does. Often the mice crawl away and back into their holes to die but sometimes predators find them first. And whatever a mouse ate is in turn ingested by the predator.

In addition to raptors like these barn owls, other species that hunt and eat field mice include foxes, bobcats, snakes, coyotes and even cats.

Some other non-raptor birds might also occasionally catch and eat mice, including great blue herons, and great white egrets.

“There is no need for us to use poisons ever,” Vandenheuvel said.

And God forbid, such poisons can also be ingested by unsuspecting people, especially young children, who often put things into their mouths that they shouldn’t.

Just touching something with poison on it can be harmful. Suffice it to say that poisons are very dangerous and adults should carefully control their use and storage.

According to the National Poison Control Center’s website, their 55 poison control centers nationwide received 2.08 million emergency calls in 2021 of someone being exposed to poisons. That comes to about 6.1 poisonings for every 1,000 people in the U.S.

Some 37 children under-6 out of every 1,000 were exposed and there is one case of poison exposure reported to the poison control centers every 15 seconds.



These five fledgling barn owls living in the barn of Pacific Wildlife Care volunteer Kelly Vandenheuvel ‘are an army of rodent hunters getting ready to do their job.’ Vandenheuvel and PWC are asking everyone to forego the use of rodenticide to control mice and other rodents because of the affect the poisons have on predators like barn owls. Photo by Paul Adreano

“In 2021,” reads the Poison Control Center website, “there were 627 poison exposures reported per 100,000 population. The highest incidence occurred in one and 2-year olds, with 6,439 and 5,997 exposures per 100,000 children in the respective age groups. For teens, 640 exposures per 100,000 population were reported.” (Note: not all exposure incidents result in deaths nor are ingestion of poison chemicals the biggest reason people call).

Percentage-wise, in 2021 adults comprised 43% of all exposures; children under-6 represented 41%; and teens comprised 9%.

And also in 2021, 75.5% of all poisonings were unintentional; 19.3% were intentional; and 3.1% were “adverse reactions” to some (prescription) drug.

Some 62,180 calls came in about animals being poisoned with just 4,974 found to not be poison-related after all.

In 2021, they also got 25,569 calls asking to identify drugs that have been ingested, and 677,517 calls seeking information.

“In children younger than 6,” the website said, “99% of exposures were unintentional compared to only 29.1% of teen exposures and 64% of adult exposures.”

According to the National Pesticide Information Center, “Rodents, humans, dogs and cats are all mammals, so our bodies work in very similar ways. Rodenticides have the same effect when eaten by any mammal. They can also affect birds.”

Most of these rodenticides are formulated “as baits, which are designed to attract animals,” the National Pesticide Information Center said. “Flavorings may include fish oil, molasses or peanut butter. Baits used in agriculture and

natural areas may contain ground meat, vegetables, grains, or fruits. These may be attractive to children and pets, so they should never be used or stored within their reach. Tamper-resistant bait stations make it even more difficult for accidents to happen.”

But a tamper-proof trap baited with poison, if it works as designed, will affect the rodents — which include mice, rats, squirrels, woodchuck, chipmunks, porcupines, nutria and even beavers — as well as all the critters that feed on them.

So what’s the alternative to poison? Vandenheuvel said owls are a great one. “These five barn owls,” she said, “are an army of rodent hunters getting ready to do their job. One barn owl can eat 10 to 15 mice per night.”

She pleaded with everyone to be mindful of the chemicals you let loose on Mother Nature. “Please allow nature to take care of our environment,” she wrote on Next Door, “and do the work for us. Please do not use rodenticides.”

Pacific Wildlife Care is a non-profit organization that rehabilitates wild animals — mostly birds and small mammals — that are sick, injured or orphaned, with the goal of returning them to the wild. It is one of just a handful of wildlife organizations licensed by State Fish & Wildlife to respond to oil spills to rescue oiled birds, but will also take in most other creatures that people either bring in to their triage center at the Morro Bay Power Plant property, or you can call their hotline at: 805-543-9453 (WILD) to report sick or injured animals. Volunteer rescuers will respond to assess the situation.

PWC is a non-profit organization surviving on donations. See the website at: pacificwildlifecare.org for more information and to volunteer or donate to the cause.

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Community

Too Soon From page 1



Kaya and 8-month-old Lilly. Lilly is available for adoption. Photo submitted

working with shelters too. There are dogs that are on lists for rescue only. If I was partnered with the shelter, I would be able to get that dog out. The shelters would know me, so I could put holds on dogs instead of rushing over there like I usually do.”

For now, Kaya will keep spreading the message, doing the work and saving as many lives as she can.

“I saw just how many dogs were euthanized every day due to overcrowding, and I wanted to make a difference,” she said. “Dogs deserve better. I can give them more time



Three-year-old Daryl, a mastiff/cane corso mix is also available for adoption. Photo submitted

than they would have at the shelter. No story should end too soon.”

For more information, to donate or to adopt a dog, go to shilohsanimalrescue.com.

Donations can also be made via Venmo under Shilohs-AnimalRescue or gofundme.com under Shiloh’s Animal

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Rescue with the heading “Help animals from being unnecessarily euthanized.” Financial donations go towards food, medical care, supplies and more for the dogs. Volunteers are also needed to foster or help walk dogs and play with them.

Another way to support Shiloh’s Animal Rescue is to participate in the upcoming event, Smash Bros. Ultimate Charity Tournament, on August 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Boss Battles Arcade, 1240 Los Osos Valley Road, Suite 2 in Los Osos. Players and spectators are welcome, half the proceeds go to Shiloh’s. Register at bossbattlesarcade.com under tournaments.

Affordable Housing From page 1

Here’s a look at the kitchen of a 3-bedroom unit, sans major appliances.

one of those 3-bedroom units. Nine are 2-bedroom units and 17 are one bedroom.

“That’s what we have the most demand for,” said Burke, who was also on the tour, “one-bedroom units.”

This is the first project that HASLO has ever done in Morro Bay, he said.

“It was approved probably because it was an affordable housing project,” Collins said. He was the boss in Morro Bay when the project was approved and it will be the first one completed in his tenure at HASLO.

Housing Vouchers Limited

The people who eventually occupy the units will have a chance at a limited number of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) “vouchers” used to help pay the monthly rent. Collins said there are five vouchers available for this project.

“According to HUD,” he explained, “for every voucher available [nationwide] there are four people qualified but can’t get one.”

But voucher or no, Collins said the apartments will be priced for low and very-low income people and families.

The standard is 30% of a person’s gross income for the maximum they can charge for a unit, so everyone who lives there will likely pay a little different amount. Burke qualified that as “30-percent of an area’s median income and it depends on the size of the family.”

Collins added, a family of four could have a gross income of about \$67,000 a year.

Simply put the rent charged is decided by a formula and based on the Average Median Income (AMI). There are four units (12-percent of the total) that are reserved for 30% AMI; nine (26%) at 45% of AMI; 13 units (38%) at 60% AMI; and eight (24%) at 60% AMI.

As to who can get one, Collins said in their Coastal Development Permit, the Coastal Commission preferred they first be chosen from among local residents — Morro Bay residents specifically — and then from the greater San Luis Obispo County, Collins said.

Demand is Great

The City sent out a press release on July 14, announcing that HASLO was now accepting applications for the units.

Collins said on July 18 that they already were nearing 200 applications. “Forty percent of them have been Morro Bay residents,” Collins said. He added that he wouldn’t be surprised if in the end, they have over 1,000 people apply

Here’s a look from the second floor at the courtyard and unfinished playground.

for the units.

To land a unit, Collins said applicants will have to show proof of income, like a tax return, and you’ll have to re-qualify every year.

That could be a Catch-22 for someone who has a chance to get a better job, a promotion or a pay raise, because Collins said it may be possible that someone improves their lot in life to the point “they may have to leave.”

HASLO Busy

Across SLO County, HASLO has over 500 units in some stage of development but this is their first in Morro Bay.

These types of projects are not easy to get built, as in order to even begin to offer affordability, they had to tap into various available monies from the government.

For example, with this project, the City Council awarded a \$150,000 loan out of its housing in-lieu fund, paid by developers instead of providing affordable units as required by the City Municipal Code.

The Council also deferred some \$350,000 in permit fees, also in the form of a loan. These loans don’t have to start being repaid for 55 years when the “affordable housing” deed restrictions expire. Until then, no payments will be made on the loans, which carry a 3% interest rate once repayment begins.

Of the 35 units, 26 are for “very low income” people and eight for “low income” folks.

Buildings Moved Back

The development, which has an bright, colorful paint scheme with light greens and blues, trimmed in white (picked by the planning commission), changed quite a bit from the original renderings designed by the architecture firm, Arris Architecture of San Luis Obispo. Abbott | Reed is the contractor for the project.

Burke said the plans changed after consulting with local Native American groups, who were concerned about a lot of digging close to Atascadero Road (State Hwy 41) because it is a known archaeological area.

“The site was challenging to build on,” Burke said. “We had limits on the depth we could dig because of cultural requirements.”

So they had to use shallow foundations, and move the buildings around on site, massing them further away from the roadway.

The original design had one building fronting Atascadero Road and the parking area in the middle of the buildings. Now the parking is out front by the roadway.

That meant building a massive retaining wall to the rear of the buildings in order to reinforce Rockview Street, which runs from Sunset Avenue to Mimosa Street. That retaining wall stands over 20-feet tall and spans the property.

Burke explained that they had to make sure Rockview stayed up and they also put in some barriers to make sure cars can’t fly off the high street into the apartment building.

The final layout has a central courtyard surrounded by four, 3-story buildings. There are no elevators, just stairs, and Collins said all their handicapped-accessible units are on the ground floor.

Burke said they decided to move everything back and off the south side of the property along Atascadero Road to minimize ground disturbance.

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Community

Still, the hilly property needed a great deal of grading to flatten out for building.

Low-Income ≠ Low Cost

It may be for low-income residents, but building it wasn't cheap. Burke said it cost \$471,000 per unit (with 35 units, it comes to over \$16.5 million).

"That was before construction costs went through the roof," Collins said.

Finding land at a reasonable cost is a big part of these projects, and Collins added that there are costs for design and entitlements (permits), and funding is another big part of the picture.

"You can't apply for funding without entitlements," he said. "There are a limited number of funding sources and a lot of competition."

Nothin' Fancy

The unit on the tour was pretty barebones, with wood flooring, and laminate kitchen counters, though the kitchen was about typical for apartments. The bedrooms are a bit small.

The units only have one bathroom, including the 3-bedroom ones. That likely cut some of the costs for those nine apartments, but with up to six people living in them, it might be problematic, especially with teenagers in a household.

Collins said the single bedroom units could probably have two people, the 2-bedroom units four and six in the 3-bedroom ones.

There is one aspect of the development that you probably wouldn't notice, even though it's all around the courtyard. That's a storm water retention/treatment system that, because of the archaeological restrictions, couldn't be buried in the ground like a normal development.

Instead, all the rain gutter downspouts empty into several cement planter boxes that will filter the water before it drains out into the City storm drains.

"You have to treat the runoff before it goes to the drains," Burke explained. The planter boxes work similar to a City-built storm retention basin on the Embarcadero by the boat wash station. The buildings also each have rooftop solar panels.

Supply Troubles

The development isn't completed yet, as Burke explained they are awaiting some key electrical equipment needed to step down the voltage from the power pole to be used in the individual units.

Collins said the delays were "industry-wide. Part of the delay is because of the global supply chain disruptions and part is the high demand from the all-electric construction requirements."

The State is pushing to make all new construction use only electricity in order to help meet the State's climate agenda goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. So none of the units have natural gas service.

There're also electric vehicle chargers, which Collins said could be used by any of the residents regardless of income levels.

As for how it's been working on a big project in this town, Burke said the City has been really good to work with. From the Building Department, to Public Works and the Fire Department, they've all been very good to work with "through the preliminary punch list."

How to Get One

According to the City's news release, if you are interested in renting and want to learn more about the income qualifications, call HASLO at 805-594-5347 or email: rockview@haslo.org. Applications are now being accepted. To check it all out, see: www.rockviewmorrobay.com.

So when will people move in? Collins said they anticipate sometime in November. He's not sure at this point if it'll be a gradual move-in or like Cal Poly every fall when new students all move into the dorms at the same time.

And while it may not exactly be like the Great California Gold Rush of 1849, it certainly is in that spirit, as a limited number of lucky people will get the chance to strike it rich in terms of finding rare, affordable, housing in Morro Bay. Good luck to all who try.

Letters From page 13

adjacent to the roadway.

And finally, an opportunity has presented itself to build our own wildlife bridge, which by virtue of trail-cams, have been proven successful worldwide. There are several opportunities here, and one of them is the opportunity to ensure the integrity of the area next to the Boulevard, which has been designated a State Marine Reserve under the Marine Life Protection Act.

This area enjoys a "No-Take" provision, where killing or disturbing biological resources is strictly prohibited.

Such a wildlife crossing would greatly increase the likelihood of our Marine Protected Area meeting the goals set forth in the Marine Life Protection Act. Another opportunity that has arisen is the ability, as a so-called "Energy Community" for us to have the much-needed project funded under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Another source of funding is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. State Senator Laird and Congressman Carbajal are the subject of a community petition seeking this wildlife crossing to be built, and the timing seems right.

There is a new bridge for traffic already in the works (over Los Osos Creek) and these goals would meld seamlessly.

Please support this great project for our children, wildlife, and State Marine Reserve in beautiful Morro Bay Estuary.

Joseph John Racano
Los Osos

Editor's note: the Internet address where the petition supporting a wildlife bridge on South Bay Boulevard can be found is : <https://chng.it/JJGdHHmyQm>.

Roundabout was the Right Solution

I am writing in response to Betty Winholtz's letter (Vol. 5 Issue 14) criticizing the council members who voted in favor of the roundabout at 41/1/Main. The vote was 3-2; Councilmember Laurel Barton also voted for it, contrary to Ms. Winholtz's statement. The other two options were leaving the intersection as is (with stop signs) or installing double signal lights.

Ms. Winholtz is the one putting our children at risk. She spoke at the council meeting in favor of leaving the intersection as is, which has the worst accident record in the city (23 accidents in the past five years compared to nine at the City's only roundabout). The high school principal spoke in favor of the roundabout. Incidentally, the campus will be closed at lunchtime before the roundabout is built. The situation will only get worse as the new hotel on HWY 1 and apartment building on HWY 41 will lead to increased traffic at that intersection.

Data show that a roundabout is the safest and most efficient type of intersection control because cars are traveling through it at reduced speeds. Modern roundabout design places pedestrian paths away from the roundabout itself. Both Cal Trans and the San Luis Council of Governments (SLOCOG) supported the roundabout as the best alternative, and both are contributing most of the money to pay for it. In Councilmember Edwards motion, she capped the City's financial contribution. The Council did the right thing and should be supported for doing so.

Marlys McPherson
Morro Bay

Edwards Knows the Roundabout

I know council member Cyndee Edwards and know how long and hard she studied the Roundabout proposal. I know safety for pedestrians, whether they be children or the elderly, was one of her concerns. I also know she read studies, talked to constituents, listened to experts and knew that in the long run a few years of construction and torn up streets are worth the inconvenience.

I don't know if Betty Winholtz knows all that after reading her letter in the Estero Bay News. (July 13-July 26, 2023).

Jean Ryan
Morro Bay

Improve Beach Access in Morro Bay

I welcomed Glenn Mitchell's, American Kitefliers Association member, letter to the editor dated June 15 - June 28, 2023, addressing how the young and old struggle to get the beaches from the parking lots in Morro Bay.

We visit Morro Bay several times a year as we share a beach home with other folks close to San Jacinto. The beach access close to this location has always been a huge struggle. Through the years to trek with all the grandkids and "stuff" was a nightmare. Now, with my husband using a cane the trek is impossible.

Is it possible to construct some type of sidewalk or boardwalk that extends out to the beach front that could assist in this issue? I realize costs, correct materials, maintenance, etc., can be roadblocks. I am in hope that the City of Morro Bay can overcome any roadblocks to correct the "beach block" struggle for the young and old.

Sally Rowden
Madera, California

Diversity Coalition SLO County Statement Supreme Court Rulings

At Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County, we remain vigilant and committed to our mission to build and sustain a coalition that seeks a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community through advocacy and education. Recent Supreme Court rulings dismantling affirmative action, removing LGBTQ+ protections, and repealing student loan forgiveness remind us of the ongoing challenges underrepresented communities face and the need for continued efforts toward a more equitable world.

[After the ruling] We have seen a response to the progress that has been made thanks to grassroots and diverse communities coming together to dismantle systems of oppression. We have seen this reaction before, and we will see it again. Don't despair. Now is the time to continue moving forward and creating spaces of joy, collaboration, and support.

Cornell Law School defines Affirmative Action as a "set of procedures designed to; eliminate unlawful discrimination among applicants, remedy the results of such prior discrimination, and prevent such discrimination in the future." A stance against Affirmative Action is a stance against justice.

Please stay vigilant and connect with your friends and neighbors who are also navigating through these regressive rulings. Give special care to your LGBTQ+ friends, who for years now have been the relentless target of discriminatory legislation across the nation, and to anyone living in the intersectionalities of race, income level, gender, and sexual orientation. In unity,

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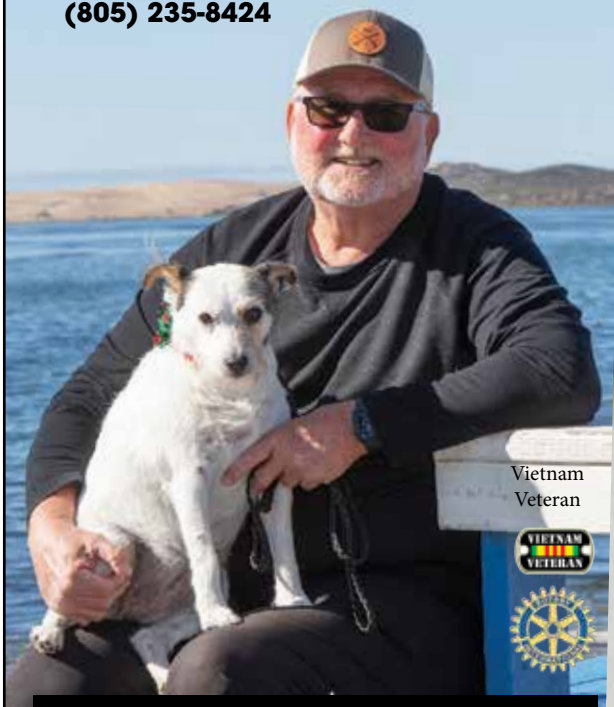
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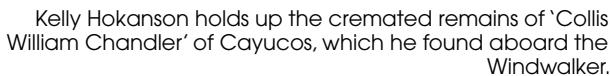
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Windwalker From page 1

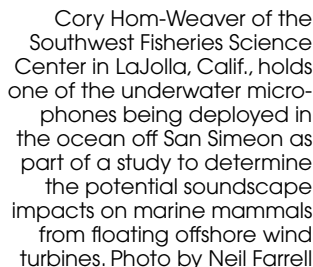


Windwalker hasn't been fished for several years after the owner fell ill. Hokanson knew of one other person who was interested in her and at the auction, "Just me and him

He ran below to fetch a wooden box wrapped in a plas-

He wants to thank the original owner, John Gillespie, who he said must have truly loved Windwalker. "It was meant to be; the boat called to me," he said. "I hope John will realize, this boat is in good hands."

The point, Hom-Weaver said, is to see what the underwater soundscapes are. The data they gather will be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the federal agency overseeing the wind farm project. What BOEM does with it is up to them, she said, but the goal is to inform BOEM about the marine environment to help





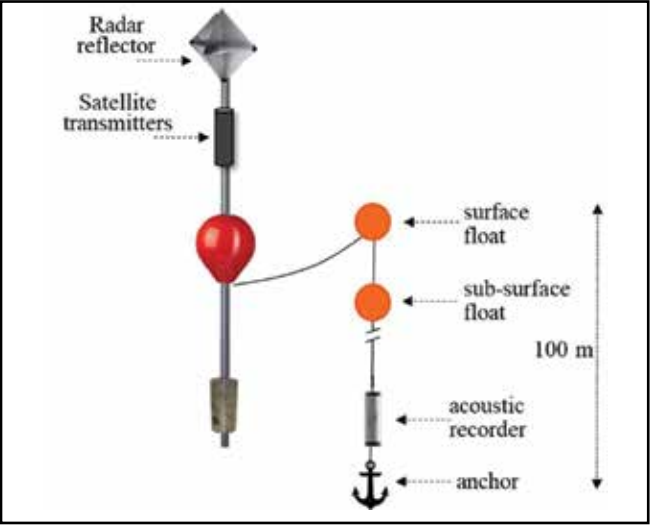
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This graphic shows the general layout of acoustic drift buoys deployed in the wind farm area off San Simeon. The study led by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center is being done to help predict the impacts of floating wind turbines.

them draft mitigation measures that the companies that bought wind leases will have to do.

This is separate from environmental studies the companies will be doing as part of the permitting process. The project is looking to install a total of 3 gigawatts of generating capacity; but the President’s goal is 30 GW installed off the U.S. Coast.

The three companies that bought the Morro Bay Wind Area leases are: Equinor Wind US, LLC; Central California Offshore Wind, LLC; and, Invenergy California Offshore, LLC. There’s also a lease area up off Humboldt County, where Hom-Weaver said they’ve already conducted their drift buoy study.

Also on the boat is a scientist with the National Marine Sanctuary, which has some stationary sound buoys set out north of here for the Monterey Sanctuary and off Estero Bay as part of a study being done to establish the proposed Chumash Heritage NMS.

Aspen Ellis, a U.C. Santa Cruz grad student studying seabirds was also on the boat this trip. She is trying to identify species of seabirds and sizes of flocks in the wind area. Ellis said she, “counts birds and predicts which birds can be impacted.”

On the trip down, she mostly saw a lot of shearwaters in the wind area, she said.



Photo shows a drift buoy in the foreground with what looks like a cargo ship off in the distance.



The interior of the R/V Fulmar doubles as a computer lab. Aspen Ellis, a U.C. Santa Cruz grad student studying seabirds, is sitting at one of the computers.

Ellis’ goal is also to determine “who’s using what region, and when.”

Hom-Weaver’s focus is the animals that those who oppose putting wind turbines in the ocean worry about — whales, baleen whales specifically, and dolphins.

These animals use sound to communicate, navigate and to find food. Whales tend to have low frequency sounds and dolphins are at higher frequency, with some sounds beyond what humans can hear, sort of like dog whistles.

But Hom-Weaver said their equipment is able to record it and translate the sound to visual data on the computer.

Have they heard sounds that they have no idea what it is? “About a hundred times a day,” she said. “A lot of fish species are under-studied. Some sounds seem manmade but they’re biological.”

The official name of the study is “Adrift in the California Current” Project, and it’s being funded by BOEM, which is an agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The marine sanctuaries are also part of NOAA.

Hom-Weaver said their study will eventually be posted online on Zooniverse, which contains numerous “citizen scientist” projects. Their posts will have tutorial videos, too.

That’s when the public will get a chance to contribute. Hom-Weaver said they want to enlist citizens to help them identify some of the sounds they are recording.

“It’s just pattern recognition,” Hom-Weaver said. “It takes experience and time learning the sounds.” They started with perhaps the most famous oceanic singers — humpback whales — celebrated for their singing.

“We have terabytes of data,” she explained. “We need help classifying it.”

In the end, their work and the work of other scientists, will help make sure this risky move of putting in floating wind farms offshore in deep water — essentially inventing a whole new power industry — can be done in a way that protects the marine environment and the most majestic of creatures that live there.

“When they put in the wind farms,” Hom-Weaver said, “it will change the soundscape tremendously.”

COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker

SO MUCH WORK... I NEED A BREAK!

JUST THINK I'LL SNEAK OUT OF THE OFFICE FOR A BIT...

COLLEGETOWN UNIV

WHEW! NOTHING LIKE FRESH AIR... SUCH A NICE ESCAPE... BUT SOMEHOW I SENSE AN EERIE FEELING THAT MY WORK IS...

CATCHING UP WITH ME!!!

WALKER

The real reason waterbeds are extinct

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