

Celia's Garden Cafe Sold

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

After nearly 18 years a local restauranter is hanging up her apron following selling her popular Celia's Garden Café in Los Osos.

"I kind of wanted to get rid of the restaurant by my birthday [August 15] this year, so it's time," said Celia Alfrevic, a resident of Los Osos for more than 30 years. "Ever since COVID, it has been a little bit of a struggle. I had plenty of flourishing wonderful years here, but it's been a struggle. The beautiful thing is that we were open all through COVID and we made it and we continue to because our locals supported us."

"I love the serving part, and I love the food part. That's what I'm going to miss. All the book work, being responsible for 14 people's lives, their families, paying rent; I won't miss that. When people work for you that long, there's a real sense of friendship and you worry."

This is the second time the little red cafe located at 1188 Los Osos Valley Road has changed hands since its beginnings as the Garden Cafe. Celia bought it in 2005. This December would have been 18 years at the helm as well as sometimes, cook, dish washer, busser, and hostess.

Celia has 50 some years in the food service industry. She learned the ropes at 15-years-old working summers at Pea Soup Andersen's in Buellton. She worked predominantly as a soup ladeler, but the knowledge of and love for the industry began then.

"The next summer or the summer after that, I gravitated into the main dining room and was trained as a waitress," Celia said. "Waitressing is what got me through life for 40 or 50 years. Then I bought the restaurant and that's carried me through another 18. I've been in and out of so many dining rooms and so many hotels. I've always loved the restaurant business. It's always energized me regarding how I felt that day. I'd go into work, usually in some gorgeous place – a hotel on Maui or a nice restaurant in Santa



Celia Alfrevic in the garden area at Celia's Garden Café, the business she Los Osos business she sold after 18 years. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

Barbara – and I loved the art of flower arrangements, the fineness of the atmosphere and continued with it because I needed to support myself. It was very lucrative; I was able to move around and support myself for years. My parents never gave me a penny after the age of 18."

Today, at 67, Celia and her husband, Mark, have a home in Los Osos and together they raised two daughters, now adults. When she walks out the door on her last shift on August 31, the keys will switch hands, but Celia will leave with the memories, the friendships formed and a heart full of gratitude.

"I want to thank the community for their support," Celia said. "I want to thank them for constantly allowing us in their lives and letting us try to be a part of their day. I want to say thank you for that, and for allowing me to have a job for 18 years, right down the street from my house."

The new owners are known for music promotion through their company Good Medicine as well as being the former owners of the SLO Brewing Company. Todd and Korie Newman, purchased the restaurant, it's liquor license and the adjacent plot of land that was formerly Sage Ecological Nursery in hopes of creating more live music and dinning in Los Osos. (Meet the new owners next issue of Estero Bay News)

Celia's Continued on page 18

Moving Forward: Coen Leage: Living A Baseball Player's Dream at Cooperstown, NY



For the love of the game SLO Tigers Club Baseball team finds time to clown around. Coen Leage 4th from center in front row.

By Judy Salamacha

The summer of '23 will be a forever memory for Morro Bay's Coen Leage. His 7th grade classmates at Los Osos Middle School have probably already heard his story if his teacher asked, "What did you do over summer vacation?" I decided to ask and he answered.

"I mostly played baseball," he smiled.

Coen had arrived at our scheduled interview sporting an L.A. Dodgers cap and a Cooperstown Hall of Fame ring with a big blue sapphire. His comment had seemed casual, and yet it was delivered with a confidence he must have learned over years playing SLO County Club baseball. But it was his hard work that earned him summertime bonus innings playing Hall of Fame baseball for two different local teams competing at the Cooperstown Dreams Park HOF Invitational Tournament.

His dad, Travis Leage, got to spend his two-week summer vacation enjoying his youngest son play excellent baseball. Week #1 Coen played on the team he usually played with, SLO Tigers Club Baseball. Week #2 he was a draft pick for STB Elite of Santa Maria.

According to their website, since 1996 Cooperstown has hosted "America's Baseball Summer Camp." In 2023 ninety teams from all over the United States played in week-long tournaments. The camp's stated purpose is for their youthful competitors to discover "baseball tradition

Moving Forward Continued on page 18

Petition Drive Ends; Signatures Go to City Hall

By Neil Farrell

While not exactly like a gunfight in the middle of a dusty street in the Old West, there is a showdown brewing in Morro Bay over a huge industrial project, and the first salvo is expected to land soon.

Barry Branin of "Citizens For Estero Bay Preservation" announced Aug. 10 that they had finished a petition drive to put an initiative on the next ballot that would require the City to get voter approval to change the zoning for Vistra Energy's so-called "Battery Energy Storage System" or BESS project.

That project is well into the environmental impact review by a City consultant who is being paid for by Vistra.

Zoning Changed

The old power plant was first begun in the mid-1950s (Units 1 & 2) and completed in the early 1960s (Units 3 & 4), prior to this it had been a Navy Training Base during World War II.



While it might have seemed to be forever to readers who grew up here, it closed for good nearly a decade ago and the City was expecting to redevelop it.

The City rezoned the roughly 100-acre power plant property located on the Embarcadero to Commercial/Visitor-Serving (C/V-S) as part of an update of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program completed in 2021.

That update took over a decade and started after the power plant was all but closed. It finally did close for good in 2014

Petition Drive Continued on page 18

Harbor Hosting Some Impressive Transients

By Neil Farrell



The Robert Gordon Sproul

It's summer, tourist season, and in addition this year to our friends from the Central Valley, Morro Bay has had some impressive visitors come sailing in.

Recently the Harbor has hosted some large research vessels, a beautiful motor yacht, an historic tall ship, and even a super yacht owned by a billionaire.

While it's always interesting to learn about these magnificent vessels, getting information can be difficult and Estero Bay News readers may have discerned more or different information than we've been able to cobble together.

Harbor Hosting Continued on page 17

New City Manager is 'A Perfect Fit' for Morro Bay

Story and Photos by Neil Farrell

Calling her a "perfect fit" for Morro Bay, the Mayor on Aug. 14 swore in a new City Manager, just the second woman to hold the City's top spot in town history.

A gathering of citizens and City staffers rolled out a welcome mat to new City Manager, Yvonne Kimball, who takes over for former C.M. Scott Collins who left in March to become the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo. The City Council had brought in Greg Carpenter as interim city manager and he's been

New City Manager Continued on page 16



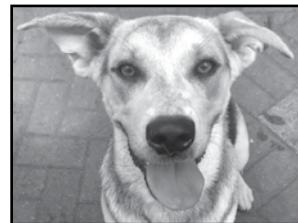
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By Neil Farrell

News

and social justice engagement, R.A.C.E. Matters SLO has become a well-known and respected platform in our community. Their commitment to creating black-centered spaces, promoting cultural content, and amplifying black voices in the San Luis Obispo area aligns with our City goal of broadening our outreach. They foster a sense of inclusive and supportive community through artistic, cultural, educational, and social experiences. Some of their programs, such as Noire SLO and RaiseUp SLO, create connections within the local black community and strive to build an environment that benefits children of color through community building, education, and advocacy.”

City to do Fee-Cost Nexus Study

The City of Morro Bay is looking for someone to study whether it is covering its costs adequately with the fees it charges for special services.

The City put out a “Request for Proposals” or RFP for a “Development Impact Fee Nexus Study and propose Development Impact Fees” for the City, reads the RFP notice.

“The City assesses various development impact fees on new development and redevelopment to help the City pay for the infrastructure required by the new development activity.”

The study will update the costs these fees are meant to cover and recommend adjusting the fees accordingly, with an eye at recovering as much of the costs as possible. The City can’t make profits from these fees and must occasionally show a nexus between the costs and the dollar amounts being charged.

Though the City looks at the fee schedule every year, and always seems to tick them up a little each time, it occasionally must make large adjustments to the fees, because inflation and costs don’t rise uniformly, and State Law requires there be a nexus with costs vs. fees.

The City will take bids until Sept. 21 and the study is expected to take 4-5 months to complete. Any changes to the fee schedule must be approved by the City Council.

One fee that sure to be discussed is what the Harbor Department charges transient vessels for dockage at the T-piers, after recent visits from some huge vessels including the 180-foot super motor yacht, Nomad, which is owned by a Greek shipping tycoon.

The Harbor Advisory Board voted to form an ad hoc committee to find out what other ports charge for such ships with an eye at increasing the fees and in turn the revenues to the Harbor Fund.

No estimated costs were given with the City’s RFP notice.

City Renews GIS Contract

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay City Council voted to extend a service contract with a San Luis Obispo tech company to help the City manage its raw data and package it into a usable format for the Community Development and Public Works Departments.

The City has been contracting with Terra Solutions, owned by Michael Brannagan, since 2019 for CIS services. The council approved a 2-year extension of that contract for \$60,000 a year bringing Terra’s total contract (for 2019-2025) to some \$360,000.

The contract has no fixed amount of work that’s to be done but would be up to the \$60,000 a year (at \$60 an hour) for GIS services, with any overtime bills having to be approved ahead of time by the City.

Brannagan’s main duties have been working on the City’s “Cityworks” program, a project for tracking, asset management and work orders.

“Cityworks,” Community Development Director, Scot Graham’s report said, “is GIS based and can only be maintained/supported by someone with significant GIS experience.” Such computer software is expensive as is a computer expert needed to run it.

Brannagan has over 20 years of experience working with GIS systems, according to the report. At one time, he worked for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, according to the Terra Solutions’ website.

Under the agreement, he will perform certain tasks:

- Maintenance of the City’s ArcGIS Server;
- Cityworks support;
- GIS data management (parcel, owner info., address updates);
- Development of additional applications and support of same,
- GIS Mapping and Map Production; and,
- GPS date (sic) Collection and other related tasks.

“Terra Solutions,” reads the company’s website, “offers as-needed services. This means Terra Solutions can work as many hours as necessary to complete a project for your important client, or work no hours if no project help is needed. No long-term commitment and often our client can pass our cost onto their client, possibly with some markup.”

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) website, “A Geographic Information System is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information. It uses data that is attached to a unique

location.

“Most of the information we have about our world contains a location reference: [for example] Where are USGS stream gages located? Where was a rock sample collected? Exactly where are all of a city’s fire hydrants?”

GIS is a way to layer different data sets on top of each other to further define and explain what’s going on in a given location.

For example, “If a rare plant is observed in three different places,” USGS said, “GIS analysis might show that the plants are all on north-facing slopes that are above an elevation of 1,000 feet and that get more than 10-inches of rain per year. GIS maps can then display all locations in the area that have similar conditions, so researchers know where to look for more of the rare plants.

“By knowing the geographic location of farms using a specific fertilizer, GIS analysis of farm locations, stream locations, elevations, and rainfall will show which streams are likely to carry that fertilizer downstream.

“These are just a few examples of the many uses of GIS in earth sciences, biology, resource management, and many other fields.”

Legal Costs Going Up

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay’s contract attorneys will be getting a slight bump in rates after the City Council approved a new contract amendment for the firm, Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (A&W).

A&W, based in El Segundo, was brought into the City after former City Attorney Rob Schultz was forced out along with the former city manager in 2014. Its contract has been changed six times (now seven).

A&W was initially an interim replacement but the following December (2014), it had the “interim” marker changed and was given a full time contract.

In June 2015, the City Council changed to a once-a-year evaluation schedule and in January 2019, Chris Neumeyer took over as the City’s lead attorney at the firm. He replaced Joe Pannone the original A&W attorney that replaced Schultz.

The contract rates have been adjusted upward three times since June 2018 when the hourly rates were increased by \$10. A 7% increase came in 2021 and in 2022 it was increased by another 9%.

This latest 3% increase in specialty legal costs is the same as the Council gave to its employees in contract negotiations, according to the report.

A&W’s base rate for “general legal services” remains

Legal Cost Continued on page 4

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Legal Cost From page 3

\$190 per hour for the first 50 hours a month, according to the report. It charges \$210 an hour for all work over 50 hours for general legal services. It charges \$210 an hour “for all special services legal work,” reads a report from the former interim City Manager, Greg Carpenter.

“General legal services include routine city attorney work such as drafting contracts, preparing routine ordinances and resolutions, attending Council meetings, providing legal advice to Council members and City staff, legal review of Council agenda items and similar general legal work.

“Special services include specialized legal work for matters such as labor negotiations, public finance, litigation, personnel matters, rent control, assessments and real estate.”

A&W is a large law firm that has municipal contracts up and down the state from San Diego to San Francisco. Those rates are apparently a bargain compared to what other local cities are paying.

“Six of the seven cities in SLO County,” the report said, “contract with a firm for legal services [the exception being the City of San Luis Obispo]. The average blended [i.e., associate and partner rates together] hourly rate for special legal services at the other cities in the County who contract with a full-service firm like A&W for legal services is \$301/hour, and the average partner rate for special legal services is \$312/hour.”

It’s that specialized legal work, which represents about 30% of A&W’s total work in the city, that is being increased. “The new hourly rate for special services legal work is proposed to be \$256/hour. The rates for general legal services work are not proposed for an increase and remain at \$190/hour for the first 50 hours of monthly legal work and \$210/hour for legal work over 50 hours each month.

“The proposed rates remain below average for the other cities in the County with full-service law firms.”



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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Public Comments Sought for LOVR Traffic Study

San Luis Obispo County has begun their study of Los Osos Valley Road. They are looking for public comment. Folks can register comments on the map at <https://safetyplan.mysocialpinpoint.com/lovr/home>. Click on the interactive map and leave your comment at the location you are reporting on. The data reportedly will decide the future of Los Osos Valley Road regarding traffic, bike lanes and pedestrian walkways and crossings.

Readers with questions are asked to reach out to Deborah Howe, Los Osos Community Advisory Council transportation chair at deborah.locac@gmail.com.

The Los Osos Valley Road Corridor Concept Plan will remain as a conceptual design tool to facilitate corridor improvements in preparation of capital project delivery. The County will serve as the Lead Agency, in cooperation with SLOCOG, on implementation of this plan.

Oktoberfest and Car Show Seeking Sponsors

Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce & Bay Osos Kiwanis Presents Oktoberfest 2023 on October 29 on Santa Maria & 2nd Street in Baywood from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Event and exclusive sponsorships are available now. This is the oldest Oktoberfest in the county and attracts well over 5,000 people for the day. For more information or to be a sponsor or to register for the car show or run, contact Jim Stanfill (805) 528-1557 or LOBP Chamber (805) 528-4884 or info@lobpchamber.org.

Once again, the day will kick off with the infamous Fun Run at 9 a.m. and delicious pancake breakfast provided by Bay Osos Kiwanis. Cruise through the Car Show and shop with local artists and vendors.

“We have another great line-up of music this year,” said event spokesperson, Colleen Vecchetti. “Hop on over to enjoy some hops at the locally hosted Beer Garden while listening to the great tunes! There will be a variety of local food vendors, so don’t worry if you work up an appetite.”

Organizers say the event is “family friendly and extra fun.” The Kid’s Zone will have plenty of fun and games for all ages. Be sure to wear your costumes for the annual contest with different categories: adult, kids, and pets.



Cal Poly Joins Fire-Resilient Communities Alliance

The Cal Poly Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Institute has formed a strategic alliance with the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) to further Cal Poly’s mission of developing holistic solutions to prevent destructive wildfires and help build more resilient communities.

Cal Poly’s WUI Fire Institute and the WFCA will collaborate on mitigation efforts from analysis to management, with the overall goal of providing solutions that reduce the threat to those living in WUI communities.

The Cal Poly WUI Fire Institute, comprised of Cal Poly faculty, staff and students, and partnered with industry and community members, is focused on developing and evaluating methods of managing forests and designing communities in ways that reduce wildfire severity and threats to human welfare and property while maintaining environmental and community health. It is the first-of-its kind at a California State University campus. In 2021 three of the largest California investor-owned electric utility companies — Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison Company — pledged funding and support to assist in launching the institute.

The alliance follows the hiring of retired fire chief Frank Frievault as the director of Cal Poly’s WUI Fire Institute in April. Frievault previously served as fire chief for the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, division chief of operations for the Sparks Fire Department and in various other leadership roles for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada and California State Fire Chiefs Association and the University of Nevada, Reno.

“WUI communities are facing, and will continue to face for decades to come, extraordinary wildfire threats from a perfect storm of ecologic, economic and climatologic forces,” Frievault said. “We cannot suppress our way out of these conditions. We must add mitigation, using trusted evidence-based techniques to mitigate the growing wildfire threat. Exceedingly difficult policy decisions are on final approach and legislators and administrators will need our organizations to bring evidence-based recommendations from trusted sources.”

SLO Cultural Arts District Parking Structure Project Moves Forward



The San Luis Obispo City Council approved a financing plan to pay for the Cultural Arts District Parking Structure, the city’s fourth downtown parking structure.

The five story, 397-spot structure will be located at the corner of Palm, Nipomo, and Monterey streets near the History Museum, SLO Museum of Art, and the SLO Children’s Museum, as well as the future site for the SLO Rep Theater. The City will issue \$50 million in bonds to finance the \$41.1 million parking structure project, while also paying off 2012 bonds to save on interest.

The financial plan will also transfer the Marsh Street Parking Garage to the City’s Public Financing Authority, which will in turn lease the facility back to the City. Officials say the financing plan allows the City to get the new structure “built as quickly as possible while making prudent use of taxpayer dollars.”

Construction for this project is set to commence in early September with the initial phases of lot demolition and soil remediation. These preliminary steps will pave the way for the subsequent stages of construction.


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SLO Woman Missing Since July

A San Luis Obispo woman is missing after she failed to report for work and her family noticed she was gone.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, on July 12 they received a report that Wendelin “Wendy” Stauffer, 29, no address given, was reported missing by a family member. “Stauffer last made contact with her employer in San Luis Obispo in May 2023,” Cipolla said, “telling her employer she needed to go to



Wendelin 'Wendy' Stauffer

Ventura to help a friend/family member.” That story was apparently a ruse of some sort. “On July 10,” Cipolla said, “Stauffer was last seen at the San Jose Regional Medical Center. But it is unknown to family members why Stauffer would be in the San Jose area. Stauffer currently has no known address.” She is described as a white woman, 5-feet 5-inches tall, 140 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair. The family member who reported her missing, reportedly has no way to contact her and Cipolla said, “has had little regular contact with her in the past.” If readers have information on the whereabouts of Wendy Stauffer you should contact the Sheriff’s Office at (805) 781-4550.

Jail Inmate Dies of Cancer

Another inmate has died in the custody of the County Sheriff. Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said in an Aug. 8

news release, that two days previous they’d lost one of their inmates to illness. “An inmate who had been transported to a Hospice Care facility in Fresno County in June,” Cipolla said, “died as a result of a terminal illness; 46-year-old Brett Douglass was booked into custody on March 16, 2023. He was diagnosed with cancer prior to coming into custody.” Douglass was treated for his cancer at Sierra Vista Hospital, Cipolla said, while he was in custody at County Jail. The Sheriff tried to let him go. “Compassionate Release had been sought by the Sheriff’s Office,” Cipolla said, “to allow Douglass to be released from custody pending his terminal status.”

But the courts were not so forgiving. “Approval had not been granted,” Cipolla said, “based on the seriousness of his criminal history, which included charges of a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a machine gun.” On June 6, Cipolla said they transferred him to Hospice Care at Grand Villa Congregate Living Health Facility in Clovis but he was technically still in the Sheriff’s Office custody, Cipolla said. Douglass died Aug. 6 while under a doctor’s care and while awaiting trial in SLO Superior Court. “His death is classified as an in-custody death for this reason,” Cipolla said. “His family was able to spend time with him prior to his passing.”

Missing Atascadero Man Found Dead

The search for a missing Atascadero man has ended tragically, after the Coroner’s Office positively identified human remains found in a rural area of Atascadero. According to Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla, 35-year-old Darren Kyle Santangelo of Atascadero was reported missing by family members on July 6. He was reportedly last seen on June 30 at about 9 p.m. leaving his house in the 7500 block of Rocky Canyon Road in Atascadero. On July 9, Cipolla said, the Atascadero Police Department responded to a call of human remains located near the Chalk Mountain Golf Course. On Aug. 10, Cipolla said, Coroner’s Office detectives “positively identified the remains as Santangelo. At this time, there is no indication the death was suspicious or the result of foul play.” Cipolla said the case is still under investigation.

RV Fire Takes Life



Photo by David Harris

Public safety officials discovered the body of an unidentified adult man at the scene of a recent RV fire. On August 21, 2023, Sheriff’s Deputies and Cal Fire crews responded to reports of an RV on fire in the 1900 block of Turri Road in Los Osos. “When first responders arrived on scene, the RV was fully engulfed,” said Sheriff’s Spokesperson Tony Cipolla in a news release. “Once the flames were extinguished, the body of an adult male was located inside the RV.” “Coroner’s Detectives are in the process of identifying the deceased subject. Once that is completed next of kin will be notified and an autopsy will be conducted.” Preliminary reports indicate the fire was accidental, according to Cipolla. The investigation is continuing. No further information is available at this time.

ANNUAL SIREN TEST

SATURDAY

AUGUST 26

12:00 PM & 12:30 PM

The San Luis Obispo County Early Warning System sirens will be tested on Saturday, August 26. Sirens will sound at 12:00 pm and again at 12:30 pm for three minutes. During the tests, no action is required on the part of the public.

Local radio and television stations will conduct normal programming during the tests. If you hear the sirens at any other time, tune to a local radio or television station for important emergency information. When at sea, tune to Marine Channel 16.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 – IT’S ONLY A TEST

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September 14
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September 21
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Daniel's Family

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Community

San Salvador Conquers Morro Bay



Photo by Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum is celebrating a successful visit of the Spanish Galleon replica ship, San Salvador’s extended visit to Morro Bay, as each day saw hundreds of people lining up daily to tour the ship.

San Salvador is owned by the Maritime Museum of San Diego and is a replica of a Spanish Galleon such as the one Spanish explorer, Juan Cabrillo sailed up the California Coast in 1542. She was in Morro Bay from Aug. 11-20 for dockside tours with members of the local Maritime Museum manning the ticket booth and souvenir stands.

San Salvador arrived a few days early and by the time the tours started, the reception was huge. Over 1,000 people toured the boat the first day. For a couple of days, San Salvador was a dock mate of the research vessel, Robert Gordon Sproul, which is also based in San Diego at the UCSD Scripts Institute.

Free Music Shows in Morro Bay

Morro Bay’s Active Adults (a senior citizens’ organization) is hosting a free concert series at Tideland Park in Morro Bay. The “Tunes at Tideland” concert series begins Sept. 7 and runs every Thursday in September (Sept. 7, 14th, 21st and 28th). Music plays from 5-7 p.m. and features the bands Unfinished Business, Shameless, Riff Tide and Back Pages Band.

Bring a folding chair to sit on or a blanket to sit on the grass at Tideland Park.

Also, the Buttercup Bakery, 430 Morro Bay Blvd., has a free concert series that started Thursday, Aug. 17 with the Cliffnotes, and continues Aug. 24 with Jill Knight; Aug. 31 with IMUA; Sept. 7 with Murder Hornets; Sept. 14 with B & the Hive; Sept. 21 with The Taproots; and Sept. 28 with Mark Adams Band.

Admission is free and Buttercup is a great place to grab a bite to eat and drink. Shows run from 5-8 p.m. Make a reservation online at: www.my805tix.com/?q=buttercup and get a discount on drinks (and assure yourself a seat).

And down at Marina Square, the Savory Palette wine bar has Open Mic night every Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m. Savory Palette is open Tuesdays-Saturdays with tastings on Wednesdays-Fridays. Savory Palette is located in Marina Square, 601 Embarcadero Ste. 5.

If readers are looking for something a little rowdier, The Siren in Downtown Morro Bay is the place to be, with live shows most nights including touring bands and local favorites. See: thesirenmorrobay.com/events/2023-09 for a schedule and links to where tickets are available.



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Information Session Bob Jones Trail and Welcome Home Village

On July 11, 2023, the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted \$13.4 million in Encampment Resolution Funds from the State of California

Interagency Council on Homelessness. The County will use the grant funding to reduce encampments in a flood and fire danger zone near and around the segment of the Bob Jones Bike Trail parallel to South Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo.

The County is hosting a community information session in downtown San Luis Obispo on August 30 about a pivotal piece of the Bob Jones Bike Trail Encampment Resolution Project, also called Welcome Home Village.

The focus of the San Luis Obispo Welcome Home Village is to provide supportive housing and wrap-around individualized case plans for people currently living in open space along the Bob Jones Bike Trail in San Luis Obispo. The success rate of similar programs is phenomenal and provides clients with the support and guidance to receive the services they need to transition into stable housing.

“We need compassion with order to address homelessness in our community,” said County of San Luis Obispo Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg. “The Welcome Home Village project underscores the County’s commitment to a structured solution for our community members in need. We know community members have questions, and rightly so. This information session is aimed at answering their questions and offering a full understanding of the Welcome Home Village, its operations, and how this program will balance the needs of not only the people it serves but improve the quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods in the area.”

The Welcome Home Village is the first of many supportive housing communities planned throughout San Luis Obispo County. The site aims to establish a non-congregate housing facility equipped with security and on-site wrap-around services. It will be strategically situated adjacent to the County’s Department of Social Services headquarters, fostering accessibility to essential resources and services.

With a plan to offer 80 beds, including 34 interim and 46 permanent supportive housing units, the Welcome Home Village aims to create a nurturing environment for individuals seeking stability and a return to self-sufficiency.

To bring this vision to life, the County is collaborating with DignityMoves, a reputable partner known for its commitment to community development and transformation. Managing the supportive housing and resident services is Good Samaritan Shelter, a dedicated non-profit organization with a proven track record of overseeing programs like this one.

Organizers said Welcome Home Village will have “security measures, mandatory case management, and tailored service plans for its residents, ensuring that individuals receive the personalized support necessary for their unique journey toward recovery.”

Community members can submit questions ahead of **Takin’ Care of Business** Continued on page 9

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August 24 - September 6, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 7

Police Blotter



• **Aug. 13:** Police responded to the beach area at Atascadero Road and Embarcadero where two people said some dirty rotten scalawag broke into their locked cars and ripped them off, no doubt redefining “a day at the beach.”

• **Aug. 13:** Police responded to a disturbance at noon in the 400 block of Bonita. Logs indicated they took someone away for a 72-hour mental health timeout.

• **Aug. 12:** Police responded at 8:34 p.m. to a car crash in the 200 block of Harbor. Logs indicated a 58-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of driving smashed.

• **Aug. 11:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 4:15 p.m. in the 800 block of Shasta. Logs indicated the lass was stoned off her a** and she crashed at ol’ Uncle Ian’s place. It was her second run-in with the law on the same day. At 6:30 a.m. the same Cinderella, 48, was at City Park raising Caine. She was nicked for suspicion of disorderly conduct, possessing paraphernalia and being stoned on drugs.

• **Aug. 11:** Police responded at 2:49 p.m. to Beachcomber and Mindoro for a smooch-the-caboose collision. Logs indicated one driver fled the scene without giving insurance information a hanging offense in this day and age.

• **Aug. 11:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:30 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the driver had a bench warrant and was issued another, the vehicle code violation apparently forgotten.

• **Aug. 10:** At 5:30 p.m. police responded to a no doubt hairy crack-up at South Bay and Hwy 1. No injuries were reported.

• **Aug. 10:** At 2:54 p.m. police responded to a disturbance in the 2500 block of Greenwood. Logs indicated some

upset citizen was deemed a danger to himself and was taken away for a few spa days.

• **Aug. 10:** Police responded at 2:14 p.m. to a car crash at Hwy 1 and Yerba Buena. No injuries were reported.

• **Aug. 10:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:49 a.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. Logs indicated they arrested a 47-year-old woman for suspicion of abusing her domestic partner leaving a visible injury.

• **Aug. 9:** Police took a missing person report that someone at the stationhouse reported.

• **Aug. 9:** Police responded to a traffic collision at 10:56 a.m. in the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd., right outside the police station.

• **Aug. 9:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 4:44 p.m. at Elena and Main. The scofflaw, 52, had a bench warrant. She was issued a new court date to ignore and released.

• **Aug. 9:** Someone found a phone and turned it in at the fire station on Harbor Street. Firefighters gave it to police.

• **Aug. 9:** Police investigated and deemed unfounded a reported sexual assault made by an elderly woman with dementia.

• **Aug. 7:** A citizen in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., reported a scam and the painful loss of \$7,800, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **Aug. 7:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 1:48 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 47-year-old was cited and released for suspicion of possessing an allegedly illegal glass crack pipe, her stash had apparently already gone poof!

• **Aug. 6:** Police espied a suspicious woman at 11:30 a.m. in the 300 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the 40-year-old beauty queen had warrants and was of course cited once again for good measure and released.

• **Aug. 5:** Police contacted a suspicious swizzle stick at 10:23 p.m. swirling around the 300 block of MBB. Logs indicated the model citizen, 34, was nicked for suspicion of being stoned on illegal drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia, his stash apparently already devoured.

• **Aug. 5:** Police responded at 7 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Morro. A 73-year-old mutt was tossed into the pound for suspicion of being bent in public.

• **Aug. 5:** Someone turned in a wallet they found somewhere in town belonging to an unknown someone, who lost it sometime before it was found.

• **Aug. 5:** Police responded at 8 a.m. to the 400 block of

Rennel where a woman said a family friend entered her room and tried to climb into her bed. Logs indicated police determined the allegation was unfounded, because sometimes a ham sandwich is really baloney.

• **Aug. 5:** Some ignoramus scoundrel vandalized a City bench on Coleman Drive at the Embarcadero.

• **Aug. 4:** Police responded at 3:34 p.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 26-year-old apparently unwelcomed plod was booked into County Jail for suspicion of trespassing.

• **Aug. 2:** Police responded at 9:48 p.m. to the 700 block of Quintana where a 38-year-old apparent swagman said he’d been shot in the leg while down in the Creek Bed Estates behind Burger King. Logs indicated the taradiddling fellow wasn’t shot but instead tripped and fell on his arse causing a 1-inch cut to his left shin.

• **Aug. 3:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 2:23 a.m. in the 800 block of Morro. Logs indicated he had a bench warrant and was cited with a second disappearance ticket and released, in this game of cat-and-mouse we play.

• **Aug. 2:** Some graffidiot tagged something at City Park, though it is hoped it wasn’t that new, beautiful and very expensive bus stop.

• **Aug. 2:** Police responded at 12:36 p.m. to the 2700 block of Dogwood for an abandoned car that turned out to be a stolen vehicle. It was seized by police and towed to the bone yard.

• **Aug. 1:** Police responded at 10:28 a.m. to a business in the 600 block of Embarcadero where they’d apparently snatched up a sticky-fingered woman, 34, in the process of using the help-yourself line. She was booked for suspicion of shoplifting.

• **Aug. 1:** Police caught up to a 36-year-old man at 7:10 p.m. at Hwy 1 and Yerba Buena. Logs indicated the louse was nicked for suspicion of abusing his spouse and got tossed in the big house.

• **July 31:** Police responded at 9:19 p.m. to the 300 block of Jamaica for a report of suspected child abuse. No arrest was made.

• **July 31:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 2:19 p.m. in the 1100 block of Front St. who was apparently causing some sort of hoo-ha-ha. The 26-year-old tempest was nicked for suspicion of being schnocked in public, for as you know, the nail that sticks out gets hammered.

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Unity in the Community Concert Sept. 3

What do a Sunset Magazine pastry chef, an iconic Los Osos photo and Toptracer data have in common?

To raise funds to pay for damages to the Los Osos Valley Road median caused by a single-car accident, Celebrate Los Osos is teaming up with the South Bay Community Center and Paul Irving of Big Big SLO to put on the first of a series of three events called “Unity in the Community.” The first show takes place Sunday, September 3 from 2 to 6 p.m. The concert lineup is the Bobby Santa Cruz Band featuring Linda Martin of Back Bay Betty with the opening set of Bay Love. There will be dancing, BBQ, wine, beer and non-alcoholic refreshments.

There will also be a fundraising auction of uncommon items, hence the three people walk into a bat intro above.

Some Auction Items



The former pastry chef from Sunset Magazine and new Los Osos resident, Maryanne Welton, will teach four people in her waterfront home how to make savory and sweet pie crusts from scratch. She will reveal the secret

techniques for a perfect (and easy) crust to tackle any type of pie.



Dean Sullivan, a well-known collector of iconic and historic photos of Los Osos |Baywood for over for over 40 years and the publisher of this paper, has carefully curated his collection and selected one from his Los Osos collection. This image will be mounted as a 5” x 20” print, ready to hang.

For the true golf geek, Diary Creek Golf Course provides a package of golf goodies including rounds of at Diary Creek and Morro Bay Golf Course; and passes for Toptracer, a digital technology that takes golf to a new level of fun and excitement. Using the same dynamic technology seen on PGA broadcasts Toptracer computers transform the old “driving range” experience using launch, speed, curve and other data analysis — all delivered in real time as you hit your ball out onto the live range. Players can partake in famous virtual golf courses and other fun games, getting instant feedback with each shot while competing against friends in person as well as players around the world online.

Aside from the entertainment aspect, the attraction offers a lot of information that can help golfers improve

Community Concert Continued on page 14

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Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 7
time and learn more about the Village at www.slocounty.gov/welcomehomevillage.
Event Details: Community Information Session on Welcome Home Village
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023
Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Katcho Achadjian Government Center, Board Chamber, 1055 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo
The Community Information Session includes a presentation about the project. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of the representatives from the County of San Luis Obispo, the City of San Luis Obispo as well as Good Samaritan Shelter and Dignity Moves, the agencies that will be building and managing the village.

Model Boat Donated to Maritime Museum

Scott Mather of the Morro Bay Maritime Museum accepted a donation of a replica of a Monterey style commercial fishing boat from Achilles Paladini of the Paladini Seafood Company San Francisco. A. Paladini Inc. was once the largest seafood purveyor on the West Coast selling to restaurants, hotels and markets.
A. Paladini Inc. was sold in early 1974 with the passing of the second generation after 110 years of successful operation. It was bought by a group of outside investors and shortly afterwards the business closed.



In 1997 after several years of research, Achille “Kiki” Paladini (the grandson) started Paladini Quality Seafood Sauces. The line was formally introduced in 1998 at the San Francisco Convention Center at the “Fancy Food Show,” held by the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade. The sauces are now available nationwide.

Woods to Hold Free Pet Vaccine Clinic Aug. 25

Woods Humane Society will hold its second free pet vaccine clinic this month for San Luis Obispo County dogs and cats on August 25, 2023. The free DAPPv Canine and HCP Feline vaccines, which help prevent parvovirus and distemper in dogs and panleukopenia in cats, are made possible through Petco Love’s national vaccination initiative to provide another one million free pet vaccines to family pets in need.
The appointment-based pet vaccine clinic for publicly owned pets will be held at Woods Humane Society’s North County campus at 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, California on Friday, August 25th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. In addition to the free DAPPv Canine and HCP Feline vaccines, Woods will also offer other vaccines and services at low cost.
“Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Petco Love, we are excited to offer the community the opportunity to protect their pets from deadly diseases for free,” says Woods CEO Emily L’Heureux. She explains that the free



Kitten Rizzi was one of five kittens treated for panleukopenia at Woods Humane Society in June 2023. Fortunately, he and his littermates survived thanks to the diligent care of the Woods medical team. He was adopted July 1, 2023.

vaccines help reduce the risk of pets contracting common, deadly viral infections that are highly contagious and easily preventable with a vaccine.
To make an appointment for the vaccine clinic, visit www.SpaySLOCounty.com. For more information, contact Woods Humane Society by calling (805) 543-9316, or visiting 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 or 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422. Woods is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. Learn more about Petco Love’s lifesaving impact at PetcoLove.org.
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.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The SLO County Arts Council presents the Open Studios Art Tour in 2023 on October 14/15 and 21/22 throughout San Luis Obispo County during National Arts and Humanities Month. Fine artists and crafters open their studios to showcase their art and share their processes so viewers can visit art at its source. Visitors create self-guided tours using the event catalog.
There will be 5,000 printed catalogs in circulation available for pickup in early September at the following arts venues: Studios on the Park (Paso Robles), The ARTery (Atascadero), Cambria Center for the Arts, Cruise Control Gallery (Cambria), Art Center Morro Bay, Left Field Gallery (Los Osos), The Bunker (SLO), EDNA Contemporary (SLO), SLO Museum of Art, Art Central (SLO), Clark Center (Arroyo Grande), Ron’s Nursery/Halcyon General Store (Arroyo Grande), DANA Adobe and Cultural Center (Nipomo).

To launch the 25th annual Tour, there is a Preview Show (sampling of artwork throughout the county) and Kick-Off Celebration at The Bunker SLO (a new community gallery and showroom) from 6 to 9 pm on Friday, October 13. Participants can meet artists and enjoy food trucks, live music, and a raffle!
New this year are the Planned Routes, grouped studios by medium and region to help visitors plan their tours. Planned Routes include the Los Osos Jewelry and Functional Art Route, Pacific Coast Highway Route, North County Sculpture Route, and many more! Local wineries and restaurants sponsor each route and provide discounts to tour-goers. Visitors can also plan their tour based on the demonstrations and workshops occurring at studios.

Events Continued on page 10

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Community

Events From page 9



Saturday, August 26th the SLOFunny Comedy Show returns to The Savory Palette on the Embarcadero in Morro Bay with Nationally Touring Headliner Ryan Stout. Ryan has made over 200 television appearances on programs including “Conan,” “Chelsea Lately,” HBO’s “Funny as Hell,” Comedy Central’s “Live at Gotham,” and his own half-hour special: “Comedy Central Presents... Ryan Stout.” He’s hosted game shows, clip shows, and talk shows for networks like MTV, FOX, CBS, and AXS TV. Ryan has also released three stand-up comedy albums that all debuted at the top of the comedy sales charts and have since been streamed millions of times across multiple platforms and are regularly broadcast on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio. Ryan’s comedy is something that simply must be experience. He is know as a comics comic. Stand-up comedians love watching Ryan perform and you will too. Hosted by Jon Huck (NBC, CBS, Hulu), with Kym Kral, Jeremiah Nation and Featuring Dave Carter (The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, The Sherman Show in Hulu). Get your tickets today. Tickets \$20 - \$30. The Early Show - PG-13 - 6:30 p.m. The Dirty Show - Unrated – 9 p.m. Get them on Eventbrite.com or at My805Tix

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for adults has its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, September 6. 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.



The Morro Bay Art Association presents a free talk with ceramicist Jack Mettier entitled, “Our Planet is a Clay Factory” on Sept. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay. Mettier is a raconteur extraordinaire and has a lot to talk about. He has had more than 60 years of passion, experimentation, curiosity and joy in the art of making ceramics and thirty-five years of teaching ceramics, art and jewelry. He taught art and ceramics at Paso Robles High School and was chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department there. At Taft College he taught ceramics and jewelry and was Director of the Art Gallery as well as chairman of the fine arts department. Over the years he has experimented with making kilns and making functional and representational pieces and glazes from different materials, including native clays. He has extensive knowledge of clay history. He has elevated thrown vessels into pieces that speaks of conflict, resolution, and design that transcends the simple form into an artistic statement. He is still experimenting today in his home kiln and continues to experience the magic and joy of unpredictable finished surfaces. For more information, call 805-772-2504, or goto www.artcentermorrobay.org.

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



San Luis Obispo health guidelines. • Featured Wall Artist: Ken Christensen • Display Case: Dolls & Books by “Yesterday’s Companions” (UFDC) • 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. Legos! - Friday, September 1, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Come to the Los Osos Library and build amazing creations with Legos! School Age. • Cartoon Club - Friday, September 8, 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. • Master Preservers “Freezer Jam” - Saturday, September 9, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Did you know you can make a super easy jam in your freezer at home? If you’ve never made jam before, this is a wonderful place to start. The UC Master Preservers will show us how it’s done! For kids ages 10 and under. Registration limited to 24, sign up today.

Cambria Center for the Arts announces a Call to Artists to participate in their upcoming Juried Art Exhibit, featuring juror Frank Eber, September 8-November 5. The show features two- and three-dimensional works. Art will be displayed in the CCA virtual gallery and in the physical gallery, at 1350 Main Street.



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Online art submissions open Sept 1-5, or in person on exchange day Sept 5 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.. For more information, membership and to submit art, goto the CCA website, <http://www.cambriaarts.org>.

Eber was raised in Europe and worked as a professional portrait artist. He was later mentored by Italian master painter Renato Castro and his direct loose style of painting was influenced by the old-world masters. Eber describes his paintings as a personal response to the subject, to interpret what gives it life and to capture the energy within.

There will be an opening reception and presentation by Eber about his thought process and what prompted him to select the awarded entries, Sept 9, from 4:30-6 p.m. All are invited to attend, enjoy refreshments, and mingle with the artists. Image, Under the Ell by Frank Eber



The 30th Annual American Field Service Pinedorado 5K Fun Run takes place at Coast Union High School, 2950 Santa Rosa Creek Road, Cambria, on Saturday, September 2, 2023. On-site registration is at 7 a.m. with the race starting at 7:45 a.m., which follows the Pinedorado Parade route down Main Street in Cambria. The cost is \$25 with free t-shirt to first 30 entrants. Proceeds benefit (scholarships and host family support) CUHS American Field Service Program (student exchange organization). For more information, contact Sharon Bisso, AFS county/school representative at (805) 801-1132 or go to <http://www.davidlbisso.com/5kfunrun.html>.

Free upcoming September programs at the Morro Bay Library - 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394.
*Cartoon Club - Wednesday, September 6, 3 – 5 p.m.
Learn how to create characters, draw backgrounds, build a story and more during a fun comics-filled afternoon! Paper, pens and pencils provided - you bring the inspiration. For ages 8-18.
• Tenango Art – Wednesday, September 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Come to the Morro Bay Library to learn about tenango embroidery from presenter Luna before creating your own tenango inspired drawing! This program is presented in Spanish and English.

Morro Bay 4-H is getting ready for the new program year. Kids from 5 years of age to 19 are invited to join the club. 4-H is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, reaching close to 6 million kids in the U.S. alone. The Morro Bay 4H Club will kick it all off the at the club’s first general meeting at The Benedict, 1401 Quintana Rd., on Tuesday September 5 starting at 6:30 pm. Information about Morro Bay 4-H and the projects that are being offered this year are the topic of discussion. The



current list of projects offered is Leadership, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Rabbit, Poultry, Gardening, Cooking, Painting, Fishing, Hiking Outdoors, Sewing.
For more information, contact community club leader, Tammy Haas (805) 459-7988. Information is also available at the county website <https://ucanr.edu/sites/slo4-h>.
Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. Please, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers.



Club Gives Scholarships During Luau



The Bay Osos Filipino Community Association (BOFCA) recently awarded scholarships to area students during a celebratory luau held in Los Osos. Photo submitted

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A local, non-profit charitable organization is helping students with funding for college.
The Bay Osos Filipino Community Association (BOFCA) recently awarded \$3400 in scholarships to 10 graduates from five different high schools including Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, SLO Classic Academy, Pioneer Valley, and Rocklin high schools.
“In our Filipino culture, the elders who immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines stress to the children at a young age that education is important to achieve a career,” said Kathryn Gaoiran, treasurer of the local organization. “They themselves were fortunate if they even graduated from high school. This is our mission to assist college bound students with some financial help. We also recognized nine college graduates whose family are BOFCA

members with a Cream of the Crop Award.”
The application process evaluates student GPA, community service, future college and career goals along with an essay written by the student.
BOFCA held a Scholarship Awards Luau Dinner at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos last month where lechon (roasted whole pig), BBQ chicken and tri tip, rice, pancit (Filipino noodle), lumpia (Filipino egg roll), and fruit were served.
In part, BOFCA raises funds for the scholarships via their big barbecues typically held in the Ralph’s parking lot near Beach Hut Deli. The next chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday September 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Ralph’s. For \$15, the dinner includes 1/2 chicken, rice, beans, and green salad. Pancit, and lumpia are available for purchase as well but are not part of the dinner.



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OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

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

Walking Commitments

By Susan Vasquez

Five walking sticks wait patiently by my front door. Two are tall and thick, staffs that would announce you from around a corner or behind a row of shrubbery. Three are small works of art. They are all made of wood, too heavy or too ornate to be partners on my walks. They come from travels to the Arctic Circle, the Ponderosa Mountain Fest, San Antonio's Riverwalk. One is a surprisingly dainty stick from my grandfather's collection. Another teases me every time I pass by with an eerie face etched into its handle. Each is a remnant of one part of my history that adds up to decades of traipsing to places that are remembered in the soles of my feet and, of course, the scepters at my door.

They are stay-at-home companions that remind me to keep my commitments. If I can wander through the hall where they lean against the doorframe, I can open the door, put on my walking shoes and go. That might mean a long bit of travel, planned out for months and built around places where the walking is good. But mostly, my walks are



local. And mostly, they are daily - or that's the story I tell. You hear it all the time: 'I take a daily walk,' we say, but we don't. It's one of life's small lies that doesn't affect the overall truth of our walking life. We measure that time in years, not days. Too often, what we plan to do each day isn't what happens.

Sometimes circumstances block the path. The concrete sidewalk that has been your route for years takes a toll on your feet. And so, you take a break. Your ankle complains about the rough landing off the sidewalk; rain may surprise you at 3 p.m. when you always take your walk; you can't find your sun hat. A phone call interrupts you on your way out the door. You need a new shoelace, but don't have an extra. And so, another recess from your daily walk is tallied.

Those simple interruptions are better than others: recovering from a knee replacement, adjusting to a new work schedule.

It helps to take a wider view of daily habits; appreciate the smaller paths we must follow at times. I adore, even look forward to, the triple-loop I take around my yard after a rain shower cleans off the dust from the leaves. Though the walking sticks remind me to keep up with my longer walks, they also have seen me pass by them on short walks to the store, and the dashes around my yard pulling down the umbrellas when the wind kicks up.

No matter how long it has been between strolls, the walking sticks wait. There is a gathering of memories inside the lacquered or painted wood of the sticks. The places they come from, the times I have passed by the collection on my way out the door, the memories of the scents along the way and the views around the bends, all this reminds me that I am a walker, and that even small walks count. The walking sticks are simply a monument to a commitment I have made to myself over decades. They measure not each step, but the accumulated joy in a lifetime of walks.

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

Waste Connections Gives Donation to Los Osos Cares



Waste Connection District Manager Jeffrey Clarin accompanied by Mitch Brewer, operations manager of Waste Connections along with county supervisors, Dawn Ortiz-Legg and Bruce Gibson, hand a large check to Linda Quesenberry, executive director of Los Osos Cares during a Board of Supervisors meeting.

By Ruth Ann Angus

Waster Connections, the management side for local garbage and recycling companies San Luis Garbage, South County Sanitary, Mission County Disposal, Morro Bay Garbage, and Costal Rolloff, believes in supporting nonprofits that are doing work to aid the citizens of the Central Coast. On August 1, 2023, at the suggestion from District 3 County Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg they donated \$2500 to Los Osos Cares, the humanitarian organization helping people in need in the Estero Bay area of Los Osos, Morro Bay, and Cayucos.

"We do this through direct contributions, or fund-raising support focused on organizations that aid women children, and seniors, who are at risk and address racial and other inequities" Waste Connection District Manager Jeffrey Clarin said. "Our success is measured by the positive impacts we have in our communities. We are pleased to be able to help support Los Osos Cares."

"This money is greatly appreciated," commented Quesenberry. "It will help us to continue to aid people who are struggling financially."

For readers unfamiliar with what Los Osos Cares does for the residents of the area, every Wednesday evening they feed community residents and homeless individuals with home cooked meals prepared by an array of volunteers at

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Community

the South Bay Community Center.

“Recently numbers of people attending the dinners has risen to over 100 people,” Quesenberry said. In 2022 more than 4800 meals were served, giving nutritious meals to over 1300 families, 1600 seniors, and 180 youths.

That isn’t all Los Osos Cares does. After the disastrous floods of the rainy season, the organization donated \$23,000 of foundation funds and public donations to people affected with damage from the floods.

“Money like that is no longer available,” Quesenberry said, “and grants are hard to find.”

Other services that Los Osos Cares offers are Senior Outreach that makes over 80 trips delivering food to seniors in their homes; Estero Bay Womenade that helps by giving small funds to people in emergency situations; the development of the Estero Bay Youth Coalition that works with schools, youth organizations and community leaders bringing educational opportunities and support to area young people; and the Estero Bay Latino Outreach, a bilingual network of community leaders, service workers, and schools raising awareness of available services in health, education, and leadership.

Since 2016 Quesenberry and Los Osos Cares has worked through a Community Coalition of service organi-

zations, faith-based groups, law enforcement, local government, Chamber of Commerce, and the SLO Coastal School District that meet bimonthly either in person at the South Bay Community Center or by Zoom to discuss and solve community needs such as poverty, health, homelessness, and resources for youth and seniors.

Los Osos Cares maintains a local presence at their Resource Center located at the old Sunnyside School, Room 18 in Los Osos. The Center offers confidential services, bilingual staff members, assistance for families and adults with a resource directory listing organizations and agencies that can help.

“All of this is in jeopardy of disappearing due to lack of donations,” Quesenberry said. Los Osos Cares is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible.

To make a donate to Los Osos Cares, go to www.lososocares.com or mail a check to Los Osos Community Resource Center, P.O. Box 6602, Los Osos, CA 93412.

A Dose of Good Dogma

Tasmanian Devils, Be Gone!

By Lisa Ellman

Leash reactivity is characterized by the leashed, walking dog lunging, jumping, twirling, barking, or all of these behaviors combined, when your dog sees another dog near or far. It’s a disturbing, scary situation. Seeing your dog spinning and lunging like a Tasmanian devil, and all you want to do is get away.

It can be difficult and confusing to determine the reason(s) for leash reactivity, especially if you have a dog that’s great off leash. There are several factors that could explain the reactivity. Perhaps there was no leash socialization as a puppy, perhaps it’s fear, maybe your dog feels “trapped” and vulnerable on the leash because they can’t get away, or don’t trust you, as a leader, to have their back. Perhaps you’re even inadvertently reinforcing the reactivity without

being aware of it. Let me explain.

You have a dog that’s reactive on walks. You see another dog approaching, you automatically become anxious; your body chemistry changes, you tighten up the leash. At this point the dog has become “on alert” and perhaps senses that there is some tangible danger. You become frightened; you have no plan other than dragging the dog off in the opposite direction. The threat ceases because the dog is taken out of the situation, and you continue the walk until the next dog appears. Lather, rinse, repeat.

No matter the reason for the reactivity, that response will not change the behavior. Reactivity is not easy to rehabilitate, it takes consistent work, every day. The first thing to do, to change the dog’s behavior, is to change the human behavior. The thing is, by leaving the situation the dog learns nothing. No alternative behavior has been taught and often people just give up walking their dog!

Learning to provide alternative behaviors, like positive reinforcement when the dog is not reacting and using calm focus is important to recondition the dog’s response. We want to change the dog’s experience from a negative to a positive. Have a plan, so that you can redirect your dog. If the human doesn’t know what to do, the dog doesn’t know what to do and chaos ensues. First, breathe and stay calm. Scan and anticipate the reaction, you know it’s coming. Be aware of your dog’s body language and signals before it starts to react. Catch the dog before it reacts and reward the good behavior with a high value, tasty treat (or ball). Seeing another dog now brings good things, not negative responses. Teach “look,” put the dog’s focus on you, the calm confident leader. Use clicker training if you’re comfortable with it. Be aware of your dog’s critical distance. Start far enough away from the stimulus, where your dog is not reacting, so you can get your dog’s attention. As the dog becomes more comfortable and less reactive at that distance, gradually, over time, move a bit closer. Teach your dog “leave it.” Walk quickly past other dogs while engaging your dog with treats or words, keep the focus on you. Don’t slow down or stop.

Learning to be confident and manage the behavior is going to make a huge difference in your walks. Working privately with a trainer or attending a (Good Dogma) reactivity workshop to train new responses will help you be consistent, accelerate progress and build your confidence.

Following the protocol of the Yellow Ribbon Project, put a ribbon on your dog or leash, red for unapproachable, yellow for caution or green for an approachable non-reactive dog. Explain the significance to others. If you want your dog to meet and greet another dog, look for a ribbon and always make contact with the other owner first to ask permission.

Pass it on!

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


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Morro Bay Rotary Honors ‘Heroes’



Pictured: John Weiss - program MC - Rotarian, sponsors; Hubert “Chip” Laugharn US Forest Service (retired); Robert Enns - community leader, Cayucos Sanitary District, LAFCO, IWMA, and builder of the Santa House, Holiday Tree, and a support of Cayucos 4th of July; Rotarian Gary Stoner (sponsor); Larry Rosen - eye glasses program and more; David Parra - Noor Medical Clinic; Duane Garrett -Fresno City Police (retired); Commander Tony Mosqueda - MBPD; Jody Hollier -Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce; Christie Montoya - MBPD; Erin Lester - MBPD; and Rotary sponsor Jude Long. Not pictured are Chief Amy Watkins - MBPD sponsors; Dan Costley - Rotary Club president. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Morro Bay Rotary held an event to honor members of the community who exemplify community, service and public heroes.

The Rotary Public Heroes program honors members of our community who are a leaders in either private or public work.

“Often these individuals not only give of their profession, but of their own time, to making a difference,” said Rotary Club member John Weiss. The all represent the Rotary Four Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker



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Community

Third Ducky Derby, Oct. 14



Morro Bay Rotary Club is quack-quacking about its Third Annual Ducky Derby set for 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 in Morro Bay Harbor.

Rubber ducks are \$10 each and the grand prize is \$1,000 in cash; second place is \$750; and third gets \$500. The ducky races are followed by a family fun day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tidelands Park.

How it works is you pay \$10 to have a duck assigned to you and on race day, all the ducks will be dumped into the bay on an incoming tide starting at the Hofbrau.

The Morro Bay Dragon Boat team will monitor the ducks as they get swept along in the current and will make sure none go too far astray.

The first duck to “swim” past the finish line wins.

Go to: morrobayrotary.org for information on how to sponsor a duck. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club’s community programs.

In the photo, race officials dump a tub full of rubber ducks into the bay to start the 2022 Ducky Derby.

Pet of The Month

Shiloh’s Animal Rescue Featured Dog



Lilly is a hound shepsky mix with a heart of gold. She is still a puppy at only 9 months old.

Find out more about her at shilohsanimalrescue.com

Community Concert From page 8

their game,” Josh Heptig, director of golf operations for SLO County Parks and Recreation.

The link for the auction is expected to go live this week, post press time. Celebrate Los Osos will announce the link on their Facebook page as soon as it is live: <https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateLosOsos>

Other items range from an overnight at the Baywood Inn Bed & Breakfast, which includes a \$100 gift certificate at the Galley in Morro Bay and a boat adventure; to a Vina Robles VIP Specia of four VIP box seats, VIP parking passes and passes into the VIP Petite Terrace to the September 21 Los Lobos/Ozomatli Concert, the Grammy-winning East L.A. band, making their 50th Anniversary Tour.

Tickets for the Unity in the Community are free but you folks need a ticket to enter. Get yours at: <https://www.my805tix.com/e/unity-clo> Raffle tickets can also be purchased on-line as well as in person at the event.

Both Celebrate Los Osos and the South Bay Community Center are non-profit organizations. If you cannot attend but wish to make for the median repairs or for chairs for the Red Barn, send a check to Celebrate Los Osos at: 350 Mitchell Drive, Los Osos, CA 93402. Donations for the South Bay Community Center can be made at: <https://southbaycommunitycenter.com/donate/>



Letters To The Editor

Celebrating 75 Years of Caring for Cayucos



The Cayucos Lions Club would like to introduce ourselves and let you know who we are and what we do and why we do it and how you can be part of it all. Even if you are not a full-time resident, your family comes to Cayucos because of the simpler, unhurried lifestyle and the friendliness. The Cayucos Lions are one of the reasons that makes Cayucos a special town.

Chartered in 1948, the Cayucos Lions are a local group of men who come together socially and to do good things for our community in a quiet and humble way. We are proud of this town. And we take care of it. Our motto is “WE SERVE”. The Cayucos Lions is our local chapter of an international organization.

Our membership stands at 44 members, comprised mainly of local guys, but our members also include men from Templeton, San Luis, Morro Bay, and surrounding areas. Everyone belongs to the club because they love Cayucos (and our famous BBQ). In the last 6 months four new members have joined.

We meet monthly for a great BBQ dinner meeting, have a few drinks and a lot of laughs, we plan activities and events to benefit the town, and we have fun doing it. Everybody has the daily pressure and time constraints of family and living in a complex, fast paced world, and service clubs like the Lions have seen membership decline as a result. But if there ever was a time that a club like the Lions was needed---it is now. True community and harmony do not happen on their own; they are built by involvement. Setting example for our children and others by doing good civic work is vital and important for wherever you live.

The Cayucos Lions invites you to check out our club We would love to have you attend a dinner meeting as our guest and get to know us. Just email us at cayucoslionsmembership@gmail.com and we will fill you in with the details. Both Cambria and Morro Bay have chapters as well---they do the same kind of important work and welcome all good men and women.

Just to give you an idea of the types of good things the Cayucos Lions do, here is a short list of what we are involved with:

- We organize and host the annual Independence Day Parade on July 4th
- We host the Cayucos Car Show BBQ in November and serve over 600 full Santa Maria-style BBQ dinners to the town
- We award up to \$10K every year to local high school students who are planning on attending a trade school or college
- We support Cayucos Elementary School with events like the Flag Day Celebration and Speech Contest
- We take care of Highway 1 every month by picking up litter in the Adopt-a-Highway Program
- We’ve helped purchase playground equipment for the beach, we maintain the beautiful Plaza area at the entrance to the pier, we purchased defibrillators for our churches, school, and fire department, we have worked hard to get the Veteran’s Hall restoration project underway.

Being a member of the Cayucos Lions doesn’t require a lot of time or effort; it is rewarding to be part of something meaningful; and we hope you will consider being part of our ongoing 75-year tradition!

Phil Kiesewetter
Cayucos Lions Club

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Kevin says,
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Community

Los Osos Residents Invited to Help Plan a Safer LOVR

San Luis Obispo County is inviting residents of Los Osos to comment on-line on how Los Osos Valley Rd (LOVR) can be made safer and offer improved paths for biking and walking. A study is underway that will also determine the look and amenities along the 15 mile corridor that stretches from Foothill Blvd west through Los Osos and to the entrance of Montana de Oro State Park.

Called the Los Osos Valley Road Corridor Concept Plan, commenting is easy by going to the study website at <https://safetyplan.mysocialpinpoint.com/lovr/home/>

At the site you can also find information about the study. There are two ways to leave information. 1) on the interactive map at the specific location 2) By taking the survey.

The Los Osos Valley Road Corridor has been the subject of multiple planning efforts over the years. The County says as a result of the study, earlier planning efforts will be consolidated with this plan that will go to the Board of Supervisors by next summer and lead to funding to build the improvements. Commenting will be welcome now over several months.

The chance to make improvements on LOVR comes after several bad accidents along the corridor in the past weeks with major injuries. While traffic safety is a top concern, the study welcomes discussion of making the corridor safer for bike riding and easier and safer for pedestrians including school children and families. Comments on amenities along the corridor including possible landscaping and the look of the roadscape.

A community meeting will be held in September. The County hopes to have a draft of the plan ready by spring.

The best chance to make detailed comments about specific locations along the corridor comes by accessing the interactive map on-line. Here you can detail and aim your comments not just about a certain location but relate them to either traffic, biking, pedestrian or other concerns like equestrian issues.

Taking the quick survey allows you to sound off on all aspects of the conceptual plan.

The County says The Los Osos Valley Road Corridor Concept Plan will remain as a conceptual design tool to facilitate corridor improvements in preparation of capital project delivery. The County will serve as the Lead Agency, in cooperation with SLOCOG, on implementation of this plan.

Visit the "Contact Us" section at the bottom of the

website page if you would like to provide additional feedback.

Contact the county:
Address 976 Osos St, Room 207,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Email jhudson@co.slo.ca.us
Phone (805) 781-4309

John Lindt
Los Osos

Viewpoint

A Land-Use Freeze Would Harm Morro Bay

A group called Citizens for Estero Bay Preservation (CEBP) is gathering signatures to place a measure on the March 2024 ballot to freeze the Visitor-Serving/Commercial land use designation for the power plant site and the Commercial/Recreational Fishing designation for the north Embarcadero (Measure D area) unless changed by a vote of the people. This action is a bad idea that would have harmful consequences for Morro Bay and would not provide the benefits the group claims.

CEBP says that this zoning freeze is needed to stop the development of the industrial Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed by Vistra Corp and would lead to wonderful visitor-serving businesses on the power plant land.

Neither of these claims is accurate. Here are some facts:

• Zoning alone cannot stop the BESS. California law AB 205 (2021), signed by Governor Newsom in June 2022, creates an alternative permitting process for renewable energy, storage, and transmission projects that eliminates the need for local approval. This process managed by the CA Energy Commission is voluntary for the developer. Vistra will use AB 205: Morro Bay could not stop the BESS by itself.

• This initiative would reduce community input and local control. The General Plan defines the land uses exactly the way the initiative proposes. But if it passes, the City Council cannot act and all the established processes for involving citizens will be bypassed in discussions about the BESS and any other land-use proposal for the affected parcels. The City would lose influence on the project and any community benefits.

• California DTSC prohibits visitor-serving development on the BESS site. The Division of Toxic Substances Control filed restrictive covenants with the county on July 21, 2022, that explicitly forbid uses such as hotels, motels, and other human-related development.

• Neither PG&E nor Vistra is legally obligated to clean up the site and no lawsuit could compel them to do so. PG&E, the first owner of the property, to reduce its liability placed deed restrictions that prohibit human-related uses that might expose people to dangerous contaminants (it is unknown what contaminants are under the plant and stacks). Subsequent owners also reduced their liability by accepting the restrictions as a condition of sale.

• Even if the restrictions were lifted, there is no plausible visitor-serving use that would justify the large investment needed to clean up the power plant site. No company would pay Vistra for the property, pay \$20 to \$30 million to demolish the old plant (Vistra's estimate), pay more money to remediate the polluted soil, and only then begin to invest in a business.

The initiative would drastically reduce beneficial developments through rigid zoning. The City Council should be able to consider any proposal that could help the City financially.

Facts DO matter. Reject the petition to freeze land use. Preserve local control by our elected officials and our options to attract beneficial development for the future.

Submitted with approval by, Homer Alexander, Jeffrey Bacon, Dawn Beattie, Dave and Cindy Betonte, Ed and Monica Bischof, Casey Cordes, Tim Cowan, Ric Deschler, Bob Fowler, Cherise Hansson, John and Sue Headding, Jamie and Monica Irons, Lee Johnson, Dave and Liz Klinzman, Marlys McPherson, Frank and Lynda Merrill, Jeremiah and Trudy O'Brien, Ron Reisner, Doug Rogers, Glenn Silloway, Susan Stewart, Chuck and Donna Stoll, Bob and Carol Swain. All are Morro Bay residents except for Bob Fowler (Atascadero) and Susan Stewart (Los Osos) who own businesses in Morro Bay.

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New City Manager From page 1

New Morro Bay City Manager, Yvonne Kimball (center) poses with the fire department crew and Fire Chief Dan McCrain (far left) at Kimball's swearing-in ceremony Aug. 14.

running the City for the past several months, while they searched for a permanent C.M.

The brief ceremony, highlighted by a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Morro Bay High School Choir President, Jocelyn Ocampo Mateo, gave Mayor Carla Wixom a chance to tell residents why they chose Kimball.

Mayor Wixom said it was “a momentous day in Morro Bay,” and that Kimball, “brings a wealth of experience” to their leadership team.

The Mayor said Kimball was “the perfect fit for our vibrant community.” Kimball, she said, acknowledges the challenges that lie ahead for the City, as they try to find a balance between “sustainable development and economic growth. We are thrilled to have you join our team.”

Kimball was given Resolutions and certificates suitable for framing from local State legislators’ staff reps. Clint Weirick presented her with a certificate from State Sen. John Laird’s Office; and Andrea Chmelik, a representative of Assemblywoman, Dawn Addis, who is from Morro Bay, presented a certificate from the State Assembly.

Kimball seemed pleased to have gotten the warm welcome. “I really appreciate you,” she said to the crowd of well wishers, “and the staff and Mayor for all you have done for me.

“Now, it’s time to roll up my sleeves and get to work,

New Morro Bay City Manager Yvonne Kimball chats with community volunteer, Ken Vesterfelt.

that’s all I have to say.”

Before being hired by Morro Bay, Kimball was the City Manager of Jackson, Calif., a small town in the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Kimball had led Jackson’s 5,000 residents since 2017 and has over 15-years of city management experience.

Kimball was the Town Manager in Dewey-Humboldt, Ariz., from 2012-17, and was City Manager at the City of Bowling Green, Fla., from 2008-11.

She earned a Master’s of Public Administration Degree with a focus on Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Central Florida. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business English from the Tianjin Institute of Technology in China.

Kimball is just the second female city manager in Morro Bay’s history. Andrea Lueker, who worked her way up in the City hierarchy, held the top job for about 8 years leaving in 2013.

Kimball joins an all-woman City Council — another first for Morro Bay.

Also, the assistant City Manager, Sarah Johnson-Rios, is a woman, as are the Chief of Police, the City Clerk and Harbor Patrol Chief among others in the City hierarchy.

Kimball comes to Morro Bay having missed the sewer plant controversy, as that mountainous, \$170 million project is now completed.

However, there is another battle on the horizon — Vistra Energy’s proposed Battery Energy Storage System

experience

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From left are City Councilwomen Laurel Barton, Jen Ford, Cyn-dee Edwards, and Zara Landrum, Mayor Carla Wixom stands at the podium and City Manager, Yvonne Kimball is at far right. The ensemble marks the first all-woman city council and only the second woman city manager in town history.

or BESS, a \$490 million project to build the largest (at 600 megawatts) battery storage facility in the world.

But opposition to the BESS is strong and growing. On Aug. 9, the group “Citizens For Estero Bay Preservation” turned in over 1,400 petition signatures of voters supporting a ballot initiative that would require the City Council to seek voter approval for any changes in zoning needed to clear the way for the BESS.

The City is currently in the environmental review stage of the project with a draft EIR expected to come out around the end of this year.

The City is also embarking on a study of road conditions in town with an eye to coming up with a plan to address whatever safety issues the study may identify.

So while it may be the dog days of summer, there is no respite from controversy in this community.

Harbor Hosting

The vessels that have come for a visit include the Fire Fly Georgetown; the research vessel (R/V) Robert Gordon Sproul; the R/V Fulmer; and the super motor yacht, Nomad. EBN asked the harbor department for information on the vessels and minus redactions of personal information, we were able to piece together some basic information.

• Motor yacht “Fire Fly Georgetown” is owned by Prime Meridian of Marina del Rey and came into port Aug. 13 with a boatload of young men who were here to do training with personal watercraft.

Fire Fly is 75-feet long and 16-foot at the beam, according to the vessel information card on file with the harbor department. She drafts just 4 feet and was manufactured by Sunseeker International, a British company originally founded in 1969 as Poole Power Boats. Fire Fly Georgetown is a leased vessel that burns diesel.

• The R/V Robert Gordon Sproul (Sproul) came in Aug. 10 for a couple of days break from an offshore project studying plankton, according to a sailor from the vessel, who was otherwise tight-lipped about what they were doing here.

The owner was listed as Dustin Pierce and her homeport is Marfac on Point Loma in San Diego. A Google search found that Marfac is short for “Nimitz Marine Facility” and is the homeport and technical support center for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University

of California San Diego. The Sproul is one of four research vessels working with Scripps.

The Sproul is 125-feet long with a 32-foot beam. She drafts 9.5-feet and also runs on diesel fuel. The City charged the Sproul \$428 for her brief stay at the South T-pier.

• The trimaran racing yacht, Tritium, came into the harbor July 2 for an extended stay in the offshore anchorage area off Giovanni’s. She’s a sleek, 72-foot boat with a 58-foot beam and barely rises above the water surface.

The Tritium paid \$972 for a 30-day stay in the anchorage area.

• The most impressive of these expensive visitors was the super motor yacht, Nomad, owned by Greek shipping tycoon, George Prokopiou.

He is the founder of the Greek companies Dynacom Tankers Management, Sea Traders, and Dynamos Ltd., and estimated to be worth over \$2 billion.

The \$50 million Nomad was completed and delivered to Prokopiou in July 2019 by Amels shipbuilders of the Netherlands. She was built at the company’s Vlissingen shipyard. Her interior, which we didn’t get to see, was designed by the design house, Bonesteel Trout Hall and the exterior was done by Tim Heywood Design.

Nomad is 180-feet long, comparable in size to the ACOE dredge ship, Yaquina. Her beam is over 30-feet and she drafts 11-feet 2-inches, so she barely missed scraping the bottom of the bay when she was here.

Nomad has a steel hull and an aluminum superstructure, with teakwood decks. She’s powered by twin diesel MTU (16V 2000 M70) 1,308 hp engines, and cruises at 13 knots. Top speed is 15.5 knots with a range of some 5,100 nautical miles (at 12 knots).

She has 115,000-liter fuel tanks, and an advanced stabilization system on board for “exceptional comfort levels at anchor or on any voyage.”

Her water tanks store 17,000 liters of fresh water. She has six cabins, and accommodates 12 guests and sports a crew of 13. Her small tender boat, used to ferry guest ashore when the boat is too big for a harbor, sported four huge outboard motors worth probably around \$100,000 or more.

The ship came into Morro Bay, which is the only protected safe harbor (from storms and wind), from Monterey to Santa Barbara, reportedly because the owner really likes Paso Robles wines.

A limousine was seen driving onto the North T-pier to pick up folks off the ship and presumably go wine tasting.

The Harbor Department charged the Nomad \$1,070 for 5 days at the T-pier. That may seem like a lot just for a place to tie up, but City officials are wondering if it’s near enough, given the value of these large vessels and maybe even the wealth of their owners.

“Morro Bay Harbor,” Harbor Director Ted Schiafone told EBN, “has rates for commercial fishing and recreation vessels, but not commercial vessels.”

The harbor has occasionally hosted marine research vessels here, most recently — besides the Sproul — the R/V Fulmar was in town carrying a group of marine scientists

to the site of the proposed offshore floating wind farms to conduct underwater sound studies, as part of the environmental review.

Fulmar is home ported in Monterey and assigned to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. She was on loan from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency that oversees the NMS program for the wind farm study, a project being overseen by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The Fulmar also was being used for another underwater sound study connected with the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, also being worked on now by NOAA; and for another wind farm area off Humboldt County.

At the August Harbor Advisory Board meeting, Schiafone asked the board to form an ad hoc committee to study the issue. “How are other Harbors in California charging for these vessels and use?” was the question he posed to the committee, which is supposed to return to the HAB in 60 days with a report.

In order to change the harbor fees, Schiafone said they’d need to get approval from the City Council.

“Any new fees or changed fees,” he said, “would need to go before Council for approval. This could be brought before Council at any time.”

According to the current Master Fee Schedule, approved in May, the Harbor Department charges 50¢ a foot per day for transient (temporary) mooring at the T-piers and 40¢ a foot for the anchorage area (the first 5 days are free).

On a monthly basis, commercial boats pay \$12.50 per foot for transient slips, and recreational boats pay \$15.50 per foot.

Transient slips are City-owned floating dock slips reserved for commercial fishing boats but the department can sublet them out to any boats passing through, when fishing boats are away from port.

These fees do not include electrical service, which is an extra charge.

So a \$50 million ship like the 180-foot Nomad was charged \$90 a day to tie up at the T-pier, about half the cost of an average motel room in town.

Molestation Suspect Jailed

A local man wanted for multiple counts of child molestation was located in Montana and is now in custody in the San Luis Obispo County Jail.

An arrest warrant was issued on April 29, 2021 for David Paul Wilson, according to the Sheriff’s Office, for multiple charges of sexual acts with a child under the age of 10, aggravated sexual assault of a minor, and lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14. It’s believed the abuse happened during the span of several years.

Wilson fled the area before the arrest warrant was issued and was unable to be located.

On July 28-2023, the Sheriff’s Office was notified that Wilson was living in the Helena, Montana area.

“Various details about the subject were obtained which confirmed the subject was Wilson,” said Sheriff’s spokesperson Tony Cipolla in a news release.

Wilson was taken into custody by the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff’s Office on July-30-2023. He was later brought back to San Luis Obispo County on August 17, 2023.

The Sheriff’s Office thanks the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff’s Office and the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s Office for their assistance in apprehending Wilson and transporting him back to this jurisdiction.



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Celia's From page 1

“They told me I have residency here, so I can come in and get my pancake or once they start to music. I might be able to get into one or two of the concerts for free. I don’t know the specifics at all. It will be exciting to see what they’re going to do. I don’t think they’re going to change the restaurant much, and the improvement they make will probably be positive.

“I’m happy for them. It’s like seeing someone have a new baby, you’re kind of jealous because you can’t go back and do it again. I’m around unavailable for as much as they need me and want to be. I’ll probably be here over Labor Day weekend. You know, hanging out and helping a little bit and just coordinate the staff.”

Fans of Celia’s breakfast and lunch menu are likely aware of her now-famous apricot jam that is consistently requested at the restaurant. The best seller will still be available to purchase. Celia is embarking on plans to make and sell the much-loved toast topper at county farmers markets.

“I’m trying to get into a coastal market, but they’re all full or they have another jam vendor, and they won’t let me in,” Celia said. “But I’m on lists, and I’m trying really hard to get into Monday in Los Osos or Saturday morning at Madonna Plaza and Spencer’s markets. I’m a worker, and I love people. It’s a little physical on me because I have to set up a booth and break down at the end of the night, but I love the atmosphere, I love the people, and I’m doing well.”

For now, the jam will be available at the Paso Robles Farmers Market at the Downtown City Park on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Her first booth goes up Sept. 9.

After decades in the business, Celia offers words of wisdom to people starting out or starting new. “Don’t stop working. Every day is a new day. Keep a good attitude. Try and stay positive. It’s worked for me. Be friendly, be kind, and be loving. Be considerate, be conscious of other people, and all that goodness will come back to you.”

As for Celia, retirement means spending more time with her extended family who live in various parts of the country. She also plans to take weekend getaways with Mark, who still works fulltime in construction.

Moving Forward From page 1

in the most unique tournament in the country. Participants develop an appreciation for tradition, values of faith, country, and baseball.” At Cooperstown Dreams Park, youth are inspired “...to be whatever they want to be and use the fundamental principles of baseball...team, hard work, sportsmanship and their time at Dreams Park as a reminder that they can accomplish anything they put their minds to.”

Responding to the question about what he experienced in Cooperstown besides playing baseball, he said, “We did cool baseball stuff. We didn’t stay with our folks. We hung out in our bunks (translated for me as dormitory) and played wiffle ball or watched other games.”

Coen added a major highlight of his trip was visiting Baseball’s Hall of Fame with his dad. “We learned some good stuff about baseball’s past and my dad bought me a Hank Aaron jersey. He didn’t have to. It was pretty expen-

sive, but he did.” Coen beamed again.

The business at hand in Cooperstown, however, was to play to win games. Each team had 11 to 13 members that traveled to Cooperstown. Coen is multi-skilled at shortstop, pitcher, catcher, and 2nd base. He was invited to stay an extra week and play for the STB Elite team. “My favorite is shortstop. Second base is usually for short people. I plan to be 6-feet or 6-feet-2.”

His mom, Cherise Hansson Leage, explained the parents had been planning and fund raising for almost three years for their sons to be able to make the trip. “Their job was to practice hard and prove to their coach who belonged in the starting positions. STB Elite was put together by pulling good players together from different club teams from Santa Maria, Lompoc, Nipomo and SLO.”

“I was on the Tigers when we were ten and we’ve been practicing for Cooperstown. I had to wait two years,” Coen added, “Tigers did well, but Elite did better. I liked playing with both teams.”

KSBY Sports reporter Ashley Stevens had been following our local teams in Cooperstown and filed a story that I was able to view on TikTok. She reported, “The STB Elite lost just once in their last game against the ELS Bats Red, a team out of Kentucky, by a final score of 17-14 and they placed 5th out of total of 90 teams.” She interviewed Coach Robert Reynoso. “Definitely exciting to hear that and to know that,” he told her. “Not a lot of big baseball teams could do that well – very impressive. We work hard nine months of the year. These boys give us their hard work.”

Coen’s Elite teammate Johan Reyes commented to Stevens that they had to learn to play against a different style of baseball. He learned East Coast coaches played their teams more defensively. “Honestly, they are a little bit less aggressive than we are.”

Besides lots of heart for the game along with years of hard work, they found another secret weapon in Cooperstown. An inanimate toy green dragon they named Jerry seemed to give them confidence according to Elite team player Julian Romero’s comment on the video.

Coen agreed, “Every time we did something good, we would chant ‘Jerry, Jerry, Jerry.’ Some other parents would try and get into our heads and chant Jerry, Jerry, but they couldn’t do it well. I heard some other parents shout out ‘Come on, parents, be original. Find your own chant.’”

How did Coen determine his personal success at Cooperstown? “My first week with the Tigers I hit no home runs. My second week with the Elite I hit four. All together, I think we hit 29 homeruns.” He started remembering and counting in his head, “Maybe even 60 home runs.”

Playing baseball at club level is hard work and a commitment for both boys and girls and their parents. They take a break in August, but all the other months of the year the Leage family travels 30-minutes each way for Coen’s practices three to four times a week. With Coen’s versatility on the mound and in the field, he plays for five club teams – Tigers, Elite, Gamecocks, Cali Nationals and BPA (Baseball Performance Academy). Plus, families attend games all year round all over the county and Santa Maria.

“I’m playing football too. My dad thinks it will make

me tougher and faster playing football.” Coen added, “I’m already pretty fast with my gear on, but I want to get faster.”

Some great news is Coen has 7th and 8th at Los Osos Middle School before going to high school to beef up, plus he won’t have to travel to practice as far because his Tigers coach, Stephen Bishop will start in 2023-34 as baseball coach at Morro Bay High School.

Well experienced at keeping his eye on the ball and going for the win, Coen asked me, “How much longer is this going? I’m really hungry.”

So, for a final thought on Coen Leage’s Cooperstown experience, “For baseball, funnest time of my life.”

Petition Drive From page 1

and rezoning the property seemed like a good idea, until Vistra proposed its battery storage plant. By then, the GP/LCP update was mostly done with local review and was sent off to the Coastal Commission for final approval.

In order for Vistra to now get approval of its 600 megawatt BESS, the zoning needs to be changed back to industrial.

Petition Drive A Hit

Local voters apparently couldn’t wait to sign the petitions.

The initiative, which is opposed by business leaders and others in the community, needs 815 verified signatures of Morro Bay registered voters to qualify for the ballot. The Preservation group sailed right past that number.

“The committee members for Citizens For Estero Bay Preservation,” Branin said in a news release, “in just over two months collected 1,486 signatures in support of our initiative. We are proud that the 2021 General Plan land use designation of North Embarcadero Road as Visitor Serving Commercial and Coleman Drive as Commercial/Recreational Fishing will be reaffirmed.”

City Clerk Dana Swanson will go through a verification process and if enough signatures check out, she will present it to the City Council.

The Council will then decide whether to place the initiative on a ballot, most likely the March 2024 Primary Election, or they could simply vote to accept the initiative’s premise and codify it into law.


That’s what a previous council did with a petition drive that would have put a ballot measure up asking voters to ban overnight camping along the Embarcadero and Morro Rock. That petition drive was in opposition to an RV camping program the Harbor Department put together, scattering over 20 campsites in different areas along the Embarcadero, including several in a vacant spot adjacent to Morro Creek, and three, highly visible campsites at Coleman Park.

Mayor Says ‘No Comment’

Asked by a reporter what her position was on the initiative, Mayor Carla Wixom declined to answer, saying that she can’t comment on a project that hasn’t yet come before the council, as it would be unfair to Vistra and possibly violate a Memorandum of Understanding the City signed with the company regarding the BESS Project.


In essence the City agreed to give the project a fair hearing and honest review, and Vistra promised to tear

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down the old power station building and three smokestacks by 2028 or pay the City \$3 million.

Mayor Wixom did however say that she expects the council will pass it on to voters to decide.

EBN sought comment from Vistra on this turn of events and got a statement back from Jenny Lyon, Vistra’s Manager for Media Relations:

“Vistra remains excited about the opportunity to partner with the City and local community on the redevelopment of the decommissioned Morro Bay Power Plant site and to help California advance its renewable energy goals. Further information on the specifics of the project will be shared during the public process.”

EIR Expected Soon

The Draft EIR for the battery project is expected to be released sometime in the coming months, which will start the clock truly ticking on the greater showdown that’s almost sure to follow.

One tidbit of a nugget is that if the initiative is approved on next March’s ballot, it could be in play as soon as the General Election in November 2024, if the project is at the point in the process where a land use change approval is needed. And again, all it would do is put it to a vote.

However, the BESS Project will likely be contested much longer than those turns in the ballot box.

A Duke Repeat?

Just as when Duke Energy tried to push through a project to replace the old power plant with a new, modern generating station, the final say isn’t likely to be made in Morro Bay.

Indeed, the State Legislature has fired a salvo of its own with the passage into law of Assembly Bill 205. That law expands the California Energy Commission authority to assume permitting under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of green energy projects like the BESS and other storage facilities in the state.

The CEC could take over if the applicant can’t get passed the local authority (city or county). Some have called AB 205 “Life After Death,” in that a project totally rejected by a local permitting agency, can apply to the CEC to take it over, and presumably have a second chance at life.

Facilities like the proposed \$490 million BESS, which is projected to store excess energy produced by solar and wind generators, in tens of thousands of lithium-ion batteries. This excess energy would presumably be produced when the sun is shining and the wind blowing.

The battery plant would then feed the electricity into the power grid for use after the sun goes down and help meet demand after solar is done for the day. It’s seen as one of the ways to cover the supply-demand gap created by solar and wind energy generation.

Indeed, there are a total of three storage projects being looked at now in the North Coast Area. The others are the Pecho Energy Center (in Chorro Valley) and a hydropower storage facility in the hills above Whale Rock Reservoir.

All three of these projects are being reviewed by different agencies and on different levels of government. The Pecho plant is under the CEC; the Whale Rock facility as a dam project is under the Federal Bureau of Land Man-

agement (BLM); and Vistra’s BESS is under the City’s purview.

What Me Worry?

So what’s all the fuss about? If built as proposed, Vistra’s plant at 600 MW would be the world’s largest battery storage facility.

Opponents fear it is too dangerous, as lithium-ion batteries can catch fire and the site, in the middle of town and just a couple hundred yards from Morro Bay High, is inappropriate for that use.

They fear the toxic cloud that could rise high into the air and spread far and wide if the worst thing imaginable happens and the BESS burns.

Those who oppose the initiative and in turn support Vistra’s project, argue that the initiative and the way it locks in the C/V-S zoning would more than double the size of the existing tourism areas along the waterfront.

The Chamber of Commerce is on record supporting industrial use. In an official policy declaration dated January 2023 and long before the initiative was hatched, the Chamber said, “The portions of the property north of the main entrance/power building/switchyard and south of Morro Creek should be changed to a designation that permits energy storage, and uses to support landside wind energy operations, energy transmission, energy production, and general industrial uses.”

A Lot Riding On It

Though it doesn’t exactly ban nor even mention the BESS Project, the initiative has a lot riding on it, if only as a symbolic gesture.

It could be seen as a definitive statement on the community’s feelings about the project. If voters in March overwhelmingly approve it, it would be a powerful message to the City Council on how the community feels about the project, even though it doesn’t address Vistra’s proposal directly. And no matter if the Council votes for or against the BESS, voters here will have the say on changing the zoning. Still, the State could step in.

That’s another fear the opponents have stated, that if the CEC takes it over, the City and citizens’ desires or conditions for approval would be ignored.

That could be a significant concern, as the City is expected to work out an agreement with Vistra on the project that would bring some new, significant revenues into the City treasury. With Duke’s project, the City would have gotten a minimum of \$2 million a year for some 50 years, with some of that going to the Harbor Department, which is in dire need of more revenues.

AB 205 a Lifesaver

AB 205 appears to be a work-around for big energy companies and a path to sidestepping local opposition. Initiative proponents feel it will mean loss of local control. But what can it really do?

According to a synopsis of AB 205 by the energy project law firm Cox Castle of San Francisco, under the heading “Approval of Projects Noncompliant with Local Zoning Laws:”

“If the Commission [CEC] finds that a project is noncompliant with state, local or regional ordinance or

regulation, it is required to ‘consult and meet with the state, local or regional government agency concerned to attempt to correct or eliminate the noncompliance.’

“If, however, the noncompliance cannot be corrected or eliminated, the CEC can still approve the project if it determines that the facility is required for public convenience and necessity and that there are not more prudent and feasible means of achieving public convenience and necessity.”

As with other laws passed to address complex things, AB 205 is a bit fuzzy.

“Public convenience and necessity,” the synopsis continues, “is not defined in the Public Resources Code or in the Public Utilities Code but this language appears in Public Utilities Code Section 1001 and it appears likely that the Legislature intended to apply a similar concept in a new context. There is substantial case law on the meaning of ‘public convenience and necessity,’ however, an analysis of its meaning is beyond the scope of this memorandum.”

In any event, AB 205 seems to have been intended as a lifeline for developers of so-called green energy projects.

“The CEC opt-in could provide a ‘life-after-death’ scenario for certain projects that are consistent with local law, regulations and ordinances but have nonetheless been denied by local governments based on subjective concerns about community character, property values and other local issues.

“The CEC opt-in may also assist new projects and the repowering of existing projects in jurisdictions that have enacted moratoria or flat-out prohibitions. It may also assist projects that are currently in the pipeline and that are not yet approved or denied.”

Law Could Be a Club

AB 205 could be a bludgeon instead of a shield. “The ability to opt-in to CEC jurisdiction because of concerns about local government views or after denial at the local level,” the Cox Castle synopsis said, “could incentivize local agencies to approve of [rather than deny] projects on their own terms rather than having terms and conditions dictated to them by a state-level agency.

“Finally, if the CEC proves itself adept at approving renewable energy projects quickly, fairly and efficiently, it could become the preferred forum for the majority of renewable energy projects located on private land in California.”

AB 205 is of course supported by industry. “While it is unknown how many developers avail themselves of this new permitting pathway,” Cox Castle said, “most renewable developers welcome the option of a state-level process, putting California in the good company of the States of New York, Washington, and Oregon, all of which have adopted state level review and permitting for renewable energy projects.”

Placing restrictions on local government with regards to zoning for big development projects has worked before in Morro Bay, but it appears the State Legislature and Governor, who signed AB 205 into law last June, are a step ahead of that move.

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