Your Community Your News



Vol #5 - Issue #19

CAMBRIA · CAYUCOS · LOS OSOS · MORRO BAY

September 21 - October 4, 2023

## **Volunteers Remove Graffiti at Community Center**



Youths reportedly painted graffiti in multiple places at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. Photo by Dean Sullivan

A few folks, armed with paintbrushes, volunteered to help a Los Osos hub that had been vandalized.

The 50 x16 side wall of the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave., was hit with graffiti, foul language and what are believed to be non-gang related signs, on August 31.

"A homeless couple living here heard the spray cans at 10:30 on Thursday night," said Gary Katayama, Community Center board member and Kiwanis representative. "They called the police department, and they picked up six kids and released them to their parent's house."

In addition to the Community Center, suspects also allegedly tagged the red barn, a cement wall, garbage bins and a utility box.

The volunteer crew, made up of folks who heard about the incident on social media, spent an estimated 40 hours scrubbing the graffiti off, putting on two coats of primer and then the topcoat to match the rest of the facility. Sean Morson, a retired painter and handyman, led the project freely providing directions, skills and equipment.

"Between us, we spent probably \$400 just in supplies as citizens," said volunteer Emily Miggins, "for a couple of minutes of enjoyment. I know that the young men will do better in life after this. I think what's important for people to know is this community center doesn't have a budget and big maintenance staff. It doesn't have the capacity to respond to stuff like this. They're dealing with deferred maintenance already. The community response is critical on this, including educating our youth that this isn't a recreational opportunity to paint."

In addition to the monetary side of cleaning up graffiti, it can reduce property value, create increased vacancies in business properties, decrease potential renters for living space, raise insurance rates and lead to more graffiti in the area. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), nationally, the annual cost of monitoring, detecting, removing, and repairing graffiti damage has been estimated as high as \$15 to \$18 billion.

"If any youth wants to come and help here, it doesn't matter whether it's sweeping, raking, or weeding; everyone who uses the Community Center would love it.

If a cloud has a silver lining, this group of volunteers will find it. The overall attitude is to fix the situation and make it a positive.

"The community came together, and we got it taken care of," said Katayama. And we didn't have to wait for the county government to do it. These things happen. Hopefully, it sends a message to these kids that were involved. I

## Moving Forward: Franklin Riley Park



Walter Heath, Morro Bay in Bloom; President Glenn Silloway, Historical Society of Morro Bay; and City of Morro Bay's Maintenance Manager Carlos Mendoza check out proposed hidden-history panel for Franklin Riley Park. Photo by Judy Salamacha

#### By Judy Salamacha

he date was Thursday, September 5. What was happening at Franklin Riley Park located in my quiet neighborhood at the intersection of Morro and Olive Streets, overlooking Tidelands Park? Could it have been a family gathering or class reunion waiting to venture down to the Embarcadero for dinner at La Katrina or board the Chablis for a dinner cruise? Indeed, there were upwards to forty people visiting with each other near the Embarcadero access stairs during happy hour, but no one seemed to have a pre-dinner cocktail in hand. Some were snapping photographs of what has been touted as the city's best view of Morro Rock. Others were focused on the bay watching the pelicans' feeding frenzy. But what about those two gentlemen who were mid-park - away from the group - obviously trying to decide where they might place their easels and presentation boards.

Truth be told, I knew what was going on. I was one of the neighbors on the community notification list to check out what was proposed to happen at Franklin Riley Park. Co-sponsored by the Morro Bay Public Works Department and the Historical Society the community was invited to hear about the plans to renovate the city's recently dedicated park named in memory of Morro Bay's founder, Franklin Riley. The co-sponsors recognized they

Franklin Riley Park Continued on page 19

#### **County Contracts Get Major Boosts**

#### By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County has increased contracts addressing social ills, from eating disorders of teenagers to mental health counseling and parenting classes. Eating Disorders

County Supervisors approved a new contract with Central Coast Treatment Center to provide eating disorder services to "high risk youth," and not to exceed \$702,000. The contract expires next June.

"Behavioral Health," reads a report, "operating under the Health Agency, is referrals with serious EDs and assessed a higher demand for a range of ED treatment modalities, including assessment, Intensive Outpatient Treatment [IOT], Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), and residential treatment. In prior years, Behavioral Health received on average one or two of these referrals for treatment annually. "

The report said in Fiscal Year 2022-23, they got or completed 43 referrals "for clients who need immediate, life sustaining treatment."

Back in September 2021, the Super-

## City Seeks Safety Consultant for Battery Plant Project



On the day we remembered nearly 3,000 people who died horrible, fiery deaths in 2001 at the hands of terrorists, the City of Morro Bay started advertising for a consultant to prepare safety and emergency evacuation plans for a proposed giant battery plant.

On Sept. 11, the City Fire Department issued a request for bids for a safety consultant to work on Vistra Energy's proposed Battery Energy Storage System or BESS project, a 600-megawatt, lithium-ion battery plant being sited on some 22 acres of the Morro Bay Power Plant property.

"operating under the Health Agency, is mandated by the State of California to provide Eating Disorder [ED] treatment services to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries throughout the County. Behavioral Health does not have staff on hand to provide outpatient treatment for these services and does not operate a facility that provides residential treatment services."

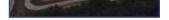
According to the Health Department eating disorders are common. "At least 30 million individuals of all ages, gender identifications, sexual orientations, and races/ ethnicities," the report said, "suffer from EDs in the United States. Research indicates there has been a 30% jump in eating disorder-related hospital admissions among females ages 12-18 during the Covid-19 Pandemic. County Behavioral Health staff have received an increasing flow of client visors signed the first 1-year contract with the Treatment Center for \$540,000 and extended the contract in August 2021 at the increased rate of \$675,000.

This second amendment to the original contract was allowed by the original terms and according to the report, at a 25% increase is in keeping with increases made to other contracts.

But because it's over 25% of the original contract amount, it had to go to Supervisors and not just be automatically approved by the Health Agency Director.

The agency feels this is an important service. "To address the emerging increased need for ED services most effectively, contracts with facilities like Central Coast Treatment Center are necessary. Providing these services will help prevent re-hospitalization and higher system costs for clients

County Contracts Continued on page 16



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Plant Project Continued on page 14

## **County Seeks Input on LOVR Study**

#### By Neil Farrell

The government has many grand plans dealing with the Los Osos Valley Road corridor and the public is invited to give input as agencies try to make sense of all that's been done.

San Luis Obispo County and the SLO Council of Governments (SLOCOG), have launched an inter-active website for the "Los Osos Valley Road Corridor Concept Plan" (see: https://safetyplan.mysocialpinpoint.com/lovr/ home) to take public input.

LOVR is no stranger to this kind of master planning

LOVR Study Continued on page 14











## News Get Ready Now for Disasters



Are you prepared for natural disasters? Would you be OK in the case of a wildfire or worse? Could your family still eat, have safe water to drink? If not, September is the time to get it together.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., is reminding everyone that September is "National Preparedness Month" and the time to make sure you and your family have a plan for when disaster strikes.

National Preparedness Month is a chance "to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time," reads a news release from PG&E, which supplies electricity to much of California directly or indirectly through community energy companies.

"Recent emergencies," the company said, "including the wildfires in Hawaii and Canada, the magnitude 5.1 earthquake in Ojai in Ventura County, and Hurricane Hilary, which prompted the first-ever tropical storm watch in Southern California, remind us that being prepared is critical to keeping safe."

September is also the start of wildfire season here and people should have a plan in place if they have to get out in a hurry ahead of the flames. PG&E put out a number of tips for getting ready for arguably the worse thing that could happen.

The tips will help you prepare your home and family for an emergency, the company said, ways to help seniors prepare for disasters, and advice on how to respond to disasters that occur when you are away from home. Among the goals you should consider with a plan are:

• Create an emergency plan for your family;

• Prepare for power outages;

• Make a list of items you'll need in an emergency including important documents; and,

• Packing "go bags" for every member of your family. PG&E has a special website to help you get organized, see: safetyactioncenter.pge.com.

The VP of emergency response for the company puts it in perspective. "At PG&E we prepare, train and practice emergency response every day," said Angie Gibson, PG&E Vice President, Emergency Preparedness and Response. "We make sure we have the tools and plans we need before disasters strike, so that we can respond safely and quickly. We want our customers to be prepared as well, no matter where they are when an emergency happens.

"Although National Preparedness Month provides a good reminder, proper planning and preparation is a yearround necessity and that's why PG&E offers resources for our customers every day."

Other websites are available if readers aren't too sure about the utility company's advice. See: Ready.gov for "tools and resources to help you and your family prepare emergency plans for yourselves, friends and neighbors;" redcross.org (The American Red Cross), "also offers many tips to help prepare and respond to emergencies; and www. readyforwildfire.org is CalFire's website with preparedness information and more.

## Fire Department Hiring Reserves



The Los Osos Community Services District is nearing the end of a recruitment period for reserve firefighters and the deadline to apply is tomorrow.

The LOCSD's Sta. 15 (managed by the County Fire/ Cal Fire Department, is hiring firefighter reserves to supplement the station's compliment of fulltime firefighters. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22. You have to also provide a current and valid DMV report with your application.

They will give preference to "applicants who are current San Luis Obispo County Paid-Call/Reserve Firefighters and/or proof of accredited Firefighter 1 Academy completion."

Reservists are expected to cover two, 12-hour shifts per month, the department said, attend required training and drills, and return for emergency call backs at Sta. 15 (the South Bay Fire Station) on Bayview Heights Drive.

Get applications and more information in person at the stationhouse, located at 2315 Bayview Heights Dr., Los Osos or online at: www.losososcsd.org/hiring-reserve-firefighters.

The hiring process includes a firefighter physical agility test (details with the application packets), and an oral interview. The final test is a background check. Reserve firefighters are paid to respond to a call out during emergencies or when there are multiple, simultaneous calls. They also sub for a regular firefighter during vacations, sick leave, training or other absences. Experienced reservists sometimes also respond to wildfires in the state as part of multi-engine strike teams.

With the highly competitive nature of the fire service, being a reserve firefighter can help you get in the door to a full time career, along with paramedic training, scholarships for which are often available through local nonprofits. Most fire departments give high consideration to applicants from the reserve corps.

Call Cal Fire Sta. 15 at (805) 528-1053 with questions.

#### **County Has New Evacuation System**

Disaster preparedness and emergency evacuations have grown in importance these days, after the March 2011 Japan tsunami hit local coastal areas, wildfires ravaged the state, and in the continuing face of a potential incident at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

And San Luis Obispo County's fire chiefs have redrawn evacuation zones for emergencies like these and others that might call for widespread evacuations to escape danger.

"Residents of San Luis Obispo County," reads a news release from the County of San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services and the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chiefs Association, "are encouraged to 'know your evacuation zone' as part of the launch of a countywide evacuation planning project."

The new evacuation zones "will assist first responders in rapidly determining evacuation areas during an emergency and allow the public to easily identify if they are in an area under an Evacuation Warning, Evacuation Order or other protective actions." live in. "Go to ReadySLO.org/evaczone" the release said, "and enter your address in the evacuation zone tool. The tool will tell you your zone name."

The County recommends you write down your zone and put it someplace where it can be easily found in an emergency, such as on the refrigerator.

"Taking a minute to write down your evacuation zone could safe your life," said County OES Manager Scott Jalbert, "knowing your zone in advance will save you valuable time during an emergency if you are told to evacuate."

When there is an emergency that requires evacuations, emergency officials will use other methods to contact people for example the Reverse 9-1-1 and wireless emergency alerts, to get the word out. Knowing if an evacuation order or warning pertains to you is where the evacuation zones will come in handy.

"By knowing your evacuation zone in advance," the release said, "you will be ready to respond as soon as your zone is identified."

Also, readers are reminded to put together supplies in advance, such as "go bags" filled with essentials, like clothes, important papers, and food, to have at the ready in case one has to hustle to escape danger.

It should be noted that these evacuation zones are different from the evacuation zones that were established to respond in cases of emergency dealing with the nuclear plant. The County said those evacuation zones are much larger and the new emergency zones dealing with things like tsunamis, are smaller and more focused.

The County OES got a grant from the FireSafe Council and worked with the Fire Chiefs Association to put the program together. Visit: www.readyforwildfire.org

## Armstrong, Nash-Karner Renamed to CBID

County Supervisors have reappointed two members of the Los Osos Tourism Advisory Board to new terms.

Curtis Armstrong and Pandora Nash-Karner were reappointed to the Los Osos Area Advisory Board, a subdivision of the County Business Improvement District (CBID), according to a staff report from the Supervisor's Sept. 12 meeting. Both of their new terms expire July 1, 2025.

The Los Osos Advisory Board is part of the CBID's network of local advisory boards that decide how to spend a special assessment tax the County charges on all lodging businesses located in the unincorporated areas of SLO



Dean Sullivan Owner - Publisher dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor editor@esterobaynews.com

> Neil Farrell Reporter

neil@esterobaynews.com

Residents can save time in an emergency and potentially avoid unnecessary panic when they know the zone they





Shari Sullivan

Marketing Director shari@esterobaynews.com

## Joan Sullivan Judy Salamacha

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County.

The CBID tax is 2% of the cost of a room night (\$2 for a \$100 room), and half the money goes back to the local advisory boards to spend mainly on promoting and supporting the town's special events and that community's lodging businesses. It can also be used for things like community beautification projects.

The other half of the money goes to the CBID's main advisory board, made up of representatives from each of the unincorporated towns that have lodging industries, the biggest being Cambria, Cayucos, and Templeton.

Los Osos, while it doesn't have a lot of motel rooms, has many vacation rentals in town that also collect the CBID fees, as well as a 1.5% per room night fee that goes to the County Tourism Marketing District or TMD.

The TMD assessments are paid by all motels, hotels, private campgrounds and RV parks, B&Bs and vacation rentals in SLO County, no matter if the city is incorporated or not. That money is collected and spent by Visit SLO, which promotes the county as a whole.

An example of something Visit SLO supported would be the Ironman Triathlon that took over Morro Bay for a day back in May. Visit SLO also helped bring the Amgen Tour of California cycling race to SLO County, though that event is now kaput.

#### Honda Point 100th Anniversary Recognition



Pictured are Steve David, U.S. Navy (retired); Scott Mather, MBMM past president and MC for program; Chuck Belmont, U.S. Navy Vice-Admiral Bill Bowes, (retired); Lt. Col. Erik Brun, (retired) curator with the Camp San Luis Military Museum; Dave Thomas, owner of The Shell Shop of Morro Bay and son of Lawrence Thomas, who with Dean Tyler and Ernie Porter received authorization to selvage artifacts off the downed destroyers, including the bell off the USS Young; and U.S. Coast Guard BM-3 Garrett, who presented the colors opening the program with a salute and thank you to all veterans for their service. Photo by Judy Salamacha

By Scott Mather

On September 8, 1923, the US Navy Destroyer Squadron Eleven were performing an exercise that simulated wartime conditions. The goal was to make fast passage from

San Francisco to San Diego, so the decision was made to not slow down despite the heavy fog encountered off the Central Coast. All ships were ordered to travel in close formation and, turning too soon, hit the rocks. Seven destroyers sank. Twenty-three sailors died.

Now remembered as Honda Point, the site is off Point Arguello, on the rocky seacoast near US Space Force and Lompoc, CA. Still known today as the United States Navy worst peace time disaster on record.

On Sunday, September 10, Morro Bay Maritime Museum collaborated with several agencies to commemorate the 100th Anniversary and recognize the brave sailors lost.

The 23 sailors lost and recognized were James W. H. Conway, James T. Pearson and Sofornia Dalida off the USS Delphy and from the USS Young the Ralph K. Buchanan, Clitus A. Reddock, Enrique Torres, Ernest C. Harrison, Edward C. Kirby, Vern R. Van Shaak, Hugh W. Skipper, August Zakrewski, John Young, Henry T. Kirk, Max H. Taylor, Charles A. Salzer, Ernest Johns, James T. Martin, Everett W. Grady, Gordon J. Overshiner, Earl Duncan, Joseph J. Slimak, Wade H. Morris, Leo F. Rogers.



The bell tolled by Jim Blaes of the Estrella Warbirds Museum during the memorial ceremony. Photo by Judy Salamacha

## Woman Arrested in Car Burglary Cases

Sheriff's Deputies have arrested a woman suspected of being involved in more than 2 dozen vehicle burglaries that occurred in the Bob Jones Trailhead parking lot in Avila Beach and the Reservoir Canyon Trailhead parking lot in San Luis Obispo. And deputies are searching for another suspect in connection with the crimes.

In the month of August, deputies received a total of 23 vehicle burglary reports at those two locations.

"Many of these burglaries," Sheriff's Spokesperson, Tony Cipolla said, "resulted in broken vehicle windows and purses and wallets being taken. Deputies conducted a follow up investigation, which resulted in the identification of a suspect, 28-year-old Joy Thompson of Paso Robles. Thompson was arrested for a number of charges including burglary and ID theft.

The department also has a photo of one of the cars believed used by the suspects, a 2012 Honda Elantra, that



Sheriff's deputies believe the 2012 Honda Elantra in this photo was used at several of 23 car burglaries committed in August in the parking lots of two popular hiking trails.

is either light green or possibly silver. The Honda has been seen at the location of several of the burglaries, Cipolla said. Photos of the suspect who is still at large were also released, gleaned from surveillance videos. Unfortunately, these photos are not very good quality.

If anyone has information about the crimes or recognizes the suspect still on the lam, call the Sheriff's Office at

805-781-4550. "The Sheriff's Office," Cipolla said, "wants to remind the public to always keep your valuables with you or place them in the trunk while on the trails."

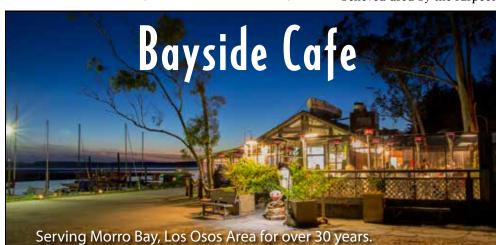
The Bob Jones Trail is a dedicated pedestrian and bike path that runs from Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo, through Avila Valley to Avila Beach. In recent years, it has been at times, overrun with homeless encampments, though there was no mention that the two suspects in these car burglary cases were homeless.

Sheriff's deputies are seeking help identifying this man in connection with over two-dozen car burglaries in Avila Beach and San Luis Obispo.

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## Fund Set Up for Los Osos Woman in Accident



Jenn and Adam James on a ski trip. Photo submitted

Friends of a woman badly injured in an accident have set up a GoFundMe account to help pay for medical expenses.

On August 26 Jenn James's life took a heartbreaking turn during a camping trip in Bend, Oregon. A devastating fall resulted in burst fractures in her T11 and L1 vertebrae, causing internal bleeding and excruciating pain. Jenn, a Los Osos resident for the past two decades, now faces an uncertain path to recovery.

After her injury, Jenn was airlifted to a Level 2 Trauma Center in Bend where she underwent a grueling 5-hour emergency surgery to remove bone fragments that had lodged into her spinal canal. Her medical team has conveyed the uncertainty of whether she will regain her ability to walk.

"Jenn is not just a name on a medical chart," says longtime friend Taylor Wathen. "She is an amazing wife and mother to two sons, as well as a 'ride or die' friend to many. If you ever find yourself needing help, Jenn and her family are always the first ones to show up. Now, we're hoping her community will show up for her."

"Jenn and her family are confronted with mounting medical bills, air transportation costs, and essential rehabilitation expenses," said Wathen. "The uncertainty surrounding insurance coverage only deepens the financial burden. Moreover, Jenn's home will likely require renovations, and there is the possibility she may need assistive devices if she is unable to regain mobility."

As of September 15, Jenn's GoFundMe campaign had seen an outpouring of support from the community, raising an impressive \$27,451— the goal is \$115,678.

"However, Jenn's journey to recovery is an ongoing battle, and the financial challenges ahead are substantial," said Wathen. "More support is needed to ensure that she receives the comprehensive care required to rebuild her life. Every contribution, big or small, brings us one step closer to helping Jenn overcome these challenges, pursue healing, and reclaim the life she deserves."

Readers who want to donate, should go to Jenn's Go-FundMe page at https://gofund.me/8e7a9b21. For more information, contact Taylor Wathen at (805) 748-9504 or taylorwathen@gmail.com.

#### Cleanup Week, Oct. 2-6



The Annual Fall Clean-up Week in the Estero Bay Area is set for the first week of October, the garbage company announced.

Clean-up Week is Monday-Friday, Oct. 2-6 in Morro Bay, Los Osos and Cayucos and readers can take advantage of special rates to clear out some old junk.

"Cleanup Week garbage," a notice from the company said, "may be placed in standard trash cans or tied into bundles. Standard trash containers will be emptied and left on the curb. Boxes and plastic bags will be taken away with your garbage. If you want your non-standard containers left behind, please mark or place a note on them."

Though each community's garbage service falls under a divisional name, i.e. Morro Bay Garbage, San Luis Garbage, Mission Country Disposal, it's all under the same umbrella company — Mission Country Disposal.

There are of course weight limitations and rules to be followed.

"Containers or bundles of garbage," the notice said, "must weigh 75 pounds or less and must measure 4-feet or less in overall length. No hazardous materials will be taken. Garbage, green waste, and recycling combined for six cans, bags, or bundles plus your waste wheelers. "Excess garbage will be left on the curb.

"Six standard trash cans (31-gallons each) or the equivalent in bags, boxes, or bundles. Each not to exceed 75 pounds and 4-feet in length." The company has a few tips to make your garbage experience more palatable.

• Don't use plastic bags in the commingled recycling or green waste cans. Inadvertently someone will throw garbage in with the recycling and contaminate the entire load. Just dump the recycling in the can and throw the bag away.

• Large pieces of cardboard need to be cut up or broken down so they fit in the blue recycle cart. The automated trucks can't pick up loose cardboard. If you need a bigger blue bin call the office (805-543-0875). There is a fee to remove extra cardboard.

• If you forget to put your cans out by 6 a.m. and they have to send a truck back to your house, there will be a trip charge for each commodity.

• It is important to not pack the waste wheeler so tight that when turned upside down, nothing will come out.

As for bulky items, like furniture, the limit is two per customer and rates vary from community to community. Call Mission Country Disposal at least a week before your collection day to schedule this pickup (805-543-0875).

The extra trash has to be out on the curb before 6 a.m. on your pickup day, but don't block the regular waste wheeler cans, because the regular garbage trucks will still be making rounds.

Among the bulky items they will pickup for a fee are: televisions, water heaters, couches, washers, dryers, small appliances, chairs, box springs, mattresses, refrigerators, overstuffed chairs, but no auto parts.

Call 805-543-0875 to arrange pickup (a week ahead of time). Bulky items will not be picked up if you don't call first.



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#### **News Briefs**

#### By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Justice for Survivors Act Clears Legislature

Legislation by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) that will end California's arbitrary civil statute of limitations for minors who have experienced sexual abuse was approved by the State Assembly on a bipartisan basis today. The bill, Assembly Bill 452, now goes to the desk of Governor Gavin Newsom for his consideration.

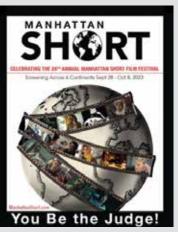
The bill – introduced jointly with Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) – explicitly governs future cases of sexual assault, giving institutions time to prevent future cases of child sexual assault.

"Assembly Bill 452 sets a new standard for institutions with minors under their care – when a child or family reports abuse, do something, don't be a bystander," Addis said. "This commonsense legislation puts abusers and the institutions that harbor them on notice that California won't tolerate childhood sexual assault any longer."

Under current law, survivors who experience sexual assault as minors have until their 40th birthday to seek justice in civil court. Assembly Bill 452 eliminates the deadline to file a civil claim for an incidence of sexual assault that arises on or after January 1, 2024.

Last year, President Joe Biden signed the Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act, which removed statute of limitations for people who were sexually abused as minors to file civil claims in federal courts. Subsequently, numerous states have eliminated the statutes at the state level.

#### Libraries to Host Worldwide Film Festival



Film lovers in San Luis Obispo County are invited to join over 100,000 film enthusiasts around the world Sept. 28 - Oct. 8 for the 26th Annual Manhatten Short Film Festival. Atascadero, Cambria, Morro Bay, Nipomo, and San Luis Obispo libraries will host screenings where viewers vote for their favorites.

The short films screen simultaneously across the world during a one-week period, with the Best Film and Best Actor awards determined by ballots cast by the audiences in each participating venue. By virtue of their selection by Manhattan Short, each short film is automatically Oscar-qualified.

Global audiences will vote on selections from seven countries: "Sunless" (USA), "Voice Activated" (Australia), "Yellow" (Afghanistan), "Tuulikki" (Finland), "The Family Circus" (USA), "Career Day" (USA), "Sn ail: (Iran), "The Record" (Switzerland),"The Stupid Boy" (UK), "Soleil De Nuit" (Canada). Winners will be announced at ManhattanShort.com on Monday, Oct 9.

#### The Manhattan Short runs:

• Saturday, Sept. 30, at 1:30 p.m. at the Nipomo Library

• Saturday, Sept. 30, at 2:00 p.m. at the Atascadero Library

• Tuesday, Oct. 3, at noon, at the San Luis Obispo Library

• Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 3 - 4, at 3:30 p.m. at the Cambria Library

• Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Library

• Friday, Oct. 6, at 1:30 p.m. at the Morro Bay Library.

Visit SLOLibrary.org for more information about Library programs and events.

## Supporting Women and Girls Period

The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls in San Luis Obispo is conducting a drive for feminine hygiene product along with incontinence products. The drive is from October 10-14. The Commission is partnering with the County Library system as the location to receive the community donations. You can drop off product at any library in San Luis Obispo County.

All products received will go to the distributing agencies within our county.

Alliance for Period Supplies report, 1 in 4 women in the United States struggles to purchase period products due to lack of income, and 1 in 5 low-income women reports missing work, school or similar commitments due to lack of access to period supplies. A 2019 Harris Interactive poll of 2,000 U.S. teens aged 13 to 19 found that 84% have either missed class time or know someone who missed class time because they did not have access to period products, 20% have struggled to afford period products or were not able to purchase them at all, and 61% have worn a tampon or pad for more than 4 hours because they did not have enough access to period products, which puts them at risk of infection and toxic shock syndrome.

"We in the USA are living longer so many of our people from low-income households as well as our homeless population need incontinence products," orginizers said. "As people age, many if not most develop a problem on some level of severity with incontinence. Many seniors are on fixed incomes, which often makes it difficult to afford senior incontinence products."

### Road Delays for Repairs of Oceano Levee



Tired of swimming to your destination in parts of the Five Cities during the rainy season?

Construction activity began in Oceano's Flood Control Zone 1/1A along the Arroyo Grande Creek channel and levees and will continue the next several months. Construction crews are working throughout the length of the creek to implement the first phase intended to address the flow characteristics of the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel through vegetation and sediment removal to restore capacity and flood protection to the surrounding community to pre-2022-2023 winter storm conditions. Phase II will consist of levee repairs from damages caused by overtopping and seepage during the 2022-2023 winter storms.

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



## Community Lions Give Away Three Cars; Help War Refugees



The Morro Bay Lions Foundation recently gave away three used cars to some folks in need of reliable transportation. Among them are two women and a refugee family from Ukraine.

#### By Neil Farrell

Some deserving people — including a refugee family from Ukraine — benefitted from a bit of old-fashioned horse-trading by the Morro Bay Lions Foundation and the club's free car giveaway program.

Begun in 2014, Lion Bill Todd said they have now given away 43 cars to deserving people in need of transportation.

He smiles ear-to-ear as he explains that a 1991 RV in near new condition was donated to the Lion's program. It was recently auctioned off raising \$9,000, he said. They were also given a 2009 Toyota Sierra mini van, which Todd said they sold to raise \$5,300 more for the program.

"That's how we were able to buy these three cars," Todd said, referring to the trio of shiny vehicles parked in the driveway of Todd's Garage on Quintana Road. "And money was also put into the 'Feed the Hungry' program."

That's a nickname the Lions have for the weekly, Monday Night Free Community Dinners the club organizes along with other local organizations and volunteers (held every Monday at the Vet's Hall).

Todd said they bought and were now giving away a 2002 Toyota Camry, a 2006 Honda Civic, and a 1991 Buick Park Avenue luxury sedan, which Todd laughingly called "a boat."

All of the cars were gone through mechanically by Bill Todd and his son Mike Todd, including smog checks before being given away.

Recipients pledge to register and insure the cars and keep up the maintenance on them.

This time they worked with some other organizations, Todd explained, SLO4Homes, CAP-SLO and Hopes Village, to select the recipients.

Carol Perez of San Luis Obispo was given the Camry. She was nominated by her friend Vicki Jorgensen of Hope's Village, she explained. The Camry will make her life so



Carol Perez of San Luis Obispo was given a 2002 Toyota Camry by the Lions Foundation.

much easier.

Perez said her old car "died" and she's been scrambling to find transportation for quite some time now. She rides the bus and gets help from friends but the bus schedule isn't always workable.

For instance, on Labor Day she was supposed to work but the buses didn't run that day, so she missed a whole day of work.

Perez said Jorgensen had nominated her in August and just a month later, " here we are. I was lucky. I am so grateful to everyone for this."

The Civic went to a Ukrainian Family that fled the war with Russia and is being assisted with finding work, housing, a job (and now a car) by SLO4Home.

The group's president, Vance Rodgers, nominated the Motornyi Family father Alex, mom Victoria and their young daughter, Anna.

Rodgers said the organization is helping seven refugee families right now from Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. "All of their lives were threatened," he said.

The Motornyis were very grateful at everything people have done for them since they arrived here. "Our family," Alex said to the assembled Lions and other well-wishers, "really appreciates everything and are incredibly grateful for everything." To find out more about SLO4Home, see the website at: SLO-



Morro Bay resident, Lisa Abbattista, received the keys to a beautiful, 1991 Buick Park Avenue by the Lions Foundation.





The Motornyi Family — Victoria, Alex and little Anna — refugees from Ukraine, pose with SLO4Home President, Vance Rodgers and the 2006 Honda Civic they got from the Lions Foundation.

4Home.org.

The Buick boat was given to Lisa Abbattista, a Morro Bay resident who works at the Prado Road Homeless Center for CAP-SLO, which nominated her for the program.

She moved to Morro Bay and didn't have a car, she said, which was fine until she got the job at the shelter, which she loves and wants to continue with.

"You need a car," she said, "with my job." She'll now be able to do much more to help the folks at Prado, like giving rides, picking up donations, hauling things around (the Buick is a 4-door) and more.

around (the Buick is a 4-door) get a lot of mileage from and more. She was almost at a loss for words. "This is like... you have no idea what this car will do for me. I'm going to be

able to do so much more." Though it's old, and has nearly 200,000 miles on it, the Buick is immaculate and quite luxurious and the Todd boys made sure it's running great.

It has big comfortable, leather seats but just a regular old, AM/FM radio. According to one Lion, who took it for a washing, it runs great and is very quite. It was top-of-theline in its day.

If readers or someone they know is in need of reliable transportation, they might apply for the program through the Community Resource Connections, a Morro Bay non-profit agency with an office at 695 Harbor St. (call 805-225-1991). The Community Resource Connections assists people in Morro Bay to connect with available resources. They've been partnering with Bill and Mike Todd on the car give away program since the start, with the Lions Foundation soon joining them. See the website at: www. communityresourceconnections.net.

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Her momma and papa got a car

little Anna Motornyi got a stuffed

from the Lions Foundation but

Lion, which while she won't be

able to drive, will no doubt still





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## Events Activities ◎ 哈肖月 00 @

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The 39+ Dance Club is a non-profit organization that L strives to provide a safe space for seniors to visit with their old friends and make new ones; and to listen to their favorite music and dance. We meet every last Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Lane, Morro Bay. For more information call 805-471-0895, The next dance is Wednesday, September 27, 2023.



n September 23, 2023 Na Mele O Ke Kai of San Luis Obispo and Hula Anyone of Santa Barbara, a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit organization, present LOKAHI, Coming Together, with six-time Na Hoku Hanohano Award winning Hawaiian music group, WAIPUNA! The concert also features Grammy nominated artist, Walt Keale. The beautiful dancers of Na Mele O Ke Kai and Hula Anyone will perform throughout the evening. These two schools, specializing in the art form of the hula, are committed to helping to preserve and perpetuate the culture and traditions of Hawai'i and to bring about a greater understanding and appreciation for the culture and diversity of the islands.

This promises to be a hula, Hawaiian music and funtime extravaganza. If you love Hawaiian music then you must not miss LOKAHI! Doors open at 6:00 pm for raffle and wine tasting at the Harold J. Miossi CPAC at Cuesta College, SLO. Concert starts at 7:00 pm. All tickets are general seating \$35. Parking in Lot2A included with admission; no permit necessary. Tickets and info 805-242-6878 or Tickets.Cuesta.edu (on-line fees apply).



#### PHOTO Lightbulb

Join a two-part public service event in the SLO Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, where participants will hear about the many ways to electrify your life at home. You will learn how to get started on the path to an electric lifestyle, access resources available to help, and talk with those who have made the switch.

A variety of vendors and organizations will be represented, offering valuable information about the financial incentives and technical assistance available for going electric. The second half of the event will be outside in the Farmers' Market, where EV owners will showcase their cars, answer questions, and discuss the many advantages of driving electric.

#### Speakers at the Expo include:

· Andy Pease, City Councilmember and Green Building consultant

 Alexa Colon, Regional Rep for Electriq Power, presenting the PoweredUp SLO program, installing no-cost solar and battery systems for SLO county residents

Gray Gautereaux of 3C-REN, presenting a primer on the how-tos of home electrification and an overview of the financial incentives and technical assistance available

Doors open at 4 p.m. for registration, refreshments, and vendor tables. The program begins at 4:25 p.m. and will wrap up by 5:45 p.m. Vendor tables will stay open until 6 p.m. An EV showcase will follow on Chorro Street from 6 p.m.- p.m. Seating is limited. Advanced Registration is required at Eventbrite.com.

oin Rouvaishyana and other astronomers at Harmony Headlands at 7 p.m. on October 12 for an Astronomy Event at Harmony Headlands. Learn about celestial navigation and gaze at stars and deep space objects. Learn how birds and Hawaiian navigators use the stars to navigate. Look at star charts and planispheres to understand the perceptual fields needed for navigation. Then view the night

sky to look at stars and deep space objects using telescopes. You may also bring binoculars or spotting scopes.

This event is co-sponsored by the Cayucos Land Conservancy and Central Coast State Parks and will also be joined by docent Robin Hazard. Be sure to arrive at the ranch-house site, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile up the Harmony Headlands trail by 7 p.m. Bring a flashlight (preferably covered with red film to avoid interfering with the star gazing) and wear warm clothes and good walking shoes. You may consider bringing a chair, a thermos or water bottle and binoculars or a scope.

There are limited slots for this event, so please RSVP to hello@cayucoslandconservancy.org.



he Cayucos Historical Society is Happy to announce the return of their high successful and entertaining History Night on Friday, October 6 at 7 p.m. at Cayucos Elementary School, 301 Cayucos Drive.

The featured speaker is Jim Gregory, Arroyo Grande native, author and historian. Admission is free and cookies will be provided.

For information contact, Lou Smith at 805.235.2176 or cayucoshistorical@gmail.com. Photo courtesy of Cayucos Historical Society

Have you got some talent to show off or a hankering for good chili?

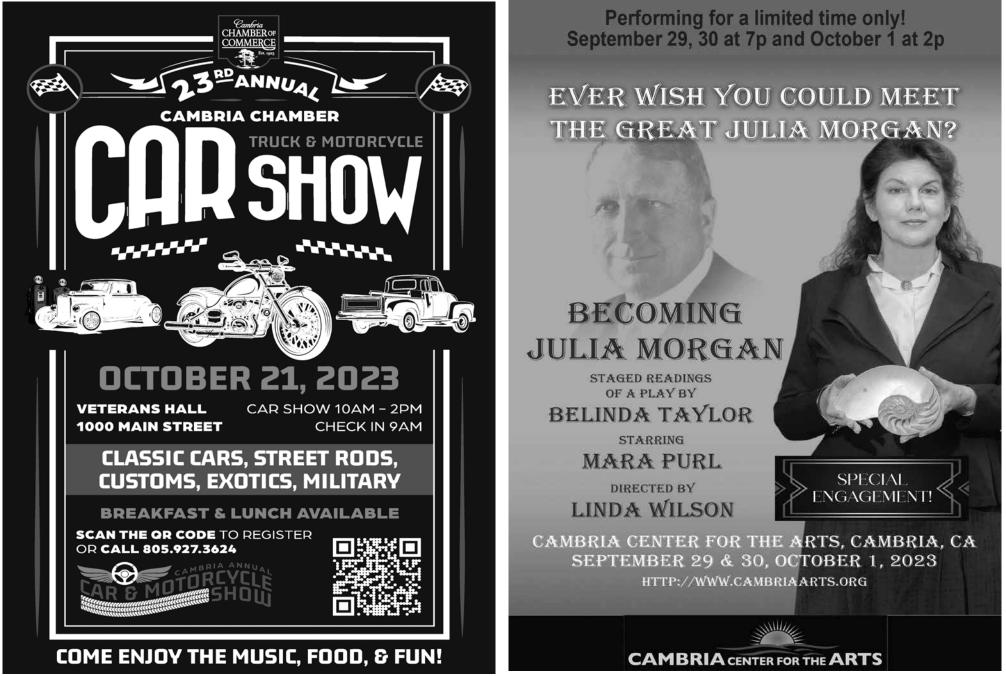
Trinity United Methodist Church in Los Osos is holding a Talent Show and Chili Cook-off fundraiser benefitting a music scholarship fund and to support the church's music ministry.

Trinity UMC, located at 490 Los Osos Valley Road (corner of LOVR and Pine Avenue), is having the event at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20.

If performing is your thing, the church says to come on down for the chance to present your skills. "We welcome talents and skillsets of all varieties," reads an announcement on the church's website (see: trinitylososos.org).

Chili cooks can bring a pot of their finest concoction and the eats will be ongoing with the talent show. "A vote

Events Continued on page 9



# **Police Blotter**



• Sept. 5: Police responded to the 800 block of Quintana Rd., for a reported grand theft, as a citizen was no doubt shocked to find his generator had been pilfered.

• Sept. 4: Someone found something somewhere near Beachcomber and Yerba Buena some time ago and somehow decided police should have it.

• Sept. 4: At 5:54 p.m. police espied a wanted woman, 49, hanging around the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd. She had a warrant, which warranted a ride to the hoosegow.

• Sept. 4: At 5 p.m. police ventured to the 700 block of Quintana and the Creek Bed Estates, where they apprehended a desperate fugitive, 44, with a bench warrant. They also allegedly found drug paraphernalia in his pocket but his stash apparently eluded them.

• Sept. 4: At 10:48 a.m. police responded to the 700 block of Quintana on their daily pilgrimage into Dante's Inferno where they nicked a 42-year-old mulish apparent ruffian for violating a domestic violence restraining order.

• Sept. 4: Police at 12:24 a.m. spotted a 38-year-old swizzle stick traipsing down the 800 block of MBB. The apparent train wreck was nicked for being drunk off her caboose.

• Sept. 3: Police responded to a pressing matter in the 400 block of Napa where a car hitched up to a trailer was partially blocking the driveway to a trailer park. The poor trailer's registration expired back in the Bush Administration, some 16 years ago.

• Sept. 2: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:24 p.m. in the 1000 block of Main for some undisclosed code violation. Logs indicated the 39-year-old driver had three arrest warrants and a suspended license, nevertheless he

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was cited again and released.

• Sept. 2: Police responded at 11 p.m. to a disturbance in the 200 block of Dunes. Logs indicated a 46-year-old mother of the year was arrested for suspicion of child endangerment.

• Sept. 1: Police took a vandalism report at a senior facility on Teresa Drive.

• Sept. 1: At 2:11 p.m. police towed an offensive vehicle from the 900 block of Napa because the DMV was overdue its annual pound of flesh.

• Sept. 1: Some scoundrel stole the license plate off a vehicle in the 300 block of Fairview or maybe it fell off, who knows?

• **Sept. 1:** Police contacted a regular customer at 8:39 a.m. in the 200 block of Beach and cited her for being a no-show in court, a heck of a way to start the morning.

• Aug. 31: Someone in the 500 block of Harbor told police about illegal activity with a firearm by hooligans in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. A crime report for the criminal storage of a firearm: third degree, was begun. • Aug. 30: Police responded at 4 p.m. to a disturbance in the 500 block of Harbor. Logs indicated they contacted a 40-year-old apparent Mamaluke going a little wool-

ly-booger. The clown was tossed in the tank to sleep it off. • Aug. 30: Someone turned in a cell phone they found somewhere in town.

• Aug. 30: Police took a late report of an alleged domestic violence case in the 2000 block of Seaview.

• Aug. 30: Police responded at 11 a.m. to the 1000 block of Front St., for an injured bicyclist report, which surprisingly doesn't happen every day given the inattentive waterfront traffic.

## **Local RV Camping: Plaskett Creek**



By Debbie Black

hhhh. Relax, unplug, reconnect with Nature, family, A and friends. Plaskett Creek Campground is idyllictruly southern Big Sur camping at its most sublime. We just spent six glorious days there feeling our blood pressure drop each day, which is why it's one of our favorite local getaways.

A short 1.5 hour drive up the coast from Estero Bay, this forest service campground is known for its natural beauty — a grassy green meadow surrounded by generous campsites under mature trees. Sand Dollar Beach (longest



Plaskett Creek Campground in southern Big Sur offers spacious, grassy campsites. Photo by Debbie Black

beach in Big Sur) is right across Hwy. 1 and a go-to surf spot for all Central Coast surfers.



Across from Plaskett Creek Campground is Sand Dollar Beach, the longest beach in Big Sur. Great for surfing, walking or just hanging out. Photo by Debbie Black

Plaskett Creek has an organic, rustic Big Sur vibe with predominantly tent campers, camper vans, pop-ups and a few Class Cs though Class As, and fifth-wheels can fit in many sites. You'll see lots of surfers, couples, groups of friends in their thirties, young families with kids, bikers and hikers. There are no hookups, no dump station, no showers, and no cell reception or WIFI. If you're okay with that, please read on.

There are 44 campsites. Not a bad one in the entire campground—only good, better and best. The asphalt pads may need a little leveling (2"-5"). Each site has a fire pit/ grill and picnic table. Restrooms are clean with flush toilets (group camps have chemical toilets). Watch for poison oak around the perimeter campsites and along the path to the beach. Firewood can usually be purchased from the camp hosts

There are no grocery stores nearby. Plan to bring everything you'll need including a full tank of water. No water fill-up station for RVs but several water spigots throughout camp (water bandit required). Make sure your black/gray tanks are empty. The closest dump station is San Simeon State Park, forty miles south.

If we camp carefully, using campground toilets, some water from camp spigots, and Luci lights for evening illumination, we can dry camp for six days, five nights. We have four house batteries and a 100w solar panel on the roof but Out and About Continued on page 15



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



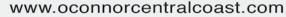
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Events From page 7

will be taken during the talent show to determine the best recipe of the evening," the notice said.

All donations will support the Barbara Hoff Music Scholarship and the Music Ministry Program at Trinity UMC. To enter, email the church office at: church@trinitylosos.org or call 805-528-1649, to secure entry or to RSVP by Oct. 8.

••



The Cal Poly Music Department's 2023-24 season will feature guest artists, faculty members and its premier student-musicians. Fall quarter's guests include Boston Brass and composer-performer Matt Sargent.

On Oct. 13, Matt Sargent will perform new guitar works with electronics. Sargent is a composer, guitarist, recording engineer and music technologist based in upstate New York, where he is an assistant professor of music at Bard College, a private liberal arts college in the hamlet of Annandale-on-Hudson in New York state. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The Oct. 20 Faculty Showcase Recital, part of Cal Poly's Mustang Family Weekend, will include cellist Megan Chartier; clarinetist Sarra Hey-Folick; pianists Idona Cabrinha, Janet Joichi and Paul Woodring; vocalists Jennifer Freye and Inga Swearingen; percussionist John Astaire on cimbalom; and tubist Stephen Nutt. Admission will be charged at the door.

Boston Brass will be the featured guest ensemble of the Cal Poly Bands for Bandfest on Nov. 9. For 35 years, Boston Brass has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience by performing everything from exciting classical arrangements to burning jazz standards. Cal Poly's Mustang Band, Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra will all perform, and there will be a Veterans Day tribute. Tickets are on sale from the Cal Poly Ticket Office.

#### • • •

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: Animal Bones from Fayla Chapman • 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.

• Poetry Night - Wednesday, October 4, 6:30-8 p.m. Join us on Zoom for a night of poetry celebrating "Water." Poets Samuel Duarte and Laure-Anne Bosselaar will present their original poetical works, followed by an open mic.

• Cartoon Club - Friday, October 6, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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

#### . . .

SLO Skiers, a local, non-profit sports and social club for adults is

having its next monthly meeting at Dairy Creek Golf Course Clubhouse in

San Luis Obispo at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, October 4. Meetings are free





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Meeting follows. Social and sports activities occur year around.

...

Take the workshop Art Applied to Everyday Life – Hand Painted Table with Carol Maniputy on Saturday, October 14 from 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street.

During this workshop, students will be immersed into a philosophy of creating beauty from everyday objects. This surprisingly fun workshop starts with all of the supplies needed to make



beautiful art designs on foldable tray tables. Students can complete one project during the workshop and take home their new table and purchased art supplies for ongoing projects at home!

Carol Maniputy is the owner of Peaceful Planet Images, a design team that includes her husband, Richard and son, Ethan. They have designed textiles, murals, paintings, and sculptures for hospitals, schools, and other public buildings, and private commissions, throughout California since 1986. Carol was born in Rochester, NY, and holds a BA in Applied Art and Design from Cal Poly. She has taught at the SLO Art Center, at public and private schools in SLO county, and in their studio located in Los Osos.

Connect with other artists and learn the basic skills and camaraderie of learning to add great design and artwork to a personal table. This workshop is designed for beginner to intermediate artists.

Online Registration is \$60 for members and \$65 for non-members, plus \$50 art supply fee paid to instructor the day of workshop. For more information or to pre-register for the class, call 805-772-2504 or go to http://www. artcentermorrobay.org. Last Day of Registration: 9-30-2023. Image by Carol Maniputy

#### ...

Central Coast Harmony; a Sweet Adeline International Chorus, invites you to enjoy a delightful blend of sweet four-part a cappella harmony on Saturday September 23. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. and the show begins at 4 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, 959 Valley Rd, (corner of Los Berros and Valley Rd) in Arroyo Grande.

Admission is free, and all donations are gratefully accepted. Central Coast Harmony is a new ensemble with a long legacy of providing community entertainment. Formed a year ago by merging two choruses: Pacific Horizon Chorus of San Luis Obispo and Tri City Sound Chorus of Santa Maria, both groups have over 60 years of experience celebrating harmony in communities all over the Central Coast. Under the direction of the talented mom and son team, Kim and Logan Patrick-Miernicki, Central **Events** Continued on page10





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#### Events From page 9

Coast Harmony is an education-focused A Cappella chorus of Sweet Adelines International, which welcomes women with all levels of musical ability who love to sing. The ability to read music is not required. Weekly rehearsals are held Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Nipomo Senior Center, located at 200 E. Dana Street, Nipomo. This centrally located rehearsal venue serves members who reside from Paso Robles in Northern San Luis Obispo County to Lompoc in Santa Barbara County. For more information, call: (805) 736-7572.





The Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum will celebrate its 21st anniversary with a Stars and Stripes Celebration Dinner on October 8 from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Memorial Building (SLO Vets Hall).

Tickets are still available for this USO-themed BBQ dinner with appetizers, drinks, live music performed by the Royal Garden Swing Orchestra, swing dance performed by Cal Poly Ballroom Dance team, a singing performance, WWII history exhibit, and raffle tables. All proceeds support the local veterans museum located at 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 102 in San Luis Obispo, in support of keeping their history education programs and events FREE to veterans and community.

Included in the event is a short program about the museum with certificate presentation from the U.S. Library of Congress (LOC) to recognize the Veterans Museum's significant contribution to the nationwide Veterans History Project. Tickets are \$75 each available for purchase online, or reserve tickets and mail a check. Purchase tickets, learn more, or make a small donation of any amount to the museum's 21 Year Campaign at www.vetmuseum.org

Visit the Central Coast Veterans Museum in San Luis Obispo from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Limited holiday hours. Closed from late December to early January.

Take a Gelli Printing Workshop at Art Center Morro Bay on Oct. 7 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. In this hands-on class, Judy Knott will walk you through several gelli plate printing exercises to create beautiful papers that can be used in collages and abstract paintings. During the first hour, Judy will be demonstrating



different gelli plate printing techniques. During the second hour, students will play/practice their own techniques for making prints. The rest of the time will be spent creating abstract pieces on different grounds such as Christmas ornaments, paper bags, greeting cards or other frameable pieces.

The instructor will provide the following materials: paints, palette, paper, stencils, brushes, stamps and other tools for making marks, greeting card blanks, and other grounds on which to create artwork. Some instruction will Non-members are \$100 plus \$15 materials fee payable to instructor on the day of the class.

••

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.

## Community to Celebrate Morro Bay Peace Month



By Ruth Ann Angus

Established by Morro Bay City Council proclamations in 2018 and 2022, the month of September is Peace Month in Morro Bay and September 21 is Peace Day. The 21st is designated as International Peace Day worldwide by the United Nations with a request for countries and people to abstain from conflict on that day. Each year since 2017 International Peace Day has been honored by events in Morro Bay and surrounding cities. The United Nations assigns a theme each year and this year's theme is "Actions for Peace: Our Ambitions for the Global Goals."

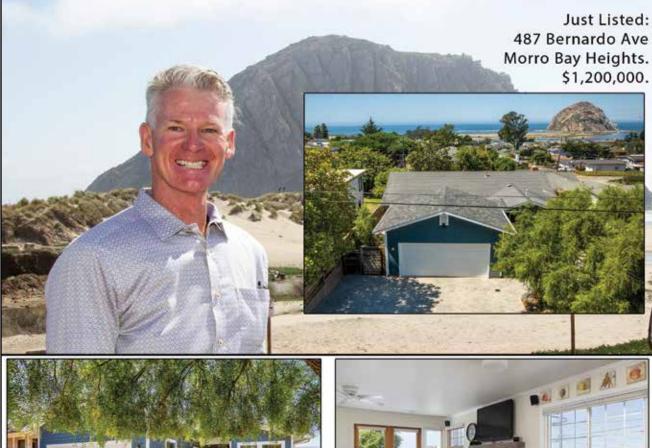
The United Nations is asking people to take a long hard look at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were unanimously adopted in 2015 by all 193 member nations of the UN. These goals ask for all countries, whether developing or developed, to strive for achievement of the goals as a national domestic and international policy priority by 2030. We are now at approximately the halfway point and reassessment is needed at all government levels, especially here at the city and county levels that address the systemic transformations needed to end poverty and save the planet.

The community is invited to celebrate Morro Bay Peace Day and International Peace Day on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 11 a.m. around the Peace Pole at the Estero Bay United Methodist Church, 3000 Hemlock Avenue, Morro Bay. A short program about the Sustainable Development Goals and how communities are reaching them will take place.

There will also be an introduction to the new Central Coast Center for an Ecological Civilization, which adheres to the recognition that humans are part of nature, not separate from it. That there can be a culture of sustainability not perpetual GDP growth. Recognizing that our present path is not sustainable, and we use much more of the planet's resources than can be replaced, we educate so that humans will not just avoid harm to the Earth and nature but actively regenerate and sustain its health. In an ecological civilization, natural ecosystems are models for the relationship of humans with each other and with nature. Organizers believe there will be a mutually beneficial relationship between the members of society and between humans and nature. Society will be community oriented, not based on accumulation of individual wealth.

Morro Bay is designated as a Nonviolent City through the national Nonviolent Cities Project.

## **New Morro Bay Heights Listing**



be given about composition using mats.

Last day of registration: 9/30/2023. To register and see the supply list, go to https://bit.ly/44Z9kZs. The cost for MBAA members is \$80 plus \$15 materials fee payable to instructor on the day of the class.



10



Located in the coveted Morro Bay Heights, this single level 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 1,287 sqft home is a sanctuary of coastal living. With panoramic views of both the bay and ocean, beautifully updated interior and landscaping this property is turnkey and offers a lifestyle of tranquility and natural beauty.



## **Obituaries Hayley Elizabeth Perucca** 2004-2023



Hayley Elizabeth Perucca was born in San Luis Obispo on June 4, 2004. She passed suddenly and unexpectedly at age 19 on July 26, 2023, of an ambulism. From the moment she was born, her inner joy and love seemed to shine and it only grew stronger with time. Hayley never had a shortage of friends who wanted to spend time with her.

Hayley loved the outdoors and sports. She excelled at any sport that she tried, especially wrestling wherein she was undefeated for two years straight and cheerleading wherein she was scouted by recruiters for the S.F. 49ers Cheerleading Squad. When she was outdoors she let her free spirit soar. She loved all animals and was given to bring home the occasional stray or two.

Hayley is survived by her parents Brent and Sabine Perucca as well as her older brother Antoni Perucca (22) and younger brother Perry Perucca (12). She is also survived by her maternal grandparents, Jack and Wanda Shoulders, and paternal grandmother, Louise Murdo, as well as her uncle Thomas Shoulders and uncle Erik Perucca in addition to various aunts and cousins.

A graveside service was held Sept. 12 at Old Mission Cemetery in San Luis Obispo.

## Paul Joseph "Siggy" Sigmund



Paul Joseph "Siggy" Sigmund passed away in Nampa, Idaho, on August 31, 2023, at the age of 67. He was a long-time resident of the Central Coast and grew up in Cayucos with his eight siblings.

Paul was a colorful character, who rejoiced in being stubborn. He loved to laugh and had two volumes, loud and louder. A man ahead of his time, he popularized athleisure wear before it was cool and believed that sweatpants or shorts were fancy enough for any occasion.

He loved sports, especially golf; grilling on his barbecue; and music. Paul was also passionate about environmental conservation, so if you are reading this in the newspaper, please recycle the paper in his honor. Above all else, he adored his daughters Danielle, Regina, and Kristina.

Paul disliked funerals, so instead we will be celebrating his life with a barbecue potluck on October 1, 2023, at the Red Barn at the Los Osos Community Park from 11 am to 2 pm. Please feel free to join us with your favorite dish and story about Siggv.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) at https://www.ecoslo.org/donate.



#### By Theresa-Marie Wilson

ur local listener operated community radio station, 97.3/107.9 The Rock, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a free concert and silent Auction.

The 10th Anniversary "BFD" Fundraiser Concert invades the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, on October 28 starting at 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured acts include Mesa Bluemoon recording artist

Dulcie Taylor, Jill Knight, Unfinished Business and Murder Hornets.

In addition to the musical entertainment, there will be an "incredible" silent auction, which accounts for 50% of The Rock's yearly operating budget.

"This unlikely community radio station exists because the community supports it through donations and services," said The Rock founder Hal Abrams. "It takes a village!"



The Rock President, Robert Moynier, reminds local businesses that it's time to step up and show support for community radio by making a tax-deductible product or service donation to the silent auction.

The evening includes great Mexican and Mediterranean food, wine from local cellars and freshly tapped beer from Firestone.

## **College of Engineering Faculty Members** Honored



Fleischer

Finger

Three Cal Poly faculty members considered to be national trailblazers have been selected as 2023 Society of Women Engineers award recipients for their significant contributions to the promotion of gender diversity and inclusion in STEM.

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) honorees include Amy S. Fleischer, College of Engineering dean; Lizabeth Thompson, General Engineering Program director and industrial engineering professor; and Helene Finger, Cal Poly's Women's Engineering Program director.

"These exceptional faculty members have not only excelled in their fields but have also empowered women and made significant strides toward achieving gender parity and equality within engineering," said Zoë Wood, College of Engineering associate dean for diversity and student success. "Their unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion is an inspiration to us all."

Civil engineering master's student Isabell Chavez and aerospace engineering senior Payton Porter also will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to SWE, Cal Poly and the community.

Awards will be handed out during WE23, the world's largest conference and career fair for women engineers and technologists, Oct. 26-28 in Los Angeles.

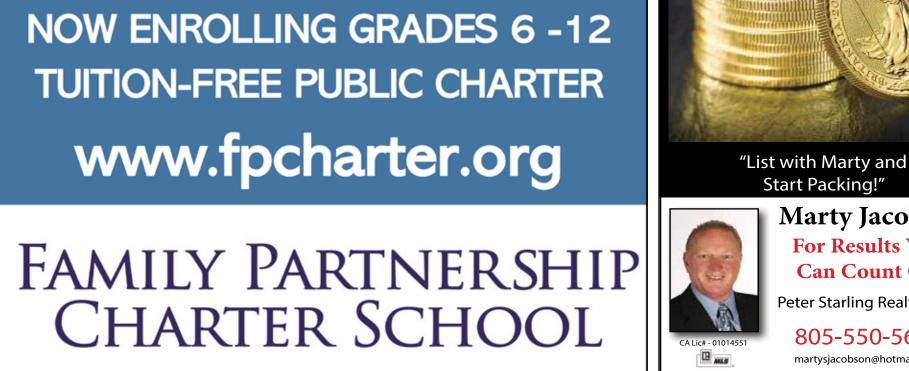
Fleischer, Thompson and Finger were chosen from among change-makers across the country, with their specific awards.

Fleischer was recognized as the national recipient of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program Award for exceptional leadership in creating a more inclusive community for those in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. She has served as dean of the College of Engineering since 2018, setting the strategic direction of the college and overseeing nine departments, 14 degree programs, 220 full-time faculty, 55 staff and 6,000 students.

#### Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 13

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Takin' Care of Business From page 11

Under her leadership, the College of Engineering has worked to transform its demographics to better mirror those of California's K-12 population. Over the past five years, the college's first-year cohort has moved to 33% women students from 26% and to 25% Hispanic/Latino from 12.5%, empowering a broader demographic of students to contribute to the future of engineering.

Recently, Fleischer brought together more than 1,600 stakeholders to create the 2023-28 College of Engineering Strategic Plan, which integrates the college's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion into its mission, vision and goals, focusing on inclusive pedagogy to create a sense of belonging in the field of engineering.

Thompson was named one of the two national recipients of the Distinguished Engineering Educator Award for her notable impact in engineering, highlighting her dedication and expertise.

Over her 30-year career at Cal Poly, Thompson has influenced hundreds of students directly in her industrial engineering classes and as faculty adviser to clubs including Engineers Without Borders and Cal Poly's newly formed Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (oSTEM) chapter, which supports LGBTQ+ students in STEM fields. She also has created pathways for academically talented undergraduates from low-income backgrounds transferring from neighboring community colleges into Cal Poly.

Thompson has raised \$9.8 million in grant funding since 2011 to research engineering education methods that improve successful outcomes for underrepresented students, and she remains dedicated to building an educational ecosystem that reflects and celebrates the diversity of its inhabitants.

Finger joins the elite ranks of SWE Fellows, selected as only one of four individuals bestowed with the distinction this year. The title acknowledges her effect on SWE and the wider engineering community.

Finger has led Cal Poly's Women's Engineering Program, or WEP, for 25 years and has received multiple national awards, including from the American Society for Engineering Educators, for her work to promote diversity in the industry. In addition, she was named one of SWE's national advisers of the year.

She has taught in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department since 1997 and has spent countless hours mentoring and helping female students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, succeed at Cal Poly

"SWE awards provide a platform to elevate and highlight career, academic and service achievements of

engineers and technologists that advance the mission of SWE through inspiring others," said SWE President Alexis McKittrick. "These award winners are shining examples for our members and the entire engineering community."

SWE, a not-for-profit educational and service organization, has given women engineers a unique place and voice within the engineering industry for more than seven decades. For more information, visit swe.org.

## **Summer Special on Cat and Kittens**



t is summer kitten season, and the Feline Network of Lthe Central Coast has many adorable cats and kittens available for adoption. All are spayed or neutered, tested, microchipped, and vaccinated.

The summer special adoption fee is \$100 for one kitten, adopt two kittens, the second one is \$50!

"There is no better way to end the summer than to adopt a cute, cuddly, adorable kitten," said Feline Network volunteer, Kristin Perl. "And if you want double the fun, we give a discount for a pair of kittens."

The Feline Network is an all-volunteer, non-profit humane organization established to reduce cat overpopulation through spaying and neutering, public education and the rescue of homeless cats and kittens and place them in permanent homes. The Feline Network does not have a shelter; they have adoptable cats and kittens available through their foster care program. Call Adoption Coordinator Kristin Perl, for more information at 805-550-9064. See all of the cats and kittens available at www.felinenetwork.org.

## **Morro Bay Self Storage Ribbon Cutting**



he Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon L cutting with Morro Bay Self Storage's Ribbon Cutting on September 5.

The company offers a secure storage facility, equipped with state-of-the-art features that ensure peace of mind 1111 Allesandro Street in Morro Bay. They can be reached at 805.772.7002.

Pictured are Jon Elliot, Ray Riordan, Brittani Lambert, owners Justine Peterson and Adam Peterson, and Lisa Babb.

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.







#### Plant Project From page 1

The RFP, issued by Fire Chief Daniel McCrain, seeks "a proposal from qualified firms, consultants, or individuals to submit written proposals to collect, analyze and manage objective data that the City of Morro Bay can use in making decisions regarding a proposed battery energy storage system, including its safety element design, emergency planning, and hazard mitigation."

The winning bidder is expected to be paid by Vistra, which signed an agreement with the City to reimburse for all of the project's review costs, and safety designs and emergency planning promises to be a big part of that.

Already the City's environmental consultant has been working on an EIR, which is expected to be released sometime around the end of this year or in early in 2024.

Chief McCrain told Estero Bay News that, "The purpose of this RFP is to have an objective, qualified consultant that can review and provide feedback on documents provided by Vistra throughout the permitting process.

"This review is specifically related to fire and life safety components of the project and is separate from the EIR but may be utilized to provide review of the EIR documents as well.

"There will be other documents and reports that will require evaluation by the Fire Department for fire and life safety considerations as this project proceeds through the planning and approval process. Having the ability to utilize industry experts to evaluate and provide recommendations will help to ensure that this project is thoroughly vetted from a safety standpoint."

No budget was listed in the RFP and such contracts essentially for professional services normally don't have a budget going in, instead, the main concern is qualifications of the bidders. Chief McCrain said the costs would be dependent on the bids that come in.

"All proposals," the RFP reads, "will be compared on the basis of understanding the scope of work to be performed, methods and procedures to be used, management, personnel and experience, and consultation and coordination with the City. Proposals are not publicly opened and shall not be disclosed."

All proposals must be received at City Hall before 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Public safety, in particular the danger of a catastrophic failure of the plant's extensive fire suppression systems and resultant fire, is one of the main concerns of residents with regards to the BESS.

Opponents who recently qualified a voter initiative for the March 2024 ballot, cite safety as a major concern with what is being billed as the world's largest BESS, and the closeness of the plant site to the Embarcadero, the beach and Morro Bay High School.

The Fire Chief said the RFP has a large scope of work, including:

• Building design review related to fire and life safety systems including explosion protection systems and recommendations on safety processes or systems;

• Recommendations for training and inspection procedures for Fire Department personnel;

• Review of fire detection, suppression and emergency notification systems;

• Review and provision of a peer review report/assessment of the BESS project's safety plan study (Safety Study) to be provided by the Developer, including findings regarding the Safety Study and methods and assumptions used;

• Hazard assessment/quantitative risk analysis including thermal runaway and smoke plume modeling to provide recommendations for engineered hazard mitigation design features;

• Provide direction to City Staff and the City Council on the creation of an emergency response plan and provide recommendations based on the emergency response capabilities of the Morro Bay Fire Department, and San Luis Obispo County mutual aid resources;

• Attendance at meetings with City Councilmembers, City Staff, and various community meetings, including workshops, and Planning Commission / City Council meetings; and,

• Proposer to meet with the Developer to discuss the aspects of the Project the Proposer will be considering.

Emergency evacuation planning is also expected to be a big part of the BESS Project's public safety planning, just as it was when the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in Avila Beach was being reviewed, and every year since.

That planning and preparedness will be in effect until Diablo Canyon finally closes sometime in the future.

Among the things Pacific Gas & Electric had to do was to build a building on Kansas Avenue to house the Office of Emergency Services, installation of a system of warning sirens throughout the main evacuation areas of the County, planning evacuation routes, specialized training and equipment grants, and much more.

One interesting aspect to all this, is that fighting a battery plant fire requires using firefighting chemical foams instead of water, which lithium reacts badly with. TV ads placed by injury law firms and running now on many channels, call for firefighters who developed cancer after using these foam products — at places like airports — to join class action lawsuits against the chemical companies.

The BESS, which Vistra initially estimated to cost \$490 million, is expected to have a lifespan of about 20 years.

#### LOVR Study From page 1

but this new study is intended to pull all the previous work together into one comprehensive document.

Previous studies on LOVR include: the 2020 Los Osos Community Plan; 2021 Los Osos Circulation Study; 2019 Froom Ranch Specific Plan; and the 2016 San Luis Obispo County Bikeways Plan. But this new study could have an alternate motive.

SLOCOG is starting to pull together potential projects in their efforts to pitch a countywide sales tax initiative for the November 2024 ballot. That expected half-cent sales tax measure, which is still being put together (deadline for the election is next August), would be dedicated to transportation projects like improvements to LOVR, the main commuter road linking San Luis Obispo and Los Osos.

The initial strategy from SLOCOG, which will be the agency's first attempt at passing a transportation funding tax, is to cull together numerous potential projects that could be completed if the sales tax is passed.

Among the many issues still to be announced is the methodology under which the various cities and the County will divvy up the bounty, i.e. by population or perhaps based on how much tax is collected by a community's businesses, sort of like how an assessment district works.

The tax is initially predicted to raise over \$34 million a year (for 20 years), money that could be used to leverage even more grant monies out of State and Federal agencies; and to help cover any matching fund requirements such grant programs often require.

Now, matching monies come out of the County's (or a city's) General Fund or SLOCOG must cut into other projects, as its funding comes entirely from the State (Transportation Commission) and Federal (Federal Highways Administration, among other programs), essentially raised through state and federal fuel taxes.

It should be noted that SLOCOG has not yet formally released any sales tax proposal for voters to discuss, which is expected to come sometime next spring or early summer.

The last time such a countywide sales tax was floated it failed to garner the required two-thirds voter approval (67%), falling less than 1% short.

"The purpose of this effort," the notice said, "is to consolidate all of the planning and engineering into one comprehensive document. This exercise also allows for the opportunity of refining these planning policies and design efforts with further specificity and accuracy.

"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."

What is the study looking for from residents? There





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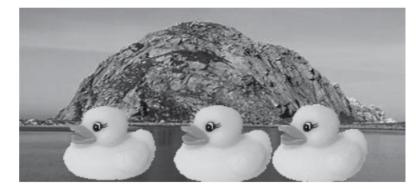
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3<sup>rd</sup> Place = \$500.00 cash prize Family Fun Day 10 am to 4 pm Morro Bay Dragon Boat will be in the Bay as "Ducky Wranglers"!

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are various ways to get involved, including:

• Leave location-specific comments on the interactive project map;

• Participate in the online survey,

• Attend public workshop (TBA, tentatively scheduled for September);

• Attend a Board of Supervisors meeting; and,

Contact the County Department of Public Works.

Snail mail written comments to: 976 Osos St., Rm. 207, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; email to: jhudson@co.slo. ca.us or phone 805-781-4309.

# Dose of Good Dogma Blah, Blah, Blah,

# Ginger...

By Lisa Ellman

**661** want my dog to listen to me." This is often the response I get when I ask people what their goal is when we work together. My reply to them is usually, "Your dog IS listening to you. Your dog hears everything you say to it." The problem is the dog isn't doing what you want. Let's figure out why.

Are you constantly chattering to your dog when out walking? Do you ask for multiple behaviors at once? For example: "No, stop it, leave it, sit down." When I hear this kind of blather from students, I'm confused! I can only imagine how the dog feels. This kind of communicating frequently leads to the message getting lost in the cacophony of other sounds and thus ignored by the dog.

Your dog is always listening to you for cues on what to do. But, in most instances, the human is telling the dog what NOT to do. This is a really interesting phenomenon. I will ask the person straight out, "What do you want your dog to do," in a particular situation; let's say when the doorbell rings. The human will inevitably say, "Well, I don't want her to jump at the door." But, again, that wasn't my question. And the person's response is predominantly the problem. If your dog is always looking to you for information about how to behave, and you're telling it what NOT to do, the dog will behave in any manner it feels the situation calls for.

Another example is pulling on the leash. What do you want your dog to do? "I want it to stop pulling." So, you say to the dog, "Stop pulling!" Stop pulling is not a behavior the dog understands, it's not providing them with an alternative behavior. For dogs that are leash pullers, teach the dog to follow you, instead of leading. Similarly, telling your dog "no" is not a solution to inappropriate behavior(s). No what? What is it that you want me to do?

I think you get the gist of what I'm saying here. You, as leader, must have a plan. You must have an alternative concrete behavior for the dog to respond to. If chaos ensues when your doorbell rings, that's not the dog's fault. That is the human not knowing what to do. The solution is not difficult. It first involves making sure that your dog is familiar with basic command cues, like sit, stay, leave it, down and off, and then having a plan.

Dogs thrive on routine and structure. I like to teach a dog that, when the doorbell rings, you bark a few times (cause that's your job) and then go to a prearranged place and sit (or down) and stay there until I give you permission to go greet the guest. But that doesn't have to be YOUR plan. You can decide what you want them to do. It can be anything you, the leader, chooses. Except locking them outside or in a room, because that teaches them nothing at all. Believe me, they are totally open to learning these new



behaviors!

Help your dog understand what it is you want by clearly communicating the behavior and making sure that they have been taught what those words mean to do.

If you can do this, you will realize that your dog DOES listen to you.

#### Out and About From page 8

a shady site can compromise it all. I would discourage you from depending on your generator. This is an iconic Big Sur-type campground — very quiet even when it's full. We never heard a generator in the six days we were there. So, if you consistently use your generator, this may not be your campground.

Beach access—it's less than a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile walk to beautiful Sand Dollar Beach. Walk a short distance north on Hwy 1 to the day use area then follow the trail at the north end of the parking lot. The level path becomes a sloping section and then a series of 102 steps down to the beach. Well worth it!

• Surfing - husband Garth says he's had some of his best surf days here. Best in summer and fall, beach break, good with northwest swell, too big and out of control in winter.

• Hiking - you can drive to fantastic hikes in Big Sur, but right out of camp there's only Plaskett Ridge Road, accessed from Group Campsites 2 or 3. Moderate hike with rewarding views of the Big Sur coastline. Watch for condors flying above the hills. You'll pass a few houses up there that always makes me wonder what living in rugged, remote Big Sur would be like.

• Kids - Plaskett is great for kids. The campground is usually teeming with them! Besides the traditional family activities around the campfire, they can ride bikes around camp, play pickup soccer or baseball in the meadow with other camp kids, go to the beach, or hike or surf with you.

• Dogs - leashed dogs allowed in camp, on the beach and Plaskett Ridge Road. If you hike the ridge road, be mindful of resident dogs up there.

• Family reunions - Plaskett rates high for natural beauty, beach access and large wooded sites but everyone has to be okay with the aforementioned lack of showers, WIFI, cell, electricity, groceries, ice, etc. Adults are forced to disconnect, relax and communicate. Kids get to figure out their own games and entertainment. Family members get a rare opportunity to spend good, undistracted time with each other.

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance at www.recreation.gov. Book early. Nightly fees are \$45. Check pad length to make sure your rig fits. Check Caltrans for road closures on Hwy 1 before you go, especially in winter.

For the extended article and to request my rating sheet for Plaskett campsites, go to www.debbienobleblack.com/ rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard.

Ahhh. We'll see you in camp!

(Ninth article in the series "RV Camping in Your Own Backyard").



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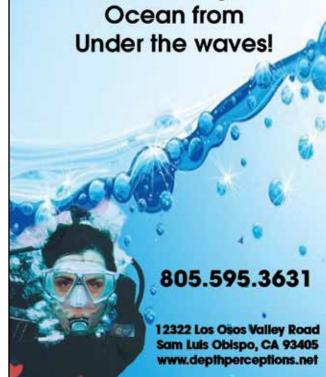
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complete with curbs. The 1905 vintage res-









#### County Contracts From page 1

with co-occurring ED and mental health, physical health, and/or substance use disorders issues. "

#### **Post Jail Services**

The Supervisors also gave permission for the Health Agency Director to accept a \$1.14 million grant from the "Providing Access and Transferring Health" or PATH grant program aimed to "provide operational and supportive services for justice involved individuals transitioning out of incarceration to behavioral health treatment or supportive housing."

The funding comes from State Assembly Bill 133 (AB 133) passed in 2021 that requires jails to help referrals to the County's specialty mental health services, Drug Medi-Cal, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System and/or "Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan [MCP] for incarcerated individuals who received behavioral health services while incarcerated, to allow for the continuation of behavioral health treatment. These agencies have not been able to bill Medi-Cal for any services prior to client's release from

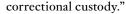


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This past January, the Federal Government rectified that discrepancy and opened up these types of services to Medicaid funding, starting 90 days before a prisoner's release date.

"Through a Federal Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver," the report explained, "counties will create community re-entry processes to assist people leaving incarceration in connecting to community-based services. Pre-release services will provide care management and include physical and behavioral health community connections. For people receiving these services, a care manager will be assigned to establish a relationship with the individual, understand their health needs, and coordinate services."

The County Sheriff's Department, working on this program with the Health Agency, has already gotten one of these PATH grants that it used on "planning for the implementation of this re-entry initiative.'

This latest grant will get the County to the point of readiness to start the program by 2026, when the \$1.14M grant runs out.

To that end, the item Supervisors approved on Sept. 12 the hiring of an Administrative Services Officer (ASO), a Behavioral Health Clinician (BHC), and a Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS), on limited term contracts to work on this program.

They also budgeted an additional \$270,000 of State Health Aid Program monies. This money breaks down as \$239,000 for salaries and benefits, and \$31,000 in services and supplies covering just this fiscal year.

The PATH grants are to fund: "training, technical assistance, and planning to support behavioral health in-reach at the San Luis Obispo County jail; and, recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and supporting staff salaries for personnel supporting BHD in-reach services and linkages as mandated by AB133 and the Medi-Cal initiative."

The ASO position, the report said, will provide "coordination between agencies, data collection and support to the re-entry team.'

The BHC and BHS positions, "will focus solely on providing both in-custody and out-of-custody transitional services for incarcerated individuals requesting BH support including case management, intake, screening, assessment, counseling, transportation assistance, coordination with BH programs/levels of care, housing support, and re-entry group services."

Also, when the grant monies run out in 2026, the County plans to make these temp jobs permanent under the "California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal [CalAIM] initiatives that will allow the funding for the positions to be fully offset by Medi-Cal reimbursement in the future.'

The three-person team is being called the "Behavioral Health Path Team," according to the report, working only with juveniles in this program.

This team will move between the County Jail and County BHD campuses," the report explained, "and will increase coverage, continuity of care, and appropriate placement. Services will include access to services prior to release, assessments for appropriate placement and identifying placements. These services will improve transitions into the community upon release from jail custody."

#### **Boost to Family Strengthening**

The Center for Family Strengthening also got a significant bump in its County allocations, as Supervisors were asked to approve increasing that contract more than 25% to a maximum of \$396,000 for the current fiscal year, which started July 1.

"The Center for Family Strengthening [CFS], formerly known as the San Luis Obispo Child Abuse Prevention Council," the County report said, "provides a range of support services, including the "Family Education, Training and Support" [FETS] programs."

The contract is part of the County Health Agency's contracts with community organizations, "to provide consumer services, mental health and substance use prevention and early intervention programming, including those implemented through the Mental Health Services Act [MHSA]."

CFS operates the County's FETS Program, the report said, which, "serves parents and families of youth at-risk for mental health issues in San Luis Obispo County. The program provides a multi-level approach to reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors for all parents and caregivers raising children. These services include coordination of parenting resources, parent education classes, and parent coaching services."

Over the past 3 years the contract has been in place, the County said there has been a big increase in demand, especially from Spanish-speaking people.

"This can be attributed to outreach efforts and building an online community of over 100 Spanish speaking parents," the report said, "many of which have shown interest in coaching and education services. Output for the program has consistently delivered above estimated units for parents and families receiving coaching services and education classes."

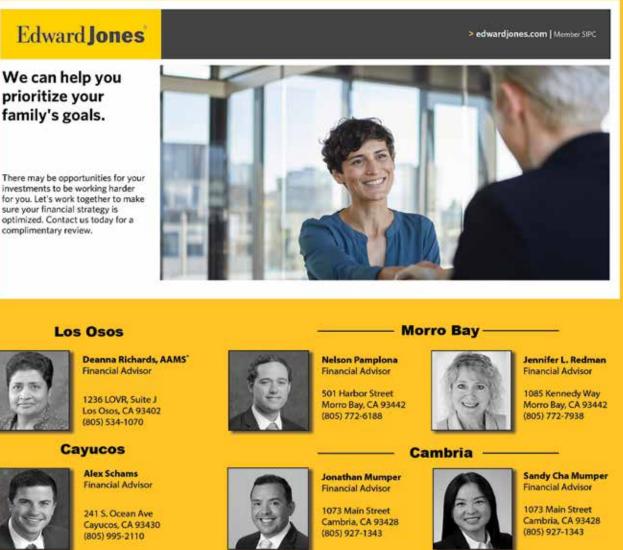
With the influx of millions of people across the U.S. Southern Border over the past 3 years, it could probably be expected that demand for these types of services will continue to increase, along with the numbers of Spanish-speaking clients, though the recent influx of immigrants have been reported to have come from some 140 different countries, and no doubt speak a wide variety of native languages.

That's why the County's request for more personnel includes bilingual staff. "The contracted program is requesting funds to expand capacity by adding a 1.00 FTE [full time equivalent] bicultural and multilingual specialist, along with administrative support, to their staff to appropriately serve the culturally diverse communities presenting the highest demand for coaching and education services."

In the current budget, CFS' contract was set at \$295,000 and the amendment just approved increases that by \$101,000, an amount the Supervisors added to the FETS Program budget. The County's advisory committee on such matters, the so-called Mental Health Advisory Committee, had already recommended Supervisors bump up CFS' contract.

How does this nearly \$400,000 break down? According to a chart in the report, \$156,000 is for family education, training and support; \$101,000 for the same use as a 1-time allocation; and \$138,000 for "Promotores" or "interpretation services."





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# Sports

#### **Student Runners Race in Morro Bay Invitational**



Morro Bay's Jack Walker runs with the pack past the grandstands near the start of the Boys' Varsity Race. By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay's Eli Waldman battles Liberty's Jesus Perez.



Morro Bay's Otis Kelly flies to the finish line in 21st place out of a boys' varsity field of 219 runners



A celebrating Templeton High senior, Joshua Bell, won the Boys' Varsity Race by over 45 seconds.



The Girls' Varsity Race. Mia Torrecillas. a senior from Highland High School in Palmdale, ran off with the win.

early a thousand runners from some 50 high schools competed in the Morro Bay Invitational Cross Country Meet on Sept. 9 and two of the local kids ran away with their races.

In the Girls' Varsity Race, Mia Torrecillas, a senior from Highland High School in Palmdale, Calif., ran away from the field timing in at 16 minutes and 2.4 seconds. (The varsity and jayvee race- course is laid out at 3 miles but on this day, it was shortened considerably to 2.56-miles, due to the timing of the high tide.)

Second place went to Liberty High of Bakersfield senior, Aubrey Thompson in 16:56.4. San Luis Obispo High's junior, Phoebe Drazsnzak was third in 17:01.5 and Liberty High senior, Nicole Bridges was fourth in 17:15.5. Fifth went to junior, Valorie Jimenez of Madera South.

Morro Bay's Mia Bennett, a junior, was 23rd to lead the Lady Pirates in 18:31.2. Noleena Fahy of Morro Bay, a senior, was the only other Lady Pirate to run varsity and finished 109th in 21:47.

In the team scoring, San Luis Obispo High ran away with the win scoring 74 points with Madera South second at 91. Third went to Clovis High with 109 points and fourth was Highland with 123. Fifth was Stockdale with 189 (in cross country the lower the score the higher the place).

In the Boys' Varsity Race, Templeton High's senior, Joshua Bell, left everyone eating his dust, winning in an impressive 13:22.2 over 45 seconds ahead of second place finisher SLOHS senior, Weston Greenelsh in 14:09.2. Bakersfield High's junior, Alex Valencia was third (14:25.2); Paso Robles' junior, Tyler Daillak finished fourth in 14:15.6; and Bakersfield junior, Liam McKnight was fifth in 14:16.2.

Morro Bay's top finisher was Otis Kelly, who was 21st in 15:05. Junior Eli Waldman was 96th in 16:36; and sophomore Nathan Fuller was 135th in 17:38. Junior, Jack Walker was 148th for Morro Bay clocking 17:51.2; sophomore Dominic Holst was 154th (18:08); sophomore Joaquin Cuellar ran 19:16 (185th place); and senior Michael Pascual was 209th in 11:04 for the Pirates, who finished 16th out of 28 schools in the team scoring and amassed 483 points.

Also, Coast Union High junior, Diego Gomez ran the race finishing 165th in 18:31.

The Boys' Varsity Race had 219 runners competing and once again it was SLOHS that ran off with the win, scoring just 45



Morro Bay runners (sporting the blue jerseys) are from left: Wendy Wilson, Lilly Buller and Shelby Taylor at the start of the Girls Frosh-Soph Race. Taylor went on to win the race, Wilson came in second and Buller was fourth. Photo by Roger Warnes

points (top-5 runners). Second place went to Clovis High with 87 nez-Michel, a freshman, ran 11:10.2 and was 74th. points, and Bakersfield was third with 108. Fourth went to Dos Pueblos with 134 and fifth was Stockdale with 148.

PRHS was eighth with 240 points and THS was 10th with 277.

One of the bright spots on the day was Morro Bay's Lucas McAlpine, a freshman, who won the frosh-soph 1.54-mile dash, clocking 9:67 3 seconds ahead of second place finisher, sophomore Aldan Hernandez of Clovis High (9.09.6). Third went to freshman Johnny Duffy of Dos Pueblos High (9.17.6). Fourth was freshman Jordan Blen of Justin Garza HS; and fifth was freshman Jack Vasquez of Bullard.

Other Morro Bay Frosh-Soph runners included freshman Maddox Miner in 10:01.4. In 31st place was freshman Ahti Johnson of Morro Bay (10:19.0) with freshman Cameron D'Aunoy in 10:19.6. Freshman James Lee of Morro Bay ran 10:29 good enough for 44th place. Junior Danel Velasco Ontanon of Morro Bay ran 11:01.9 and took 64th place. Morro Bay's Gabriel Ya-

There were 136 runners in the Frosh-Soph Dash, which was just 1.6 miles due to the timing of the high tide, as the MBHS course goes out onto the beach for a long stretch through shifting loose sands and hard pack.

Team wise, Dos Pueblos won with 63 points; Clovis was second with 91; and Morro Bay took third with 117 points.

In the Boys' Junior Varsity Race (3 miles), Clovis West secured the top-4 spots, plus sixth and seventh that needless to say ran off with the meet win. Junior Benjamin Sanchez won in 15:08.6; second was Cody McNeal in 15:09.8; third was sophomore, Kaid Titus (15:38.8) and fourth was junior, Jimmy Sanchez. Do Pueblos High sophomore, Linus Martin was fifth in 15:50.2. Clovis' Jace Jorgensen (sophomore, 15:50.6); and senior Jack Titus (15:57.8) finished sixth and secenth respectively.

Morro Bay's top runner was junior, Odin Grafton who was

#### Morro Bay Invitational Continued on page 18





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#### News Remove Grafiti From page 1

## **Volunteer Landscaping Project at Community Center**



A few of the folks who volunteered to clean up graffiti at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. Pictured: Gary Katayama, Community Center board member representing the Kiwanis; Pam Hostetter, board VP; Emily Miggins, community activist and volunteer; and Sean Morson, a professional painter. Photo submitted

would like to see them come down and paint it themselves. It would be a learning experience."

"I can't emphasize how amazing everyone was in providing this help to our community center," said Pam Hostetter, board V.P.

Anyone who wants to volunteer at the South Bay Community Center can be reached at 805.528.4169 or online at southbaycommunitycenter.com.

Be sure to check out one the next Unity in the Community concert to raise funds to help the Community Center gear up as a true emergency response center and help another local non-profits continue their work. The show is Oct. 1 from 2 to 6 p.m. with an opening set by Strange Cake followed by headliners Zongo All-Stars. The shows are free, but folks must have a ticket to enter. Get yours at my805tix.com.



Several planting sessions were scheduled in August 2023 to complete the project. Garden club volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 80-years-old, donated more than 80 hours to complete the project.

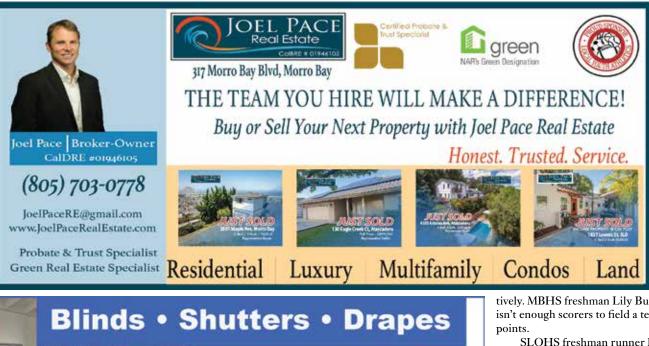
Most of the more than 300 plants were purchased



Los Osos Valley Garden Club volunteers Ashley Cote, Russ Merritt, Haydee Pampel, Paula Adrian, Wendy McKeown and Alexandra Van Nuys planted a new garden in front of the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos. Photo submitted

with funds raised by the garden club last year. The rest were donated by LOVCG members Alexandra Van Nuys and John Mottmann . Landscape boulders were donated by Central Coast Landscape Products of SLO, and mulch was donated by garden club member and SBCC board member Gary Katayama.

The Los Osos Valley Garden Club's goal is to contribute to the community through civic beautification and gardening education and welcomes gardeners of all levels of experience. Check out their website https://www.lovgardenclub.org to learn more about the club.



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#### Morro Bay Invitational From page 17

118th in 19:04.3; with Emmanuel Rios 143rd in 19:50.4. Sophomore, Alexander Esparza was 147th for Morro Bay (19:55.5); and Logan Bautista (sophomore, 20:49.5), was 173rd. The JV Boys' Race had some 220 runners compete and Clovis ran took the win scoring 16 points, which is just one point above a cross country perfect score of 15.

Dos Pueblos was second with 68 and SLOHS was third with 81. Stockdale finished fourth with 133 and Atascadero was fifth with 184. Paso Robles came in ninth with 262 points and Templeton was 14th with 413. Morro Bay was 20th with 543 points.

Morro Bay didn't have any runners in the Girls' JV Race but SLOHS sure did, in fact MBHS' district mates took the Top-2 spots with junior Regan James winning the 3-mile race, in 19:48.6 with teammate sophomore, Molly Berkeland second in 19:54.8. Third went to Emma Rose of Los Osos High School; fourth went to Madelyn Porter, a freshman from Liberty High in Bakersfield (20:25.1); and fifth was Ashley Hansen of Dos Pueblos (20:27.3).

The Girls' Frosh-Soph Dash saw MBHS' other bright spot on the day as two freshmen, Shelby Taylor and Wendy Wilson went 1-2 for the Lady Pirates clocking 10:28 and 10:28.8 respec-

tively. MBHS freshman Lily Buller was fourth in 10:37.5. But three runners, even three in the Top-4 isn't enough scorers to field a team, as SLOHS again took the team title with an outstanding 19

SLOHS freshman runner Kasey Abercrombe was third (10:30); sophomore, Carly Meeks was sixth (11:06.2); followed by Aurora Peterson (freshman, 11:20.2) in seventh; freshman Charlotte Petit in eighth (11:20.6) and freshman Leah Siciliano ninth (11:22.7).

The high school this year added 1.6-mile races for girls and boys in middle school and had a great turnout among the budding harriers. Los Osos Middle School's Ella Lobos was their top finisher in 20th place in 13:02. Abagail Bautista was 22nd (13:18.1). Charley McGauley of Cayucos Middle School was 25th (13:31.9); Reya Bohlander of LOMS was 32nd (14:17.4); and Reya's teammate Sophia Waldman was 33rd (14:20.7).

Two more LOMS runners, Anali Arroyo and Lotus Krout followed each other across the line with Arroyo in 40th and Krout 41st, clocking 15:40.1 and 16:05.7 respectively. Liberty Martinez of LOMS was 49th (17:04.6).

The race had 51 runners and Kastner Int. ran to a perfect score of 15 taking all five Top-5 spots (they also got Nos. 8-10). LOMS (75) was third behind SLO's Laguna MS (52).







Lic #839546

Morro Bay's Mia Bennett was the top Lady Pirate in the Girl's Varsity Race.



Morro Bay freshman, Lucas McAlpine, kicks for the finish line and a win in the Frosh-Soph Boys Race. Photo by Roger Warnes

In the Boys Middle School race, LOMS' Oliver Zaitz finished third in 10:09.6 to lead the local kids. Teammate, Dylan Hitchcock was seventh (10:19.3). LOMS' Sage Olivas was ninth (10:21.4); and Seamus Wolf was 11th (10:24.3); and Chase Taylor of LOMS was 13th (10:28.2). The boys' race had 79 runners and once again Kastner won with just 18 points (they took the Top-2 and 4-6). LOMS was second with 40 and Laguna third with 75. Old Mission School in SLO was fourth with

The middle school races are something MBHS Athletic Director Tyler Hoyt had wanted to start and it seems off to a good start.

Begun in 1980, this year marked the 43rd running of the Pirate Invitational and once again was staffed by volunteer school officials, coaches, athletes, parents, and students. Among the volunteers were retired MBHS coaches Roger "Doc" Ludin (soccer) and Cary Nerelli.

Doc Ludin coached soccer for about two decades and Nerelli coached MBHS' cross country and girl's basketball for even longer. (He's now head coach of Mission Prep's girls' basketball.)

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VISA

#### News Franklin Riley Park From page 1

have been "...working closely with the Morro Cove Homeowners Association on a plan to make a lovely little park an educational experience for everyone who might visit."

Morro Bay's Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, introduced the program with the goal to maintain the current integrity of the quiet neighborhood park while providing "...a small-scale project that intends modest improvement. Our vision is don't interrupt what is already here." He made it clear, "You will see the plans and have a chance to comment on them. This is not a done deal." His request was to contribute comments and additional ideas. It was the first in a series of opportunities for the community to see the plans and add their comments. He pointed to several members standing among the group armed with clipboards to record their input.

Next the president of the Historical Society of Morro Bay, Glenn Silloway, offered an historical perspective. "This has been a long-term project for our membership - a 10-year concept to create space to honor Morro Bay's Founder, Franklin Riley. Before the signage was installed at this park, Riley had only one small recognition plaque under a tree on Morro Bay Blvd."

Silloway noted that while serving on the city council, Red Davis threw out the challenge to find a park to recognize the city's founder. The Historical Society looked at several options and ultimately discovered an opportunity to collaborate with the Morro Cove Homeowners Association, based across the street from the park. He admitted their first design was more than the homeowners wanted and they willingly went back to the drawing board.

Typically, the park is populated by neighborhood day-use activities like strolling through or briskly walking or running for exercise. Seniors are seen walking handin-hand with their caregivers. Dogs on leash are walked by owners. Children in strollers watch the birds in the trees. Meditative bench-sitting happens often — to think or dream or calm the soul to the sounds and activities on the bay. Some find a bench to enjoy the outdoors on their lunch break. One often sees what appears to be a visitor from another land or another area stopping for a quick photo of Morro Rock. Artists will set up their easels and paint unique Morro Bay scenes.

Silloway explained they don't want to change the current ambiance and usage of the park, however, as historians the membership is interested in sharing Morro Bay's story to locals and visitors alike and has proposed three community hidden-history panels.

Marlys McPherson continued. She is a former Morro Bay City Councilwoman and the current treasurer of the Historical Society. She revealed that Morro Cove Homes developer, Wayne Colmer, had intended the park would eventually become a city park. Meanwhile, the Morro Cove Homeowners Association had adopted the park overseeing its appropriate uses and light maintenance. During the Q&A portion of the program, Phil Hornburg, past president and current chair of the Franklin Riley Adopt-a-Park committee for Morro Cove Homeowners Association stated, "Our HOA has been doing a lot of park maintenance along with the city, which has done a good job." As needed the city would refurbish the pathway and haul away the leaves, downed tree limbs, and mow the wild-grown weeds.

"Based on the meetings we held with the Morro Cove Homeowners Association," McPherson added, "our mutual criteria became (1) Minimal changes -- maintain it as a strolling park; (2) Low Maintenance; (3) Use drought-tolerant, native plantings -- plant in phases to establish the plants; and (4) Ensure that the views are retained. The three hidden-history panels that are planned are educational about Morro Bay's history, most recently Franklin Riley's establishment of a plat map of Morro Bay, the indigenous people who lived here before Europeans arrived, and 24 million years ago when the Nine Sisters were born."

Former mayor Jaime Irons was recognized for building and donating the sign that was installed at the southern corner of the park near the access stairwell to the Embarcadero. Councilman Davis knew his challenge to find a park named after Franklin Riley has been met. Before he passed, he was able to select his favorite design for signage. It was unveiled at Davis' Memorial Service held in Tidelands Park August 9, 2021 and later installed by city staff.

The Historical Society raised funds to match a California State Habitat Grant applied for by the City of Morro Bay with city planner Pam Newman credited with "doing the heavy lifting" to get the grant. Currently, with a generous gift from John and Joan Solu plus a \$10,000 gift from the Las Amigas Association and other community donations over the years, they have on reserve approximately \$20,500 and are ready to begin the public comment.



I want to thank you for your comprehensive and well-presented article on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. You have brought to light the outrageous action of NOAA to gerrymander the original boundaries of the sanctuary. This is a betrayal to those of us who supported the much-needed NMS off our coastline.

It is apparent that NOAA has a disregard for the heart



Morro Bay's City Engineer, Eric Riddiough with former city councilwoman Marlys McPherson who is also the treasurer of the Historical Society of Morro Bay introduce hidden-history panels proposed for Franklin Riley Park. Photo by Judy Salamacha

Kwolek then encouraged the group to take a leisurely walk along the path and study the renderings positioned in the park demonstrating what was proposed. He encouraged everyone to offer comments to the folks with the clipboards. The next steps will be to continue to solicit additional public comment, present the plan to the Public Works Advisory County and then present a recommendation the City of Morro Bay – all of which have public comment opportunities.

Thank you, collaborators - all of you who have worked together on a project that Franklin Riley and Councilman Davis would be proud to have their names forever etched onto the final installation. What's next? More collaborative comments to bring this project to reality.

of the SLO County coastline by even suggesting this carve out. If the "Preferred Alternative" is adopted our coastline will be adversely affected. In fact, I fear it might suffer much greater impact to the offshore and nearshore marine environment because of the gerrymandering of the map.

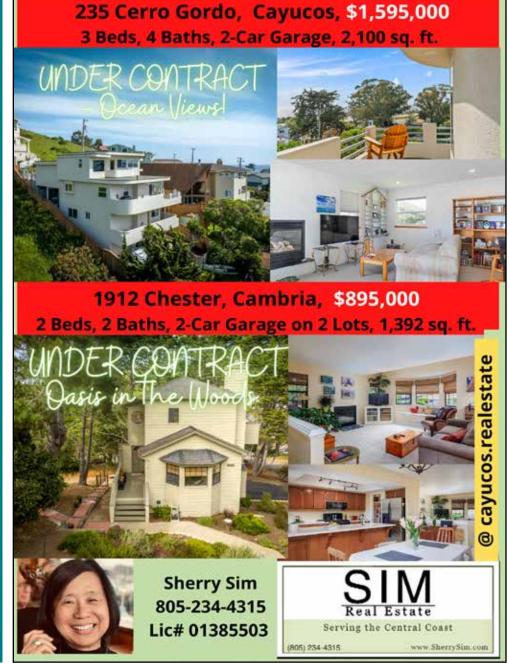
I hope you will continue to track this story. I did contact Bruce Gibson's office to encourage him to act diligently to fight for our coastline and oppose the alternative map. Please hold him accountable for his statements presented in your article.

Your work is appreciated.

Paul Gallo Los Osos

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

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