

Old Subdivision Raising Hackles Anew



Drone footage shows the area of the "Estero Pointe," development that was approved in 1990. Photo by Dean Sullivan

By Neil Farrell

An old subdivision in Los Osos, lying dormant for some 35 years, is getting new life breathed into it, as the Southern California developers move forward with recording a final tract map in what could perhaps be the biggest Halloween dustup since Michael Myers came home.

Anastasi Development of Redondo Beach, Calif., will ask Supervisors to record a final tract map for its Estero Pointe Project (Tract 1646), a 98-lot subdivision that includes one large stormwater drainage basin, and 97 home sites for single family residences.

The project site is a large vacant area across Howard Avenue from the Sea Pines Golf Resort Clubhouse; it spans from Los Osos Valley Road and Monarch Lane to Skyline Drive and Howard Avenue (going north-south); and from Pecho Road to Del Norte Street (east-west).

All together there are six sizable vacant lots in that larger piece of property, all owned by Anastasi Development. A rendering of the site map shows four interior streets, two of which end in cul-de-sacs, with an entrance off Monarch Lane. The majority of the lots are in the 6,000 to 6,300 square foot range with some oddly shaped lots near the corners of the property being 7,600 s.f. to 9,800 s.f. The largest residential lot is over 10,500 s.f. backs up to LOVR. The storm basin is listed at over 21,300 s.f. There

are no park spaces shown in the tract map.

Long-time Los Osos residents might get a sense of déjà vu when they hear the name Anastasi. That's because back in the later 1990s, Anastasi Development cleared a large piece of property overgrown with eucalyptus trees and built the Monarch Grove subdivision located just down LOVR from Estero Pointe.

A full-scale logging operation was set up to fell the hundreds of mature eucalyptus trees. This was while the State had its sewer-based building moratorium in place.

To get around the sewer issue, Monarch Grove built its own package treatment plant at Sea Pines and used the treated wastewater for irrigating the golf course.

That development also donated several acres of untouched eucalyptus groves for a Monarch butterfly over-wintering preserve. Another parcel added two new holes to Sea Pines Golf Course.

Scott Anastasi of Anastasi Development responded to inquiries made by Estero Bay News. "Anastasi Development has been a part of Los Osos since the late 1990s when the family business built 83 homes in the Monarch Grove subdivision. Anastasi dedicated the popular 'Butterfly Preserve' as part of that project."

This new project, called "Estero Pointe," (Tract 1646) "was approved in 1990," Scott Anastasi said, "and after decades of work in connection with numerous issues, the

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Harbor Office Gets a Makeover



The Harbor Department held an open house Oct. 11 to showcase their remodeled office.

Story and photos by Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Harbor Department held an open house last week to show off the many changes and improvements they've made to the old Harbor Office building.

And what a transformation it is, as the old one-time house that was moved down to the waterfront from uptown over 50-years ago didn't increase one square inch in size, but the interior is hardly recognizable.

They didn't knock down any walls, Schiafone said while giving a tour. They got new flooring, furniture, and rearranged the inside with room dividers.

The makeover turned the front office area into a receptionist desk, customer counter and office space for Harbor Director Ted Schiafone.

Now the harbor patrol officers each have a desk and computer; Harbor Patrol Chief Becca Kelly and Business Manager Lori Stilts each has her own cubicle; and the old office of the harbor master is now a conference and break room.

They replaced the solid door that used to separate the interior but was never closed, with a 2-part Dutch door.

People would just walk right in, Schiafone said. Now they can close the bottom half of the door and have it become a true barrier.

Schiafone said while they didn't increase the square footage the interior has more space and is better organized. As for giving up what was a sizable office space, Schiafone said, "I don't need much space." He added that the receptionist area "looks more professional and is more efficient in its use of space."

The exterior was a mess. Schiafone said there were an amazing number of wires running on the outside of the

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Moving Forward 10/19: Celebrating a Decade of The Rock



The DJ crew at 97.3/107.0 THE ROCK. Photo by Abe Perlstein

By Judy Salamacha

Indeed, it's time to give a big shout-out to 97.3/107.0 THE ROCK Community Radio! We can look forward to the next ten years of "Radio for People, Not for Profit."

As I began to write up this celebration story, I tuned into The Rock's Sean Myers Show and what was on the DJ's playlist, but "And It's Still Alright" by Nathaniel Rateliff. The Rock is not only alright, but has evolved, survived, and expanded. So, Estero Bay, you adopted it and helped make it happen, so it's time to gather, jam and even boogie in October to offer our collective thanks.

Rockfather Hal Abrams, founder and current treasurer of the board of directors,

knows exactly how you can show your appreciation. Show up at the 11th Annual "BFD" Fundraiser Concert & Silent Auction on Saturday, October 28 at the Morro Bay Community Center starting at 4 p.m. It's a free concert, but Hal says "bring money" to buy food from food trucks, adult beverages from The Rock bartenders and to bid generously on a variety of silent auction items donated by Morro Bay businesses and notable musicians.

Hal touted an amazing array of talent that will perform during the concert. "The nationally touring recording artist Dulcie Taylor lives right here in Estero Bay. She has always been a big supporter of the station and has donated her time once again to wow our listeners. She will be

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Chorro Energy Storage Project Shorting Out

By Neil Farrell



A proposed innovative energy storage system being eyed for Chorro Valley appears to be running out of juice, as the company trying to get it built is pausing to look at its options.

Meanwhile, a recent news report said the so-named "Pecho Energy Center Project (Pecho Project) had been dropped by Hydrostor, the Canadian company that invented the "Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage" or A-CAES system and wants to build one here.

Won't Confirm or Deny

Estero Bay News sought to confirm this development

Energy Storage Project Continued on page 20

Blowin' in the Offshore Wind

By Neil Farrell



Offshore wind energy is top of mind for many politicians and other true believers in the fight against climate change, and a pair of upcoming public events will dissect and discuss the issue — from accused devastation of marine mammals, to the benefits this new direction for society will have.

Documentary Film

A public viewing of a documentary film about offshore wind energy and its ties to marine mammal deaths on the

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Chamber CEO Leaves;
New One Sought



Former Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce CEO, Erica Crawford is shown in one of the more memorable events of her nearly 8-year tenure, the 2019 awards ceremony for Stage 4 at the Amgen Tour of California. The cyclist shown is Jasper Philipsen, who won the Tour Stage that day, with Crawford congratulating him along with one of the event's trophy girls. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

There’s been a change at the top of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce as a long-time CEO bids adieu, but she isn’t going far and her presence is sure to continue to blow across Morro Bay in her new job.

In a news release dated Oct. 2, the Chamber of Commerce announced that CEO Erica Crawford was leaving her position for a new job with one of three companies that won leases to an offshore floating wind energy project being planned for a patch of ocean off San Simeon, about 57-miles northwest of Morro Bay.

“Crawford,” the release said, “has accepted a community liaison role with Ocean Winds North America, working on the Golden State Wind Project in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area.”

Crawford said, “While it is difficult to leave the Chamber team, it is my care for this community and my desire to work in the renewable energy industry that drove me towards this opportunity. I am thrilled that my new role allows me to continue working in Morro Bay and the region, engage in thoughtful dialogue with existing colleagues, and build new relationships with community members.”

Crawford would become the first local representative to start work here on that massive wind energy project and will put a local, familiar face on a project that’s being developed by outside and foreign companies and reviewed and permitted by Federal and State agencies.

Crawford came to the Central Coast in 2012 from Brooklyn, NY and started as CEO at the Morro Bay Chamber in January 2016. She was in the Paso Robles wine industry prior to that.

When she took over, the Chamber was known for supporting and putting on special events like the Avocado-Margarita Festival, kite and music festivals, all monumental undertakings to organize and stage. It also ran the Visitor’s Center under contract with the City.

Her tenure has seen several changes and milestones, including a focus more on economic development, business retention and support, and things like the Visitor’s Center and special events have gone away, though some like the Citizen of the Year dinner have continued.

It was the COVID pandemic that ended the visitor’s center when the City shut down non-essential businesses, under the State’s direction. The City shut the visitor’s center and actually discouraged visitors to come here during the early months of the pandemic response. That of course didn’t work and the City was busy as ever (perhaps even busier), during the Summer of 2020 and 2021.

And the business closures, fear of the virus and societal

mandates against large gatherings contributed to the decline of big celebrations, despite the busy tourist traffic.

Crawford has also been at the head of the formation of a special governmental affairs committee with the Chamber that has taken a keen interest in local matters, both business and governmental.

Crawford said she’s enjoyed the ride. “I have loved every minute of my seven and a half years as the CEO of this Chamber,” said Crawford. “Together, with talented and committed board members and skilled and dedicated staff members, we have become a professional and stable organization and an effective voice for business in Morro Bay.”

Current Chamber Board Chairman, Ray Riordan, wished her well. “While we are sad that Erica is departing,” Riordan said, “she has built a great team and is leaving the Chamber with a strong strategic plan in place. We are sincerely thankful for the years that she has served our community and extremely excited that she has decided to remain here in Morro Bay.”

The board brought in a Chamber veteran as an interim leader. “The Chamber,” reads the news release, “has secured HRM Consulting to provide interim management services while the Board of Directors creates a search committee to find their next executive director.”

HRM owner and a former chamber executive, Jocelyn Brennan, has stepped into Crawford’s role at the Chamber Office during the replacement search. HRM Consulting is also a human resources consulting firm specializing in working with non-profit groups that don’t have HR departments of their own, according to the company website.

Brennan is experienced in business development, stakeholder engagement, and permit processes, according to the Chamber.

“HRM’s experience,” Riordan said, “uniquely qualifies them for this important transition period, ensuring uninterrupted services to the Chamber’s 310 members and to our partners in economic development at the City of Morro Bay.”

It’s not the first time the Chamber has turned to HRM. “The firm conducted interviews and surveys with Morro Bay business owners in 2021 for a ‘Business Improvement District Feasibility Study’ completed that year,” the release said.

Crawford’s nearly 8 years as Chamber CEO was a relatively long tenure for the position over the past few decades (The Chamber of Commerce’s presence in Morro Bay dates back to the 1930s.) The Chamber has at times had quick turnover and changes to its mission, including its relationship with the City of Morro Bay.

The Chamber had run a visitor’s center for decades, even serving as staff for the old Community Promotions Committee.

But the formation of the Tourism Business Improvement District and the City’s cost-saving switch to TBID to run, staff and pay for the visitor’s center, while saving the City money during a tight budget time, was a big blow to the Chamber’s importance to the business community.

A tough time immediately followed the loss of the City’s visitor center contract, and the Chamber changed direction towards economic development, which the City supported and continues to support with annual funding. The Chamber Office remains in a City-owned building at 695 Harbor St.

Teens to Fight
Underage Drinking



Local teenagers have launched PR campaigns to try and get their peers to sober up and stop underage drinking, a sober teen support organization announced.

“This year,” reads a news release from Friday Night

Lights, “high school students from Morro Bay, Nipomo, and Atascadero High Friday Night Live chapters launched campaigns to tackle underage drinking in San Luis Obispo County.”

The statewide organization, California Friday Night Live Partners, got a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to help students, “utilize youth-led initiatives to educate and develop partnerships with local merchants across San Luis Obispo County to decrease the access of alcohol to minors,” the group said. “They will also launch a multi-media initiative to counter negative stereotypes of youth’s relation to alcohol and promote positive social norms by highlighting the stories of their peers choosing healthy behaviors and remaining alcohol-free.”

“According to a 2020 report to Congress,” the news release said, “there has been a 34.5 percent decline in the prevalence of drinking among 12 to 20-year olds since 2004. Our students are on a mission to ensure that underage drinking rates continue to decline.”

FNL “builds partnerships for positive and healthy youth development,” the news release said, “engaging youth as active leaders and resources in their communities to create positive changes on important issues that matter to them.”

According to FNL, all these PR efforts are making a difference in combatting underage drinking. According to the 2021-2022 “California Healthy Kids Survey,” the news release said, “89 percent of youth do not drink alcohol. Students will utilize environmental prevention strategies through youth-led initiatives to educate their peers, neighbors, and local leaders on ways to reduce underage drinking.”

The campaigns will last all year. “Throughout the year-long campaign, youth in FNL will receive training on data collection, environmental prevention, the health risks of underage drinking, public speaking, how to create public service announcements, and leadership development in a collection of valuable lifelong skills.”

All told some 45 chapters of FNL will be taking part in the campaigns, “to reduce alcohol access for minors and mitigate the damages caused to communities by underage drinking.”

Nationwide, the “Federal Uniform Drinking Age Act of 1984,” set the legal age to drink alcohol at 21 but as most people could attest, the first tastes of the Devil’s poison happen earlier for a majority of kids, including some in middle schools and even elementary school.



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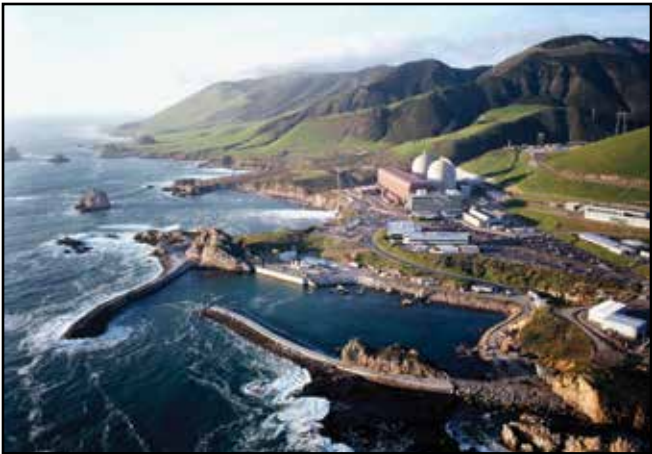
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PG&E Needs to Dredge Diablo Canyon Intake Cove



This aerial photo of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant shows the intake cove in the center and Diablo Cove [the outfall] directly above that. Photo courtesy PG&E

By Neil Farrell

For the first time since it opened, the Diablo Canyon intake cove needs maintenance dredging, and the Coastal Commission was expected to green-light a project to get the work done.

But a Pacific Gas & Electric spokeswoman said the company pulled the item at the last minute from the Commission’s Oct. 13 agenda and plan to bring it back next spring.

Nevertheless, commission staff had recommended the board approve the project, proposed by plant owner PG&E. No reason was given for why the company pulled the item, especially since the staff recommended approval. (Barring a significant change in the law or some other concern arising, the recommendation should again be for approval when it comes back.)

PG&E, the report said, “proposes to dredge approximately 70,000 cubic yards of shoaled sediment from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant seawater intake cove. This will be the first dredging episode to maintain the intake system since the DCPD went into operation in 1985.”

And if PG&E were going to close the plant, as it had proposed to do by 2025, the dredging probably wouldn’t be happening. But the State and Federal Governments have both urged the plant stay open perhaps for as long as 10 years, or more, in order to support the state power grid with its reliable, 2,200 megawatts of power.

In a plant this size, all aspects of the operations must be

maintained to a level where they don’t hamper the overall performance of the plant.

“PG&E has determined,” the report said, “that sediment buildup in the intake cove poses a substantial risk in the near term to the operations of the DCPD’s seawater intake equipment, which cycles 2.5-billion gallons of seawater each day for cooling.

“PG&E has observed sediment in equipment,” the report continued, “and increased kelp and algal growth in the intake cove, which it is concerned increases the risk of an inadvertent shutdown and interferes with divers perform-



This photo taken in 2018 from the Diablo Canyon employee’s parking lot shows the intake cove and the man-made breakwater that forms and protects it. PG&E wants to dredge 70,000 cubic yards of sediments from the cove. Photo by Neil Farrell

ing critical maintenance of the intake structure.”

The recommendation was to approve the permit for the dredging, but getting permission to dredge is only half the battle, as one still has to figure out where to put the spoils. The company plans to use a site off Montaña de Oro that’s been approved to take the spoils from the annual dredging of the Morro Bay Harbor entrance.

“Once collected,” the report said, “dredged sediment would be transported by barge and placed offshore of the Morro Bay Sandspit at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ near-shore placement site, approximately 1,300 to 2,500-foot offshore. The near-shore placement area is located approximately 13-miles from the dredge site and PG&E proposes to transport dredged sediment there roughly five times per day over the approximately 7-day period of proposed dredging.”

Such maintenance projects have some issues under the State Coastal Act, but the Commission’s involvement is limited.

“The key Coastal Act issues raised by this proposed project and within the Commission’s jurisdiction,” the report said, “relate to potential adverse impacts to marine biological resources due to dredging and placement operations and potential water quality impacts from turbidity



This photo was taken from just offshore at Diablo Canyon and shows the plant’s cooling water outfall pouring into Diablo Cove. Photo by Neil Farrell

generated during dredging.”

In essence, dredging the sea floor, even in a man-made harbor like Diablo Canyon, will unavoidably also suck up sea creatures that live in that muck. And the dredge materials are supposed to be compatible with the seafloor at the disposal site, in other words, you can’t dredge up a bunch of sticky mud and dump it on pristine sea floors, like reefs.

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), many years ago, studied this and other issues when it committed to maintain a depth of some 40 feet at the harbor entrance, and tame some of the breaking waves that have made the bar infamous on the West Coast.

The ACOE won approval to use this site off Montaña de Oro to dump spoils dredged up by the dredge ship, Yaquina, which visits Morro Bay every year around early June.

The site study looked for places with no reefs and just sandy bottom, which describes much of the Estero Bay seafloor.

Water depth had to be deep enough to ensure the spoils scattered with the current and spread out over a larger area.

The Commission proposed several special conditions on the project, including limiting the work to just the area outlined in the application; and PG&E must submit a post-project “bathymetric survey of the dredge footprint and provide the final placement volume.”

The commission staff also conditioned the coastal development permit to “reduce potential impacts to water quality and biological resources within the intake cove.”

Dredging not only sucks up sediments it stirs up the water considerably, which increases turbidity and degrades water quality if only for a little while until the water calms back down and sediments settle out once again.

The paperwork is going to be a chore. The CCC wants a “Turbidity Monitoring Plan, a Biological Resources Monitoring Plan, a Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan, and an Oil Spill Prevention and Response Plan,” required by the permit.

And the commission also wants PG&E to have all other necessary permits in hand — from any state and federal

Diablo Continued on page 4

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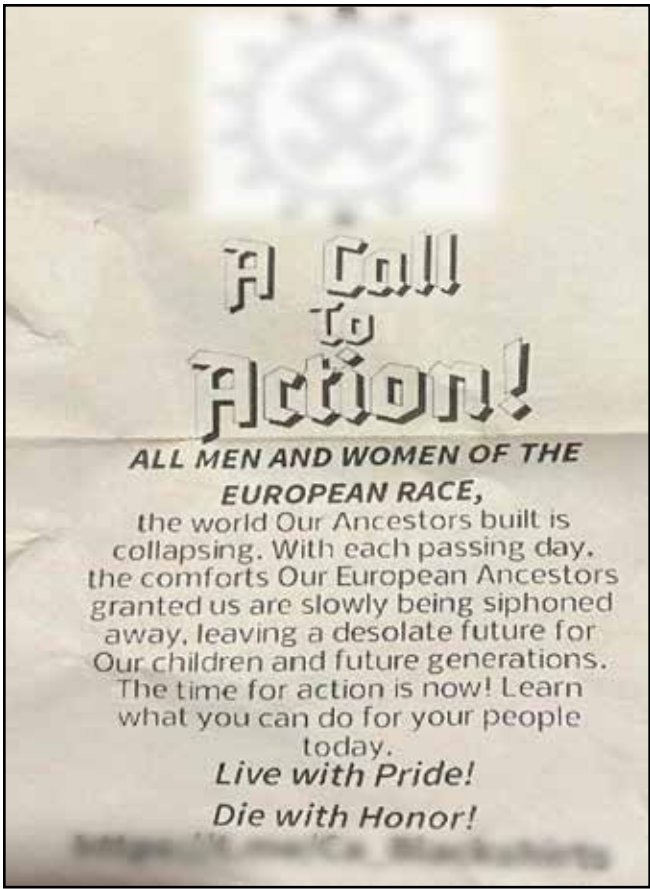
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Inflammatory Flyers
Left in Los Osos



A copy of a 'hate' flyer distributed in Los Osos and other areas of the county.

By Neil Farrell

The County Sheriff's Office issued a citizen's alert regarding some disturbing flyers that was reportedly left on Oct. 8 at several homes in Los Osos.

Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release, "The Sheriff's Office was made aware of inflammatory flyers left on the doorsteps of multiple residents in the Los Osos area. Similar flyers have surfaced in other communities in the County in recent months."

Cipolla said they destroyed the flyers that were given to deputies who investigated the matter and the department "asks that citizens responsibly discard the flyers."

The Sheriff's Office did not respond when Estero Bay News asked for a copy of the flyer, but EBN obtained one from a local resident.

The flyers are headlined, "A Call to Action!" and addressed to: "All men and women of the European Race."

It goes on to claim, "the world Our Ancestors built is collapsing. With each passing day, the comforts Our European Ancestors are slowly being siphoned away, leaving a desolate future for Our children and future generations. The time for action is now!"

The closing message is, "Live with Pride! Die with Honor!"

The flyer directs people to learn more at a website apparently put up by "Ca_Blackshirts." The web address goes to a telegram post by California Blackshirts, which shows 174 subscribers and claims to be, "An anonymous and peaceful Pro-White activist group advocating for the security and survival of the European race."

The website has a number of boastful posts explaining who they are but then devolving into hateful mischaracterizations and racism, including the following:

"Who We Are:

We are the California Blackshirts, an anonymous group of Pro-White activists who advocate for the well-being of White Americans.

Our Aims:

To encourage White Americans to speak up for their own, bringing widespread awareness to the plight White Americans face.

Our Means:

Banner drops with Pro-White messages, flyering, digital propaganda and all other legally protected methods of activism.

America is in a state of decay and we all know it. For too long has the White Man stood by, hypnotized by the lies of liberal capitalism, while his country is squandered and his culture destroyed. America was once a shining example of European brilliance and strength, yet is now nothing more than a hotbed of degeneracy and shame.

So who's to blame? Our elected officials, whether Democrat or Republican, work hand-in-hand against the interests of those who are responsible for American excellence and who solely possess the abilities to maintain this country; the White Race. But we vote for them every 4 years.

Our schools prey upon our children with their disgusting sexual ideology, all while shaming them for being White. But we still send them to class everyday.

The media has made a laughing stock out of us, mocking and demonizing us every day and night as a primetime event. But we still watch and laugh along like textbook examples of Stockholm syndrome.

Our once beautiful cities are rife with Third-world savages who terrorize our communities, pillage our shopping centers and beat our women and children. But we say nothing and allow the black and brown hoards to run rampant every summer.

Well we say enough! Enough sitting idly while what is rightfully ours is destroyed in the name of diversity! Wake up, White men and women of America! Wake up before it's too late. The time for action is now! Join us in the fight for our people!"

In another post, the Blackshirts begin by patting themselves on the back for the monumental development of their group and says that the whole thing started as "an idea shared by two men."

But in the next paragraph, they launch into an anti-Israel, hateful rant. "We felt it necessary to begin directing our message towards shining light upon the facts of the matter, exposing the true vile nature of those who we've been told for decades are our greatest ally. In the months ahead we will be countering this lie. Heavy pushback will be applied to the tools of manipulation used by the Zionist who occupy our government and the truth will be known: Jews aren't worth dying for."

The flyers that were put out in Los Osos, as well as previous "flyering" in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles, were coupled with some incidents where the Blackshirts hung pro-white banners over Hwy 101 overpasses.

All of these incidents have been met with strong condemnation from the community. The men hanging the banners were confronted by citizens, and elected officials in every community have condemned the group for their message.

However, such beliefs are protected under the Constitution's First Amendment "Freedom of Speech" clause, and there isn't much law enforcement can do. But the Sheriff's Department isn't happy about the matter.

"While the flyer falls within the bounds of Free Speech protected by the First Amendment," Cipolla said, "it does not reflect the values of San Luis Obispo County and certainly is not inclusive of the people who live, work, and pass through our county."

The message on flyers might be protected but local governments do have laws governing how they are distributed. For example, in Morro Bay it's against the municipal code to place flyers of any kind on windshields of parked cars or leave them door-to-door. Flyers must be handed to someone in person to be legally distributed in that city.

Though protected speech, the Sheriff's Department is apparently looking to identify the people responsible. "If you have video footage of individuals leaving the flyers," Cipolla said, "please call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency phone number at 805-781-4550."

Coastal Commission
Expected to Deny
Cayucos House Appeal



Photos shows the vacant lot on Gilbert Avenue looking down from Chaney Avenue, Cayucos that was the subject of an appeal to the Coastal Commission. Photo courtesy CCC

By Neil Farrell

The California Coastal Commission was slated to hear an appeal of the County's approval of a new single family home in a controversial, Cayucos neighborhood.

The Commission was slated to hold a "substantial issue" hearing last Friday, Oct. 13, at its monthly meetings in Imperial Beach, Calif., down in the San Diego area, on a project to build a house at 3579 Gilbert Ave., in South Cayucos.

The neighborhood is controversial because there are several "paper lots" in that area that neighbors have been fighting for many years to make sure they are not developed, fearing the steep slopes would slide if disturbed by development.

Slopes in the area are steep and similar lots further south have been deemed unbuildable and many have been reclaimed and retired by the County for non-payment of property taxes over the past two decades or more.

But this Gilbert Avenue project isn't in either of these two specific geologically challenging areas, and the Coastal Commission staff found no issues that the County's permit process hadn't adequately addressed, and thus recommended Commissioners essentially deny and kill the appeal.

The project is a 2-story, 1,970-square foot single-family residence that steps down from Gilbert Avenue on a steep but not too tall slope. It would have a 550 s.f. garage all built on a 3,775 s.f. vacant lot.

"The project," reads the CCC staff report, "is located four blocks inland from Highway 1 at the very eastern edge of a predominantly built-out neighborhood comprised of single-family residences."

The appeal, filed by several neighbors of the property, raised questions of consistency with the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) "relating to visual resources and community compatibility, geologic hazards, and biological

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The lot on Gilbert Ave., is in the center of this photo looking down Gilbert Avenue. Photo courtesy CCC

resources,” the report said.

The report breaks down the appeal issue-by-issue.

“In terms of visual resources and community compatibility,” the report said, “the County-approved project is not readily visible from the shoreline or Highway 1, and it is located in a mostly built out residential neighborhood that won’t adversely impact any blue water ocean views, the visual quality of scenic rural landscapes, or run afoul of any LCP visual resource requirement.”

The report said the proposed house is modest in size, and “not out of scale with the surrounding residential neighborhood, including because it meets applicable numerical site design standards specified in the LCP for height, lot coverage, and minimum required setbacks.”

The Commission staff acknowledged that the slope has seen some erosion from “recent strong storms,” owing to it not being developed. The County demanded an analysis by a geologist.

“The report found that the landslide potential at the site is low and shouldn’t be understood as anything particularly problematic,” the report said, “and with incorporation of recommended drainage and erosion control measures, any geologic issues will be adequately addressed and should actually help improve drainage and erosion at the site and the surrounding neighborhood.”

The official County geologist reviewed this report, according to the CCC report, which they concluded means the County and the applicant had done all that is required of them by the LCP.

The lot doesn’t have any wildlife value or natural habitat to protect either.

The project had two planning commission and a Supervisor hearing on its way to approval, which also leads the Commission staff to conclude that the procedures were all properly followed.

The appeal also contended that the state environmental laws were being broken or ignored, and there are low

water pressure issues and in turn pressure to fire hydrants in the area.

The County has been working on those water issues, which fall in the jurisdiction of County Services Area-10, including new water storage tanks and expanded capacity of the tank farm on a hillside off Hacienda Drive.

Most recently the County awarded a contract to install a new water main from that tank farm down to the water line running down Ocean Boulevard that distributes drinking water from the CSA-10 water treatment plant located below the Cayucos-Morro Bay Cemetery next to Hwy 1.

Water is piped up to the tank farm and gravity-fed down to the neighborhood.

That multi-million dollar project when completed, should greatly improve the water pressure to the homes and more specifically the fire hydrants in the South Cayucos area.

It should be noted that the vote on this item was scheduled for after EBN’s deadline, and while the staff recommended denial, if Commissioners decide there are substantial issues, they could vote to take the permitting over from the County and subject the project appeal to a full analysis and public hearing at a future Commission meeting.

When that would be scheduled is unknown, but such appeals have taken as much as 2 years to complete with other projects.

Burglar-Rapist Sentenced to Prison

A Paso Robles man was sentenced to a long stint behind bars after he was convicted of burglarizing a Paso Robles home and sexually assaulting the woman who lived there.

District Attorney Dan Dow announced that Courtney Allan Quiros, 36 of Paso Robles, on Sept. 8 was sentenced to 25-years and 8-months in State Prison after pleading “no contest” to three felony charges — First Degree Residential Burglary, Forced Oral Copulation, and Sexual Battery by Restraint.

Pleading no contest is the same as a guilty plea in so far as conviction and sentencing are concerned.

Quiros also had a prior conviction in 2018 for Assault with a Deadly Weapon, D.A. Dow reported, which is a strike under California’s Three Strikes Sentencing Laws. As a convicted sex offender, Quiros will be required to register as a Sex Offender for the rest of his life.



Courtney Allan Quiros

In a separate case, Quiros also pled no contest to vandalism and resisting arrest, both misdemeanors.

The case started Feb. 8, 2022 in the early morning hours when Quiros entered a home in Paso Robles through an unlocked slider door, the D.A. said. He then restrained and sexually assaulted a woman resident who was sleeping at the time of the break in. The scenario is terrifying.

“The idea of a stranger coming into the very place we are supposed to feel safest is terrifying,” said Dep. D.A. Kristin Barnard, who handled the case for the State. “What this young survivor endured not only during the crime itself, but through the prosecution of Mr. Quiros took incredible courage.”

“We are extremely grateful for her bravery and cooperation in holding this predator accountable for his actions.”

The Paso Robles Police Department and the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation investigated the case and Barnard of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit prosecuted it.

Manta Rays and Electric Eels Celebrate Polys’ 75th Rose Float



Quinn Akemon, Cal Poly Rose Float president, said the 2024 Cal Poly universities Rose Parade entry, “Shock n’ Roll: Powering the Musical Current,” will be “bigger and more exciting than ever before.” The plant science senior from Agoura Hills, California, has been a part of the Rose Float program since her freshman year. The colorful float will feature a pair of giant manta rays swing and a trio of electric eels powering a rock ‘n’ roll party on the ocean floor.

Photo by Cal Poly Rose Float

Cal Poly Rose Float students officially packed up their half of the 2024 Tournament of Roses entry at the campus Rose Parade barn for transport to Cal Poly Pomona.

Giant manta rays sway and electric eels power a rock ‘n’ roll party on the ocean floor celebrating Cal Poly universities’ 75th entry in the Pasadena Rose Parade on New Year’s Day.

Led by a 16-foot purple manta ray gliding over a colorful reef, “Shock n’ Roll: Powering the Musical Current,” the 55-foot-long float depicts a rocking swim party on a coral

Rose Float Continued on page 6

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News

Rose Float From page 5

reef with a trio of eels providing their current to electric guitars, a keyboard and turntable, honoring the 2024 Rose Parade theme: “Celebrating the World of Music.”

Designed and built by students, the Cal Poly universities Rose Float is a joint effort of student teams at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and Cal Poly. Since their first entry in 1949, the combined team has won 61 awards, most recently the 2023 Extraordinaire Trophy, given to the creators of the parade’s most extraordinary float, including those 55 feet or larger.

“The team was very interested in the idea of a universe in which animals and instruments evolved alongside each other in an underwater environment,” said Quinn Akemon, Cal Poly Rose Float president in San Luis Obispo. “We really wanted to emphasize the idea that the instruments and animals were sharing a community and had developed a symbiotic relationship through music. The animals provide power to the instruments through electricity, and the instruments play music that flows through the scene and brings the community together in song.”

This year’s entry features a 27-foot vibrant yellow eel powering a guitar while his eel friends bob to the beat and two enormous manta rays glide over a colorful seafloor studded with starfish, anemones, urchins and a super-sized clam, that contains the phonograph. A piano keyboard swirls around the back half adding to the music ensemble.

Designing and constructing the float is almost a yearlong process for the team and includes fabricating, building, adjusting and fine-tuning the mechanical, drive and animation systems; welding the structural supports and shaping the design elements; testing decorative material; sheeting and foaming before the students can begin adding final design elements.

The Pomona campus traditionally builds the front half of the float base, while Cal Poly students build the back in San Luis Obispo. Design elements are shaped by both teams, who join the two halves in Pomona later in October. When complete, the float will be 55 feet long, 23 feet high and 20 feet wide. Students will continue to build the float through the fall while balancing their studies and in a huge push after finals until the floats are judged the day before the parade.

“Between interesting mechanism development, exciting decorations materials and larger-than-life eels, rays and instruments, this will definitely be a float to remember,” said Akemon.

Each campus has a core team of about 30 students who lead the planning, construction, design and decoration of the massive project.

This year’s parade theme, “Celebrating the World of Music,” was selected by Alex Aghajanian, the 2024 Tournament of Roses president. “In a world of different cultures, beliefs, hopes, and dreams, one language unites us all — music,” he said earlier this year.

Community

Volunteer Workday at SLO Botanical Garden



Volunteers from PG&E, the Northern Chumash Tribe and the SLO Botanical Garden pose for a photo before starting a workday at the Botanical Garden’s ‘Weaving and Restoration Garden’ as it was called before the name was changed to ‘yaktitib’u,’ which we’re told means ‘People’s Place of Roots’ in Chumash.

Story by Neil Farrell
Photos courtesy PG&E

Pacific Gas & Electric employees teamed up with the local Native Americans for a volunteer workday, Sept. 30 at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden.

The sizable work crew — with PG&E and Botanical Garden volunteers and the yak tityu tityu (“ytt Chumash”) Tribe — began the cleanup and transformation of one of the Botanical Garden’s evolving exhibition gardens, one dedicated to the traditions of local Native Americans, expending a lot of sweat equity into helping beautify a small piece of the larger Botanical Garden.

An area formerly known as the “Weaving and Restoration Garden,” got a new name, “yaktitib’u” which we’re told means, “People’s Place of Roots” in Chumash, according to an article in the Botanical Garden’s newsletter.

The job was celebrated with “a moving dedication ceremony and the start of a big facelift.” It also included installation of interpretive signage regarding the exhibit.

The Botanical Garden thanked PG&E’s Teresa Alcarado, Maureen Zawalick and Eric Daniels “for making this support possible, as well as to the incredible team of PG&E employees and family members who turned out in the rain to volunteer — and worked hard to make a big difference in

just a few hours.”

They also thanked Chumash Tribe members Mona Olivas Tucker, Scott Lathrop, Kelsey Shaffer “and other members of the ytt Northern Chumash Tribe for supporting this project with their deep cultural expertise. Our continued collaboration will result in an incredibly special resource at the garden for education and celebration.”

The area is intended “to pay tribute to the Chumash people and provide space for lessons and learning about plants and animals of the area,” PG&E said. “The plan calls for updating the design and plan of the garden, removing invasive plants, planting new native plants of importance to the Chumash



This happy young man working on one of the garden’s trails is a relative of PG&E employees Xia Cha and Mae Cha (sorry, we didn’t get his name).



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people, laying trail material, installing interpretive signs, and erecting ceremonial stones.”

Other volunteers from Cal Poly and the general community also came out that day and worked in other areas of the garden staining benches, updating the trails and pathways, planting, and more.

Children had the fun job of painting rock borders



and tending to the vegetables growing in the Children's Garden.

The expectation is that by Spring 2024, these plantings will have filled in, meanwhile, Garden visitors can stroll down the path, located behind the Children's Garden, to see all the progress that's been made.

The SLO Botanical Garden is located in El Chorro Re-



gional Park off Hwy 1 across from Cuesta College. It's open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (gift shop hours vary). See: <https://slobg.org> for complete details about the Botanical Garden including a schedule of upcoming special events and donation information.

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Cambria Community Services District ended its employment agreement with Fire Chief Justin Vincent effective Oct. 3.

“This decision comes after the General Manager’s comprehensive review and careful consideration,” said District General Manager Matthew McElhenie in a news release. “The separation results from a detailed examination and investigation of fire department operations while ensuring respect and confidentiality and following relevant laws and guidelines related to employee termination procedures and announcements.”

Vincent took over the top position in November of 2022.

The search for a new fire chief is set to start within the next six months. In the interim period, Captain Michael Burkey will assume the responsibilities “to ensure the seamless operation and readiness of our fire department,” said McElhenie. “This transition period will be challenging, but we are dedicated to maintaining transparency, open communications, and providing uninterrupted and exceptional fire protection services to the community throughout this process. We ask for the community’s support and cooperation as we move forward.”

The Kennedy Library Transformation team launched the Waitz mobile app to help increase access to Cal Poly's study areas and make it easier to track availability of on-campus spaces, during the university's ongoing library renovation.

The Waitz app allows students and members of the campus community to check real-time occupancy of the study spaces so they can save time and know before they go.

“This is a great tool that will make it easier for students to navigate campus and access the spaces that they need quickly,” said Mike McCormick, associate vice president of Facilities Management and Development.

Waitz launched the week of Oct. 9 with limited study structures and will expand throughout the quarter to other existing temporary study locations.

Using predictive analytics, the app relays the busiest times of day for specific study areas and forecasts how occupied the space will be by the week, day or even hour, letting users know if a study site is potentially busy.

The app has been successfully implemented at other universities across the nation, including: Boston College; Texas State University; University of Wisconsin, Madison; the State University of New York, Brockport; the University of Texas at Dallas; and the University of Central Florida.

“All information collected by the app goes through a data anonymization process that removes personally identifiable information from data sets and complies with strict privacy regulations,” App providers said. “Occuspace, the parent company of Waitz, adheres to industry-leading best practices to ensure the protection and confidentiality of all information gathered.

Waitz can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Assembly Bill 370, also known as the Biliteracy Advancement Act, creating parity in the standards required to obtain the State Seal of Biliteracy, was signed into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom. The bill was authored by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D- Morro Bay).

“The State Seal of Biliteracy is an important way for California to recognize the high achievement of multi-lingual learners,” said Addis said. “Students of all language backgrounds who meet high levels of achievement in English and an additional language should have equitable opportunities to earn the State Seal of Biliteracy. I appreciate the Governor’s commitment to uplifting California’s multilingual learners by providing all student with expanded yet rigorous opportunities to achieve the Seal.

“Due to existing disparities in the State Seal of Biliteracy criteria, English language learners are placed at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to earning the Seal. The Biliteracy Advancement Act provides students with more options when testing for English proficiency, creating parity with the current second language testing alternatives and a fair path towards the State Seal of Biliteracy for all students.” The new law goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

The State Seal of Bilingualism allows for students to showcase their proficiency in multiple languages to potential colleges and employers, as well as giving students a sense of pride in their primary language. AB 370 expands

the existing options that students have to prove their proficiency, without sacrificing the rigor required to obtain the State Seal of Biliteracy.

A county-wide favorite way to work up an appetite while helping people in need has returned. On Thanksgiving morning at 8:30 a.m., community members are invited to participate in the SLO County Turkey Trot, presented by the SLO Food Bank and Running Warehouse.

The event offers two in-person locations: participants can stroll along the picturesque Avila Beach Promenade and Bob Jones Trail or savor the ocean view starting at the Pismo Beach pier. For those unable to attend in person, virtual participation is an option, whether through walking, running, or hiking at a location of their choice or by showing support in spirit.

Participants will also receive a commemorative event t-shirt and the opportunity to fundraise to support holiday proteins for their neighbors in need.

"I'm deeply moved to see our community unite annually, actively participating, fundraising, and spreading awareness out of genuine concern for our neighbors," said CEO, Garret Olson. "The SLO County Turkey Trot exemplifies the power of collective compassion and community strength."

The SLO County Turkey Trot isn't just about a fun morning; it's about making a positive difference. It brings attention to food insecurity in our community and raises essential funds to provide nourishment and hope to individuals and families during the holiday season. This year, the SLO Food Bank will distribute more than 4,000 turkeys, turkey breasts, and hams, along with hundreds of thousands of pounds of the other nutritious foods needed to create a holiday meal.

Register now at <https://slofoodbank.org/trot>.

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Police Blotter



• **Oct. 1:** Police responded at 9:10 p.m. to somewhere on the Embarcadero for a sozzled chap causing some kind of dustup. Logs indicated the 21-year-old schnookered bonehead reportedly gave police a fake name, which they of course debunked right away. He was hauled off and charged with suspicion of drunk and disorderly conduct, and giving a fake identity.

• **Oct. 1:** At 8:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Main police contacted a suspicious woman. The 39-year-old scofflaw had a bench warrant and when they searched her they allegedly found drugs and paraphernalia, which no doubt wasn't hers, according to her.

• **Oct. 1:** At 2 p.m. police contacted a pair of citizens of the year at South Bay and Hwy 1. Logs indicated a 52-year-old guy and a 49-year-old gal were arrested on "narcotic related charges." No word on how big of a stash they failed to stash.

• **Sept. 30:** Police are investigating a report of suspected elder abuse at an undisclosed location in town.

• **Sept. 30:** Someone turned in a wallet they found at Albertson's Supermarket in the 700 block of Quintana, so probably not much money left inside. Someone else turned in a cell phone they found on Bonita Street.

• **Sept. 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:50 p.m. in the 2100 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 40, was cited for a suspended license and sentenced to a fate worse than death at the DMV.

• **Sept. 29:** Police contacted an apparently unruly woman at 8:22 p.m. somewhere on Dunes Street. Logs indicated

the battleaxe, 47, was arrested for suspicion of child endangerment, child abuse, resisting arrest and being stultified in public.

• **Sept. 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Embarcadero by Staxx Wine Bar. Logs indicated the driver, 48, was nicked for driving thick as a tick.

• **Sept. 29:** Police contacted yet another loose cannon at 4:30 pm. on Quintana at the Creek Bed Estates. This fellow, 33, had two bench warrants and got took to the hoosegow.

• **Sept. 29:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 2600 block of Elm for a disturbance. Logs indicated a 65-year-old mink was tossed in the clink for too much to drink, me think.

• **Sept. 29:** Police responded at 9:38 a.m. to a disturbance somewhere on Preston Lane. A 41-year-old lass was trashed for being stoned off her a**. In a strange coincidence, 2-hours earlier, police responded to the 1600 block of Preston Ln., for a home burglary report. No word on whether these are connected, but that might be the way to bet.

• **Sept. 27:** Police responded to a domestic disturbance at 8:30 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated police said a 33-year-old man was "the primary aggressor in a domestic incident."

• **Sept. 27:** Police took a report of an expensive bicycle being stolen in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated they later caught a 31-year-old master criminal apparently riding it around like he owns it and he was arrested for grand theft.

• **Sept. 24:** For the second time in a week, police got a report of someone making criminal threats against the high school, the staff, teachers or students.

• **Sept. 24:** Today's math lesson is a sad tale of neglect and loss. At Main and Quintana, police towed off a guy's car after he got pulled over at 11:36 a.m. and they discovered he'd neglected a few DMV feedings, so mathematically we can express this as — "No license" + "No registration" = "No car."

• **Sept. 22:** Police responded to Del Mar School on Sequoia for an alleged case of possible suspected child abuse.

• **Sept. 23:** Police responded at 7:34 a.m. to a minor traffic accident at Main and Atascadero Road, where a roundabout is to be constructed to supposedly prevent such fender-dentin' blunders.

• **Sept. 23:** Police responded at 6:35 a.m. to a disturbance at Las Tunas and Kings. Logs indicated they arrested a 21-year-old apparent berserker for suspicion of resisting arrest, possession of a dirk-dagger, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of drugs, which explains a lot but excuses nothing.

• **Sept. 22:** Police responded at 6:26 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2000 block of Seaview. Logs indicated some mulish fool violated a stay-the-hell-away order.

• **Sept. 22:** Police responded at 2:42 p.m. to Del Mar School where they contacted and arrested a 28-year-old plod on a felony arrest warrant.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded to check the welfare of an

elderly woman, 71, in the 2600 block of Elm. Logs indicated she was taken to County Mental Health, as they deemed her "gravely disabled."

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 11:34 a.m. to the 800 block of Main where someone said some brazen thief stole items out of his or her parked car, in broad daylight, right in the middle of Downtown.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 11 a.m. to a report of a suspicious subject in the 600 block of Harbor. Logs indicated they contacted a 57-year old squit and nicked the hombre for suspicion of possessing drugs and paraphernalia in the parking lot of the town library.

• **Sept. 21:** Yet another offensive land vessel was pirated away by police, this time from the 900 block of Pacific, as it'd be nigh-on six month since the DMV beast 'd been fed.

• **Sept. 20:** Police responded at 9 p.m. to the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated it involved a scam with the loss at over \$300 and possible charges involve using fake ID and credit card to buy pornography. No Illuminasty have yet been arrested.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 10 a.m. to a home in the 400 block of Arbutus, where a citizen said he or she had been receiving annoying and harassing phone calls from "an ex-significant other," a case with a potentially significant charge that could significantly lead to significant actions and consequences of significance.

• **Sept. 20:** Police contacted a most wanted woman, 39, at 3:45 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated ol' public enemy No. 2 had 12 bench warrants and got taken to the gallows.

• **Sept. 20:** Police contacted a regular customer at 1:30 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. The 28-year-old scofflaw was nicked for one felony warrant and two pairs of bench warrants.

• **Sept. 20:** Police were tipped off at 7:45 a.m. of a high school student who "threatened the physical safety of the student body and staff at Morro Bay High School," logs said. The suspect, a sophomore girl, was contacted, interviewed and arrested all before school started that morning.

• **Sept. 19:** Police responded to the 400 block of Harbor where someone reported being raped while they unconscious.

• **Sept. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 6:46 p.m. in the 300 block of Tahiti for some undisclosed code violation. Logs indicated the driver, a 43-year-old woman, was nicked for suspicion of driving while stoned on illegal drugs, possession of drugs, and of course resisting arrest.

• **Sept. 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle apparently speeding down the Embarcadero at 5:53 p.m. Logs indicated the driver, 31, was allegedly reckless driving and so the matter got turned over to the District Attorney's Office for possible inaction.

• **Sept. 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:17 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 27, actually got arrested and tossed into the dungeon for knowingly driving on a suspended license, which seems a tad harsh.

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By Michael Walker

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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Salute to Scarecrows Event



Celebrate the 15th Salute to Scarecrows at A Starlit Celebration of Cambria, on Saturday, October 28 at the Cambria Nursery. It will be a whimsical night of music, wine, food, and costumes (encouraged but not required). This special event begins at 6 p.m. and runs to about 8 p.m. Attendees are invited to dress up as their favorite scarecrow, or anything else that inspires you, for a chance to win prizes.

Enjoy food tastings from these local restaurants:

- Moonstone Beach Bar & Grill
- Cambria Pines Lodge
- San Simeon Beach Bar & Grill
- Linn's of Cambria
- Madeline's on Moonstone
- Robin's Restaurant
- Indigo Moon
- Las Cambritas.

Enjoy drinks from these local providers:

- Moonstone Cellars
- Hearst Ranch Winery
- Black Hand Cellars
- Cutruzzola Vineyards
- Daou Vineyards
- Harmony Cellars
- Stolo Vineyards & Winery.

Wait, there's more: live music, costume judging, and opportunities to buy raffle tickets. All to help fund the annual Cambria Scarecrow Festival. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased at Eventbrite.com under Salute to Scarecrows. Tickets are selling fast.

The Rock Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Morro Bay's commercial-free, all-volunteer community radio station FM 97.3 The Rock is celebrating an important milestone in October and the plan is to party in style. The Rock, 97.3 FM in Estero Bay Area and 107.9 FM in Paso Robles (streaming worldwide at: CentralCoastRadio.org), will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a grand live concert and party set for 4-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way. Admission is free and there will be food trucks, adult beverages, a silent auction fundraiser, and much more. Live music will be by local favorite and Mesa Blue-moon recording artist Dulcie Taylor, Jill Knight, Unfinished Business and Murder Hornets. The annual concert

fundraiser brings in about half of all the donations the non-profit radio station gets in a year, according to founder, Hal Abrams. Current Rock board president, Robert Moynier, is asking local businesses for donations of goods and services for the silent auction, which has built up a reputation over the years for having a wide array of items. Abrams, a long-time radio personality who co-hosts Animal Radio with wife, Judy Francis, started the community radio station as a way to give back to his adopted home and a chance to spin records again. Now, Abrams said, "From its humble beginnings in my walk-in closet [much to my wife's chagrin], it has evolved into homespun community radio with over 100+ volunteer neighbors over the last decade." Broadcasting from a tiny studio in the Chamber of Commerce's Office building (695 Harbor St.), volunteer DJs play a wide variety of music, giving listeners a chance to enjoy music they might not ordinarily hear. Community radio stations rarely last this long. "This unlikely community radio station," Abrams said, "exists because the community supports it through donations and services. It takes a village!" The concert will feature great Mexican and Mediterranean food trucks, local wines and Firestone beer on tap. If local businesses or readers would like to donate cool items for the auction, see the website at: www.esterobayradio.org.

Cambria Chamber Needs Nominations

Each year the Cambria Chamber of Commerce recognizes a very special person who contributes to the community unselfishly and enthusiastically for the benefit of all. Make your nomination for the Citizen of the Year recipient. Cambria residents will be considered for overall service to the community, whether ongoing or long term, in one or more areas, or for a significant one-time contribution.

The Citizen of the Year will be announced prior to the Annual Installation Program where he or she will be a guest of honor. Fill out your form at <https://form.jotform.com/232766711044151> or print up a copy mail it by Nov. 10. There are also forms for both citizen and business of the year. Information needed: • I nominate: • Specific deeds or contributions: • Personal outstanding qualities: • Participation in other organizations, events or projects: Return to the Cambria Chamber of Commerce at 767 Main St., info@cambriachamber.org.

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 10

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Bank Donates to State Parks



The Central Coast State Parks Association was the recipient of the 2023 American Riviera Bank Employee Directed Donation Fund. This year's theme was local organizations that support the Environment!

"We were honored to receive this donation and are excited to put it to use funding interpretive and educational programs that promote understanding and conservation of our state parks' natural and cultural resources," State Parks officials said in a news release.

In other state parks news, Pismo State Beach is looking for Park Hosts in both its' North Beach and Oceano Campground locations. Spend time in a wonderful location and meet fellow travelers Work 20 hours a week and receive free camping during your stay. Learn more about this opportunity at <https://bit.ly/46ADKm4>. To apply: Email this completed application (Host in Pismo State Beach) to robert.cooper@parks.ca.gov.

Final Phase New SLO Downtown Parking Structure

Last month the SLO City Council approved a \$41 million construction contract to build the new Cultural Arts District parking structure.

The new parking structure, at the corner of Palm, Nipomo, and Monterey streets, is a key element of the City Council's Major City Goal of Economic Resiliency, Cultural Vitality and Fiscal Sustainability. The site is currently being prepared under a separate contract, clearing the way for the new structure that will provide 397 new parking spots and double the number of City electric vehicle chargers downtown (adding 41 new chargers).

Its location near the History Museum, SLO Museum of Art, and the SLO Children's Museum, as well as the future site for the SLO Repertory Theater, will support the creation of a new cultural arts district downtown. This parking structure has been more than 20 years in the making and

was made possible due to the adjustments in parking rates in 2022 that were required to support the construction costs and create parking capacity for the continued economic vitality of downtown.

The Cultural Art's Parking District Parking structure extends structured parking to the southern portion of downtown and opens new economic opportunities in this portion of downtown. Based on the current timeline, the new parking structure could be up and running by the end of 2025.

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.

Morro Bay Downtown Trick-or-Treat, Oct. 28



Morro Bay's Downtown will again be a site of mass mischief, as hundreds of children of all ages dress in their spookiest best costumes for the Ninth Annual Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat, set for 2:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Downtown business area.

Free admission for all and there will be lots of things to do, including a photo booth, bounce house, face painting, the haunted trolley and a performance by the White Caps Band.

Sponsors are the City of Morro Bay, Chamber of Commerce and 97.3 FM The Rock, which will have a game booth at the event.

Downtown merchants will be handing out candy and the Chamber put together a map of participating businesses that will be available at the City Rec Department's info booth at Main Street and Morro Bay Boulevard starting at 2:30 p.m.

By the Sea Productions Presents 'War of the Worlds'



Sandy Schwarer, Rayna Ortiz, Abe Lincoln, Russell Snow, Joyce Calderone, and Chrys Barnes bring the 'War of the Worlds' to the stage.

There will be mayhem! there will be Martians! There will be death rays! By the Sea Productions is staging the famous H.G. Wells "War of the Worlds" radio show that caused a panic when it aired on October 30, 1938.

Directed by Cambria's Wizard, Rick Bruce, this audience-immersive show takes place both onstage and in the auditorium, featuring loud sound effects, flashing lights, fog effects, and even an alien death ray — or two!

The cast includes Chrys Barnes, Larry Barnes, Carter Broad, Joyce Calderone, Rhonda Crowfoot, Abe Lincoln, Jim Luke, Rayna Ortiz, Laura Richie, Sandy Schwarer, and Russell Snow.

"War of the Worlds" runs through October 29, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at 545 Shasta Ave. Morro Bay. Seating is limited, so reserve tickets early at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287.

Morro Bay 4-H Club Off to Busy Year

The local 4-H Club for kids is off to a busy start of the program year.

Morro Bay 4-H Club Reporter, Bailey Dunn said they'd held their first two meetings already at the Benedict Center, located in the former Benedict-Retty Mortuary on Quintana Road.

"Thank you, Benedict Center, for your hospitality," she said on behalf of the club.

The kids set up an information table at the Los Osos Family Fun Day on Sept. 10 and the Maritime Museum's Family Fun Day (Oct. 14). They also planned to be at Baywood Park Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 29.

The club celebrated National 4-H Week the first week of October and club members attended a City Council meeting to speak about 4-H, what they do and how to join.

The Avocado Shack on North Main St., at Avalon,

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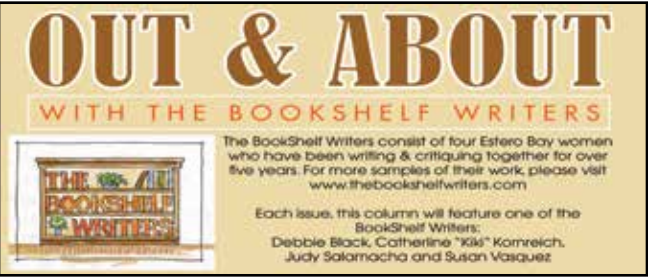
Community

hosted the club’s display Oct. 9-13.

Four-H — which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, Health — is among the oldest children oriented organizations in the U.S. and isn’t just about agriculture and showing animals at the fair, though that is a famous and popular aspect.

Four-H today is involved in a variety of programs both online and through individual clubs across the nation (see: <https://4-h.org>).

The local chapter meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Email to: morrobay4hclub@yahoo.com for details.



Finally, A Long Walk



By Susan Vasquez

This might be a cautionary tale, like when people say, “be careful what you wish for.” I prefer to think of it as a life lesson, neither good nor bad though there were moments of pure torture. I’m still waiting for a time when I can sit in my comfy chair laughing at what I had chosen to do.

Normal walking for me – probably for most of us – is on a safe steady graveled or paved trajectory. Usually in town or at least a safe distance to anything you might need – something to drink, a nourishing meal, and cell towers for good reception. Most of my longer walks when I travel have been in a notable town or city. Often those walks were 10-12 miles around interesting sights near places where I could buy bread or shop for socks. Most days at home, I walk three miles or so. Lately, I had wanted to go on a longer walk. This is what happened.

I had started walking with a hiking group. They are a gathering of people my age – old enough to know better, but not so old that new places are always off-limits. One member of that group – he shall remain nameless because he is a really nice guy – convinced my husband and I that hiking up to an Alpine Lake in the Sierra’s Jenny Lake Wilderness was a great idea.

I thought I was prepared. I altered my standard supplies. I brought more water than usual and a bag of pretzels. I had some first aid bits and pieces, bug oil and a big sandwich to eat lakeside. I also changed some habits. I ate a piece of toast beforehand because I wanted to go well-nourished. I double-socked. I made sure Merlyn, to identify birds, was downloaded on my phone. Seven miles, he said. Piece of cake, I thought.

The trail started on a rounded mountain of granite out-cropping. If my friend hadn’t been there, I would never have known where to start. If there was a marker, I never saw it. If there had ever been a lined pathway, it had disappeared. Then came the climb. My thighs discovered the difference between hills and mountains. We came upon steps in our ascension that met me at my kneecaps. The trail kept going up and up until I stopped asking “how far?” and simply accepted that this was my future: forever tramping along a trail at 8,000 feet of elevation and rising.

We crossed three streams. The first one babbled along and charmed me into a fantasy about serene Alpine waterways. The second taught me not to trust flat granite rocks that pretended to be sturdy steps. By the third, I was focused on the tall mountain from which the stream was falling. I had to climb that mountain. My feet pleaded the end would come soon.

When my friend said, “It’s just up ahead” for the twenty-eighth time, I disbelieved him. He’d been wrong 27 times.

Then I reached that high point in the trail. There it was: a piercingly gorgeous Alpine lake, filling a cleft in a granite mountainside. Pine trees dotted the shore. It was a perfect reward for that tortuous hike. I nearly took a long moment just admiring the beauty before I pulled out my sandwich. Nearly, but not quite. I found that I could appreciate the wilderness view while chomping on sustenance I badly needed.

I would like to say that the downhill trek to the trail-head was easy. It did take less time. But my toes pounded into the front of my boots with every step. By the next day, it looked like I might lose a toenail or two.

Maybe the true lesson here is that I should stick with what I know – city-walking. And just to clarify, I take responsibility for insisting I wanted to go on a long walk. It wasn’t my friend’s fault at all.

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

Scarecrow Festival in Cambria



On October 1 of each year, hundreds of imaginative and whimsical scarecrows descend upon the seaside villages of Cambria and San Simeon for the annual Cambria Scarecrow Festival.

This October, more than 80 imaginative and lively scarecrows line the streets of Cambria’s East and West Villages, Moonstone Beach, and San Simeon. The scarecrows are the perfect manifestation of Cambria’s incredibly artistic community.



The festival debuted in 2009 and has been featured in places as varied as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, ABC News, and Huffington Post. USA Today named our festival as one of the nation’s top 10 autumn festivals and The Travel Channel included it in the top 10 scarecrow festivals in the U.S. and Canada.

Now in its 15th year, the Cambria Scarecrow Festival has grown into a community-wide event with hundreds of scarecrows bowling, bathing, painting, pedaling, fishing, and flying through Cambria, San Simeon, and Harmony.

For more information, please call (805) 395-2399.

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Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Join in a Sea Shanty Sing-along at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum Sat., Oct. 21 from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. The Morro Bay Shanty Project will perform sea shanties and other songs of the sea at this free event. Audience members will be encouraged to sing along and share favorites. For more information, go to morrobayshantyproject@gmail.com

“The Central Coast Weavers Guild’s 16th Annual Sale & Showcase is a once a year opportunity to shop for the county’s finest handwoven and handcrafted items. It all takes place November 3 from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. and November 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and November 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Strawbale Barn Weaving Studio (9156 Santa Margarita Rd., Atascadero). They can be reached at 805-438-5501 or go to centralcoastweavers.org. Items for sale include handwoven clothing, household items, gifts and a gallery show of fine crafted handwoven items, including wall displays, clothing and jewelry. Looms and spinning wheels will be on display as well as ongoing demonstrations of weaving and spinning throughout the show. Fiber artists reside in San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria. Every item for sale of on display is handcrafted by members of the Central Coast Weavers. Photo features “Water Shawl: (Central Coast Weavers Guild) by Sandra Rude



El Morro Church of the Nazarene (1430 Santa Ysabel Avenue in Los Osos) presents its 20th Annual Family Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This Festival is free and open to all families in the community. However, children must be accompanied by an adult. Tons of fun. Many inflatables supplied by Bubble Fun, games and prizes galore with plenty of candy from Trunk or Treat activities. Food will be available - Tickets can be purchased for the food items. No scary costumes. Park vehicles at Los Osos Middle School (1555 El Moro Avenue) and use the shuttle to get to the festival location. For more information, call (805) 528-0391.



Something to Crow About – October Free Screenings One of our 2023 Cambria Festival highlights was the world premiere of “Something to Crow About.” Each weekend during October (Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., October 6 through October 29), this

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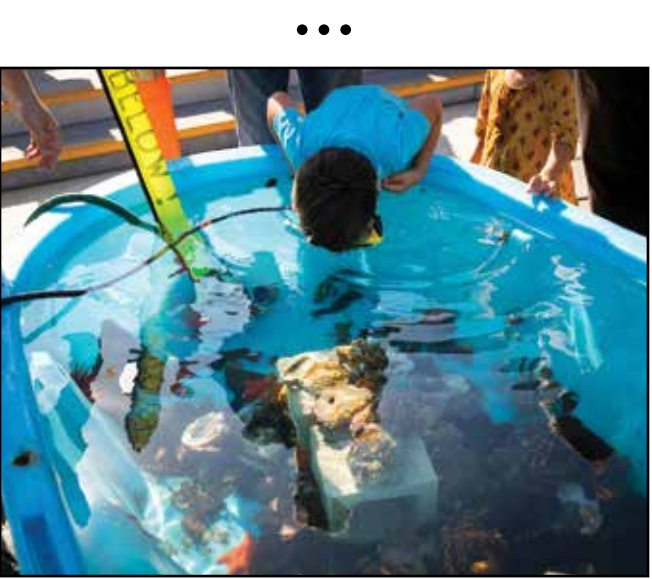
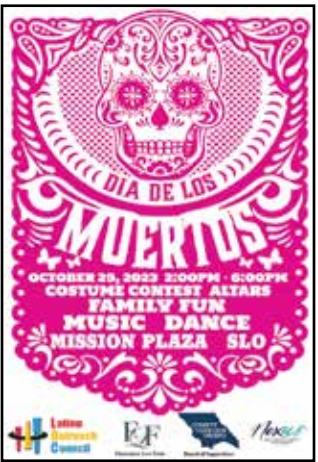
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documentary about Cambria’s annual scarecrow festival screens in the Studio space of the Cambria Center for the Arts. Watch the film, check out the information display, and then walk the streets of Cambria to discover this year’s crop of scarecrows.

Join the Historical Society of Morro Bay for The Case of the Headless Corpse on October 22 at 3 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 480 Monterey Ave. Morro Bay. Franklin Riley found a headless body on the beach. The next meeting of HSMB will look into what happened next in this true story. Join them for a re-enactment of the coroner’s inquest into this death. Does it raise any questions in your mind? This event is free and open to the public.

“Songs for the Season” is back Dec. 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Fox’s End Barn, 2735 Main St. in Cambria with a festive afternoon of savory and sweet small bites, provided by Robin’s restaurant and local community bakers, along with local wines as well. Musical entertainment by three talented local musicians TBD. They will also have an online auction which kicks-off on Nov. 21 and close they after the event on Dec. 3. All the amazing auction items will be on display at the event to further entice bidders. Additionally, there will be some items available in a raffle that will take place during the event. There are only 125 tickets to the event. They are \$40 if purchased in advance and \$45 at the door if there are still tickets left to sell. Purchase available at fiscaliniranch-preserve.org or in their shop at 604D Main St, Cambria. Tickets are on sale now.

The City of San Luis Obispo brings back the Boo Bash Meadow Park on Friday, October 27, from 5 to 9 p.m. Every year, the SLO Parks & Recreation Department transforms Meadow Park into a family-friendly Halloween festival, complete with a costume party, food, games, activities, and a fun haunted house attraction. Community members are encouraged to bring canned goods for The Food Bank Coalition of SLO County. The annual Dia De Los Muertos event is back in Mission Plaza on Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 2 to 6 p.m. This free, family-friendly Celebration of Life is hosted by the Latino Outreach Council and will have Aztec dancers, Ballet Folklorico dancers, Mariachi Santa Cecilia, directly from Mexico, face painting, costume contest, Altars/Ofrendas to delight. Guests can stop by a variety of food, beverage, arts, crafts, and community booths. The event concludes with Nexus DJ Latin Dancing in the Plaza.



Cal Poly’s Center for Coastal Marine Sciences cordially invites the community to tour the Cal Poly Pier in Avila Beach from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. The Cal Poly Pier is just over a half-mile long (1.2 miles round trip). Event activities will be held at the end of the pier located on Avila Beach Drive, just west of the San Luis Creek Bridge. Visitors will enjoy 360-degree views of San Luis Bay and interact with touch tanks full of live marine creatures. Guests will have the opportunity to view tiny marine species through microscopes and learn about whale migrations and the recent red tide and bioluminescence phenomena. Interactive displays will offer insights into local marine environments and scientific studies conducted by Cal Poly researchers and students on protection of Morro Bay’s ecosystem, sustaining local fisheries, mapping ocean currents and much more. Cal Poly professors and students will be on hand to answer questions. Attendees may take the tour at their own pace and are encouraged to bring cameras to take photos of seals, pelicans, sea creatures and the incredible coastal views. To best prepare, guests should be aware of the following:

- Pets must be left at home.
- The event is a walking tour on a pier with grating — closed-toe walking shoes are required (safety rules prohibit flip-flops or heels).
- Visitors should bring their own water bottles.
- All visitors will be required to sign a safety waiver prior to entering the pier.

Parking is very limited near the pier. Tour attendees are encouraged to park in the public parking lots in Avila Beach and walk to the pier. For more information about the event, go to marine.calpoly.edu or call 805-756-6777 (recorded line). Rain will cancel the event. Photo courtesy of Cal Poly

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Join local novelist Teri Bayus for her class *How to Write a Novel in 90 Days* on Oct. 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. as part of Cuesta's Community Programs.

The presentation will guide the writer through a 90-day process, giving them daily prompts to finish the novel's first draft, memoir, or nonfiction. It will include broad topics broken down into specifics, such as:

What To Write, Make A Commitment, Maximize Your Time, Theme, Create an Outline, Create Characters, Writing Every Day, Compelling Narrative, Reward Yourself, Dialog Exploding, Dealing with Writers Block, Envisioning Success, Three Plot Points, Self-Editing and more.

On Nov. 2 Teri returns with *Community Publishing Workshop, It's No Longer Self-Publishing! How To Create Your Book by Using Your Community*, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. .

Self-publishing has been a lonely act. Most authors stumble along without support or success. This workshop will show you how to build a team, where to find trusted sources, and publish your book to victory.

Classes are \$40 each. Register at thegreatestease.com under events.

The City of Morro Bay will launch an update of the Climate Action Plan. Folks are invited for the first community workshop to help update the CAP. It takes place Wednesday October 25, 2023 from 5 to 630 p.m. at the Morro Bay Community Center. The workshop will be led by Cal Poly masters of city and regional planning students. Join us to learn, envision, and collaborate!

Boston Brass will be the guest ensemble of Cal Poly Bands for the Bandfest concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in Harold J. Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center.

Bandfest is the event that launches the season of concerts presented by the band program, and it's the one time each year when three Cal Poly Bands are featured on stage: Mustang Band; Wind Ensemble; and Wind Orchestra.

The world-famous Boston Brass will perform alongside the ensembles as well as treat the audience to its own set on the program.

"From before the start of the quarter, our students have been providing music and spirit for university and athletic events," Director of Bands Christopher J. Woodruff said. "With Bandfest, those 300 students will get to share their work with an audience gathered in a beautiful space. And we are delighted to welcome back Boston Brass to share their expertise with our students. Our audience will be blown away by the musicianship that all will bring to Miossi Hall!"

At the conclusion of the first half, the concert bands will come together in a jazz medley arranged by Dave Becker that will feature Boston Brass. Becker is a lecturer at Cal Poly who is directing the University Jazz Band this year. He also teaches at nearby Cuesta College and at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

The 220-member Mustang Band will conclude the concert with arrangements of popular music the group is performing at this fall's football games in Mustang Memorial Field Presented by French Hospital. Along with

traditional school songs, the band will perform music by Beyoncé and Taylor Swift.

In recognition of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the program will include selections honoring military veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Tickets to the event are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).

For more information, email music@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-2406.

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Join the Harbor Hut in Morro Bay in conjunction with Vitco Foods for a "Meals for Maui" charity fundraiser on Saturday, October 28 from 12 – 3 p.m

They will host a taco feed with all proceeds going to the Maui Strong fund to support those affected by the Maui fires.

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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, November 1. Meetings are free, and yearly membership is only \$65. Social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 5–8 p.m. kick-off Halloween weekend with the downtown Trick-or-Treat Trail, a Costume Contest in Mission Plaza, the "Scary-oke!" karaoke contest, and a costume-clad Farmers' Market!

The Trick or Treat Trail is from 5–8 p.m. sponsored by the Puzzle Effect & Insomnia Cookies. Families can follow the Trick-or-Treat Trail to 30+ downtown businesses and collect candy. Start at Mission Plaza and follow the map through downtown. Trick-or-treaters are encouraged to bring their own treat bags and print maps at home. The Trail map will be published online at DowntownSLO.com/Halloween. Additionally, select Farmers' Market vendors will be passing out candy starting at 6 p.m.

The Costume Contest in Mission Plaza registration is at 5 p.m. with the contest from 6:30–8 p.m.

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

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Halloween Witches
Paddle, Oct. 29



The Annual Witch’s Paddle will hit the water in Morro Bay Harbor starting at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 29.

Join in the fun and dress in your favorite witch costume and drag your kayak, paddle board (broomstick?) to Coleman Park to launch along with all the other witches and warlocks.

Established in 2013, this year’s paddle will be the 10th edition of an event that grows bigger every year. Starting out with a handful of adult Halloween fans who decided to paddle down the bay the Witch’s Paddle has grown to about 400 paddlers in 2022.

Such Halloween celebrations are held all over the U.S., just about everywhere there’s a safe harbor to paddle in, including Cape Cod, Rhode Island and of course Salem, Mass., where witches got a bad rep back in the day.

Morro Bay’s Witch’s Paddle is also a cool spectator and photographic event, as well. And don’t think that because you’re a man, you can’t paddle with the witches, as every year a handful of brave warlocks and wizards dress up and hit the water, too.

Check out the event page on Facebook for details, see: www.facebook.com/witchespaddle.

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Who’s In Charge Here?



by Lisa Ellman

You know when your kids have a babysitter or are staying with your friends, and they tell you how well behaved and cooperative your kids are, and you can’t understand why they’re saying that? Well, I’ve found that the same is true with dogs.

I have an activity in my classes that involve passing your dog to several different people. I do this for a couple reasons. First, it’s important that your dog (especially if shy or under-socialized) meet other people who will pet them and give them treats. Second, you want your dog to be comfortable being handled by as many people as possible, so that going to the vet or groomer might be a less traumatic experience. It turns out that most dogs, when engaged with someone else, respond quite efficiently to commands, with no problem. Causing much shock and disappointment to the owners.

I use the analogy of children because people can relate to it. I mention the class activity because what I see in class is often the dog’s lack of cooperation with the owner, but quite a good response with another person. This brings me to the crux of the article: does your dog respect you?

Clearly, if your dog is not responding to you, the answer is no. Why wouldn’t your dog respect you? Several

reasons come to mind. You’re not seen as the pack leader, you’re inconsistent with commands, there are too many people trying to train, and the dog is confused. Perhaps your dog has access to food all day long, so you become less of a provider, less important. Maybe, if your dog sleeps in your bed as mine does, the dog is the first in bed and you have to work your way around them to get in.

Respect from your dog is something that you earn, just as with people. All humans in the home should be regarded as pack leaders, earning the dog’s respect. This is especially true if you have young kids that the dog considers peers or playmates, that are constantly being jumped on and nipped at. Physical threats, punishment or continually yelling at the dog are not conducive to establishing trust or respect; especially if your dog has come from a shelter or rescue organization. These behaviors may frighten them away from you, or, much worse, cause the dog to feel threatened, leading to possible self-protective behavior(s), such as growling or biting.

Rules, boundaries, training and consistency help establish leadership. Keep the dog’s life structured, provide regular routines: training time, feeding time, walk time, play time. Activities the dog can depend on and expect. Learn to respect your dog (yes, it works both ways) by providing affection, patience, exercise, positive reinforcement and fairness. This mutual respect produces a focused, responsive canine companion. When your dog sees you, as someone to be trusted and respected, the training process is smoother, and the relationship will blossom.

I encourage students to look at the big picture of life with their dog, as opposed to compartmentalizing each command or behavior. Every day, all day, is an opportunity to train, formally and informally. Exude the energy and confidence of a leader, use inflection in your voice and body language to communicate with them.

Be consistent, dependable, firm but fair. Play! Spoil them, but set boundaries.

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

Diablo From page 3

agencies involved — before starting work. The Commission also wants the permit to come back to them, “if project changes are required as a result of those authorizations.”

Diablo intake cove is a relatively small, protected, man-made harbor. At one end is the plant’s seawater intake tunnel, where the plant brings in cold seawater to cool steam back down in the plant’s “once-through cooling” system.

The warmed cooling water is discharged at Diablo Cove, which is just up the shoreline from the intake cove entrance and which is open to the ocean.

That warmed-up discharge water has been blamed in the past for changing the array of sea creatures inhabiting Diablo Cove. PG&E paid millions in fines to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, some of which was used to start the Morro Bay National Estuary Program back in the mid-1990s, for so-called “thermal” impacts to the environment.

The intake structure and once-through cooling are actually banned by the State Water Resources Control Board,

which had ordered all nuclear plants to cease once-through cooling by 2020.

That deadline was set aside after PG&E announced it would not seek to re-license the two reactors and instead shutter them when the current licenses run out, in 2024 and 2025.

But the State and Federal Governments decided that they needed the plant’s reliable 2,200 MW of energy to help support the power grid, at least until they’ve built enough alternative energy plants — wind and solar — to ensure grid reliability.

PG&E has since begun the re-licensing process all over again through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or NRC, the federal agency that oversees the licensing and monitoring of nuclear power plants and other facilities in the U.S.

Meanwhile, the company is moving forward with planning for the eventual closure and decommissioning on a somewhat parallel path to re-licensing.

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Letter to The Editor

Columbus Sign is Offensive

On the corner of Santa Maria and 3rd Street in Los Osos, the Baywood Plaza displays a picture of Christopher Columbus' three ships. Indigenous people and many others have extensively documented the fact that Columbus committed genocide. Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison concluded: "The cruel policy initiated by Columbus resulted in complete genocide."

For example:
While he was governor of what is now the Dominican Republic, Columbus killed many natives in response to their revolt. To prevent further rebellion, he paraded their dead bodies through the streets.

In Haiti he captured 1500 Arawak people to force them to find gold. When they didn't meet their quotas, he cut off their hands and they bled to death.

The Baywood Plaza sign is as offensive as the Confederate flag and the swastika. Why is it on our streets?

Alice Welchert
Los Osos

Thank You Los Osos! We Are Celebrating, Again!

Celebrate Los Osos has very caring and generous supporters, and we are grateful to you! Because of your generosity in our Unit in the Community fundraiser on October 3 we will be able to both fix the damages to the median caused by the alleged drunk driver AND buy new chairs for the Red Barn!

Now a very generous Celebrate Los Osos Board of Director member, who prefers to remain anonymous, has donated the fee for Celebrate Los Osos to be the Main Stage Sponsor at Oktoberfest. He said he wanted to create more visibility for our organization and for "the community to celebrate the ongoing work of our organization with music and voice!"

Thank you to our anonymous contributor, and always to our super community! It does take a village!

This week volunteers will be beginning the process

of seal coating for the large redwood "welcome to Los Osos-Baywood" sign along Los Osos Valley Road. The South Bay Blvd. sign will be next in mid-November.

For information about Celebrate Los Osos see: www.celebrateLosOsos.org

- Viewpoint - U.S. is not a Direct Democracy

In his viewpoint piece in the (October 5-18 Estero Bay News) Jeff Eckles said that the citizen initiative process is a hallmark of direct democracy. That may be true, but I respectfully disagree with Mr. Eckles' argument because that is not the form of government instituted in this country. The United States has a republican government, based on representative democracy and a constitution that protects minority rights.

The country's founding fathers were most fearful of direct citizen control, which they associated with mob rule. They structured our government to prevent it. That is partly why they limited the vote to propertied white males. Over time, as the population has become better educated, the right to vote has been rightfully expanded. But we are still a representative democracy. As citizens, we vote for the people who make the laws. If we don't like the decisions they make, we can vote them out of office.

Why is direct democracy a bad idea? Citizens are busy with their lives. We don't necessarily have the interest or time to study complicated issues to make informed decisions. That is why we elect our representatives to do so. The citizen initiative process may sound like a good idea, but it tends to be a vehicle for special interest groups to enact laws that often are not in citizens' best interests. It takes a lot of money to mount a successful initiative campaign, which is one reason most citizen initiative campaigns fail.

Mr. Eckles supports the initiative process because he is a signer of the citizen initiative campaign in Morro Bay to freeze the land-use designation for the old power plant site as visitor-serving. This is a good example of citizens having insufficient accurate information. The promoters of this initiative have sold it as a way to stop Vistra's planned battery storage facility. The initiative will not do that because Vistra can bypass local government and apply for a California State permit to build the facility. Also, much of the site is contaminated so that visitor-serving businesses cannot locate there without expensive remediation. We need to let our elected City Council continue to make land-use decisions for our community.

Marlys McPherson is a Morro Bay resident and former city councilmember. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Minnesota.

Obituary

Stephen Bruce Carnes 1949 – 2023



Stephen Bruce Carnes, 74, of Morro Bay, CA passed away on August 29, 2023. He was born on June 11, 1949, in Van Nuys, CA. Steve was a beloved member of the Central Coast for over 34 years.

Steve a civil and structural engineering started his career working for a well-respected architectural engineering firm Ferguson and Associates in Encino, CA, and later ventured off into his own practice in Los Angeles in 1984. In 1990, Steve moved to Morro Bay, where he built a beautiful house of his own design and provided civil engineering, architectural, and structural engineering services to the Central Coast. He also served on the Planning Commission for the City of Morro Bay for 10 years and was a member of Rotary for 30+ years and received the Paul Harris Award. In addition to his successful career, as a young man Steve served in the US Coast Guard which he always loved and respected.

Steve was an avid golfer, playing almost every Saturday with his beloved wife Rita at the Morro Bay Golf Course. With a handicap as low as 7, he showcased his skill and passion for the sport. He was also one of the original organizers of the Morro Bay Car Show, which recently celebrated its 27th year.

Steve is survived by his loving wife Rita Carnes, daughter Stephanie Carnes-Olsen, mother Roberta Carnes, and brother Robert Carnes. He was preceded in death by his first wife Helen Mayse-Carnes, his sister Laura Carnes, father Noel Carnes, and grandparents Elton and Anna Carnes, Bruce Carruthers, and Anna Mae Carruthers-Pyatt.

A memorial service will be held in Steve's honor at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall on November 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Morro Bay Rotary by contacting Dan Costley at drcostley1@att.net and The First Tee of Morro Bay Golf Course.

Steve will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His contributions to the community and his dedication to his profession will always be remembered.

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Sports

MBHS Athletic Booster's Student/Athlete of the Month- Oct, 2023



The Morro Bay Athletic Boosters would like to congratulate Jane Taylor, Megan Merson, Lucas McAlpine, Gabriel Yanez-Michel, and Wendy Wilson as

October's Student/Athletes of the month!

Boys and Girls Cross Country

Coach Frere shares the following about her student/athletes"

Lucas McAlpine - "Lucas is a freshman who has really grown into being a leader among the younger runners. He has been running varsity and is making a difference in our top five guys. He is at practice each day with a positive attitude and is ready to put in the work it takes to be competitive. He is excited about his running career and has goals of running even faster times in the future."

Gabriel Yanez-Michel - "Gabriel started this summer as a brand new runner and is making solid gains this season. Gabriel puts forth his best effort in whatever we are doing, whether it be our daily drills, core and band work or running a workout. He is a role model for anyone on our team and an excellent example of how consistent work pays off for anyone new to a sport."

Wendy Wilson - "Wendy has been training with the team since summer and is consistently one of our top girls.

She loves to run, comes to practice energetic and always wants to do more. She enjoys learning how to run a course and practices strategies such as sharp turns. She will be a key player for the girls team in our championship season this year."

Girls Volleyball

Coach Yarborough shares the following about her student/athletes: For the JV athlete of the month -

Jane Taylor #19 "As a sophomore, Jane does an extraordinary job of juggling two AP courses and two honors courses, all while leading our JV team as co-captain and starting middle blocker. She makes the most of every moment on the court, leading by example with her coach-ability, determination, natural instinct, and inspiring work ethic. She is an insightful, humble, and compassionate person, who consistently supports and lifts up her teammates with her positivity. We are grateful to have her as a member of our program. She is beyond deserving of this honor."

Megan Merson #11 - Frosh Athlete of the month - "Megan Merson is our freshman co- captain and has been a leader since the first day of practice. She sets the expectation and gives a great example to her teammates of working hard and taking ownership of her own positive attitude and her success."

Megan is an amazing athlete, a pleasure to work with and an asset to her team."

The MBHS Athletic Boosters is a 501c non-profit organization dedicated to assisting all athletics at Morro Bay High School. Athletic Booster meetings are held the second Monday of each month and all are welcome to attend. For more information, season passes, and ways to help the athletic boosters with your donation of time or resources. go to www.mbhsab.org,

News

Assessments Going Up in Los Osos



By Neil Farrell

It's official. Some Los Osos residents' special assessment property taxes went up this year, thanks to the new inflation rate under the highly-successful Bidenomics program.

But the hit wasn't too bad, if raising taxes any amount can be considered "not bad."

County Services Area 9 Zone-I, a large area bounded by Los Osos Creek on the west, Turri Road to the east, and mountains to the north and south, has for over 30 years been in an assessment district to pay for fire and emergency medical services, originally through the CSA 9 (SLO County) and now the Community Services District.

The LOCSD contracts for fire service through Cal Fire/County Fire (Station 15), which also provides the services to CSA 9-I, according to a report to Supervisors from County Finance Department Administrator, Katie Franco.

Supervisors, Franco reported, approved the assessment increases back in June, during the annual budget work. But the staff didn't know how much that would be until July, so it brought back the item in September for final approval and the go-ahead to tack it onto the quarterly property tax bills.

Through a complicated equation, the County

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crunched the numbers and came up with a 2.3% increase for the so-called consumer price index (CPI or inflation), Franco's report said.

So the old assessments of \$69.68 per benefit unit for each property went up to \$71.26 per unit of benefit.

There are 142 individual private properties being assessed in CSA 9-I. The lowest was \$142 a year for two units, and the highest was \$427 for six units.

The 142 properties will collectively

pay \$39,300 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to the CSD for fire and emergency medical services.

The largest number of the properties will be charged around \$285 (four units) for the services with a handful at \$356 (five units).

While much of CSA 9-I is made up of larger parcels, some agricultural, it also includes the sewer treatment plant and Los Osos Cemetery; there are some denser residential areas as well.

Morro Bay Chamber Ribbon Cutting at Harbor Office



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce was privileged to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the Morro Bay Harbor Department's Open House. This event was a testament to the incredible efforts of the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department, who successfully raised \$10,000 to support essential office renovations. "The ribbon-cutting and open house served as a joyful celebration of this remarkable achievement and the spirit of community that made it possible," chamber officials said. Photo by Jody Hollier



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News

Old Subdivision

From page 11 map is now ready to record.” He added that 15 of the 97 lots are to be offered as “affordable units” at discounted prices.

But Los Osos is a closed door right now, in terms of new development, as the County and Coastal Commission clash over whether the Planning Department should be issuing coastal development permits to anyone, so long as the town’s drinking water supply is considered in overdraft.

Indeed, the Coastal Commission sent a letter to the County Planning Department demanding that it stop issuing CDPs to anyone in Los Osos, and Cambria until the water supply issues of both are resolved.

“The agreement Anastasi has with the County,” Anastasi said, “provides no homes would be built until the December 2020 Los Osos Community Plan, which is pending review by the California Coastal Commission, is completed. No site work [including the streets, sidewalks, utilities and storm water basin] would occur until then.”

As it stands now, whenever the County issues any kind of permit to build in Los Osos, either the Coastal Commission staff or a group of local residents, called the Sustainability Group, appeals it.

The results have been for the Commission to uphold appeals and take over permitting of projects, if they deem that it would add to the over-demand on the town’s groundwater supply, its only source of drinking water at this time. So far, no one has gotten past this roadblock and there seems little movement on the Commission’s review of the Community Plan.

Anastasi said any homes that are eventually built there would hook up to the community sewer system, so they won’t have to provide their own treatment plant this time around. The property owners paid into the sewer district assessments, so they have a place in line already.

The drinking water is slated to come from Golden State Water Co., which has issued a “Will Serve” letter to the project.

“Regarding water,” Anastasi said, “San Luis Obispo County has adopted a ‘Water Neutral’ policy for all developments. Anastasi is poised to contribute to expanding and conserving water supplies for the entire community.

“A parallel situation occurred in 2000, when Anastasi partnered with Golden State Water Company to construct the water purveyor’s ‘South Bay Well,’ which is still a big producer today.”

But after fighting a sewer war for some 30-plus years and now a skirmish over water, a bigger battle could be looming after S&T Mutual Water Co., which provides water to the Sunset Terrace neighborhood next door, filed a complaint with the State Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) dated Oct. 4.

The complaint alleges GSW stepped outside its boundaries. The complaint was “due to an illegal infringement on the existing water service area of S&T Mutual Water Company.”

The complaint alleges that S&T Mutual is “the only authorized water purveyor to the parcel in question, but Golden State Water has issued a ‘will-serve’ to the property owner for a 100-home (sic) development.”

The claim is that S&T signed a formal agreement with Cal Cities Water (GSW’s former corporate name) “that states both water purveyors must sign a written agreement if either system is to serve area in the other’s water service area. This agreement was not upheld, yet Golden State Water insists they still have right to serve water to the development.”

The claim accuses GSW of pulling

EXHIBIT B DEPICTION OF RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

TRACT MAP 1646

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This map shows the layout of the proposed 98-lot subdivision — one drainage lot and 97-homesites — being proposed for a nearly 20-acre plot of open land near Sea Pines Golf Resort in Los Osos.

a fast one. “It has been said that Golden State Water is banking on S&T Mutual not having the budget to legally defend against this matter, from which Golden State Water Company stands to gain major profits.”

According to the complaint, there is one house existing on the property and S&T Mutual has served it since 1955.

For its part, the advisory council, LO-CAC, is sending a letter to Supervisors with its comments on Estero Pointe. LOCAC got a presentation on the project Sept. 28.

“After the presentation, there were a number of questions and concerns voiced about this project,” the LOCAC letter reads, “which dates back to a 1989 vesting tentative map. The Anastasi project can be a win-win project if the County is willing to address a few concerns from LOCAC.”

Their first issue is the over-drafted groundwater basin. “How can the County and Golden State Water Company accept a will serve letter based on the overdraft issue?”

The 1989 tentative map isn’t up to modern project standards, like requirements to provide park space. “Los Osos would like to see a modern development with parks [Los Osos has the lowest percentage of parks in the County.] and green space. Modern developments are being created throughout SLO County [Righetti Ranch, Isla Hills, Avila Ranch with these amenities]. Los Osos doesn’t understand why the County would accept a housing development map from 1989.”

The third issue has to do with affordable units, which LOCAC mistakenly said there are only five (Scott Anastasi said there were 15). And none will have deed restrictions to ensure they stay affordable.

“These 5 homes can be sold at the full price if they aren’t sold within 6 months,” the LOCAC letter stated. “One of the BOS tasks for the coming years is affordable housing. Is the high \$600,000 truly affordable to the residents of Los Osos?”

LOCAC claims the property is “a highly sensitive environmental area” and wants to know about mitigations. “What mitigations are being made for drainage protection of existing habitat and conservation of existing trees?”

The next two issues are related to vehicle traffic and safety of school children going to nearby Monarch Grove Elementary.

The Supervisors will hear the matter at their Tuesday, Oct. 31 meeting, the agenda/schedule for which has not yet been released. (Typically, public hearings begin after lunch; however, this old tentative tract map dates back over 35 years, so it’s possible it could land on the consent agenda.)

As a subdivision, which requires an update to the General Plan and Local Coastal Program, it could and likely will be appealed to the Coastal Commission.



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OCTOBER 29TH, 2023

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News

Energy Storage Project From page 1

with Hydrostor, asking the media office if the news account was correct and they'd abandoned the Pecho project?

Curt Hildebrand, Hydrostor's Senior Vice President of Commercial Affairs replied, "Hydrostor is examining options to optimize the site location. We continue to explore alternative options to develop an energy storage resource to serve the Central Coast community.

"Thank you for your continued interest in Hydrostor and our development activities in San Luis Obispo County."

He added that they had not released any information about this but the non-committal answer is telling.

EBN also sought confirmation from the California Energy Commission but couldn't find anything about dropping the project in its considerable docket (files) on the project. We sent injuries to their media office, which didn't respond by deadline.

So while opponents of the Pecho Project can breathe a bit easier for now, we can't confirm the proposal is officially dead.

Innovative Project

In essence, the 400-megawatt plant would use a new technology that Hydrostor invented and is trying to build at several locations, including off Hwy 1 at Dana Road, at the foot of Hollister Peak.

How it works is that giant compressors pump a mix of air and water into pressure tanks buried deep underground using excess energy produced when both wind and solar power are over-abundant.

The pressurized tanks store that extra energy and can release it over time, pushing it through turbine/generators and sending the electricity back onto the power grid for when energy supply from wind and solar drops.

"The state-of-the-art Project," Hydrostor said in a news release from its November 2021 project launch, "will provide large-scale, long-duration energy storage for the region with no fossil fuel consumption and no greenhouse gas emissions. With commercial operation date as early as 2026, Pecho will play a vital role in helping meet the region's future energy supply and reliability needs after the retirement of the 2,200 MW Diablo Canyon Power Plant in 2024/2025."

Wishful Thinking

That quick goal of 2026 would seem to have been at best wishful thinking as the project was met immediately with opposition by neighbors of the proposed site who live in the scenic and very rural Chorro Valley.

Some families in the area of Hollister Peak have been there for generations and the bottomland is actively farmed. Hydrostor wants to build on 300-acres of farmland.

The project included a nearly 70,000-square foot, 100-foot tall, generator/compressor building and other buildings, too.

It would also require a lot of groundwater to fill a 40-foot deep reservoir covering some 27 acres.

Water Worries

It was the water usage that worried neighbors most, as everyone out that way is on water wells. Chorro Valley was always a reliable source of groundwater for the City of Morro Bay, which used to draw the majority of its drinking water out of a handful of wells out there.

Those wells reliably produced over 950-acre feet a year for the City until 2006, when the State Water Project arrived and replaced the Chorro well field. Most of the City wells haven't been used in years.

The City has now abandoned all but one of the Chorro wells after deciding it didn't want to pursue a prescriptive rights permit from the State or rehab the wells, which had fallen into disrepair.

The sticking point was always Chorro Creek and a State Water Quality Control Board permit requirement that stopped pumping by the City whenever the creek flow drops below 1.4 cubic feet per second, about the strength of a low-flow showerhead.

The State wanted a stream gauge installed to monitor the creek flow and for several reasons, the City decided to abandon the well field instead, keeping just one in operation off Dana Road.

It's unclear if the Pecho Project was going to be held to that same standard, as the project hasn't gotten that far.

Water quality out there has at times run high in nitrates (salt) and turbidity was high back when the City actually used that water and tracked the well levels and quality weekly.

Retired former Morro Bay Public Works Director, Bill Boucher, once declared at a City Council meeting that the Chorro Valley water looked "like Yoo-hoo Soda."

Use City Wastewater

In its initial comments on the project, the Regional Water Quality Control Board in SLO suggested that the plant switch water sources and use recycled water from the new Morro Bay Water Resources Center, which is a fair distance away from Hydrostor's project site. The City's new plant treats sewage to a tertiary level and micro-filters the wastewater before discharge or recycling it.

The water board's suggestion was scoffed at by City officials, who said they'd never been approached about



Here's a rendering of what Hydrostor's proposed Pecho Energy Storage Center in Chorro Valley would look like from Cerro Cabrillo. The big mountain to the right is Hollister Peak. Photo courtesy Hydrostor

this by the company nor the water board. And their highly treated wastewater is intended to be recycled by the City to support the drinking water supply.

High Voltage Shock

Hydrostor's desire to connect to the high voltage power lines that run from Diablo Canyon to Morro Bay and cross Chorro Valley near to the project site, also got a shock when the State and Federal Governments decided they wanted Diablo Canyon to continue operating for another 5-10 years after the announced 2025 closure.

The supply of emissions-free energy isn't going to be where it needs to be in order to remove Diablo Canyon's steady power from the grid.

That's sent PG&E back to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's drawing board with regards to re-licensing, a process that had already taken a decade before it was dropped.

PG&E is now working on both re-licensing the plant to extend operations and planning on its eventual decommissioning.

All this Diablo intrigue happened after Hydrostor began pursuing its project and could be a big reason Hydrostor is looking at its options.

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News

The Rock From page 1
joined by percussionist John Astaire. He plays with the SLO Symphony. Jill Knight is a central coast icon. She retired, playing only a few select gigs. Murder Hornets are an interesting mixture of Honky Tonk and psychedelic surf. Central Coast Music's Ed Frawley plays guitar and vocals in the band. His store has been kind enough to donate the backline (bass amp and drums) for the show. Just another example of how the community comes together for the cause. And finally, one band that always gets the crowd going, returning for their third Rock Fundraiser, Unfinished Business will perform classic hits."

A quick search on the talent's websites revealed more. Headliner Dulcie Taylor has shared the stage with a long and impressive list of artists, including Jerry Lee Lewis, Guy Clark, Kathy Mattea, Raul Maol and Vern Gosdin. Her first recording in 2012, 'Free of Sorrow,' reached No. 1 at Amazon for Top-Rated Americana and her newest album, "Wind Over Stone," is already reaping reviews like "an Americana masterpiece."

Since they formed in 2003, Unfinished Business has been perfecting their sound-covers of the best and most popular music of all time. Expect their set to include 1960s rock 'n roll and soul, like Beatles, Rolling Stones, British Invasion, the Beach Boys, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Motown and Memphis soul.

Regional favorite Jill Knight lives in Cambria. Her musical business for over 20 years offers voice-over work, background vocals plus writing and producing jingles.

And since 2020 the Murder Hornets' unique and playful stage antics encourage dancing and major musical fun-time.

Looking back before The Rock launched its music and talk schedule, I recall Hal presenting his quest for a community radio station at a Morro Bay Rotary Club meeting. When I heard 97.3 The Rock was really happening, I got excited. I've always loved radio and had been visiting on-air weekly with KVEC's King Harris for a couple years promoting Estero Bay happenings. It was a fun ride to have my own show for a time. Hal invites, "We're always looking for new on-air talent."

Hal and Judy Francis Abram's careers began in commercial radio. Hal was a seasoned professional radio personality for 25-years. "I was considered an edgy talent. I did morning drive and came up with strange stunts to draw in the audiences."

He admits his independent thinking about the commercial radio business compelled him to move from market to market. He began researching pirate radio opportunities while building the couple's popular "Animal Radio" pet show that since 2001 has grown to over 350,000 listeners airing weekly on 130 AM-FM radio stations and XM Satellite Radio. Hal also had another silver bullet to guide his path to Morro Bay's radio innovation. Actor and radio personality Jay Thomas was his best friend and introduced him to an FCC lawyer who helped him file an available license. Hal insisted whatever venture he worked on needed to be legal.

"It all started in our home walk-in closet," Hal said. It took two years to final the license and launch the station. He had to build a board of directors which eventually cemented an agreement with the City of Morro Bay to build a studio in the Chamber of Commerce building and a transmitter in the city's sewer yard. Former Councilmen Bill Peirce was an advocate that Morro Bay needed an emergency radio network. Hal added, "It wouldn't have happened if (Councilmember) Noah Smukler hadn't helped us promote a community neighborhood radio station."

The first board of directors was led by community leaders such as Cayucos-based realtor and Rotarian Sherry



Longtime THE ROCK founders and crew at an early fundraising concert picturing original board and DJs like Board President Sherry Sim, Bill Pierce, Judy Abrams in front and Hal holding the mic. Photo submitted

Sim, Councilwoman Cyndee Edwards, who was Chamber of Commerce president at the time, plus Bill Peirce. After Sim's term as president, Hal served until the couple made the hard choice to move to Colorado in 2019 when his father was ailing. And then COVID shuttered everything. Funding reserves built up over six years dwindled with no way to reach out to supporters to fund raise.

Currently on-air talent Robert Moynier, originally a talent on the popular K-OTTR radio based in Cambria, has taken over leadership of the board. Drew Ross is program director and Cheryl Wells is coordinating special promotions like the upcoming anniversary concert and silent auction extravaganza. And the music plays on with talents like Bill Musial, Lisa Ellman, Brian Davis, Ruthann Angus, Dead Air Dave, Jason Cantu, Neil Ramirez and so many more, including Abe Pearlson with his popular show "Tuesdays with Abe." New talent stepped up like Morro Bay's City Engineer, Eric Riddiough hosting a Surf Show and Chamber membership director Lynsey Hansen, who hosts "The Hype Machine." TV's Barry Funkhouser, known for "SheeZaam," produces his show from Oxnard. The Rock's technology has allowed streaming since 2014.

So, what's the newest news at 97.3/107.0 The Rock? Its major advancement has been adding listeners in the Paso Robles area.

"Our transmitter in Paso has incredible range from Radio Ranch. It's where area emergency fire and national internet companies are located," Hal said.

The board of directors envision a future relocation of the Morro Bay transmitter to gain an even broader coverage area on the Central Coast. And that's exactly the purpose of their 11th annual fundraiser on 10/28, Hal added "...replenish the reserves so The Rock can move forward and expand their groovin' sound throughout the Central Coast."

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Makeover From page 1

The contractors removed the outside siding, which was in rough shape, re-ran all those wires, wrapped the building in Tyvek and then put up new siding.

Missing is all the flotsam found in the bay over the years, like floats, mooring balls, propellers, anchors, cleats



Harbor Patrolman Dana Stein, was all smiles standing in their remodeled office.



Harbor Director, Ted Schiafone, explains the layout of the front area at the Harbor Office.

He explained that they bought all the cabinets and furniture at Home Depot and the crew put it all together, saving a lot of money.

The department has long wanted to build a new office and most recently, had a plan penciled out to build a 2-story structure on a small parking lot and public restroom next door. That project would have built a new public restroom but cost far too much for them to handle, especially after the Coast Guard, which the City wanted to charge extra rent to pay for its own new office, instead put an addition onto the existing building to serve as crew quarters. The USCG's rent went up a little but not enough to finance a multi-million-dollar project.

A new office was estimated to cost \$1.5 million “in

"My position was to make improvements on what we have," he explained.

Also of note, the building was long rumored to have asbestos flooring and lead exterior paint, but turned out not to have either. Asbestos and lead paint require special handling and safety precautions and would have added countless more to the makeover's costs.

The department got a \$10,000 donation from the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department, which was on hand at the open house promoting their newest goal — buying a 4-wheel drive UTV for the lifeguards to use on the beach (see: <https://friendsofthembhd.org>).

The Harbor Department, Schiafone said, spent \$50,000 and “a lot was on the furniture. There’s a lot of history in this old building.”

The department is now turning its attention on a big project that outside organizations have also contributed greatly to. Schiafone said they got a \$100,000 donation from the Commercial Fishermen's Organization and \$200,000 from the Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee to be used to make repairs to the City-owned slips that it leases to commercial fishermen.

Is that enough money? "It's hard to tell total costs," Schiafone said. That's because repairing docks is a little like fixing up an old house — in that you can't know the extent of the repairs needed, until you start tearing into it.

“We’ll have to remove them and turn them over,” he said of the floating finger docks. “I can’t guess, but it’s going to be a big amount.”

Fixing those docks is the next item on what's grown to be a big list of needed repairs and upgrades to City-owned harbor facilities.

That list topped \$10 million less than 2-years ago when a trio of local men managed to get a property tax increase of \$10 a month on private properties onto the ballot.

But Measure B-22 failed to garner enough support and left the Harbor Department looking for revenues.

Another big future job will be upgrades to the North T-pier in anticipation of the large crew boats that will moor here if and when the offshore floating wind farms are developed.

The Federal Government allocated \$1.5 million towards that effort and the City has met a couple of times with the companies that won leases for the wind farms.

They are supposed to come up with the upgrades that



This 'before' photo shows what the Harbor Office looked like before the recent makeover.

will be needed, though Schiafone said the pier's decking isn't a problem. The main issues are the electrical and water service at the T-pier and the fire suppression system.

Schiafone said they hired Brady & Assoc., a renowned marine engineering and construction firm in San Diego to analyze what will need to be done. Once they get that report, he added, they will formalize a plan and get started on it.

It's likely, given the support of the wind farm project at both the State and Federal levels, that more money for the needed T-pier repairs would be available.

And the wind companies could be expected to put money into it too.

Offshore Winds From page 1

East Coast is planned for 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22 at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay.

Called, “Thrown to the Wind,” and released in August by Poducer and Director, Jonah Markowitz, the film delves into the Federal Government’s claims that increases in die-offs of whales, dolphins and other marine mammals on the U.S. East Coast since 2016 is not related to construction of large offshore wind turbines.

“The film presents evidence that proves that the U.S. Government officials have been lying,” said journalist Michael Shellenberger in a New York Post article. Shellenberger reveals that he was involved in the production of the film.

Shellenberger said the main species of concern is the North Atlantic Wright Whale, which has seen a precipitous population drop since 2022 — from over 400 to about 360.

“There have been more than 60 recorded whale deaths of all species on the East Coast since Dec 1, 2022,” Shellenberger said, “a number that increased markedly since 2016 when the wind industry started to ramp up.”

According to an event flyer, “This documentary, based on new research, challenges that [government] narrative.”





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News

Organizers are asking for a \$5 donation at the door to cover the cost of renting the hall. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

Government Meeting

Then on Nov. 1 in the County Supervisors' Chambers at the County Government Center, corner of Higuera and Santa Rosa Sts., in San Luis Obispo, local government pols will hold a public meeting on offshore wind, coming from the opposite side as the documentary film.

State Assemblywoman Dawn Addis and local Congressman Salud Carbajal are organizing the event in conjunction with County, State and Federal agency reps, and State Sen. John Laird. The meeting is slated to start at 4 p.m. and there will also be a streaming of the meeting, with details to be announced later.

Others reportedly to attend include: reps from the California Energy Commission and Coastal Commission, Cal Poly, and County Supervisors Bruce Gibson, and Dawn Ortiz-Legg. From the other side of the aisle, Morro Bay Mayor Carla Wixom was reported to be scheduled to attend.

Pols Are All Aboard

The politicians putting on the meeting all said they wanted to hear from residents, but they talk like this is a foregone conclusion.

"We need families to understand," Rep. Carbajal said, "not just the clean power that this development will bring in our fight against the climate crisis, but also the power that it will have in terms of creating jobs, boosting our local communities, and making our region an economic powerhouse. I hope all who are interested can join us."

Sen. Laird thinks this is a big deal. "Offshore wind is coming to the Central Coast," Sen Laird said, "and this is a really big deal. It's a profound step towards a green energy future for the state and will serve as a model for the globe."

He said residents here have a lot of questions. "Understandably, however," Sen. Laird said, "the residents of San Luis Obispo County have a lot of questions, including whether the turbines really will spin by 2030 and what kind of benefits — and impacts — this new technology may bring. The purpose of this information session is to begin to get those questions answered, and I encourage the community to join us on Nov. 1."

Assemblywoman Addis, who is from Morro Bay, said, "As California continues to make historic investment in climate solutions, there is tremendous potential for offshore wind energy to play a critical role. That said, building offshore wind energy off the Central Coast will impact our communities and there is much to learn."

"As offshore wind energy development moves forward, it's important that we come together to better understand the challenges ahead, the potential environmental and economic benefits to California and the Central Coast, and to hear local voices."

Dist. 2 SLO County Supervisor, Bruce Gibson too seems all in. "Offshore wind," Sup. Gibson said, "has such great potential to accelerate our shift to renewable energy and the issues around it are important for the public to understand. I appreciate Rep. Carbajal, Sen. Laird and

Asm. Addis hosting what will certainly be a fascinating and informative event."

Dist. 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, who represents Pismo and Avila Beach, said, "This will be an important opportunity for our community to learn and engage with this robust panel of agencies and companies working on offshore wind.

"There are multiple steps required to generate clean, reliable energy in a responsible manner and it's important for our community to be informed and provide feedback so SLO County to continue our tradition as an energy generating powerhouse."

Of note, all five of these elected officials are Democrats, though Gibson and Ortiz-Legg technically hold non-partisan offices. If she indeed appears at the meeting, Morro Bay Mayor Wixom is likely to be the sole voice of opposition, though she has not officially stated support or opposition to the wind farms.

Central Coast in Bulls-Eye

The Central Coast is in the bulls-eye for the germinating offshore wind energy industry, as a nearly 400-square mile patch of open ocean, 20-30 miles off San Simeon, has already been leased out by the Federal Government to three different companies to develop. Two other companies won leases off the Humboldt Coast in Northern California.

The companies are: Equinor, a company from Norway; Energize Ventures, which was formerly named Invenergy, is based in Chicago; and Golden State Energy, a Spain-based company formerly known as Central California Offshore Wind.

Of note, according to the Schiafone report, Golden State Wind "is a partnership between Ocean Winds and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board."

The initial goal is for 3-gigawatts capacity of floating wind turbines to be installed in the "Morro Bay Wind Area" and the power brought ashore most likely in Morro Bay at the shuttered power plant. But that should be considered conceptual at this point, as the details — from environmental impacts and mitigation, to design and construction are still being developed.

Morro Bay to Play Key Role

Though the actual siting of the wind farms would be about 57-miles northwest of Morro Bay, the city, especially the harbor, will likely be called upon to house facilities needed to support the endeavor — from office/control room space to crew ship moorings.

Already the Federal Government has allocated over \$1 million to the Harbor Department to help pay for upgrades to the North T-pier to accommodate what will be relatively large ships for this tiny harbor.

According to studies that have been done, most recently by the State Lands Commission, Morro Bay Harbor can't handle the ultra-large work ships needed to assemble and install the mooring systems and wind towers, and tow them to the wind farm site.

So far, Long Beach and Port Hueneme have been the two most oft mentioned locations for the large work assembly/manufacturing yard, large work quay, and deep-water port needed for this aspect of the project.

City Meets Wind Companies

The City has met a few times with the companies' reps to discuss what improvements might be needed to local harbor facilities.

In a recent joint-city council-planning commission meeting, Harbor Director Ted Schiafone said they'd held an "orientation" meeting with the three companies — Equinor, Energize Ventures and Golden State Wind — in June 2023.

They also took Equinor's project team on a harbor and water tour in August. (Equinor is also developing offshore wind farms on the U.S. East Coast).

City's Potential Windfall

Morro Bay's likely sources of revenue from these massive wind farms will come from mooring fees and lease payments, if the companies have to lease the power plant's outfall canal, where the power cables are expected to come ashore.

How much money that would bring in to the City and more importantly the Harbor Department is subject to negotiation.

When Duke Energy tried to replace the power plant with a new, more efficient and smaller one, the City and Duke worked out a lease agreement that committed Duke to pay a minimum of \$2 million a year, with at least \$250,000 of that going to the Harbor Fund (adjusted for inflation). In really hot summers and high energy demand years, the payments would have been more than \$2 million.

The expected life of that plant was 50 years, so the outfall lease meant a total of \$100 million was all but guaranteed, but was lost when the project fell apart. Duke sold the plant and it was shuttered forever in 2014, ending the outfall lease and the money dried up.

With the old power plant (and the unrealized new one), the City collected property taxes, the outfall lease payments, and a franchise fees on the natural gas burned at the plant (which Duke had to purchase from PG&E).

It meant an instant windfall of over \$4 million the first two years Duke had the plant (skewed upward by the State's energy crisis of 2000-2002).

Future Schedule

According to the Schiafone report, the schedule going forward includes:

- 2023: Pre-survey meetings and planning stage. Lessees will submit their Public Engagement Plan.
- 2024-2028: Lessees will submit their site assessment plan, which will be reviewed and approved by BOEM [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management]. Site assessment and field surveys on commercial fishing impacts will then be conducted. At the end of this period, the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) will be submitted with an optional project design envelope.
- 2028-2029: BOEM will decide whether the COP is complete and sufficient, and NEPA/environmental and technical reviews will begin. These reviews will concurrently ensure Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.
- 2030: BOEM will approve the COP, if it meets requirements. Design and installation reports will then be submitted. If approved, installation of the wind turbines may begin.

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