Your Community Your News



Vol #5 - Issue #20

CAMBRIA · CAYUCOS · LOS OSOS · MORRO BAY

October 5 - October 18, 2023

## Moving Forward: October Is Morro Bay Maritime Month

By Judy Salamacha

Indeed, life's most positive experiences can be repeated especially when you have an entire community actively working together for mutual outcomes. And frankly, the second time around can be even better!

For example, both in 2016 and 2023 Maritime Museum San Diego sailed Cabrillo's San Salvador to help the Morro Bay Maritime Museum build its 20year dream. Both years over 10,000 locals and visitors from all over California and beyond headed to Morro Bay's waterfront for an interactive California history lesson. More than 75 community volunteers stepped up both years to train as docents during the onboard

tours. A supportive Visit Morro Bay was a proud sponsor!

However, visitors and even SLO county visitors received even more with their tour ticket in 2023. All 10,000-plus visitors had only to walk across the street from where the San Salvador was docked to see the DSRV Avalon, newly refurbished by a grant from the Ludwick Foundation. Additionally, a MBMM museum building open Thursdays through Mondays free-of charge is jam-packed with maritime artifacts. Museum volunteers shared stories and visuals demonstrating the Central Coast's World War II involvement, including the sinking of the Montebello off the coast of Cambria and Morro Bay's Abalone fishing heyday, plus early days of the Salinan Native American's culture.

Many visitors stated they had visited during the grand opening in 2018 and were amazed at what had been accomplished since 2020. Outdoor exhibits included a larger fleet of iconic vessels with their stories available on QR code, walkways filled with interesting tributes to family and friends on memorial bricks, historical panels of Morro Bay's Commercial Fishing industry, a presentation/gather-



Tognazini's Dockside runs the BBQ at the Maritime Family Fun Day. Photo submitted

ing patio sponsored by the Bill Steele Family, a Kids Cove maritime activity center created with a grant from the City of Morro Bay and a museum store filled with maritime books, apparel and take-home maritime souvenirs, especially for the children.

With barely an instant to catch a breath after hosting Cabrillo's San Salvador, MBMM received the City of Morro Bay's encouragement and expectation to expand at 1210 Embarcadero. Planning is now officially in the brainstorming phases to determine the museum's next future development phase. At the September 12, City Council meeting, appreciation was archived thanking MBMM's past-president, Scott Mather, Morro Bay's Planning Director Scot Graham, and consultant Cathy Novak for many hours served to finalize a multi-year lease on the property.

Moving forward the City of Morro Bay had designated October as Morro Bay Maritime Month in 2016. MBMM has two celebrations planned – a chance to support the museum's future growth at an adult celebration hosted by the Morro Bay Yacht Club and a free Maritime Family Fun Day at the museum.

On Wednesday October 11, the MBYC will open

Maritime Month Continued on page 20

## Butts Top Coastal Cleanup Trash



Some of the debris found at Toro Dog Beach/Morro Strand during the annual Coastal Cleanup Day coordinated by Environmental Center of SLO County. Photo submitted By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Taking a walk along the Estero Bluffs is almost guaranteed beautiful views of sea stacks, wetlands, a beach, and the ocean. However, it is not the place one expects to find a discarded couch. The couch is gone as are many other trash items that could flow back into the ocean and harm or kill marine life.

Nearly 600 volunteers armed with work gloves, trash bags and buckets battled debris at 22 beaches and inland waterways during the 39th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day organized statewide by the California Coastal Commission. The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) has organized local efforts since 2005.

"We want the community to remember that every day is Earth Day," Ellie Howell, ECOSLO volunteer coordinator, told Estero Bay News. "While this was one annual

Trash Continued on page 22

### Supervisors Asked to Hire Offshore Wind Analyst

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County administrators believes they need help to keep up with and participate in the review and permitting of offshore floating wind farms.

But County Supervisors want a more comprehensive look at energy-related projects being proposed in the area, as San Luis Obispo County is fast becoming the center of attention in the State's clean energy projects — the offshore floating wind farms and continued operations of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant — sometime in the next few Supervisor meetings.

Supervisors wanted something "broader in scope," Nilon said, "with what's happening with energy in general."

He hopes that Supervisors will then move forward with creating the wind farm analyst position and let him hire someone to take over what promises to be a complicated review and approval process, especially since the position is already funded by State Sen. John Laird's recent budgetary efforts.

## **County Health Assessment Released**



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### By Neil Farrell

How healthy are San Luis Obispo County's residents? What health-related issues do they face that help the local numbers beat the State averages for certain ailments and where does the County need to try harder to improve?

These are some of the questions addressed in the "2023 San Luis Obispo County Community Health Assessment," a comprehensive report on the overall health of the residents recently released by the SLO County Health

of attention in the State's clean energy future.

But the County staff thinks they need to bring someone in now, to take over monitoring this giant project, which is being reviewed and permitted through the federal government, and involves foreign limited liability corporations, formed specifically just for this project.

Interim County Administrative Officer, John Nilon asked Supervisors on Sept. 12 to approve adding a full time "Principal Administrative Analyst position with a focus on offshore wind to support the offshore wind activities, studies, and meetings," reads Nilon's report.

Nilon told Estero Bay News that after the Supervisors' directions, he and the staff will go back and put together a more comprehensive update on the two main energy Asked if he would include the trio of energy storage projects being proposed for the North Coast with two actually in the County's jurisdiction, Nilon said he hadn't thought to include those.

### State to Pay for It

Funding for the new hire is already included in the State budget, specifically "Section 19.561(g)(58), which grants \$750,000 for the County of San Luis Obispo for support of staffing resources for offshore wind development," Nilon's report said.

The money was appropriated after the County asked the State for money to help **Offshore Wind** Continued on page 21 "This assessment," County Health Officer Dr. Penny

County Health Continued on page 22

## **Assistant City Manager Leaving**

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's new city manager will have her first big personnel decision to make, after the assistant city manager gave notice and is taking a job in Sunnyvale.

Yvonne Kimball, who just took over as Morro Bay City Manager on Aug. 14, will now have to replace Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Director, Sarah Johnson-Rios, who gave notice that Oct. 4 would be her last day in Morro Bay.

She is slated to start in Sunnyvale as their assistant city manager on Oct. 23, according to a news release from

Manager Leaving Continued on page 23

## Vets Hall Moving Along Page 3





Shop, Sip & Stroll Page 19



## News **MBHS Sophomore Arrested for Threats**

By Neil Farrell

Police arrested a Morro Bay High student after they al-legedly made online threats against the school.

According to Morro Bay Police Chief Amy Watkins, the department's school resource office (SRO) was contacted by school administrators at about 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20 after they received a tip on a special "text-to-tip" line regarding an apparent threat posted on social media.

Posted by a student, the post "threatened the physical safety of the student body and staff at Morro Bay High School," Chief Watkins said in a news release. "The School Administration contacted the student prior to the beginning of the school day and the student reported to the main office.'

The police, school administration and officials from the school district conducted a threat assessment of the student, whom Chief Watkins said was a 10th grade (sophomore), girl. The assessment determined there was no further threat to the school.

Nevertheless, the girl was arrested and charged with allegedly making criminal threats against a school, which the chief said was a so-called "wobbler" or an offense able to be charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony. The District Attorney's Office will decide what the crime will be charged as but regardless, the student left campus in handcuffs

"The student was removed from campus," Chief Watkins said, "arrested, and booked into juvenile hall on charges associated with criminal threats to a school campus including students and staff."

Estero Bay News asked Chief Watkins as to the nature of the threat? "Nature of the threat was violence/harm," she said. "The threat was against everyone at the school. The law takes that as students, staff, anyone associated with the school on campus that day.'

Asked which specific areas of the criminal codes the suspect was being charged with, Chief Watkins said, Penal Code 422(a) and PC 71.

PC 422(a) reads: "Any person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the specific intent that the statement, made verbally, in writing, or by means of an electronic communication device, is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety.' The code lists the punishment as up to a year in prison.

And PC 71 reads: "Every person who, with intent to cause, attempts to cause, or causes, any officer or employee of any public or private educational institution or any public officer or employee to do, or refrain from doing, any act in the performance of his duties, by means of a threat, directly communicated to such person, to inflict an unlawful injury upon any person or property, and it reasonably appears to the recipient of the threat that such threat could be carried out.'

In essence PC 422(a) deals with a threat to the school, and PC 71 is a threat to the staff, students and teachers, she explained.

As a sophomore, the student is likely 15 or 16-years old and as no actual harm was done to the school or its people, she would likely be tried as a juvenile, though that decision is also up to the D.A.'s Office.

The MBHS incident was one of several such incidents that have occurred in recent weeks at SLO County high schools.

And the tip that was texted to school administrators came in via a special line the school set up for this exact purpose.

"Morro Bay High School," Chief Watkins said, "provides a text-to-tip dedicated text number, which allows individuals to report concerns discreetly. A QR code and flyers with this number are posted throughout the campus."

Police appreciate the assist from the text-to-tip line.

worked well in this instance. "The text-to-tip," Chief Watkins said, "is set up by the school and all tips go directly to school administrators. We were contacted immediately when the tip was received by MBHS administrators."

Over the past 25-plus years, school shootings nationwide have seemingly grown in frequency and veracity, forcing schools everywhere to take special safety measures metal detectors at entrances and active shooter drills, to things like security fencing and hardening of campuses, and posting police officers in schools. Morro Bay High had such a security fence errected surropnding the inner campus, as part of the Measure D upgrades to the school. But the school had been spared such troubling incidents, apparently until now

"I do not recall any specific threats similar to this," Chief Watkins said. "We have followed up on an about a half dozen troubling posts and statements making sure everything was fine."

Because the student was essentially in custody before school started for the day, which helped police determine the threat was over, the school wasn't locked down or evacuated.

And while school shootings have become media sensations, statistically, the frequency of the shootings has declined since the 1970s, and certainly since the Department of justice started tracking them in 1989. But whether it's the news value of such incidents or actual increases in frequency, the DOJ said everyone has taken notice.

According to a newsletter on school shootings from the DOJ, "School officials have become more concerned about student safety, in part as a result of high-profile school shootings.

'School security measures have increased since the Columbine shooting of 1999. Nearly 100 percent of schools serving 12- to 18-year olds use at least one safety or security measure, such as locked doors, security cameras, hallway supervision, controlled building access, metal detectors, and locker checks. However, school use of these measures varies by factors like population served and location.

## Windwalker Hauled Out in Humboldt



Kelly Hakonsson stands in front of his boat CFV Windwalker, which sits cradled in a travel lift at the Reincke Marine Fabrication yard in Fields Landing in Humboldt, Calif. Submitted photo

### By Neil Farrell

Rescued from the wrecking ball by a Washington-State Man, the commercial fishing vessel, Windwalker, has made it into dry dock and is being worked on by a guy you might describe as one of the luckiest men alive.

Kelly Hakonsson, a commercial tuna fisherman who hails from Ilwaco, Wash., made perhaps the deal of a lifetime back in July when he purchased the CFV Windwalker at a Harbor Department auction.

She can pack on 80,000 kilograms in a pair of insulated fish holds; and has a 25-ton Bohn blast freezer. She has a capacity of 4,400-gallons of fuel and carries 600-gallons fresh water.

That sounds good on paper, but the big question for Hakonsson on auction day was is the Windwalker salvageable? Back in July, when the auction was to be held, Hakonsson was just another commercial fisherman with a dream of owning his own fishing boat.

Then on his birthday, he said, he discovered the Windwalker's auction notice on Craig's List and fell in love with the unique vessel.

See while Windwalker was built as a fishing boat she looks more like a sailboat, complete with a mast and sails. But her deck is covered in fishing gear.

She'd sat idle for several years after the original owner, a Morro Bay commercial fisherman, fell ill and could no longer go fishing. He fell behind on the dock fees to the City and the City eventually filed seizure papers in federal

It had to go through federal court because Windwalker is a federally registered boat. Though it's a long, arduous process, the City stuck it out and was eventually allowed to seize the boat and sell it to recover its fees.

Hakonsson jumped on the chance to buy her, and on July 13, with a pocket full of thousands in cash, he bought Windwalker for just \$1,000.

That would seem a safe bet considering there is equipment and gear on board worth many thousands of dollars. A couple of hours after the auction, still counting his blessings, Hakonsson boarded what was now his boat and started testing out the various power systems.

The engine cranked right over and started right up. The generators too, and the batteries seemed fine as well, though he came to Morro Bay prepared to replace them.

Hakonsson said at the time that he hadn't found a single thing on the boat that didn't work and after a few days getting her ready to leave port - and because the terms of the sale required Windwalker to me removed safely from the harbor within 14 days - he departed Morro Bay to make the long journey north and back home to Ilwaco.

He left Morro Bay with a grand idea formulating in his head to take her tuna fishing in the South Pacific, a place he's always wanted to go.

Estero Bay News recently received a series of photos from Hakonsson of Windwalker in dry dock, including one of the refurbished rudder and propeller.

"I am in Fields Landing," Hakonsson wrote, "at Reincke Marine Fabrication." Reincke is a complete fabrication



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The Morro Bay Police Department appreciates and supports tip resources such as text-to-tip," Chief Watkins said, 'and encourages students and adults to report concerning or suspicious activities and report any social media threats rather than reposting them."

Though it's outside the normal 9-1-1 emergency line, it

The boat was built in Morro Bay in 1984. It's 64-feet long, has an 18.5' beam, and a steel hull.

She sports a Cat 334 diesel engine, rated at 250-horse power, a John Deere 30-kilowatt generator and two Isuzu back-ups. She also has a mast and sail rigging.



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### Joan Sullivan Judy Salamacha

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## News

and boat maintenance yard with a big travel lift and space for people to work on their boats themselves; or they have a crew of craftsmen that can assist you or do the work for you, according to the company's website.

Sitting cradled in the travel lift, Windwalker looks huge, though she's a medium-sized vessel at best.

Hakonsson was still thanking his lucky stars for what he would consider the privilege of owning a fine and seaworthy vessel, and one he picked up for a song.

## Vets Hall Work Speeding Up



Construction work on the \$11million project to rehabilitate the Cayucos Vet's Hall

Story and Photos by Neil Farrell

Work is progressing nicely on the resurrection of the historic Cayucos Vet's Hall, a more than \$11 million project being undertaken by the County.

Officially called the "Cayucos Veteran's Memorial Hall Rehabilitation" project the effort is a total remodel of the circa-1870s structure that started life as the Cass Warehouse, part of the shipping business started by Cayucos Founder, Capt. James Cass.

The Vet's Hall was in a sad state several years ago when the County closed it for repairs. The floor under the stage had rotted out and was in danger of collapse.

Further investigations discovered the walls were poorly connected to the massive, high-pitched roof, eventually leading to condemnation by the Office of the State Architect, and its complete closure. The Vet's Hall is owned by State Parks and leased (since the 1940s) by the County. It was under the management of the Lions Club but when it finally reopens, the plan is for County Parks to manage it.

The contractors had to remove the Pier Plaza, leaving just the Dale Evers dolphin sculpture in place. The building was stripped down to the wall studs, picked up and moved off the rotted foundation, while a new one was built.

A few weeks ago, the building was moved back onto the new foundation and the remodeling work has really taken off.

The photos here show the progress of the job in just one week, as she is now fully sided with new plywood and interior work has begun.

Eventually it will resemble greatly the original warehouse design and there will be a new plaza with a wraparound deck at the west side of the building. It's anticipated that the community barbecue area that was taken out will be rebuilt, too.

The General Contractor for the job is J G Contracting of Nipomo and the architect on the project is RRM Design Group of SLO.

The County stitched together several funding sources — the Natural Resources Agency, Coastal Conservancy and Prop. 68 (the Parks & Water Bond of 2018). Local citizens also have pitched in, gathering hundreds of thousands in donations to help get the funding snowball moving.

A special group of citizens was formed under the moniker "Restore Cayucos Vets Hall." The group continues to fundraise in order to purchase the accouterments needed — tables, chairs, linens, plates, utensils — one expects to have available at an events center like the Vet's Hall.

See: www.restorecayucosvetshall.org to make donations.

## State Reaches Installation of 10,000th EV Fast Chargers



This electric vehicle charging station, with a handful of outlets, was recently installed in the parking lot at McDonalds on Quintana Road and became the first public EV charging station in Morro Bay.

### By Neil Farrell

The State recently celebrated the installation of the 10,000th fast-charging station for electric cars, achieving the taxpayer-funded milestone a year ahead of schedule.

A celebration was held with State leaders in a parking lot of the El Mercado Shopping Center in Union City, Calif., where new EVgo, direct-current, fast chargers had been recently installed under a State backed program.

"Chargers like these," reads a news release from the

Energy Commission (CEC), the agency heading up the push for electric vehicles, "helped achieve the goal established by then-Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018. Since that time, the number of fast chargers installed nearly quadrupled from 2,657 to more than 10,000 today."

CEC Commissioner, Patty Monahan, said, "We're really close to this inflection point when it comes to electric transportation. We're seeing automakers step up and provide the vehicles and now we need to make sure there is charging infrastructure available to be able to meet demand."

Locally, the recent opening of the Hampton Inn and installation of several charging stations by McDonald's has greatly increased the number of commercial EV chargers available in town.

According to the CEC's release, there are some 93,855 so-called, "public and shared private" chargers — counting both fast chargers and Level 2 (slow) units statewide — with 41,384 (44.09%) public stations that anyone with a credit card can use. There are 52,472 (55.91%) shared private chargers statewide.

The DC "fast chargers" total 10,258. The County with the most fast chargers is Los Angeles with 2,174 and most are public chargers. San Luis Obispo County has 136 with nearly all public chargers. The counties with the fewest are Alpine, Lake, Plumas and Sierra each with zero chargers.

The lower energy Level 2 chargers total 83,597 (31,779 public, 51,818 shared private).

Again Los Angeles County leads with 27,106 total and a large majority are the shared private variety. Santa Clara County is second with 17,357. From there the drop off is dramatic as San Diego County is third at just 7,444.

SLO County is listed with 568 Level 2 chargers.

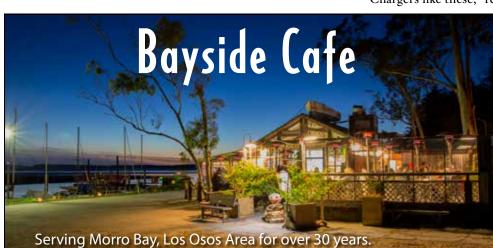
According to the CEC, "Fast chargers can recharge an all-battery EV to 80 percent capacity in about 30 minutes, depending on the size of the vehicle battery and the power level of the charger.

"The network allows EV drivers to travel across the state with public fast chargers conveniently located along interstates and highways."

The CEC is the lead state agency "working to invest in the infrastructure to charge EVs, which are available in plug-in hybrid electric, and battery electric configurations. Building this vast network of chargers is critical in reaching the state's goal to phase out the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035."

This is all part of the State's "Clean Transportation Program" (also known as Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program) used by the CEC to promote EV chargers and fund their installation.

The initial allocation was \$100 million and went for "a broad portfolio of transportation and fuel transportation projects throughout the state," reads the CEC's CTP website.



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EV Fast Chargers Continued on page 4

## News **Obstacle Course Races Running Permit Obstacle Course**

rganizers of an upcoming obstacle course race are running through the County's special permit obstacle course and hope to come out victorious, so they can have their fun.

County Supervisors set a public hearing for Tues., Oct. 26 on whether to grant a permit for an obstacle course competition at a ranch in Santa Margarita.

Spartan Race, Inc., requested a "temporary commercial outdoor entertainment license" (event license), for a 2-day obstacle course races set for Nov. 4-5 at the Santa Margarita Ranch, a cattle ranch and winery property that hosts special and major events and is home to the zip line company, Margarita Adventures.

The obstacle courses will be laid out along the existing trails at the over 17,000-acre property and any environmental impacts are expected to be minor.

They expect as many as 5,000 competitors to turn out for the event with a like number of spectators watching the spectacle.

Under County Ordinances (Ch. 6.56) special permits are need for some events or "outdoor commercial activity," to include:

· Music concert, music festival, "rock" concert, "rock" festival, dance concerts, dance festival, or any combination thereof:

· Circus or carnival; or,

### EV Fast Chargers From page 3

That program was recently the subject of a new bill that would continue funding for another decade.

The CEC's Monahan said, "Last year, we approved a \$2.9 billion investment plan, with 95% of the money going towards infrastructure for zero emission vehicles," Monahan said. "In the draft [the CEC] released recently, we are maintaining that level of investment. This is the most money any state has ever allocated for zero-emission vehicle infrastructure."

The CTP has grown exponentially since it started. The 2022-23 "investment plan" put the State all-in on EV chargers.

In a December 2022 news release the CEC said the investment plan, "Increases funding for the CEC's Clean Transportation Program by 30 times compared to 2019 with an additional \$2.4 billion from the recent state budget that will be spent over the next four years and with at least 50% targeted to benefit priority populations. CEC staff estimates the plan will result in 90,000 new EV chargers across the state, more than double the 80,000 chargers installed. Combined with funding from utilities and other programs, these investments are expected to ensure the state achieves its goal to deploy 250,000 chargers by 2025.'



## Realtor **Rick Johnson**

- 40 years as a Realtor Serving San Luis
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· Any other theatrical and/or athletic display, exhibition, stunt, contest, performance, or presentation and which is an activity to which members of the public are invited or admitted for a charge and which is attended by more than 3,000 persons and which is to any extent performed outdoors and/or to any extent viewed from outdoors.

The request was first sent to the Sheriff's Office, the Health Agency, Public Works and the Planning and Building Department for their review and approval. In this case, they also sent the application to Cal Fire and the Highway Patrol for review. What those agencies have to say is expected to be included in the information packet at the Sept. 26 hearing, according to a report from Sept. 12.

The public hearing is so neighbors of the ranch living within 500 feet of the property can be noticed personally and given a chance to comment.

In case readers wondered how much such a special temporary permit costs, the organizers of this one paid a \$100 non-refundable application fee and an additional \$500 (\$250 a day) for a total of \$600.

### **County to Buy Second Nuke Response Vehicle**

### By Neil Farrell

•ounty Supervisors have approved buying another multi-person 4-wheel drive vehicle plus four emergency shelters, to use in case of a nuclear accident and emergency, and paid for by the State.

County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates the County's "Nuclear Power Preparedness Program" or NPP, which is paid for by the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), according to a report from County Administration.

Supervisors on Sept. 12 were asked to accept a State grant and to purchase one 8-passenger, 4-wheel drive vehicle, to be used in case of a nuclear emergency at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to transport response and monitoring teams. The new vehicle would add to a Suburban the County bought under the same program last year for the same purpose. But that vehicle was purchased before the State passed its latest budget and the additional money - some \$134,000 - materialized.

"The County," reads a report, "is federally required to provide radiological monitoring during and after an emergency at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. This monitoring is conducted by field monitoring teams, which respond to areas near and downwind from the power plant to identify the location and severity of any potential radiological plume in the event of a release.

"The teams use various monitoring and sampling equipment to take air samples, check ground deposition, and identify water and vegetation contamination. All of this real-time information is utilized by the County Emergency Operations Center to help make protective action decisions regarding evacuation, relocation, and ingestion pathway restrictions."

In the past, the response teams used Pacific Gas & Electric vehicles but new federal requirements meant the County would need its own vehicles.

PG&E owns Diablo Canyon, which though it was slated to be fully retired by 2025, but looks now like it will remain open potentially for another 10-years or longer, after the State asked the 2,200 megawatt plant to stay open past that announced closure date.

The reliable nuclear power is seen as key to supporting the base load of the State's energy grid.

The new vehicle will allow the OES to have all eight response team members and their equipment riding in the same vehicle. "This vehicle with eight passenger seating and four-wheel drive," the report said, "will enable the field monitoring teams to transport all of their personnel, equipment and operate safely in off-road areas. Additionally, this large capacity vehicle will allow the FEMA evaluator man wanted in the case joins his alleged female accomplice and exercise controllers to facilitate the required exercises and evaluations in the same vehicle." The new vehicle is budgeted at over \$83,000.

The County OES also wants to buy four so-called, "rapid deployment shelters" for \$51,135, "for the preplanned evacuee monitoring and decontamination centers," the report said. "These shelters would also be available for use during other emergency events."

### **Elderly Man Arrested** for Attempted Murder



Cheriff's deputies arrested an elderly man after he Jallegedly shot at someone he was arguing with then barricaded himself inside his home, holding off sheriff's deputies for several hours before they stormed the house and arrested him.

According to sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 8:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 18, the sheriff's department received a report of shots fired in the 2800 block of Northview Avenue in rural Arroyo Grande.

"Witnesses," Cipolla said, "reported seeing two men arguing outside a home when one of the men fired a shot at the other. The victim was not injured."

The suspect then retreated into his home and, according to Cipolla, barricaded himself inside. "Deputies arrived on scene along with additional resources including the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail," Cipolla said. The Special Enforcement Details is the sheriff's SWAT Team. "A perimeter was set up around the house.

"As a precaution," Cipolla continued, "nearby homes were evacuated or told to shelter in place."

Sheriff's negotiators talked with the barricaded man for several hours, Cipolla said, trying to get him to give up and come out of the house but he was apparently having none of that.

When the suspect broke off contact with the Deputies and stopped communicating," Cipolla said, "a diversion device was placed inside the home.

"At approximately 3:30 p.m., members of the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail made entry into the home and detained the suspect."

The suspect, identified as Anthony Neil Carducci, 75 of Arroyo Grande, was arrested and charged with suspicion of attempted murder.

No further information was given as to why the two men were arguing in the first place or why Carducci tried to shoot the man, and no mention was made of drugs or alcohol being a factor in what caused the incident. Cipolla said their investigation into the matter was continuing.

### **Car Burglary** Suspect Nabbed

Cheriff's deputies have nabbed the suspected accomplice

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Un a rash of car break-ins at public hiking trails, as the in the hoosegow.

During August, deputies received a total of 23 vehicle

Suspect Nabbed Continued on page 6

### Klaus Gottlieb, Esq. - Attorney Estate Planning Services

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### **News Briefs**

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

of the UnitED Central Coast campaign post press time on Oct. 5.

To learn more about UnitED Central Coast and how community college baccalaureate programs can benefit students and the local economy, visit https://www.hancockcollege.edu/unitedcc.

## **New Irish Hills Trail Opens**

or folks who enjoy trail hiking, there is a new one to **F** 'bit. The 1.3-miles of new trail on Bog Thistle Trail, an extension of the existing 0.4-mile hiking trail in the Irish Hills Natural Reserve is open. Community members can now hike or walk the trail that extends from the Prefumo Canyon Trailhead into the upper Irish Hills and connects with the Mariposa and Mine Trail.

Now that the trail is complete, hikers can expect sweeping views of the Morros, Laguna Lake, and Los Osos Valley and a path through picturesque oak canopy and chaparral habitats. Designated as a hiking-only trail, the Bog Thistle Trail plays a vital role in promoting a quality multi-use trail system and provides an alternative route for hikers to access the Irish Hills Natural Reserve trail system from Prefumo Canyon Road.

"This would not have been possible without the planning and coordination between Park & Recreation's Ranger Service and the Office of Sustainability & Natural Resources, and the dedication of a core group of skilled volunteers who contributed over 900 hours of work," said city officials in a news release. "Special attention and care went into safeguarding scenic views, mature oak trees, and waterways. To protect potentially sensitive habitats and species, Ranger Service conducted field botanical surveys to identify any sensitive species listed by the California Native Plant Society, as well as State and Federally listed threatened and

endangered species."

SLO Parks & Recreation recommends accessing the new Bog Thistle Trail from the Prefumo Canyon Trailhead for a pleasant, 3.4-mile round trip hike. The trail has a pleasant grade, but due to its length is considered an intermediate level hike. For a comprehensive map of the Irish Hills Natural Reserve trail system, go to https://bit.ly/3td7qY9.

## **Cal Poly Named Best** in the West

For the first time Cal Poly was named best overall master's-level university in the West for both public and private institutions in the U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Colleges guidebook.

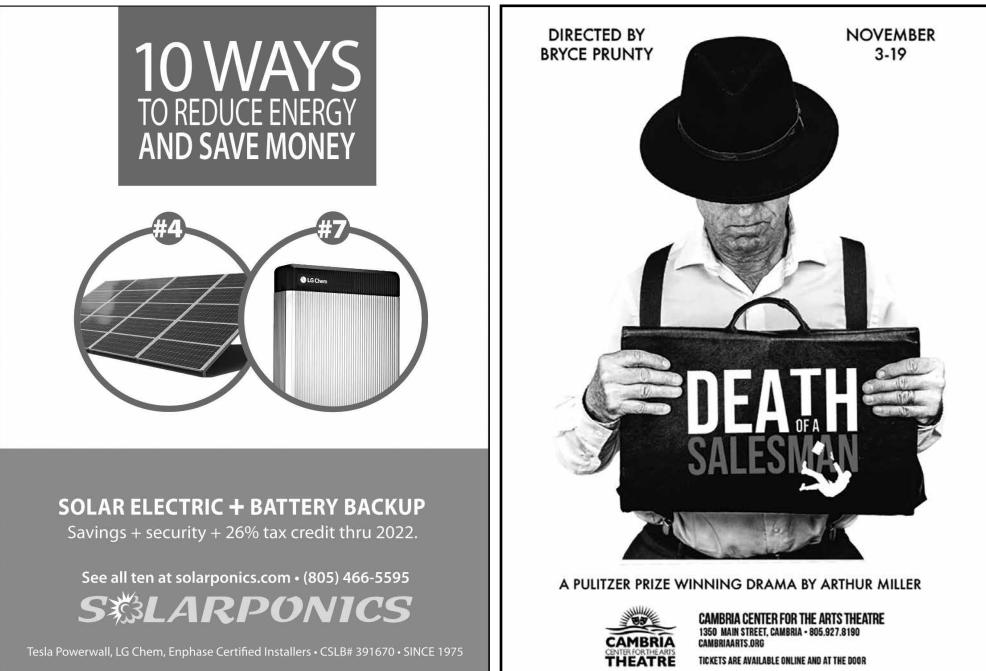
It's the 31st year in a row the university is ranked best public institution in the West and the first time it has been ranked tops among all 120 public and private institutions in the region. The move to the top follows back-to-back No. 2 ratings in 2022 and 2023 behind the University of Portland. The private Catholic university in Portland, Oregon, was rated No. 2 in the West this year.

The 2024 U.S. News & World Report evaluated nearly 1,500 four-year bachelor's degree-granting institutions on as many as 19 areas, statistics that pertain to measures reflecting academic quality and graduate outcomes - factors universally important to prospective students and their families.

In addition, Cal Poly was again named No. 1 in the West for Most Innovative Schools; several College of Engineering programs were ranked among the top five in the nation for masters-level educational institutions; and the university ranked for the fourth straight year as the top school in the West for veterans among public and private institutions that participate in federal initiatives helping veterans and active-duty service members pay for their degrees.

The Western regional rankings include public and private institutions in 15 states that provide "a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but few doctoral programs." Universities that grant doctoral degrees, such as those in the University of California system, are listed in a separate category.

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





under 16 years old; and for anyone whose passport was issued more than 15 years ago, or lost, stolen, or damaged. Anyone whose passport was issued before they were 16 years old may also use the library's passport service.

appointment.

applicants; children

**Libraries to Offer** 

No library card is required, but applicants must bring required passport documents and forms to the event. A list of required documents is available at SLOLibrary.org or by calling any branch of the County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries.

Passport photos will be available onsite for \$10. Spanish-speaking agents will be available.

Ongoing passport services are also available by appointment at the Arroyo Grande Library, Atascadero Library, and the San Luis Obispo Library.

More information about Passport Day, library locations, and passport services is available at SLOLibrary. org or by phone at 805-781-5991.

## Hancock and Cuesta **Consider Bachelor's Degree Programs**

Suesta College and Allan Hancock College are partnering on a campaign to share how both colleges can meet local workforce needs by offering four-year degrees under the California Community College baccalaureate program.

The colleges met with representatives from the business, education, and nonprofit industries for the launch

## Community Harvest Festival with Cambria Historical Society

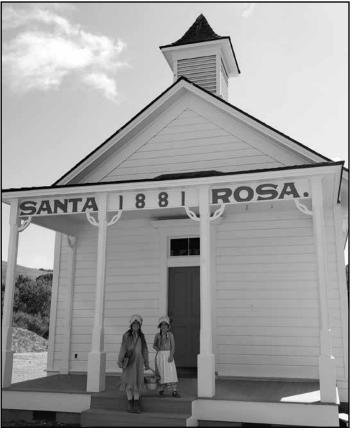
Fall comes to the Central Coast with an invitation from the Cambria Historical Society to celebrate at the 16th Annual Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 14 from 11-4 p.m. There is free admission to the grounds of the Cambria Historical Museum, 2251 Center Street at Burton Drive.

Peruse unique handcrafted gift and seasonal items at a variety of booths and spend time with the kids doing pumpkin decorating and crafts with Friends of the Cambria Library. Live music will be performed on our backyard stage all day by the Earls of Tuesday, followed by Bob Benjamin & Friends, as you enjoy adult beverages and the Native Daughters of the Golden West's root beer floats.

A new feature this year is Soup Sampling from 12-2 p.m. For a \$10 tax- deductible donation sip a flight of six soups from Cambria's east village restaurants to benefit the Schoolhouse Restoration Project. You might win the souvenir bowl, too.

Jim Karjala will design his fabulous watercolors on site, with more for sale. Check out jade carving, Halloween decorations and ornaments, and local honey. See the display of scarecrows throughout history. Morro Bay Mercantile joins the fun this year!

Proceeds from the day benefit CHS operations, events, programs, and historical research. Our major project is completing the restoration of the 1881 Schoolhouse,



The 1881 Schoolhouse in Cambria is the focus of fundraising by the Cambria Historical Society. Photo submitted

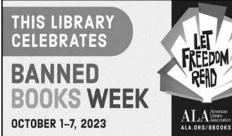
which currently welcomes visitors to the village at the Main Street entrance. It was moved there four years ago after residing in Cambria's west village since 1964, after an initial move from its original site about three miles up Santa Rosa Creek Road.

The interior, exterior, and bell tower have been completed, and access to the structure will soon allow for visitors, especially as the destination for student field trips to experience an educational program "from the good old days", complete with authentic artifacts. Help us in our mission to promote and preserve the fascinating history of Cambria and surrounding areas.

Www.cambriahistoricalsociety.com. Facebook/cambriahistoricalsociety <sup>™</sup>BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

## Defending the Right to Read



**B**anned Books Week is October 1 – 7, and the County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries is highlighting the importance of access to information for a variety of ages, abilities, and interests.

The American Library Association's annual Banned Books Week initiative draws attention to attempts to remove books and other materials from libraries, schools, and bookstores. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Read."

### Suspect Nabbed From page 4

burglary reports at the Bob Jones Trailhead parking lot in Avila Beach and the Reservoir Canyon Trailhead parking lot in San Luis Obispo.

<sup>•</sup>Many of these burglaries," Sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla said, "resulted in broken vehicle windows and purses and wallets being taken."

An investigation led to the arrest of Joy Thompson, 28 of Paso Robles on numerous vehicle burglary allegations and ID theft. But an unidentified male accomplice initially gave deputies the slip. But like the Mounties, they eventually got their man.

On Sept. 19, Cipolla said in a follow-up news release, the Paso Robles Police According to a recent ALA media release, public and school libraries across the United States are experiencing a surge in challenges to books written by or about a person of color or member of the LGBTQ+ community. The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) also reports that the number of unique titles challenged has increased by 20 percent since 2022, and almost 40% since 2021.

The County of SLO Public Libraries have reportedly experienced some interactions with local pressure groups trying to restrict access to books.

"We were notified of a few social media postings whereby the individual posting is shown to be hiding specific titles behind shelves while claiming Moms for Liberty affiliation," said Library Director Chris Barnickel. "We embrace the American Library Association's Bill of Rights to protect all patrons from censorship. We have great support from the Board of Supervisors to ensure that our libraries are free from political interference and open to all constituents throughout the county." According to the Library's Collection Development Plan, the vision of the overall collection

Department identified that suspect as someone they already had in custody on unrelated charges.

The Sheriff's Office had sent out press releases on Sept. 15 asking the public's help to identify the suspect on the lam. "We received a number of tips from the public, " Cipolla said, "identifying the suspect as Andre Stoner."

Stoner, 37, is also a Paso Robles resident and is being charged with several counts of suspected car burglary along with Thompson. Stoner was arrested on the new vehicle burglary charges on Sept. 19. Cipolla did not say why Stoner was initially arrested by Paso Robles P.D.



The Rotary Club of Los thanks our community, sponsors & donors for another successful Family Fun Fair on Grandparents' Day. The weather was beautiful for the record number of people who enjoyed the day. Special thanks to the cadets and staff of the Grizzly Academy for doing a terrific job, once again!

Thank you to our 2023 Event Sponsors & Donors Bay Auto & Tire **Bay Osos Residential Care Central Coast AutoHaus** Bank of the Sierra Coast Hills Federal Credit Union Crizer Construction Dick's Sporting Goods The Dover Family Dave & Michelle Feldman Golden State Water Co. The Inn at Morro Bay Los Osos Valley Dentistry Margarita Adventures Zipline Pacific Capital Mortgage Rotary Club of Cayucos Sim & Company Real Estate Smitty's Auto Center John Swift **Terril Graham** Thank you to our Site Sponsors & Donors Baywood Inn Bed & Breakfast Bear Valley Real Estate Central Coast Pizza Morro Bay Antiques **Placer Title Company** Promega Corporation Sea Pines Golf Resort Shirley Hulin- Century 21 Realty The Olde Alehouse Thank you to our Program Sponsors & Donors Baywood Market Bay Osos Brokers & Bay Osos Property Management Big Sky Cafe Edward Jones-Deanna Richards Energy Wise Realty, Inc. Grocery Outlet Envoy Mortgage Harmony Wine Cellar La Palapa Baywood Miner's Ace Hardware Movement for Life Los Osos Rexall Nardonne's Pizzeria Noi's & Doi's 2nd Street Café Ralph's Sage Ecological Landscapes The Benedict The Frame Shop The Dutchman Seafood House Windows on the Water



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is a "balanced," and "inclusive, fresh, relevant" selection of titles. The Plan also highlights the goal of "showcasing diverse works" throughout the libraries. It states that the library offers resources for a variety of ages, abilities, and interests, and that the selection of titles reflects a "vibrant, diverse community."

"Everyone should be able to see themselves in books," said Susana Lewis, Youth Services Coordinator for County of SLO Public Libraries. "Our goal is to provide a collection that is not only interesting and informative but also enlightening.'

Professional librarians decide what goes into the library's collections, explained Lewis. "We use reviews from professional journals to select popular titles and relevant topics."

According to American Library Association data, of the overall number of books challenged in 2022, 90% were part of attempts to censor multiple titles. 40% were attempts to censor 100 books or more.

"These attacks on our freedom to read should trouble every person who values liberty and our constitutional rights," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, in a media release. "To allow a group of people or any individual, no matter how powerful or loud, to become the decision-maker about what books we can read or whether libraries exist, is to place all of our rights and liberties in jeopardy."

Visit the Policies page at SLOLibrary.org to see the Collection Development Plan and for more information about Library collections and programs.

Visit www.ALA.org/advocacy/bbooks for more information about the American Library Association, censorship attempts, and Banned Books Week.

## **Job Board for Nonprofits Launched**



here is a new local way to for potential employees and L employers to connect in the nonprofit community.

The Spokes Job Board is a place for local nonprofit organizations to post their job openings. For a limited time both Spokes member organizations and others can post their nonprofit job openings free of charge. Jobs will be posted for two weeks.

"If you are a job seeker and interested in working for a nonprofit organization, this is a great resource for you," said Theda Parker, Spokes program assistant.

Since 1996, Spokes has helped nonprofits to achieve their goals through support and expert resources. Spokes supports the nonprofit community through consulting services, online resources, roundtables, workshops and other events.

To learn more visit: https://bit.ly/spokesjobs or call the Spokes Office at 805-547-2244.

## **Cayucos Land Conservancy Meeting**

he Cayucos Land Conservancy general meeting returns on Friday October 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Hidden Kitchen on Ocean Avenue.

Mingle with your neighbors and the Cayucos Land Conservancy Board, sip, nibble and hear the latest good news about the Conservancy. The CLC Board would like to meet you and thank you personally for your support.

Reservations are not required, but they would like a heads up from attendees, so they can plan accordingly.

Readers interested in helping, are asked to email hello@cayucoslandconservancy.org.

## Clang, Clang, Clang Went the Trolley

Folks who haven't been able to ride the Old SLO Trolley this summer, you're in luck! The classic cablecar-style trolley is extending its service through fall on Thursday evenings.

The City of San Luis Obispo announced the extended schedule of the Old SLO Trolley now through November 30. On Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. For just 50 cents (or 25 cents for seniors or disabled riders), the Old SLO Trolley covers the heart of Downtown SLO and its surrounding hotel areas. The Old SLO Trolley offers passengers a

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 9





## **Police Blotter**



• Sept. 17: Police responded at 7:50 p.m. to a disturbance in the 200 block of Harbor. Logs indicated a woman allegedly, "punched her husband multiple times with a closed fist on the left side of his face causing visible swelling and bruising." She also allegedly "pushed her husband into a glass mirror causing injuries to his back." She was arrested for suspicion of spousal battery, aggravated assault and inflicting corporal punishment on a spouse. The 39-year-old battleaxe was tossed into the dungeon.

• Sept. 17: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:30 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. They could only get the driver on a suspended license but sentenced him to life without parole at the DMV.

• Sept. 17: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 12:10 p.m. at Atascadero Road and Main. Logs indicated the driver, 27, had a suspended license that was suspended because of a DUI, no doubt upsetting the time-space continuum. • **Sept. 16:** Police responded at 7:05 p.m. to the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd. for an apparent person acting crazy. Logs indicated police arrested a 49-year-old apparent berserker for allegedly assaulting a man, then threatening to kill him and his mother, and then vandalizing his poor innocent car. Police arrested the disagreeable vermin for two counts of suspicion of aggravated assault, two counts for making terrorist threats, and felony vandalism.

• Sept. 16: Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 10:12 a.m. in the 400 block of Downing. Logs indicated the hombre, 27, was allegedly higher than the stacks on drugs and in possession of a crack pipe. He crashed in the county quiet room.



• Sept. 16: Police responded to Motel 6 on Atascadero Road at 3:52 a.m. for a disturbance. Police arrested a 36-year-old louse for allegedly assaulting his spouse. He checked out of Motel 6 and into the Parkinson Plaza. • Sept. 15: At 6:30 p.m. police espied an apparent stumblebum stumbling down the 400 block of Estero. The Bacchanalian, 27, was arrested for suspicion of drunk walking. Sept. 15: Police spotted yet another swizzle stick traipsing down the 300 block of Atascadero Rd. at 8:41 p.m. The 47-year-old nodcock was allegedly greased and got dunked in the drunk tank to sleep it off.

• Sept. 13: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 5:44 p.m. in the 100 block of Panay. Logs indicated the driver, 82, was nicked for suspicion of driving schnuckered and resisting arrest.

• Sept. 13: At 4:17 p.m. police contacted another blasted fellow at Main and Dunes. The squit, 55, was nicked for suspicion of being stinky in public and a felony warrant. • Sept. 13: Police towed off an apparently abandoned vehicle at Quintana and Kings.

• Sept. 13: Police contacted a suspicious woman, 49, at 11:30 a.m. in the 600 block of Quintana. She had a warrant, was issued a second disappearance ticket and released to catch another day.

• Sept. 12: Police contacted a suspicious woman, 22, at 11 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The regular Quaker had three bench warrants and was booked into County Jail. • Sept. 12: Police responded to the 800 block of Marina where a woman said she believed her ex-boyfriend was stalking her. Logs indicated police decided it was "a mental health episode," and apparently all in her imagination. • Sept. 12: At 1:19 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., police contacted a pair of juvenile boys who were allegedly in possession of hooch. The hooligans apparently tried to run off, as they were also popped for resisting arrest

• Sept. 12: Police contacted another suspicious fellow, 27, at 9:49 a.m. in the 1700 block of Main. He was nicked for suspicion of being honked in public.

• Sept. 12: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 1:43 a.m. in the 800 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the driver, 29, was arrested for suspicion of driving with beer goggles on and was taken to the police station where he was released to a sober adult relative or friend.

• Sept. 12: Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 12:08 a.m. The driver, a 23-year-old floozy, was arrested for suspicion of driving boozy.

• Sept. 11: Police responded at 2:10 p.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Marina. Logs indicated they took the apparent troublemaker to County Mental Health for a 72hour timeout.

• Sept. 10: Police encountered an endangered specimen at 3 p.m. at Harbor and Piney Way. Logs indicated the 31-year-old apparent ruffian was arrested for suspicion of resisting arrest and a felony warrant.

• Sept. 9: Someone somewhere in the 300 block of Bernardo reported some suspicious activity of some unknown type and duration, so that someday something might somehow be done about it.

• Sept. 9: At 5 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject

sneaking around the 1000 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the 26-year-old sneaky sneak allegedly snuck in a false name to police, who, sneaks that they are, soon figured out why - he had a felony warrant, and he was secreted off to the gaol.

• Sept. 9: Police responded to a report of a fight at 2:09 p.m. in the 900 block of Allesandro. Logs indicated police arrested a pair of wombats, ages 38 and 50, for suspicion of disturbing the peace of the peaceable folks.

• Sept. 9: Police were called at 1 p.m. for a suspicious flower child apparently passed out in a flower box at Monterey and Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the 66-year old blossom was picked and planted in the County B&B. About an hour later, at City Park on Harbor, officers got a report of yet another inebriated miscreant no doubt causing havoc. That 40-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of being drunk and disorderly, 'cause the nail that sticks out gets hammered.

• Sept. 9: A citizen came to the police station and reported a case of credit card fraud, and police no doubt formed a task force to hunt down the scalawags.

• Sept. 9: A citizen came to the station and reported unspecified sex crimes that occurred in 1983 and 1996. • Sept. 8: Police were called to the 800 block of Piney Way at 3:41 p.m. to deal with a local yokel who was apparently actin' a fooligan at Foster Freeze. The 52-year-old fellow was arrested for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and paraphernalia, a case of pick somewhere else to party dude. Ironically, or perhaps not surprisingly, this same barbarian was involved in a fight the night before at 8:37 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana. Logs indicated he allegedly punched some guy in the face then fled the scene. Police

didn't stay in jail or stay sober for long. • Sept. 7: Police responded to the 400 block of Surf where some graffidiot left his loathsome mark.

tracked him down and he was arrested, but apparently

Sept. 7: Police responded to the 400 block of Monterey at 3 a.m. where they contacted a 57-year-old repeat customer. The apparent night owl, 57, had a bench warrant. He was cited and given a new court date, according to logs, and that'll no doubt teach him a lesson.

• Sept. 7: Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of 1:10 a.m. at the absolute worst place to be at that hour — Main and Beach. The 25-year-old woman driver was allegedly driving corked and got popped.

• Sept. 6: Police responded at 3:48 p.m. to a car crash on Hwy 1 at Yerba Buena. No gory details were given, as it was apparently non-injury.

• Sept. 6: At 10:54 a.m. in the 600 block of Quintana, police contacted a familiar 59-year-old woman who to no one's surprise had a bench warrant. The model citizen was arrested for a change.

• Sept. 6: Police got a report from the Grover Beach P.D. regarding an apparent sexual assault where the victim was groped and fondled against their will out at Morro Rock. The victim apparently reported the matter to GBPD and MBPD officers investigated, but no arrests were made.

• Sept. 5: Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 400 block of Las Vegas after someone reported an aggravated assault. Logs indicated that a firearm was "accidently discharged within a residence" and they apparently missed as no arrest was made.





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### Takin' Care of Business From page 7

convenient, car-free form of public transit and is perfect for traveling to and from Downtown for dinner and shopping, even Thursday Evening Farmers' Market. All trolleys are accessible to all and equipped with air conditioning, so riders can travel in comfort.

The trolley will make the following stops:

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- Monterey at Grand
- Monterey at Grove
- · Monterey at California
- Monterey at Toro
- Monterey at Osos
- Nipomo at Higuera
- Marsh at Broad
- Marsh at Chorro
- Marsh at Osos
- Santa Rosa at Higuera
- Peach Tree Inn

Feach free fill

For more information on the Trolley Service routes and schedules, go to slotransit.org or call at (805) 541-2877.

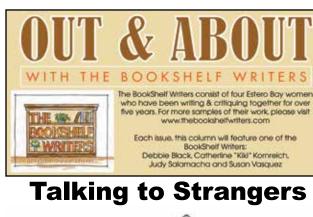
Are you or a neighbor Taking Care of Business. Is your business, including non-profits, supporting our community? Maybe you're launching a new business, or you're making updates to your current business model, or re-opening. Perhaps you have a job opportunity, or have been doing some volunteer work,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



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BRAND ACTIVATIONS/DEMOS

FREE FOOD





By Catherine Kornreich

I love to travel. Every trip I take, I meet interesting people with intriguing stories, and I certainly don't scoff at the sights, sounds and sublime regional foods.

Traveling solo, as I often do, I find myself eating alone.



NHC, Farmacy, and The Pottery are pleased to announce the launch of a new monthly event named "First Fildays". This initiative aims to celebrate community, foster a sense of belonging, drive traffic, and provide an exceptional experience for our valued customers through a farmers' market-style experience with food trucks or food carts, DJs or live music, special deals, store-wide discounts, brand activations or demos, parking lot takeovers, clone sales, giveaways, and more!

BOGOS & DISCOUNTS

DJ/MUSIC 12 PM - 7 PM DI SELECT LOCATION This is common in some cultures, not so much in others.

In Siena, a waiter seated me at a large table with three small groups of travelers (delightful). In Florence, two fashionable old ladies at the next table scootched their table next to mine and proceeded to regale me with stories and laughter (I didn't understand their words, but laughter is universal). And there are always some sour experiences. A hostess at a very nice hotel in Hawaii put me in a bright, busy corner by the kitchen, (and I STILL got bad service). I've also been told, "No alone here."

But these turn into fun stories I get to share, and most experiences are perfect.

Interestingly, I'm very comfortable dining solo away from home, yet dislike it in my own county. I don't know why, as I'm very entertained and often jot down great snippets in my notebook.

So, I challenged myself. I arrived early to a nice local restaurant where the host told me there were no tables. Having peeked behind him as I walked in, I'd seen many empties, only a few with a reserved sign on them. "But you can sit at the bar, if you like."

The "no tables available" response is fairly common, and I'm accustomed to sitting at a counter or simply finding a different restaurant that welcomes me with open arms. This time I opted for the counter, which doubled as a bar.

I sat on one of the open stools, next to a couple who were quietly conversing in a language I couldn't place. It hinted at Spanish, but not as melodious.

During a lull in their conversation, I asked where they were visiting from (I love it when someone asks me, when I'm traveling).

They both lit up and the woman said, "Colombia!"

"Wow! And you found Morro Bay!"

"Si! We visit Unite State for month. We start Los Angliss see Deesneelawn!"

I laughed and asked what their favorite ride had been. "Ride?" she asked. I could see that the gentleman was barely following the English, yet he grinned throughout, nodding.

I scalloped my hand like a rollercoaster, and she looked even more confused, so I pulled out my trusty notebook and drew a more recognizable Ferris wheel. "Best?"

She giggled and extended her arms leaning side to side. "Oh! Fly?" Confusion. "Float?" Furrowed brow. "Soar?"

"Si Si! Soar Caleeforna!" She clapped her hands. "We loff eet! We see all Caleeforna! So pretty!"

"That's one of my favorites, too! Best!" I then asked them about living in Colombia, if it was as dangerous as I'd read.

"Oh. No more." She lifted her eyes to the ceiling, dancing her fingertips together. "Twenny? Theerty year ago? Bad. Now? Best."

She proceeded to tell me about the lush rainforests (there was a great deal of pantomime involved). She wistfully described the rich Colombian coffee and (of all things) fruit juice mixed with milk.

At this point her husband, Manuel, (we'd made introductions by now) balanced two fingers on the bar and raised one quickly. "Ah," said Paola. "Futbol. Very best." Manuel next mimicked swinging a bat (he'd found his voice). "Si, si, base a ball! Best!"

Preparing to leave, Paola pulled out her phone and scowled at the screen. Seeing it was a map, I asked if she had questions. She was thrilled! I enjoy helping tourists when I see them looking confused, as I'm always grateful when I need help during travel.

With a warm good-bye hug, Paola handed me a slip of paper with her email address, and invited me to visit in "Salento," which was safe and had "many coffee" and "best people" (she was very fond of "best").

the tables were still empty.

As I got up to leave the restaurant, I noted that most of

Didn't matter, I made two new friends and learned a

Each of our store locations will have the opportunity to cultivate its own unique experience based on the specifics of their space, layout, and municipal regulations. Some times may vary depending on location. See website for more details.



DOOR BUSTERS - GOODIE BAGS

## ⇒Events #Activities

### By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Blessing of the Animals takes place Saturday, October 21from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at

Estero Bay United Methodist Church. This is an annual event looked forward to by many animal lovers. Animals will receive a certificate and human and animal treats will be served. The church is located at 3000 Hemlock in Morro Bay. For questions, call 805)772-7644.

- - -



aylor Rae will open for the Band of Heathens at the Siren, 900 Main St., Morro Bay, on Nov.2 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$27 - \$30 and can be purchased at thesirenmorrobay.com.

Taylor Rae is a singer-songwriter who was born in Santa Cruz, California and raised in the quaint town of Ben Lomond, nestled in the Santa Cruz mountains.

She sang her first song at the age of 2, a cover of Carole King's "It's Too Late" and began to write her own music at 8. By the time she was ten, she had filled countless notebooks with her original lyrics. Inspired by the natural beauty of her hometown, as well as the music of artists such as Bonnie Raitt, King, Janis Joplin, Sheryl Crow, Norah Jones, Jewel, Simon & Garfunkel and Steely Dan, Taylor taught herself guitar at 12 and by the time she was 15, she was playing her first paid gig.

The next decade of her life saw her wandering around the U.S., exploring the many forms of Americana, Folk, Jazz and Blues and the changing attitudes of the world. Her music, often compared to that of Grace Potter, Joss Stone and Maren Morris Grace Potter, earned her a spot in the Top 20

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Americana Music Album Chart for her debut record Mad Twenties - a collection of 12 originals.

he following programs are presented by the Morro Bay Library, located at 625 Harbor St. Contact the library at (805) 772-6394, for more information, or go to www. slolibrary.org.

·Medicare Open Enrollment Plans and Changes on Wednesday, October 18 from 10:30-11:30am. HI-CAP provides information and counseling about Medicare so you can make informed decisions. Come learn more about your open enrollment choices from a local HICAP Registered Counselor. For seniors.

·Author Talk with Teri Bayus on Thursday, October 19 from 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Welcome local author Teri Bayus for circus readings to promote her new book "The Greatest of Ease." Did you ever threaten to run away and join the circus? It's 1980, and Gail has decided to blow off her full college ride and become a trapeze artist. As she finds herself wandering the dysfunctional circus life, she realizes the safety net of the existence she once knew is unraveling, but the show must go on no matter what. For ages 18 and up.

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on't miss ARTober, a month-long program during Arts & Humanities Month. ARTober takes place from October 1–31, 2023 and features a community engagement campaign called Experience ARTober as well as Piano in the Plaza, a musical pop-up for all to enjoy.

San Luis Obispo's arts and culture scene wouldn't be as vibrant without local engagement. To encourage further support and appreciation for local arts and humanities

organizations, the community is invited to Experience AR-Tober by engaging with SLO's many diverse offerings.

Participants can visit three or more arts and cultural experiences in the city, document them and head to the SLO Visitor Center to pick up a free ARTober tote bag as well as be entered to win an extensive grand prize. To make it even easier to Experience ARTober, head to Visit San Luis Obispo's events calendar for a hub of all arts and cultural events taking place throughout the month.

How to Enter:

Step 1: Starting on October 1, 2023 visit at least three arts or cultural experiences in the city of San Luis Obispo and document it.

Step 2: Bring your documentation to the SLO Chamber Visitor Center (895 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401).

Step 3: Receive an ARTober tote bag and be entered to win a grand prize!

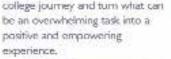
ARTober also brings Piano in the Plaza to the community. All month long, Mission Plaza will be home to an upright piano painted by local artist, Missy Reitner-Cameron. Regional pianists have been invited to play intermittently throughout October, and community members are invited to sit down and help fill the plaza with music as well. The piano will be uncovered and open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.Learn more about ARTober at slocity.org/ARTober.

Ceveral faculty members new to the Cal Poly Music De-Opartment will be featured in a Faculty Showcase recital at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center (No. 45) on campus.

The event is part of Cal Poly's Mustang Family Weekend and features several Music Department applied faculty who are recognized across the region for their expertise in solo and chamber ensemble performance. They will present intimate works that highlight their artistic achievements.

The recital is open to the public. Admission is \$10









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general, and \$5 students at the door. Parking is free after 5 p.m. in the Grand Avenue parking structure (No. 130).

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Morro Bay High School Drama Program invites everyone to their presentation of "Alice In Wonderland." The play is performed Fridays on Oct. 13 and 20 at 7 p.m., Saturdays on Oct. 14 and 30 at 2 and again at 7 p.m. The show is in the Morro Bay High School theater, 235 Atascadero Road, Morro Bay. Tickets are \$12/child and \$15/adult. Tickets can be purchased at www.mbhsdrama. com. For questions contact K. Kostecka at kkostecka@ slcusd.org or 951-428-7592.

Young patrons are invited to a 45-60 minute Mad Hatter Tea Party experience directly following Saturday's matinee performances of "Alice In Wonderland," where they will sit with characters and enjoy treats, photos and fun!

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The San Luis Obispo Master Chorale announced its 2023/2024 season. It begins with the November 19, 2023, concert, "Chants Encounter." This performance features Estonian-born composer Arvo Pärt's Te Deum and W. A. Mozart's Mass in C-minor. Pärt utilizes the beauty of chant mixed with bell-like chords (tintinnabulation) to create a dramatic rendering of the fourth century prayer. Mozart's Mass, a wedding gift for his wife, Constanza, is influenced by the choral works of Bach and Handel, as well as eighteenth century opera. "Chants Encounter" will also include Mozart's concert aria, Per questa bella mano, for baritone and double-bass. Concert soloists include sopranos Alba Franco-Cancél and Amy Goymerac, tenor Jon Lee Keenan, baritone Joel Balzun, and Ken Hustad, double-bass.

All concerts are in Harold Miossi Hall at the Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo on the Cal Poly campus. Tickets are available for purchase at www.pacslo.org or by calling the PAC box office at 805-756-4849.

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The Cal Poly Music Department will host guest artist Matt Sargent for a unique guitar concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center.

The versatile artist -a composer, guitarist, recording

engineer and music technologist — will perform new guitar works with electronics. The program will include works by renowned postminimalist composer Eve Beglarian, Connecticut composer and critic Robert Carl as well as Sargent's original works.

Based in upstate New York, Sargent is an assistant professor of music at Bard College. His experimental compositions grow from interests in resonance and recursive systems, computer models of intelligence and the making/ breaking of long-form patterns.

He recently recorded and premiered James Romig's "The Fragility of Time," a new concert-length work for electric guitar. Last December, he premiered "Splectar," a new work by classical composer Carl for retuned electric guitar and live electronics.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406.

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Cambria Veterans Hall Parking Lot, 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10AM to 2PM

Take part in the 23rd annual Cambria Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show. All are invite to enter your vehicles, especially classics, military, hot rods, exotics, and custom vehicles. We welcome trucks and motorcycles.

It is \$50 to enter and if you enter. Entry starts at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning.

All are welcome to attend. There is no cost to come to look at the vehicles! There will be raffle prizes, event souvenirs for sale, and a chance to vote for your favorite entry. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Help choose the people's choice, stroll around, and enjoy breakfast and lunch provided by local service clubs.

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Free upcoming October programs at the Morro Bay Library - 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394 •Create an Axolotl - Wednesday, October 11, 3:30-5:30 Come learn all about this unusual amphibian who only lives in one lake in Mexico - then make your own drawing or sculpture of an axolotl to take home! Presenter Luna will guide us through the steps. For ages 3+. This program will be presented in Spanish and English.

•Fairytale Engineering - Wednesday, October 18, 3-5:00

Magical STEM fun at the library! Read the fairytales, plan, create and test your structural design using 3 different kits. For ages 3+

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The Bear Valley Quilters are putting on a Holiday Boutique featuring Unique Handmade Items. It takes place on Sunday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos. For more information, go to BearValleyQuilters.org.

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Cambria Pines Lodge will host the annual Cambria Neighbors Club's Craft Fair Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Folks are invited to visit the Craft Fair and support artists and crafters who will feature items such as handmade cards, driftwood creations, handmade gourds, a variety of jewelry, knitted and crocheted clothing, paintings and much more.

There will be food, music and seating areas located conveniently near the center of the outdoor vendor area, providing a space for those who would like to sit down, relax, and take in the fresh fall air. This event is free to attend.

The Cambria Neighbors Club, formally the Cambria Newcomers Club, is a social organization formed in 1996 to offer newcomers and residents of Cambria an opportunity to meet their neighbors, participate in special activity groups, and come together once a month for luncheons or special events.

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

•Read Together - Thursday, October 12, 5:30-6:45 Jonniepat Mobley facilitates the group reading of a play/script. No audition necessary. Come in, take a script and we will read the play aloud together. This month is "The Man Who Came to Dinner"

•Legos - Friday, October 13, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

### Events Continued on page 12



Events From page 11

• **Book Discussion** - Thursday, October 19, 5:30-6:45 p.m.

We will discuss "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest" by Suzanne Simard and "Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States" by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. No need to sign up ahead of time. Just show up! Call the library for details.

• Fairytale Engineering - Friday, October 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Magical STEM fun at the library! Read the fairytales, plan, create and test your structural design using three different kits. For ages 3+

•Teen Costume Swap & Build - Saturday, October 21, 2:00-4:00

This Saturday we'll be working on Halloween costumes - because you're never too old for a spooky (or silly) get up. Bring an old costume you'd like to trade up, and/ or bring costume pieces you want to work on. We'll have sewing supplies and more. For ages 11-18.

• Nintendo Switch - Friday, October 27, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch. We will provide one Switch for up to four players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart and Just Dance. School Age



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Los Osos Garden Club presents Selecting and Growing Succulents. This informative presentation is offered by Jeanne Miller owner of Calcoast Succulents based in Los Osos. Find out how to bring out the very best in these beautiful and fun plants. Los Osos offers ideal growing conditions for many succulents. Learn which plants are best for your needs and personality. Before this presentation, the club will offer a member talk on "Curing Olives" presented by Debbie Jo Bird and Patti Toews.

The Los Osos Valley Garden Club will meet Sunday, October 15, from 2-4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Los Osos, 1900 Los Osos Valley Road. Los Osos Valley Garden Club programs are free and open to the public. No signup or registration is required to attend. If you have questions, email Wendy McKeown, President, at info@ lovgardenclub.org.

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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.



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

## University of California Application Advice

It's that time of year again. Many of you are undoubtedly working on your University of California (UC) application. In this month's column I will provide you with updates, debunk some myths, and offer some helpful tips. Both the applications at the freshmen and transfer levels have decreased from the previous year. Perhaps this is due to the number of first-time freshman applicants returning to a normal level following the increase that resulted from the UC decision to eliminate the reporting of SAT and ACT scores. In 1996 California passed Prop 209, which banned the use of race, ethnicity, or sex from consideration of university admission. Now, more than ever, the UCs are highly committed to developing and improving their recruitment and enrollment practices that target students who have been historically underrepresented in the past.

In 2023, UCLA admitted 12,781 of its 145,909 applicants which is a 9% admit rate. At Berkeley, 14,772 of its 125,922 applicants were admitted, which is a 11.7% admit rate. UC Irvine with 25.7% admit rate, admitted 31,181 of its 121,095 applications. UC Davis, with a 41.9% admit rate, admitted 39,606 of its 94,624 applicants. Of those admitted to Davis in 2023, 39% were first generation students, meaning they are the first in their family to attend college, and 34% of those admitted were from underrepresented backgrounds. Clearly, the competition is fierce at many, if not all, of the UCs. That said, here are some tips to help you or your student successfully navigate the UC application.

Access to the application began on August 1, 2023 in order to enroll in fall of 2024. The filing period now opens October 1 and closes at midnight on November 30, 2023. If you are wondering whether it helps to file that application closer to October 1, it makes no difference whatsoever. However, I do not advise waiting until November 29 or 30. The UC releases decisions between March 1 and March 30, 2023. Students are required to submit a "Statement of Intent" to register by May 1, 2023.

This application takes a great deal of time to complete and should be proofread very carefully. I strongly suggest that you have your transcript next to you when filling out your academic record. It also helps to have household information such as your social security number, DACA or ITIN if applicable, as well as household size and income. Your household information determines whether you are eligible for a fee waiver for up to 4 campuses. The "Statement of Legal Residence" is for tuition purposes so be sure to answer "YES" unless you want to pay the out-of-state price! It is also important to use a personal email when creating your account. Your application is read by every UC that you check off on your application in order to indicate which schools you would like to attend. At \$80.00 a pop it's not cheap, so choose wisely.

Your "Contact Information" is now referred to as your "lived name" which can be different from your legal name. For example, Mickey versus Michaela. In the Activities and Awards section you have an opportunity to list up to 20 items. If you don't think you have many activities, think again! Perhaps you provide childcare for your siblings, help out your elderly neighbor, or take a Duolingo course in your spare time. This is also where you will list all of your non-academic coursework. The Additional Comment Sections have a 550-word limit but should not be used as an opportunity to write a fifth Personal Insight Question (PIQ). Instead, use these sections to explain unusual circumstances or clarify extracurricular performance. Do not include external links in the Activities and Awards or Additional Comments sections as they will not be read. The most time-consuming portion of the application are the PIQs, of which, you will respond to four out of eight questions. No one question is weighted more than another. Choose questions that will give the most information about you. Each response has a 350-word limit. Try not to leave too many words on the table. In other words, provide lots of details.

While all UC campuses use the same factors to evaluate applications, they often apply these factors differently. Your PIQ responses should provide information and add value to what is known as a "Comprehensive Review". In order not



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to "miss an opportunity," which is how UC admissions officers refer to essays that do not make the cut, make sure to focus on yourself in your response and not your best friend. Another pitfall to avoid is choosing a theme for your four responses. Do not do that! Just answer the questions to the best of your ability by focusing on the impact something has had on you or the impact you have had on others.

And, finally, by all means, have integrity. Inaccurate, falsified, or plagiarized information may result in the cancellation of your application. The UCs use anti-plagiarism software and have run all of their questions through Chat GBT. Be sure to print a copy of your application and save your application ID number. After you submit you will be able to log back in to view your application status and update certain portions of your application. Take your time, proofread, and good luck!

Robin Haas is an independent educational consultant and the founder of Haas College Connections. She is a member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) and earned a Certificate in College Counseling, with Distinction, from UCLA.

## Walk and Run to End Polio



The Cambria Rotary Club is raising vital funds to help eradicate polio and help prepare for a polio-free world by participating in a 5K walk or run, which is equivalent to three miles. It starts at Shamel Park across the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and returns to Shamel Park — all overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean while traversing a 417-acre Nature Preserve. You can register to walk, sponsor someone or donate to help end polio at cambriarotaryfundraiser.org.

The cost is \$25 per person or to sponsor another person. Start time at Shamel Park is at 9 a.m. on Oct. 14.

The short background of the Rotary PolioPlus Project started in 1979 when Rotary pledged a five-year commitment to provide and help deliver the polio vaccine to six million children in the Philippines. That pledge yielded success, and the Philippines became polio-free. In 1985, at the Rotary International Convention, Dr. Albert Sabin, the developer of the oral polio vaccine, challenged Rotary to eliminate polio from the face of the Earth. Rotary accepted that challenge, and in 1985 Rotary's Global Polio Eradication Initiative was announced. In 1988 Rotary had raised US\$247 million for this program, and in that year the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined Rotary's efforts. Soon after the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) joined the effort, and the PolioPlus partnership was formed. In 2007 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined the PolioPlus partnership, and today the Gates Foundation matches every Rotary dollar 2-1. To date Rotary has raised more than 2.1 billion dollars towards this effort.

At the start of the PolioPlus Program there were over 1,000 new cases of polio in our world per day, 350,000 cases a year in over 134 countries. As of today, there are 7 cases total in our world, and only two countries remain polio endemic Pakistan and Afghanistan. To date over 2.5 billion children have been immunized, 18 million children do not have polio because of these efforts, and 1.5 million children's deaths from this dreaded disease have been averted. We are very, very close to eradicating this debilitating disease from the planet. Come lend a hand, join us, be a part of arguably the largest global public health initiative in the history of mankind.



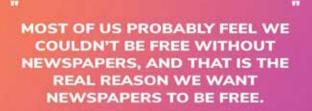
Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at CatNoirCC.com. Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

## A Visit From 'Gary' Cooper's Hawk



Photo by Neil Farrell

Estero Bay News reporter Neil Farrell photographed this Cooper's hawk that landed in his backyard recently, apparently for an extended rest. Farrell and wife Lorraine, have several bird seed feeders in the yard that attract a wide variety of wild birds (and squirrels too, unfortunately) and this fierce little hawk has been known to swoop in and grab breakfast from time to time. But on this day, all the other birds were understandably gone and the hawk, which Farrell named "Gary," hung around for about half an hour, no doubt waiting for Door Dash to deliver a little snack on the wing.



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## **Sports**

### **MBHS Athletes of the Month — September 2023**

#### By Neil Farrell

The Fall 2023 Prep Sports season is off to a roaring start with girls and boys teams competing in cross country, girls playing volleyball and boys football. Plus there's girls golf, tennis and water polo and the boys also are playing water polo at the school's aquatics center.

Again this year, the Morro Bay Athletic Boosters are honoring the Athletes of the Month as nominated by their coaches and the first honorees are from cross country, volleyball and golf.

"These student/athletes," Booster's President Ken Hotaling said, "are exemplary examples of leadership, sportsmanship, and athleticism."



MBHS Girl's golf coach, Jim Jensen, named Lucy Fortini as their team's Athlete of the Month.

"As one of the returning players from last year's senior laden team," Coach Jensen said, "she is using that experience to lead this year's team as they play in their first matches. In her first match Lucy finished fourth out of 48 players."

Fortini's team value is felt every day. "Lucy," coach Jensen said, "displays her leadership skills by pumping up her teammates. She takes the time to offer words of encouragement and challenges the team to practice and perform well."

Fortini is the team's captain. "As captain," Coach Jensen said, "she has shown the ability to make both seniors through freshmen feel part of the program. From there she sets an example for the other players to follow.

"She is instrumental in leading the pursuit of the goals of the team. This makes her the heart and soul of our program."

He wishes he had 10 of her. "She is the type of player all coaches hope to have in their program. Congratulations, Lucy!"



The volleyball coach, Katherine Yabrough, wanted to honor two of her players. "Girls Volleyball is proud to select varsity players — senior Rio Fleming and sophomore Reese Kelly — as the student athletes of the month for September.

"Rio was voted by her teammates as captain for this season, and every day she proves she deserves it with her leadership, positivity, work ethic, and all around great personality.

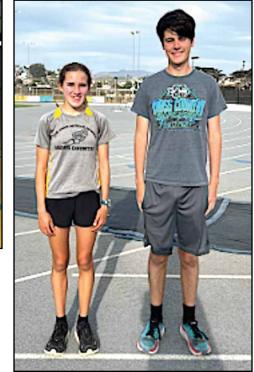
"Reese has shown the greatest im-

provement in so many different aspects of her game in the short period we've been in season so far, and has the attitude every single day of wanting to keep improving."

The girls are on the starting team. "Both Rio and Reese have earned starting positions in nearly every match we've played so far," Coach Yarbrough said, "but their contributions to our team atmosphere go so far beyond their physical capabilities — they lead by example, they take every moment with purpose, and they set the tone of positivity, encouragement, and support for their teammates.

"We are appreciative of everything they bring on and off the court and are very deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Rio and Reese!"

First year head cross country coach, Jennifer Frere, picked one boy and one girl to honor this month.



"Senior Michael Pascual," Coach Frere said, "has shown true leadership in cross country this season. Michael leads the team through warm-ups, drills and puts forth a solid effort in every workout. He volunteered at our home meet after his race to help make it a success. He is a wonderful role model for our new runners."

The second honoree has already made a big contribution in her first big high school race.

"Freshman Shelby Taylor," Coach Frere said, "won our novice race at our home invitational this past weekend [Sept. 9]. She is committed to practice every day, showing up ready to work to get stronger and faster. Shelby always does her best and puts in that extra effort needed for a successful season."

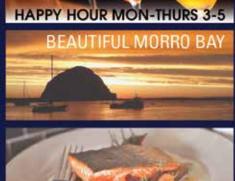
The MBHS Athletic Boosters is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting all Morro Bay High School athletes. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month and all are welcome to attend. See the website at: www.mbhsab.org for information on memberships, season passes, and other ways to help the Athletic Boosters with donations of time or resources.

Estero Bay News will be publicizing the Athletes of the Month again this year and urge readers to go out and attend a game or lend a hand with the Boosters' various fundraising efforts.









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## Sports Varsity Girls Go 1-2-3 in Ocean League Meet; Kelly Takes Varsity Race



Members of the MBHS Boys' Varsity Team pose for a photo after finishing fourth in the Ocean League Mid-Season Meet. From left are: Jack Walker, Maddox Miner, Lucas McAlpine, Eli Waldman, Dominic Holst, Otis Kelly, and Nathan Fuller. Submitted photo

### By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High School's cross country teams dominated the Mid-Season Ocean League Meet, winning one varsity race and taking the top spot in the other.

The Pirates traveled to the Elks Event Center (fairgrounds) in Santa Maria to compete in the first big multiteam matchup in the Ocean League on Saturday, Sept. 30.

The Lady Pirates' Varsity Girls Team took the Top-3 spots individually and the girls won the meet in strong fashion.

On the Boys' side, Otis Kelly ran to a first-place finish in the boys' varsity race and the team finished fourth.

#### **Girls Go 1-2-3** Morro Bay swept the top spots in the girls' varsity race

as a trio of talented freshmen shined for the Lady Pirates.

Morro Bay's speedy freshman, Shelby Taylor, finished first in the girls' varsity race leading her fellow freshmen and teammates — Wendy Wilson and Lilith Buller — in a win-place-show domination.

Taylor covered the 3-mile course in 18 minutes, and 54.28 seconds to win. Wilson timed 19:13.92, about 10 seconds ahead of Buller, who clocked 19:23.12.

Santa Ynez' Brooke Phelan was fourth in 19:23.9, with Righetti High's Amaya Uvalle fifth in 19:29.74.

Junior Mia Bennet was Morro Bay's fourth runner, taking ninth in 20:49.35. And senior, Noleen Fahey, finished 16th in 22:12.11 to round out Morro Bay's scoring.

Also running for the Lady Pirates was sophomore, Astrid Barnett-Davis, who was 31st, 23:55.13. The race featured seven league teams and 47 total runners.

Morro Bay recorded an impressive 29 points to win the meet. Second went to Santa Maria with 64 and third was Righetti with 85 (lowest team score wins). Cabrillo High was fourth (88) and Nipomo was fifth with 105.

### **Kelly Wins**

In a race that saw each of the Top-5 finishers come from a different school, it was a Pirate that led at the finish. Morro Bay's outstanding senior, Otis Kelly, ran off

with the boys' varsity race, timing 16:04.8 over the 3-mile



Members of the Morro Bay High School Girls' Varsity Cross Country Team — from left: Mia Bennett, Shelby Taylor, Wendy Wilson, Lilly Buller and Noleena Fahy — get a fast start at the Ocean League Mid-Season meet, held Sept. 30 in Santa Maria. Submitted photo

course and 10-seconds ahead of second place finisher, Armando Cervantes of Righetti (16:14.57).

Cabrillo's Vincente Navarro was third in 16:24.47. Heirberto Lopez of Santa Maria was fourth in 16:33.88 and fifth went to Marcus Napoli of Nipomo in 16:42.24.

Morro Bay's second runner was Eli Waldman, a junior, who clocked 17:20.23, good enough for 12th place. Next was Lucas McAlpine, a freshman who finished 19th in 17:48.87. Junior Jack Walker was 23rd for Morro Bay in 17:55.94 with sophomore Nathan Fuller the fifth best Pirate (35th, 18:41.2). Morro Bay sophomore, Dominic Holst was right behind Fuller in 36th place at 18:52-flat.

Seventh best Pirate was Maddox Miner (38th, 19:00;19).

Boys' varsity had eight schools and 55 total runners and Nipomo came out on top with 54 points. Second was Santa Maria at 62 and Righetti was third with 74. Morro Bay had 90 points to take fourth and Orcutt Academy was fifth with 111.

#### **Boys' JV**

In the boys' junior varsity race, again over 3 miles, San Luis Obispo's team took four of the Top-6 spots and ran away with the massive race, which also included teams from the Mountain League -13 schools and 159 total runners (Mountain League held separate Varsity races).

SLO's Nolan Connelly, a junior, won in 16:49.11 with Nipomo's sophomore Fernando Romero-Angeles second (17:06.58), and sophomore Bryce Bowen of Arroyo Grande third (17:06.98).

Those three were followed by a trio of SLOHS Tigers — Edgar junior, Martinez Delgado (fourth, 17:10.4), Mason Lebed (fifth, 17:15.43) and Jacob McClure (sixth, 17:19.15).

Morro Bay's top runners were sophomore, Joaquin Cuellar (42nd, 19:09.35), freshman Abe Gade (44th, 19:13.5) and freshman, Ahti Johnson (61st, 19:50.53). Senior Michael Pascual was 78th in 20:28.99 and Brent Elliott Miranda 84th in 20:50.43.

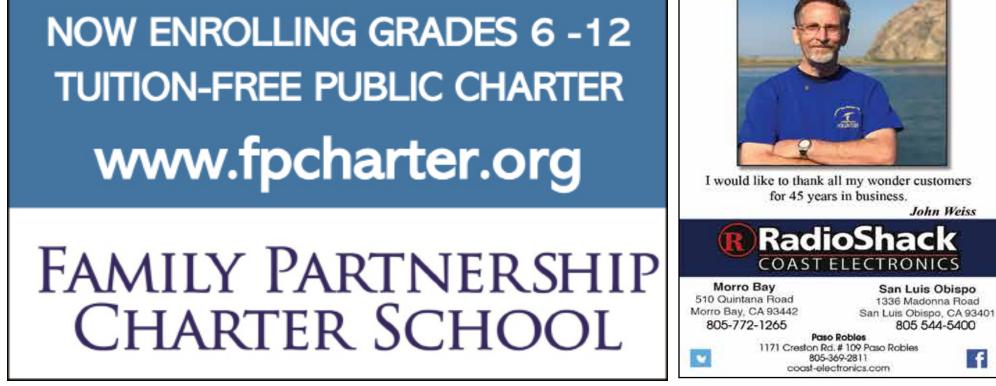
The Pirates' Alexander Esparza (90th, 20:58.56) and Emmanuel Rios (91st, 21:01.39) followed each other to the



finish line.

SLO scored just 27 points to second place AGHS' 62. Third went to Atascadero with 105; Paso Robles was fourth with 116 and Templeton fifth with 127. Morro Bay finished 10th.





## News Calling all Oktoberfest To**Supporters**



he Los Osos / Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce L takes great pride in showcasing the Central Coast's rich culinary and entertainment scene while celebrating the traditions of Oktoberfest. The event will give you a taste of the best of the West Coast's food, beer, wine, and entertainment.

Oktoberfest, originally held in Munich, Germany, has become a global phenomenon celebrating Bavarian culture and traditions. The Los Osos / Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Bay- Osos Kiwanis, has brought the essence of this cherished festival to the heart of the Central Coast for over four decades.

The 44th Annual Oktoberfest and Car Show is back!

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

Hop on over to enjoy some hops at the locally hosted Beer Garden while listening to the great tunes! This year we will welcome Carbon City Lights, Mini Nova, and the Santa Cruz Family band on our main stage! And don't forget, there will be a variety of local food vendors so don't worry if you work up an appetite.

This event is family friendly and extra fun; the Kids' Zone will have plenty of fun and games for all ages. Last but certainly not least, be sure to wear your Costumes for our Contest with different categories: adult, kids, & pets!!

Whether you're a fan of German culture, a lover of great food and drinks, or someone seeking a memorable experience that combines Oktoberfest with the Central Coast's Best, The The Los Osos / Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce and Bay- Osos Kiwanis, Oktoberfest is the place to be! Prost!

It all takes place at Santa Maria & 2nd Street on October 29 from 9a.m.-5:30p.m.

If you have any questions, contact info@lobpchamber. org or (805) 528-4884.

## Letters



## **Graffiti Incident is a Teaching Moment**

**R**egarding the Page 1 story about graffiti removal at the South Bay Community Center (Vol. 5 Issue 19). First of all, a big THANK YOU to the couple who acted so swiftly to contact the sheriff and stop more damage from the graffiti incident. And thank you so much to the community volunteers who rallied to mitigate that damage.

I agree with Mr. Katayama that it would be even better if some or all of those youth participated in the repair. Or perhaps there could be more tasks they could do at the Community Center.

This was and will continue to be a teaching moment. In many Native American tribes, restorative justice connects everyone in the community, so that those who create damage come to appreciate the effect of their actions on the community as a whole. That concept is now gaining traction in our court system. Engaging kids with the community members who treasure and benefit from the Community Center could be a win-win for us all.

> Gretchen Clark Los Osos

## **No to NOAA Proposal**

absolutely, enthusiastically agree with Paul Gallo's letter (Vol. 5 Issue 19) regarding NOAA's proposal to change the boundary lines of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. This alternative map is appalling.

First off, I am absolutely in favor of the sanctuary as originally proposed, in which the northern boundary would abut the southern boundary of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

However, this boundary "alternative" would be disastrous for the fragile ecosystem, not the least of which is the marine life that is abundant in the proposed NOAA "channel."

The logic behind redrawing the northern boundary to accommodate an industrial zone (wind farm) in the area of the coast which precisely NEEDS protection is unfathomable. Yet NOAA acknowledges that that is the reason for its proposal.

Let me reiterate: The region of coastline and ocean MOST in need of protection is exactly the area that NOAA is prepared to sacrifice for expediency.

I also have contacted Supervisor Gibson's office and urged him to submit a comment regarding this proposal to the agency.

If allowed to be enacted, this proposal would have

egregious consequences for the north coast that could never be undone.

> Janelle Schneider Cambria

## Viewpoint

By Jeff Eckles Morro Bay Citizen Initiative Process is Beneficial

The citizen initiative process, a hallmark of direct de-**L** mocracy, empowers ordinary individuals to propose and enact changes to laws and policies in their community. While it has its challenges and drawbacks, the citizen initiative process holds immense value for society by promoting civic engagement, increasing government accountability, and providing an effective channel for addressing issues that might otherwise be neglected.

One of the primary advantages of the citizen initiative process is that it encourages civic engagement on a grassroots level. It invites individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate actively in the democratic process. By gathering signatures, mobilizing supporters, and advocating for their causes, citizens become more informed and politically aware. They gain a deeper understanding of the issues that affect their community and acquire essential skills for effective civic participation. In this way, the initiative process strengthens the democratic fabric of a community by fostering an informed and engaged citizenry.

The citizen initiative process serves as a vital mechanism for holding government accountable. When elected officials fail to address pressing concerns or are influenced by special interests, citizens can bypass the traditional legislative process and take matters into their own hands. By placing initiatives on the ballot and allowing voters to decide, the process forces government to respond to the will of the people. This accountability mechanism helps ensure that elected representatives remain responsive to the needs and desires of their constituents.

In some cases, the citizen initiative process is the best means by which important issues can be addressed. Elected representatives may be hesitant or unwilling to tackle controversial or challenging topics due to political considerations. However, citizens can use the initiative process to bring such issues to the forefront. This avenue allows for public discourse and decision-making on topics that might otherwise remain unaddressed. As a result, communities benefit from the ability to confront critical issues headon and seek solutions through a transparent, democratic process.

The citizen initiative process promotes a diverse range of ideas and perspectives. It allows citizens with varying beliefs and priorities to propose changes to city ordinance, ensuring that the political agenda is not monopolized by a select few. This diversity of ideas can lead to innovative solutions and prevent the stifling of alternative viewpoints.

Viewpoint Continued on page 17



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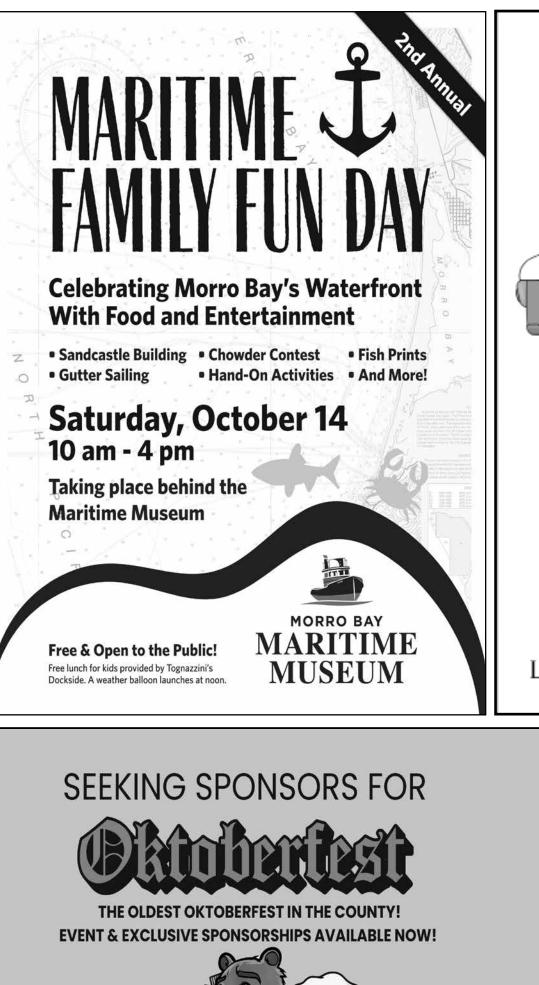
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## Obituary John Michael "Jack" Keely 1940 - 2023



John Michael "Jack" Keely, beloved father, husband, brother and friend, passed away on September 28, 2023, at age 82, following a year-long battle with cancer.

Born in New York City on November 17, 1940, Jack grew up with his parents, John G Keely and Cynthia J Keely, and his sister Tish Keely Trosclair (Jerry). After completing high school, Jack joined the Army and served as a staff sergeant during the Cold War between 1958 and 1962.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Jack worked as a prison guard and as the owner of a liquor store. Later, he became a successful, local realtor where conversational skills honed earlier in life and at the liquor store made him a superb negotiator.

Jack was an active member of his community, volunteering his time with the Lions and Rotary clubs, the Cayucos Fire Department and the San Luis County Sheriff's Department. He also served as a board member for the Cayucos Water Company and was a member of the American Legion.

In his free time, Jack loved to race cars, travel the world and enjoyed weekly lunches with his friends. He cherished spending time with his family and his "sidekick" dog, Kinzee.

Jack is survived by his wife, Barbara Righetti Keely; son, Jeff Keely (Wendy); daughter, Nicole Keely Dempsey (John); grandsons, Braeden Keely and the late Conor Keely; granddaughter, Lyla Jane Dempsey; sister, Tish Keely Trosclair (Jerry); nieces, Tamara Righetti, Gina Righetti McAlpine (Tim), and many great nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Cayucos, CA on Friday, October 6 at 11:30 a.m followed by a graveside service at the Cayucos Cemetery. A reception will be held back at Saint Joseph Catholic Church following the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice or a charity of your choice.



## News Filipino American History Celebration



The Bay-Osos Filipino Community is hosting a Filipino American History Month Gala to honor the history, pursuits, accomplishments and legacy of Filipinos in United States.

The evening formal Gala will take place on Saturday October 14, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos.

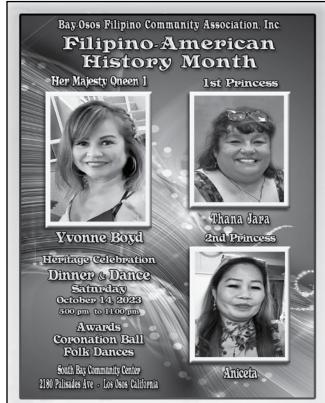
The celebration includes Filipino cuisine dinner and dance, guest speakers, folk dance presentations and the most anticipated Coronation Ball for the Filipino American History Month Queen and Her Court.

Filipino American History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of October. The Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1988. In California and Hawaii where large number of Filipino Americans reside, it is widely celebrated

October was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos in the continental United States, which occurred on October 18, 1587, when "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed at what is now Morro Bay.

In California, Filipino American History Month was first recognized statewide in 2006, when the California Department of Education placed it on its celebrations calendar. In 2009, California state Senator Leland Yee introduced as resolution, which was passed that recognizes October as Filipino American History Month. It passed the California State Assembly and was submitted to the California Secretary of State.

In the 103rd Congress, a resolution to nationally recognize Filipino American History Month was introduced. The House of the 111th Congress introduced a House Resolution to officially recognize the month. In October 2009, the Senate of the 111th Congress passed a resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month. In November 2009, Congress passed the resolution (H.RES 780) officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month.



For more information about this formal gala celebration and dinner ticket reservations, contact Albert R. Calizo at 805 550-3635. Dinner tickets are \$30 per person.

### Viewpoint From page 16

By providing an inclusive platform for citizens to express their concerns and offer solutions, the initiative process enriches the democratic discourse and promotes the best interests of a community.

In conclusion, the citizen initiative process is a valuable tool for enhancing our community in several ways. It fosters civic engagement, holds government accountable, addresses neglected issues, and promotes a diverse range of ideas. While it is not without its challenges and potential drawbacks, the initiative process empowers citizens to actively participate in shaping their community. As an embodiment of direct democracy, it reinforces the principles of self-governance and ensures that the voices and concerns of the people are heard and acted upon. In this regard, the citizen initiative process plays a pivotal role in strengthening the foundations of a healthy and vibrant community.

### Letter to the Editor Policy

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

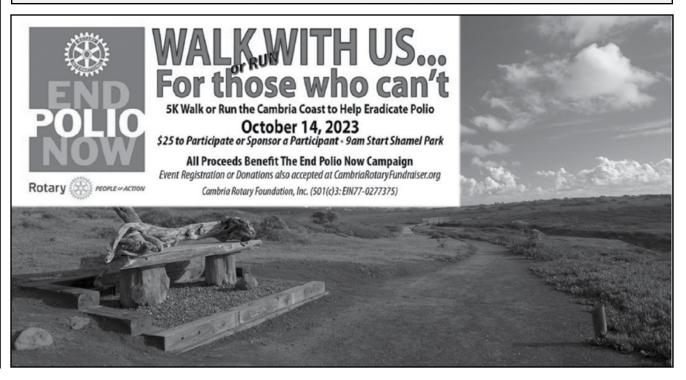


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## **Chamber News**



Photos By Jody Hollier

**66** The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt gratitude to all our Shop, Sip, and Stroll attendees and the incredible participating businesses. Your enthusiastic support transformed both the Embarcadero and Downtown events into resounding successes, creating unforgettable and enjoyable experiences for all. We would also like to express our immense appreciation to our outstanding sponsors - Marina Square, Chicago Title, Lavender Blu, Poppy, David J Rogers Fine Art, Joel Pace Real Estate, Lost Isle Adventures, Morro Bay Boat Rentals, Seven Sisters Gallery, and Smoobage - for their invaluable contribution in making this event a reality. Across both dates, nearly 350 attendees indulged in shopping, sipping, and strolling their way through our outstanding locations, and we couldn't be more thankful for your enthusiastic participation!

Over the course of the two event dates, we featured an impressive lineup of 31 unique locations with tastings from Morro Bay and SLO County wineries, breweries, cideries, restaurants, wine bars, and cocktail cruises! Many of our locations went the extra mile by providing delectable snacks to perfectly complement their tastings, adding an extra layer of enjoyment to the experience!"





### **Everybody Loves to Shop, Sip and Stroll**



What is the Local <sup>54</sup> Real Estate Market up to?

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## News

Maritime Month From page 1



The best way to meet a shark was at last year's Maritime Family Fun Day at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum. Photo submitted

its clubhouse for supporters of MBMM to celebrate the 2nd Annual Rock the Waterfront. Captain Annie of the Chablis will provide her over-the-top maritime delicacies and SLO's classic rock dance band, Riff Tide, will offer their popular surf-rock-funk-soul sounds. Tickets are limited and available if purchase by September 30 from board members or at MBMM for a donation of \$115 or the discounted member price of \$100. Unique silent auction items have been donated by community businesses and nonprofits. For example, bid on a MBYC scholarship for a youth sailing session in 2024, an e-boat rental from Estero Adventures, a ride to or from school in a MBFD firetruck, or join MBPD Chief Amy Watkins on a ride-along. Explore weather conditions in 2024 over brunch with meteorologist John Lindsay hosted by this columnist and so much more.

Then on Saturday October 14 the 2nd Annual Morro Bay Maritime Family Fun Day is a free event hosted by and at MBMM from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The original concept was to look back at the origins of the now retired Morro Bay Harbor Festival. MBMM's Jeremiah O'Brien told the committee it started with several fishing industry families going out to Morro Rock, popping up their car trunks for a day at the beach picnicking and family entertainment.

Why not an old-style carnival celebrating Morro Bay's fishing village ambiance? Community businesses, nonprofits and restaurants are stepping up again in 2023 to create, set-up, operate, and fund a maritime-themed game, activity, information booth, or photo op on MBMM's back lot. Only collaboration to help create this annual event is MBMM's request instead of space payment. The public has been invited to enjoy free, fun and entertainment - alcohol-free. Morro Bay Rock Radio's DJ, Dead-Air Dave will MC and we know he is always fun! Chamber of Commerce Chairman Ray Riordan and his Savory Pallett Players will entertain all day. Restaurants and nonprofits will offer maritime food offerings at family affordable pricing. In fact, this year Tognazini's Dockside offers free lunch for the kids.

MBMM's committee is appreciative of how many local businesses and groups stepped up again to create this annual event. Morro Bay Rotary Club's Annual Ducky Derby is again scheduled on the same day and this year after the yellow Duckys are dumped into Morro Bay to compete, someone will be awarded either \$1000, \$750, or \$500 at



The Best Blueberry Muffin trophy created by Paula Radke. Photo submitted

er balloon from the front entrance of MBMM. He will explain its purpose to collect valuable information on the temperature, humidity, pressure, and winds and why that is important for mariners. MBYC's Past Commodore Dana McClish recalled making sail boats in his youth. When rainfall filled street gutters, he and friends would race paper sailboats. He has crafted a gutter sailboat racing track for kids to make and compete their own paper sailboat. It was endearing and comical to watch the kids labor to climb into the hard-hat abalone dive suit for a photo-op last year. The Good Flea brought out their colorful big-mouth shark for kids to toss a bean bag for prizes. Salinan Native Americans demonstrate craft-making, Morro Bay Women for Fisheries' help make fish prints and new this year is several teachers at Del Mar Elementary will help kids understand and make nautical flags.

At 11 a.m., community leaders will serve free tastes of blueberry muffins in a "best of" contest offered by several local coffee shops or bakeries. It's all for bragging rights and the right to display Paula Radke's perpetual trophy. Who will win in 2023? At 2 p.m. representative first responders will serve free chowder tastes to see if Dutchman Seafood Restaurant will have to give up last year's perpetual trophy created by Ugly Mug Ceramics.

Indeed, it was a magical family-oriented day in 2022 when so many Morro Bay businesses, nonprofits and restaurants came together to entertain the locals and visitors who support them all year. Want to join in? MBMM invites others to create a magical activity and prove Morro Bay knows how to come together all in the name of an October Maritime Family Fun Day each year. Chairman Julie Kleckner would love to hear your great ideas. Call 805.400-0242. Of course, check out www.morrobaymaritime.org or for more questions, call 805.225-5044.

### Offshore Wind From page 1

with its review of the floating offshore wind farms.

Local State Sen. John Laird, who has been a big supporter of the floating wind idea since the start, got this funding included in the State Budget, Nilon explained.

The County asked the State Legislature "to provide funding for staff time and resources dedicated to supporting the State in meeting its offshore wind [OSW] deployment goals. Since 2021, County involvement in offshore wind has been supported primarily from the Administrative Office and Public Works, with additional expertise provided by County Counsel and Planning and Building."

According to Laird's website this money was given to the County "for staffing resources to fully support offshore wind development according to the state's ambitious deployment goals."

Sen. Laird also got money into the State Budget for scientific studies of the wildlife in the Wind Area. "Wildlife Baseline Assessment for Morro Bay Wind Energy," Sen. Laird's website reported, "\$150,000 appropriated to the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences to conduct an initial baseline assessment of the biological/wildlife/ecosystem conditions in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area to inform decision making on offshore wind development."

A research boat, the Fulmer, brought scientists from



## Save the Date! Hōkūle'a Arrival to Morro Bay

Welcoming the arrival of the Hōkūle'a on October 11th at Tidelands Park, Morro Bay

> Join us for the Hōkūle'a's series of events from October 11-17 in Morro Bay, California

> > More information coming soon!

10:30 on the patio stage at the Maritime Family Fun Day. (www.morrobayrotary.org) For a \$10 donation watch the Duckys' start their competitive swim at 8 a.m. right in front of Hofbrau and the Galley restaurants.

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At noon Meteorologist John Lindsay launches a weath-

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## News

the Center in LaJolla to Morro Bay recently to conduct underwater sound recordings to see what marine mammals — mainly whales and dolphins — are found the wind area. Another scientist onboard that boat was studying sea birds in the wind area.

(Also of note, Laird indicated that he'd also gotten into the State Budget, "\$300,000 appropriated to the City of Morro Bay to repair 150-linear feet of failed corrugated metal pipe to enhance flood control in this storm-damaged region.")

### It's a Federal Project

The permitting of these offshore floating wind farms is being done through the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM, with participation by untold numbers of federal and state agencies, and if Supervisors approve, the County would grab a seat at the table too.

After years of discussion and negotiation amongst agencies and others, last December BOEM held an auction of over 372-square miles of open ocean, some 20-30 miles offshore from San Simeon (about 57 miles northwest of Morro Bav).

### **Bids Are In**

The so-called "Morro Bay Wind Area" was divided into three sections and a different company won each bid, and won leases.

Winning bidders were: Central California Offshore Wind, LLC, which bid \$150.3 million for 80,418 acres of the wind area; Equinor Wind US, LLC (\$130 million, 80,062 ac); and Invenergy California Offshore, LLC (\$145.3M, 80,418 ac).

Two areas offshore from Humboldt County were also leased to: RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC (\$157.7M, 63,338 ac); and California North Floating, LLC (\$173.8M, 69.031 ac).

All told, leases to the five West Coast wind areas totaled over \$757.1 million.

The wind companies are currently doing environmental reviews under the National Environmental Protection Act or NEPA, the federal version of California's Environmental Quality Act, as they begin to design their projects.

### A Mountain of Paperwork

So far there's been a lot of paperwork generated over what amounts to a brand new industry - offshore "floating" wind turbines - and one that has not been attempted in any large scale anywhere else in the world.

According to Nilon's report, the County's people have taken part in:

· Participating in intergovernmental taskforces and serving on technical advisory committees related waterfront infrastructure;

· Engaging with offshore wind developers and industry representatives;

• Representing the community's interests in the federal lease process;

• Representing the community's interests in state legislative and regulatory processes, including the AB 525 strategic planning process;

· Representing the County at various offshore wind industry conferences and forums;

· Coordinating with counterparts in other potential offshore wind host communities on common areas of common interest; and,

· Collaborating with local, state, regional, and federal stakeholders on issues such as waterfront infrastructure siting opportunities, environmental and cultural concerns, community benefits, permitting, and economic development and workforce development opportunities.

#### **County Skin in the Game**

The County has also kicked in some money to the matter.

"The County has also contributed \$100,000 from the SB 1090 Economic Development Designation for a regional waterfront infrastructure siting study," the report said, "with County staff members serving on the technical advisory committee. The County has plans to further this work through a \$1 million appropriation from the State's Budget Act of 2022."

### It's a Big Job

Whoever gets the wind analyst job will have a lot on their plate.

"The Principal Administrative Analyst – Offshore Wind," Nilon's report said, "is expected to support the



offshore wind activities, with responsibility for serving as project manager for forthcoming studies, managing community engagement and investment efforts, and engaging with offshore wind stakeholders."

### Part of Bigger Plan

In a related matter, the report said the County hopes to expand its economic development work and the plan is to ask Supervisors to do this sometime in the coming months.

"County staff," the report said, "intend to return to your board later this quarter with a related proposal to deepen economic development capacity and resourcing at the County by creating an Economic Development Division within the Administrative Office."

If this bureaucratic plan is approved by Supervisors, it would in essence create a new division within County Admin with a department head - the Economic Development Manager - and the offshore wind analyst would report to that person, according to the report.

They also want to further expand economic development work with yet another analyst "dedicated to expanding broadband infrastructure and access, traditional economic development activities [business attraction, retention and expansion], and other identified economic development priority areas and grant management opportunities."

The County anticipates getting additional State monies for the economic development work as well.

### **Analyst's Pay**

The offshore wind analyst when hired would receive a salary (at Step 1 on the salary scale) of some \$74,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year (2023/24); with \$48,000 in benefits for a total pay package of \$123,000 from hire date to the end of next June, when the current fiscal vear ends

Starting in 2024/25, the analyst's salary (10 months at Step 2 and 2 months at Step 3) would be \$117,000 a vear plus \$76,000 in benefits for a total of \$193,000 total compensation.

And at the top end of the salary scale (Step 6 for 12 months), the salary would be \$141,000 with \$88,000 in benefits for a total compensation package of \$229,000.

The report said they anticipate future grant monies will be available to continue funding the offshore wind

### Jews Trash From page 1



Some of the volunteers who joined in to keep the beaches and waterways clean. Photo submitted

event that we love to celebrate, the values of the event and at ECOSLO hold true 365 days a year. We hope to see a future where nature and community thrive in San Luis Obispo County."

Trash can fatally harm marine wildlife through entanglement, ingestion, and disruption of habitat. Marine debris heavier debris than coastal locations."

The least amount of trash collected weight wise was at Morro Strand North/ State Beach Campground.

"That number doesn't necessarily mean there was a low volume of trash there," Howell said. "Most of the debris found was small - smaller plastic pieces, dog bags,

<b>TOP TEN 1988-2017</b>		
	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
#1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	7,535,411	36.96%
#2. Food Wrappers/Containers	2,193,018	10.76%
#3. Caps/Lids	1,861,923	9.13%
#4. Bags (paper and plastic)	1,572,241	7.71%
#5. Cups/Plates/Utensils	1,113,129	5.46%
#6. Straws/Stirrers	863,481	4.24%
#7. Glass Beverage Bottles	679,709	3.33%
#8. Plastic Beverage Bottles	554,825	2.72%
#9. Beverage Cans	496,117	2.43%
#10. Construction Material	367,729	1.80%

can also be a danger to human health. Nails, glass, and syringes on the beach can cause physical harm to beachgoers. Additionally, trash in our waterways increases the number of pathogens and chemicals, impacting water quality.

Altogether, 3,829 pounds of trash was picked up, 236 of which was made of recyclable material. The creek behind SLO's Mission Plaza had the most debris, which at first seems odd for such a small area compared to others, but Howell offered an explanation as to why.

"Mission Plaza was one of our sites that had more volunteers, so they were able to cover a much larger area when comparing it to a site that didn't have as many volunteers," she said. "Creek locations also typically have larger and



and plastic bags which hold little weight. It is important to remember that although these items hold little weight, they are still very destructive to the environment and it is good to bring awareness about the harms of using these items in outdoor areas, especially the harm they can cause to wildlife who ingest items like bits of plastic, balloons, and confetti.'

As has been the case for numerous years, cigarette butts were the most prevalent, but pieces of plastic and foam are rising, according to Howell.

### **Local Stats**

· Los Osos - Baywood 39 pounds of trash, 16 volunteers

•Morro Bay - 205 pounds of trash 9 pounds of recycle, 87 volunteers

· Cambria - 30 pounds of trash 2 pounds of recycle, 16 volunteers

• Cayucos - 206 pounds of trash 21 pounds of recycle, 94 volunteers

Do those stats mean we live amongst a slew of litter bugs who carelessly toss without thinking? Howell says "no.'

"Sometimes people forget to pack their trash when visiting natural places," she said. "We hope that if they see an area that is pristine with no trash, they will be encouraged to keep it that way. Together we can encourage our community to keep our beaches, rivers, and parks litter-free."

In the past there have been as many as 46 cleanup

ting back into the swing of things since our biggest cleanup in 2019, where we collected 17,646 pounds of trash with 1,981 volunteers. The number of sites fluctuate year to year due to a multitude of reasons, including volunteer capacity and staff capacity. We aim to host as many sites as possible and hope to grow that number next year."

This year was also a little different because of the massive winter storms we had that resulted in flooding and a tremendous amount of runoff from sites all over the county.

"Because of the storms earlier this year, cleanup sites at inland areas like Lopez Lake were more popular over the summer, which led to higher litter levels, Howell said. "In previous years, with lower water levels, we were able to access trash that had been previously submerged."

The California Coastal Commission states that close to 2,500 Californians took part that first year, and the California Coastal Cleanup Day program has been growing by leaps and bounds ever since. Since 1985, more than 1.6 million volunteers have removed over 26 million pounds of trash from beaches and inland waterways across the state.

In 1993, California Coastal Cleanup Day was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the "largest garbage collection" ever organized, with 50,405 volunteers. The event now takes place in almost every county across the state.

"This annual volunteer event empowers community members in SLO County to come together to protect our waterways, communities, wildlife, and our neighbors," Howell said.

ECOSLO's annual Creeks to Coast Cleanup is SLO County's largest volunteer event as part of Coastal Cleanup Day. ECOSLO has served as the county coordinator for the event since 2005. For more information, go to ecoslo.org.

#### County Health From page 1

Borenstein said, "gave us the chance to look not only at the hard data from within our department, but to also listen to the challenges and opportunities that residents are experiencing on a daily basis when it comes to health in our community."

"Accurate, relevant information," reads an excerpt from the Health Assessment, "helps us determine how to most effectively direct limited resources and where to find assets we can leverage to make positive change.

'It helps us understand who is most vulnerable to health threats and what demands most need our attention. Data also allows us to see what is working well in communities and find additional ways to improve community health.'

The study was conducted by SLO Health Counts, a collaborative that conducts a community health assessment in SLO County every five years.

The study made use of three main kinds of data -acommunity health survey and interviews with stakeholders (these are primary data sets) and secondary sources like the California Healthy Kids Survey, and the California Department of Public Health.

#### **Study Over a Life Course**

The Health Assessment looks at the health of the community over a "life course."

"A life course approach," the study said, "considers one's experiences throughout the lifespan, within the context of their history, environment, family, community, society, and culture. It takes into account factors such as housing, income, access to healthy food, and other neighborhood characteristics that play a critical role in a person's opportunity to be healthy."

But as the song goes, "Sometimes life gets in the way."

"Certain events and exposures [e.g. trauma[," reads the study, "can also have long-term impacts on development and health, so these are also included when assessing our community's health."

### **Good News**

Among the good things in the report, are findings that indicate some chronic diseases are waning here compared

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with close to 2,000 volunteers, but this year there were 22 with 590 volunteers.

"Each year is different," Howell said. "We are still get-

to state averages, but others are still prevalent.

Among the improving issues are rates of heart disease, diabetes, teen births, and deaths from COVID-19, all show the County is doing comparatively well.



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## News

### What Needs Improvement

The County report lists several areas where the study determined there was room for improvement, including: improving access to health care; mental health; lack of affordable housing; drug overdoses; death from strokes; and a rise in obesity rates.

### Leading Causes of Death

The study lists several of the leading causes of death to SLO County residents and as one might expect with an older population, heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer's are near the top of the list.

The study looks at the death rates from various diseases over the past three years (2020-2022) and key findings include: heart disease went from 465 in 2020 to 449 in 2021 and 509 in 2022, according to the study – figures are the number of cases out of every 100,000 residents (SLO County had 282,424 residents as per the 2020 U.S. Census).

Cancer (not specified which type) went from 528 in 2020 to 546 in 2021 and dropped to 449 in 2022; and strokes went from 261, to 260 and 273 in 2022.

Alzheimer's Disease claimed 179 in 2020, 163 in 2021 and 155 in 2022; with COVID-19 claiming 115 in 2020, 244 in 2021 and 122 in 2022, according to the study.

Also of note, drug overdoses - due mainly to fentanyl listed 82 in 2020, 114 in 2021 and 67 in 2022. Suicides or deaths by "self-harm" were 41 in 2020, 54 in 2021 and 49 in 2022.

And despite the proliferation of businesses that either produce and/or serve alcohol throughout SLO County from the wine industry to microbreweries and whiskey distillers the number hardly changed from year to year. The study showed 67 alcohol related deaths in 2020; 65 in 2021; and 68 for 2022.

### **Deaths by Misadventure**

Deaths caused by some kind of misadventure - from car accidents to ODs and accidents in the home – were also studied by the County and while some categories showed what looks like a big leap on a graph, isn't very many in terms of actual numbers. For example, "accidents" as a category went from 35 to 54 over the course of the past 14 years (reported in 3-year increments), according to the Health Assessment.

Drug overdoses showed that same kind of sweeping upward arc on a graph, but in actual numbers isn't very significant. Drug overdoses went from less than 16 in the years 2011-2013, to 18 in 2017-2019 and 34 from 2019-2021, according to the study.

The homicide rate was almost flat starting in 2011-13 with about 2.5 per 100,000 residents, bumping up to 3 from 2014-2016 and staying flat at 2 per 100,000 for the next 15 years.

As for cancer, the study looked at four main types breast, lung, prostate and colorectal cancers with lung cancer claiming the most lives.

The charts show lung cancer deaths going from 33 in 2011-2013 with a steady drop to 23 in 2019-2021.

Breast cancer went from 22 to 19 over the 14 years indicated, and prostate cancer from 21 in 2011-2013 to 20 in 2019-2021, with a couple of slight peaks and dips in hetween.

And Colorectal cancers went from 14 to 10 over the same 14 years time.

### **SLO vs. California**

So how do we compare to the State of California overall? It's a mixed bag according to the study.

Overall, SLO County's death rate was 606 (per 100,000) for all causes while the State average was 657, but deaths from cancers here was 127 vs. 125 statewide.

SLO County also topped the state average in deaths by strokes with 57 vs. 37, according to the study.

Heart disease claims fewer SLO County resident, with 62 while the State averages 79 but we're doing poorly in terms of drug overdoses with 34 here vs. 21 statewide.

#### **Drug Deaths High**

One shocking statistic stands out here, the number

Road injury deaths were the second leading cause of death for 15-24, and suicide was third at 15.

Suicide rose to second place among those 25-34 with 38; road injuries was third at 21; and alcohol came in fourth at 18.

Alcohol-related deaths were the second most frequent amongst those 25-34 (32) and 45-54 (51). Suicide was third for those 35-44 with 22 and road injuries fourth (13).

In the older residents, heart disease rises to the top of all three age groups - 55-64 (143), 65-74 (219) and 75-84 (304) — and alcohol still plays a significant role in killing those 55-64 as the second leading cause of death.

Drug ODs too are big with the 55 to 64-year olds, as the number of ODs stood at 70 for that age group.

### Study's Usefulness

What does the County plan to do with all this information? Hopefully, it will help them direct policies, resources and most importantly, money, to what's apparently the most pressing health issues SLO County residents face.

"The most powerful use of health data," Dr. Borenstein said, "is to inform action, and that is what this assessment will do."

She's grateful to everyone who pitched in. "To all the community members who participated in the survey and interviews earlier this year: Thank you."

If readers would like to check out the Health Assessment, which has more information than we've covered here, see the website at: www.slohealthcounts.org/introduction.

#### Manager Leaving From page 1

Kimball.

Johnson-Rios came to Morro Bay in June 2021. She had been the Assistant City Manager in Paso Robles before former City Manager Scott Collins hired her to fill a job that had been left open for a couple of years.

Though her job title didn't reflect it, Johnson-Rios was also the City's finance director, having replaced Jennifer Callaway, who left in Fall 2020 to become the city manager in Truckee, Calif.

has left the City to become ACM Former San Luis Obispo City Manager, Katy Lichtig was brought in as

interim finance director in November 2020, and worked on the 2021-22 City Budget.

Johnson-Rios has put together the past couple of budgets. Collins at the time said Johnson-Rios was chosen out of some 30 applicants.

Kimball highlighted Johnson-Rios' short tenure in Morro Bay.

"During her tenure," Kimball said, "she rebuilt the City's finance team after pandemic-induced layoffs and turnover; implemented a more user-friendly City budgeting platform; updated the City's purchasing policies to reflect best practices; and strengthened the City's information technology services."

She's done award-winning work. "Under Ms. Johnson-Rios' leadership," Kimball said, "the City received annual Awards from the Government Finance Officers Association [GFOA] for 'Excellence in Financial Reporting' for the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and for Distinguished Budget Presentation for the City's annual budgets."

It's helped that the City's finances, even through the COVID pandemic mess remained relatively healthy, despite the business disruptions that were brought on by the State's pandemic response edicts. She even managed to make progress fixing the City's shortfalls with regards to employee retirement costs.

tinued, "the City has made further progress at reducing the City's pension liabilities by establishing and funding a pension trust for the first time. As City Treasurer, Ms. Johnson-Rios oversaw the City's highest annual interest earnings on record, due in part to staff's proactive efforts to more actively diversify and manage the City's investment portfolio."

Johnson-Rios was gracious in her parting comments. "It has been my honor to serve the Morro Bay community since 2021," Johnson-Rios said. "I have enjoyed working with dedicated council members, city managers, executive managers, and staff to tackle day-to-day operations and strategic goals."

She was impressed with the City's team. "The Morro Bay staff team is one of the most dedicated and tireless teams I have worked with," Johnson-Rios said, "and what they deliver for this community given resource constraints is commendable. I wish the Morro Bay City team and the broader community the best and will look forward to future visits."

Kimball said she is sorry to see her go. "While I am sad to see her leaving Morro Bay, my team and I wish Sarah and her family success in her new community. Sarah will be missed."

Whomever her replacement is, they will be the fifth new management hire by the City in the past few years, as the fire and police chiefs, harbor director, public works director, city engineer, utilities director, maintenance supervisor and police commander are all relatively new to their positions (the public Works Director Greg Kwolek was hired in 2021, at about the same time as Johnson-Rios.).

Kimball said she is looking to find a temporary replacement to step in while she searches for her replacement. As of deadline, the City had not yet begun to advertise the position.

Under the current City Salary Schedule, the assistant city manager/administrative services director job pays from \$144,000 (at Step 1) to \$175,000 (Step 5), plus benefits and retirement.

Sunnyvale, located in Santa Clara County in the South Bay Area, is at 155,805 (as per the 2020 Census), the second largest city in Santa Clara County behind San Jose and the seventh largest city in the greater San Francisco Bay Area

It is the home of Silicon Valley, the high-tech capital of the nation and the birthplace of the video game industry.

In a Sept. 18 news release, Sunnyvale City Manager, Kent Steffens welcomed her aboard. "Sarah impressed everyone on our interview panels with her range of experience and personable nature. I know she'll be a great fit for our organization and a terrific leader who will help our City continue providing exceptional service to the community. We share her enthusiasm for public service and are looking forward to her joining our team."

She takes over for Teri Silva, who retired from Sunnyvale at the end of September after 13 years with the city. Silva started out as the town's director of human resources before getting the ACM job.

According to the news release, Johnson-Rios' starting salary in Sunnyvale will be \$359,000.

## **Condo For Sale** in Los Osos





Morro Bay's Assistant City

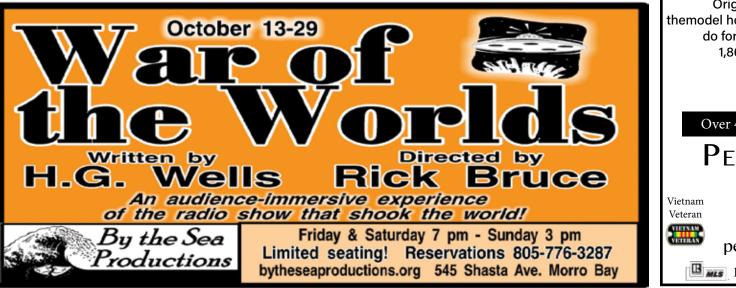
for Sunnyvale, Calif.

Manager/Administrative Services

Director, Sarah Johnson-Rios,

of drug overdose deaths for several younger age groups. Another chart measuring causes of death separated by ages shows the leading cause of death amongst those 15-24, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 was drug overdoses (26, 72, 56 and 66 respectively).

"Under Ms. Johnson-Rios's guidance," Kimball con-



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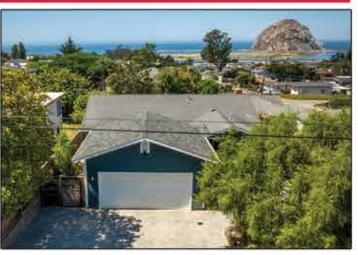
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