

Planners Take First Look at Panorama Drive Subdivision

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is preparing for a proposed subdivision in North Morro Bay at the site of a former Navy fuel depot, and neighbors of the property are not happy about it.

The Planning Commission on Nov. 7 had its first look at a proposed subdivision of the 10-acre vacant property located at 3300 Panorama Dr. That's the site of the former Defense Fuel Support Point or DFSP, Morro Bay that closed over 25 years ago and was cleaned up only recently.

That cleanup job involved removal of two 5.5 million gallon fuel tanks and a 100,000-gallon water tank, plus a slew of piping.

Now, the owner wants to subdivide the property into 48, single family lots, with accompanying interior roads and other amenities.

The project, designed by RRM of San Luis Obispo, is proposed to have five different floor plans for the homes with lot sizes ranging from 2,850 to 6,000 square feet. The total parcel covers about 10.9 acres but a 50-foot setback from a seasonal creek on one side will reduce the available building area.

Built in the 1960s to accept jet fuel offloaded from tanker ships anchored in Estero Bay, the facility piped the fuel all the way to Lemoore Naval Air Station (some 96 miles) via an underground pipeline. It operated until 1996 when a direct pipeline to Lemoore NAS was completed and shipping JP-5 fuel was no longer needed.

The federal government cleaned up the site as best it could and then sold it at public auction, garnering just \$1.5 million in the sale. The purchasers were Rhine LP and Morro94.

The commission's task was to offer recommendations to the property owners so they can alleviate concerns or



Rendering shows the layout of a proposed 48-lot subdivision proposed for a 10-acre parcel on Panorama Drive in Morro Bay.

make changes before a formal application for a subdivision map is made. It's a relatively new concept this idea of commenting on the project before a project really exists, and designed to iron out differences and alleviate concerns before it all goes public. The idea is to allay concerns and satisfy requirements going in rather than have to go back time and again to the proverbial drawing board.

Though it's all an old fuel depot, the parcel, one of the largest within the City Limits, is diverse with over a half-acre of environmentally sensitive habitat (a creek); almost an acre of required ESHA buffer; some 3.59 acres of developable lots; some 4.2 acres of common areas (roads, sidewalks, utility easements, etc.); for a total buildable area of 9.37 acres.

Once review of the proposal begins in earnest, it'll have to get a Conditional Use Permit, a Coastal Development Permit and a Vesting Tentative Tract Map, a process that could take a couple of years or longer and will almost certainly include an appeal to the Coastal Commission, given the location of a coastal creek running down the

Subdivision Continued on page 15

Recall Effort Launched Against Dist. 2 Supervisor Gibson

By Neil Farrell

Long-time Dist. 2 County Supervisor Bruce Gibson is potentially in some political hot water after a citizen's group filed papers announcing the intent to try and recall him and remove him from office.

Gibson, who won a fifth, 4-year term in the November 2022 Election, harshly criticized the recall in an official response released by the County Clerk.

And while many Estero Bay News readers are familiar with the "recall" concept, they've not likely ever seen anything like what this could turn out to be.

Who's Pushing Recall

The recall group calls itself "The Committee to Support the Recall of Supervisor Bruce Gibson," said it was comprised of "San Luis Obispo County concerned citizens and forgotten taxpayers from all walks of life and party affiliations. The Committee firmly believes that a change in leadership is necessary to restore the values and integrity of San Luis Obispo County."

Sprouting out of the North County, the recall effort is spawned in part by the controversy over the Paso Robles groundwater basin management. In a petition that a speaker at the Oct. 31 Supervisors meeting said was signed by more than 600 people, "We, the people of Northern San Luis Obispo County, believe that our elected supervisors should represent our interests in the Paso Basin. Bruce Gibson, the 2nd District supervisor, used his dictatorial powers to remove the first and fifth district supervisors from the Paso Basin cooperative committee and then put himself in that committee."

More Charges

The recall committee also alleges that Gibson violated his oath of office dealing with adherence to the U.S. and California Constitutions and violated the Brown Act, California's open meeting law. He is also apparently rude.

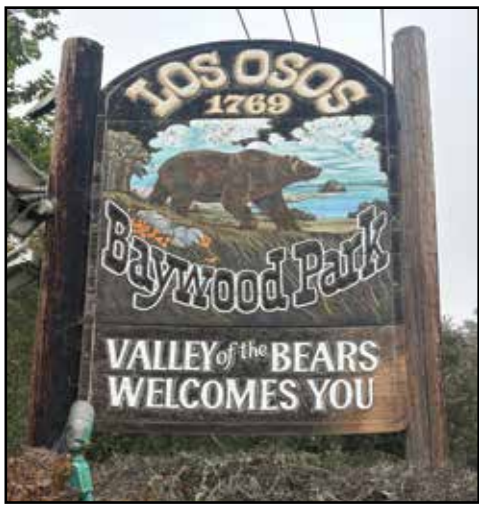
Gibson has "a sense of contempt and disregard for the forgotten taxpayers of SLO County, verbal abuse and mockery of public speakers during Board of Supervisors' meetings, and most recently, the misrepresentation of SLO County's legislative platform at the State level."

Gibson Responds

Not too surprisingly, Gibson lashed out at his accusers.

Recall Effort Continued on page 14

Osos Welcome sign and Bear Renovated



Before and after photos of the welcome sign to Los Osos, which was refurbished by a volunteers with Celebrate Los Osos. Photo by Pandora Nash-Karner



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

While most bears are preparing to tuck into dens for the next several months, one very welcoming bear in Los Osos is prepared to show off this hibernation season.

The so-called Bridge Bear and adjacent welcome sign near the entrance of town on Los Osos Valley Road were refurbished by a group of volunteers organized with

Celebrate Los Osos, a community benefit non-profit.

"These are some of the most important icons of Los Osos and they must be maintained," said CLO President Pandora Nash-Karner. "We took the signs down with a crane. They are in panels and had to be sanded, carefully refinished and reassembled. The mural was repainted by Becky McFarland and the sign was painted by Sean Beauchamp from Southpaw Signs.

Bear Renovated Continued on page 14

Pirates Win Ocean League Races; Girls Take Team Title

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay High School's Cross Country Teams had solid performances in the recent Ocean League Finals Meet, as the Girls' Varsity Team took the Top-2 spots in the Nov. 4 race held at the Elks Unocal Events Center (Santa Maria Fairgrounds) and the team took home the League Championship, in what has to be a great start to first year-Head Coach Jennifer Frere's tenure at the helm.

For the Boys' Varsity Team, the Pirates took second as a team and their top runner, Otis Kelly, ran away with the Individual League Championship.

Pirates Win Continued on page 22

Sewing & Craft Museum to Close; Will Auction Off Antique Machines

By Neil Farrell



A sewing and crafts museum is sewing up its tenure in Morro Bay and planning to close in December, and Estero Bay News readers have a chance to purchase many of the exhibits in an online auction and help send the couple on a well-earned retirement adventure.

Harry and Judy Schenk, proprietors of Judy's Sewing & Craft Museum, 350 Quintana Rd., will be closing the doors for good Dec. 1 and retire, again.

Harry and Judy say the plan is to sell most of their hundreds of exhibit items and move just a few choice things back into their "museum room" at their home in town.

Museum to Close Continued on page 13

Heroes
Wanted
Page 7



Police
Blotter
Page 8



Downtown
Morro Bay
Page 17-24



News

Companies Claim Property Tax Refunds

By Neil Farrell

Three local companies have filed claims against San Luis Obispo County, charging that they were overcharged for their property taxes by SLO County dating back to the 2018-19, with one claim for a whopping \$1.11 million.

County Supervisors rejected each of the claims after Auditor-Controller, Treasurer, Tax Collector and Public Administrator, Jim Hamilton recommended they reject the claims.

In separate claims, the Golden State Water Co., PL Landing Corp., and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) all demanded refunds from the same tax year.

“The basis for this claim,” Hamilton said, “is that the statutory tax rate applied by the County to unitary and operating non-unitary property pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code §100(b) is unconstitutional because it exceeds the rate paid by all other property owners in the county.”

GSW, which operates municipal water systems in Los Osos and the SLO Country Club area, “alleges that the tax rate which was charged by the County is in violation of Article XIII, section 19 of the California Constitution,” Hamilton said, “and contrary to the Supreme Court of California’s holding in ITT World Communications, Inc. v. City and County of San Francisco (1985) 37 Cal.3d 859.”

All three companies cite court cases in their claims. Hamilton said he consulted with the County Counsel’s Office about the claims and they decided to recommend rejections, “because the unitary tax rate (the rate applied to Golden State Water Company) is a statutorily set tax rate and our County is legally obligated to apply it pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code §100(b). The California Constitution and binding authority from the California Supreme Court and California Court of Appeal prohibits the Auditor-Controller from “declar[ing] a statute unenforceable, or refus[ing] to enforce a statute, on the basis of it being unconstitutional, unless an appellate court has made a determination that such statute is unconstitutional.”

According to the Tax Justice Network (see: taxjustice.net/2019/11/21/unitary-tax-explained-infographic): “Simply, put a unitary approach requires multinational corporations to contribute tax based on where they employ workers and do business, not where they rent letter-boxes and hide ledgers. That means making sure corporations pay their fair share locally for the wealth created locally by people’s work.”

And, “Under a unitary tax approach, governments treat a multinational corporation as a group made up of all its local branches, instead of treating each local branch as an individual entity separated from the global chain. The profits that the multinational corporation declares as a group are then apportioned to each country where it operates based on how much of its real economic activity took place in that country.”

Hamilton, seeming to acknowledge the claims from the ITT case, said “Here, the California Court of Appeal recently found, in County of Santa Clara v. Superior Court (2023) 87 Cal.App.5th 347, that §100(b) does not violate Article XIII, section 19 of the Constitution, and is not contrary to the holding in ITT World Communications.

“Thus, the Auditor-Controller cannot and should not refuse to enforce the statute based on a claim of unconstitutionality by Golden State Water Company.”

GSW was only demanding a refund of \$6,229.48, plus attorney fees and interest.

Another claim filed by PC Landing Corp., which owns and operates an undersea cable landing facility in Grover Beach (one of three in SLO County), asked for \$1,576.35 and it too was rejected for the same reasons. Ironically, a typo in the claim — making reference to “Alameda County” instead of “San Luis Obispo County” — may be an indication of how these filings are being done.

“Note that the reference to Alameda County,” Hamilton said, “is almost certainly a clerical error and the safe course is to treat the claim as referring to the tax rate

applied by SLO County.”

Often with these types of lawsuits, lawyers will take a filing used in another jurisdiction and rework it to fit a new target, in this case, a filing made in Alameda County and reworked to file here.

The biggest of these three claims was from PG&E, which is by far the largest property tax payer in all of SLO County.

The claim explains the circumstances surrounding the dispute over taxes charged in the 2018-19 tax year, when PG&E paid over \$29.56 million in property taxes — the biggest share of which was for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

PG&E paid its taxes in two installments of over \$14 million each.

PG&E demanded a refund of \$1,113,310, which they didn’t get.

Should the companies wish to pursue the matter further, they would have to sue in SLO County Superior Court.

Supervisors Vote to Rejoin Garbage Agency

By Neil Farrell

The County will rejoin a regional agency that deals with garbage and recycling, a couple of years after Supervisors voted to exit the agency amidst corruption and embezzlement allegations.

A split Board of Supervisors voted to reverse a previous decision to exit from the Integrated Waste Management Authority, a countywide agency consisting of every incorporated city in SLO County, plus the Board of Supervisors, representing the five districts and the unincorporated towns within each.

County Supervisors had voted (again split 3-2) in 2021 to leave IWMA and take over administering the garbage and recycling contracts for the county towns (except where a Community Services District handles these duties, as in Los Osos).

The October 2021 vote came as the IWMA was embroiled in an embezzlement scandal involving the former director and board secretary, who were charged by the District Attorney in August of that year.

As the County realized the expense of quitting the IWMA, including needed staffing, the board majority flipped after the 2022 elections and a new majority sought to rejoin the agency. Last January, the board instructed staff to study what rate hikes would be needed to complete the withdrawal, and then in March they voted to rejoin IWMA.

The switch back comes when IWMA has changed some of its procedures and checks and balances to prevent a repeat of the shoddy accounting that led to the embezzlement case.

But re-joining the IWMA, which was formed under a memorandum of understanding or MOU, wasn’t easy and required changes to be made.

In essence the old IWMA’s MOU had to be rewritten and all the participating agencies had to approve it. According to a report, there have been changes to IWMA rules of governance, including:

- IWMA’s authority is expressly limited to State-mandated legislation and regulations for solid waste, recycling, organic waste, and waste diversion;
- The minimum noticing time for withdrawing from the IWMA and terminating participation in the 2022 JPA is increased to one year; and,
- The number of representatives for the County on the IWMA Board of Directors is reduced from five members to one member and one alternate member.

That final provision, which had been a sticking point for the remaining IWMA board when the County sought to return, cuts the Supervisors’ power considerably as what used to be a 13-member board is cut down to nine.

IWMA Board pointed to the fact that the County only represents 18% of the garbage customers under IWMA and yet had five of 13 seats.

(Note: Morro Bay’s representative on IWMA is Coun-

cilwoman Laurel Barton with Cyndee Edwards the alternate, and the current representative of CSDs countywide is Robert Enns of the Cayucos Sanitary District.)

When it left IWMA, the County hired staff to meet its new duties and switching back affects those folks. The “Solid Waste Division” of Public Works hired a Division Manager, a Program manager I/II — Franchise Administrator; and a Program Manager I/II — Solid Waste Compliance officer.

That last position, which the County had yet to fill, will now be dropped and the other two will continue on. The Division Manager’s job will change.

“The Solid Waste Division Manager duties will expand to support the department’s organizational need for right-sizing the Utilities Division,” reads the report, “which performs the operations for multiple retail and wholesale water systems and wastewater systems throughout the County. Under the revised department organizational structure, the Utilities Division would be split and focus on water system operations, and the Solid Waste Division would incorporate wastewater operations.”

Health Agency Admin to Move

The County is building a new home for the Health Agency on Johnson Avenue in San Luis Obispo, and in the meantime, the department’s admin staffers will move into new temporary digs.

County Supervisors approved a contract to lease a 2,400 square foot office space for 10 administrators in the McMillan Business Park, 2925 McMillan St., in SLO.

The new admin office will be located nearby other agencies that they work closely with, including “Martha’s Place, Managed Care, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health and Emergency Medical Services division and County Public Health staff currently located in the McMillan Business Park.”

The move is necessitated by the County’s construction

Correction

In the story “Moving Forward 11/2 – Flavor Fool Launches Flippo’s Fall Fun Community Event,” Nicolas Martinez was 13 when his grandfather Raymond Minnite, who developed, owned and operated Three Rocks Cafe in the Central Valley, turned over all kitchen duties to him.



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News

of a new “Sobering Center” remodeled out of the Health Department’s Administration Offices.

“The displaced public health staff,” said County Real Property Manager Sarah Diggs of the Central Services Division in a staff report, “will need to be relocated to alternate office locations for continuity of operations and services.”

The terms of the lease, which is for 3 years, plus two, 1-year extensions if needed, at an initial cost of \$176,000 (for the 3-year term), plus \$55,000 in tenant improvements paid for by the County. “This amount equates to approximately \$1.54 per square foot,” Diggs said, “during the first year with a CPI [inflation] increase each year ranging from two percent to five percent.”

According to Diggs’ report, the first year’s rent (from Dec. 15, 2023 to June 30, 2024) will be \$3,750 a month and jump up to \$3,945 a month from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; and \$4,140 a month that third year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). So it appears from this chart that the Health Agency Admin Dept., will move to the new digs by mid-December.

The County will tap outside sources to pay for the rent. “The first year tenant improvements,” Diggs’ report said, “will be funded from the Future of Public Health Grant, and the lease rent per square foot will be funded from inter-department rent revenues collected in Behavioral Health for space rented at the Sobering Center Facility.”

Celebrating First Gen College Students



Cuesta College recently participate in the 2023 First-Generation College Celebration to recognize and honor the achievements of first-generation college students, faculty, and staff.

First-generation college students are a crucial and disproportionately impacted group in higher education. Cuesta College’s 2022-2025 Student Equity Plan (SEP) has identified the unique challenges these students face,

addressing the need for more support and recognition. In Fall 2022, approximately 25% of Cuesta College students identified as first-generation.

“Our first-generation students have shown immense courage, determination, and empowerment in their educational journeys,” said Mia Ruiz, Dean of Student Success & Support Programs. “We want to highlight their achievements and make them feel proud of their unique path to success.”

The theme of this year’s celebration was “Courageous, Determined, and Empowered: First-Gen Pride.” Starting that kicked off a week-long social media campaign to raise awareness and celebrate the first-generation campus community. Each day, the college spotlighted a first-generation student, sharing their stories and why they are “first-gen proud.”

Additionally, the Student Success Centers at both Cuesta College campuses displayed profiles of first-generation students and employees, showcasing their experiences and accomplishments. The celebration culminated on Nov. 8 with a gathering open to all, featuring music, food, and a sense of unity in celebrating first-generation achievements in higher education.

Friends of Elfin Forest Honor ‘Heart and Soul’



Yolanda Waddell being presented with a resloution by Assemblymember Dawn Addis during a Friends of the El Morro Elfin Forest. Photo submitted

The non-profit group Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest recently honored a longtime supporter of preserving

the wilderness preserve of approximately 90 acres that is the home to a wide variety of native plants and animals.

Last month, Yolanda Waddell was honored at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest held at the Morro Shores Mobile Home Park in Los Osos.

“It is thanks to Yolanda Waddell that we have this treasure for ourselves and our children to enjoy for many years to come,” said Roger Carmody, secretary of Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest. “One person can make a difference.”

Various governmental and civic groups recognized Yolanda for her many years of service to the community of Los Osos. Assemblywoman Dawn Addis presented a resolution from the State Assembly. Yolanda was also honored with proclamations and certificates from US Congressman Salud Carbajal, California State Senator John Laird, the California Conservation Corp, the SLO County Parks, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Los Osos Chamber of Commerce.

“Yolanda Waddell deserves all these accolades and more,” said Roger Carmody, secretary of Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest. “She has given many hours of her time and talents to maintaining and overseeing a unique and wonderful spot of land on the northern side of town overlooking the Morro Bay Estuary. The forest has been a principal concern of hers for the last 40 plus years. In many ways, Yolanda is the heart and soul of the Elfin Forest. She, along with the other founders, kept the idea of the Elfin Forest alive, even when it seemed an almost impossible dream.”

In 1985, before the property became a protected preserve, it was held by a private individual and was being planned and plotted as a development of vacation home sites with views of the estuary.

“Yolanda had a vision of the area as a Wilderness Preserve, and she was determined to do everything she could to make it a reality,” Carmody said. “Yolanda helped organize a group of visionaries who gave their time, energy and skills to the project of the Elfin Forest. Rose and Les Bowker, Elsie and Jerry Deitz, Larry and Pat Grimes, Barbara Machado, along with Yolanda formed the nucleus of this organization that was to eventually become the Friends of El Morro Elfin Forest .

After many years of letter writing and grant proposals, bake sales and creativity, the funding was finally obtained to acquire the land and in 1994 it become a permanent preserve, owned by SLO County Parks and California State Parks. The Friends of El Moro Elfin Forest act as stewards in caring for and maintaining the property under an “Adopt-A-Park” agreement with SLO County Parks.

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PG&E Applies to Keep Diablo Canyon Open



By Neil Farrell

The owner of California’s last operating nuclear energy plant has filed paperwork to extend its life for 20 years past it’s original planned closure date.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., on Nov. 7 filed a “license Renewal Application with the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission “seeking to extend operations at its Diablo Canyon Power Plant,” the company said in a news release. “The facility is the state’s largest power plant and producer of clean energy, generating enough carbon-free electricity to meet the needs of three million people.”

The application for an extended license comes on the heels of a whirlwind of on-off decisions by PG&E regarding the fate of Diablo Canyon.

Nearly 10 years ago, the company announced that it would halt efforts for a new operating license form the NRC and instead close the two reactors — Units 1 and 2 — by 2024 and 2025 respectively. That’s when the plant’s

original operating licenses are slated to expire.

That decision was arrived at through negotiations with environmental groups that had been fighting against the license renewals and wanted to shut down the plant.

But over a year ago, the State switched paths and Gov. Gavin Newsom asked PG&E to keep Diablo Canyon going for another 5-10 years. This was to allow the supply of clean, carbon-free energy to catch up with demand and to keep this 2200 megawatts of reliable energy to help prop up the power grid.

They backed this up with a bill (Senate Bill No. 846) that provided \$1.4 billion in a forgivable loan to the company to help pay for whatever needs to be done to stay open. It also gave them a pass on a State Water Board mandate to stop using once through cooling to cool steam at the plant.

Then the Federal Government pitched in another billion dollars.

Meanwhile, PG&E continues with a process aimed at the eventual closure and decommissioning of the plant, and the ultimate disposition of some 12,000 acres of pristine oak woodlands, and coastal terraces surrounding the plant.

“PG&E,” Corporation CEO Patti Poppe said, “is committed to answering the state’s call to ensure the continued operation of the facility and safely deliver affordable, reliable and clean energy for California. Diablo Canyon is a treasure and tremendous resource for the state, as well as one of the safest operated nuclear power plants in the nation.”

The company sees the State’s interest in continued operations as a positive sign. “We are pleased policy makers see the value of DCP,“ Poppe said. “It would be a great honor to continue serving California for as long as the state supports the operation of the facility.”

But the road ahead is likely to still be rocky, as environmental groups that negotiated the 2025 closure, have cried foul and filed suit seeking to force the plant to close. They contend that maintenance has been lacking, there are major problems with one of the reactors and continued danger from offshore earthquake faults, among other issues. They also believe the notion that Diablo Canyon’s power is need for grid reliability is false.

PG&E had at first sought to restart the licensing process it had previously begun and then halted, piking up where they left off, but the NRC said it had to submit a whole new license application. But submitting the NRC application, a milestone in itself, comes nowhere near to the end of this saga.

“In compliance with federal regulations,” the company said, “PG&E’s license renewal application includes general, environmental, and technical information about DCP. Once the NRC determines whether the application is sufficient for its review, a multi-year evaluation process will begin, which includes ample opportunities for public feedback and involvement. Under federal regulation, DCP will continue to operate until the NRC has taken final action on PG&E’s application.”

The chief at the plant gave reassurances. “Diablo Canyon Power Plant,” Diablo Canyon Senior Vice President

and Chief Nuclear Officer, Paula Gerfen said, “is safely generating clean electricity 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, 365-days a year, rain or shine. We have a dedicated workforce that is committed to operating DCP with integrity and safety at the forefront. We’re all excited for the opportunity to continue serving the state and help power California’s clean energy future.”

The plant will continue to operate and produce energy while the NRC goes through its evaluation and permitting process.

Morro Bay Molester Convicted

A Morro Bay man has been convicted of numerous counts of child molestation with multiple victims, the District Attorney announced, and now faces nearly three centuries in prison.



Elderjairus Stomtommas Belen

District Attorney Dan Dow announced on Oct. 25 that a jury found Elderjairus Stomtommas Belen, 33 of Morro Bay guilty of 11 felony counts of engaging in sex acts with a child under-14. The jury also found that the crimes involved multiple victims.

According to a news release, between November 2013 and December 2018, “Belen engaged in a series of sex acts with the two survivors beginning when they were under the age of 10. Belen was between the ages of 23 and 28 when he committed the crimes.”

The two victims, who both testified at trial, had the comfort of a special friend to help them face their monstrous molester.

“Both victims testified at the trial with the support of Edgar, the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s courthouse facility dog,” the D.A. said. “The Courthouse Dog Team consists of Edgar and his two handlers — Senior Investigator Tim Murphy and Victim Witness Assistant Director, Jennifer Love.”

The two victims showed courage at trial. “The two young survivors,” D.A. Dow said, “demonstrated remarkable courage by reporting the crimes and testifying in the trial necessary to bring this predator to justice. We are optimistic that this conviction will encourage victims of sexual assault to report the conduct to law enforcement.

“We thank the jury for their focused attention in this very sensitive and emotional case.”

The case was investigated by the Morro Bay Police Department and the District Attorney’s Office Bureau of

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News

Investigation. Deputy D.A. Kimberly R. Dittrich of the Sexual Assault Prosecution Team tried the case.

Sentencing for Belen is scheduled for Dec 1 before Judge Barry LaBarbera. According to D.A. Dow, Belen faces a maximum term of 275-years to life in State Prison for his conviction.

He will be required to submit to an AIDS test; and should Belen ever get out of prison, he must register as a convicted sex offender for the rest of his life.

Atascadero Rapist
Pleads Guilty,
Faces Life

An Atascadero man pled guilty to raping and molesting two juvenile girls under the age of 14 and now faces life in prison, the District Attorney’s Office announced.

On Nov. 8, the suspect, Juan Adriel CambrayMiranda, 42, pled guilty to four counts of “sexual assault involving two separate children, including Aggravated Rape of a Child Under the Age of 14, Sexual Penetration of a Child Under the Age of 14, and two counts of Committing Lewd and Lascivious Acts on a Child Under the Age of 14.

The crimes took place in Atascadero between April 2016 and May 2018, according to the news release.

In addition to the multiple rape of a minor charges against CambrayMiranda that he pled guilty to, he was also initially charged with a slew of other enhancing allegations,



Juan Adriel CambrayMiranda

including: “The crime involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness,” reads the D.A.s charging report to the court.

He was also accused of getting others involved in his crimes including a minor, and, “The defendant threatened witnesses, unlawfully prevented and dissuaded witnesses from testifying, suborned perjury, and in any other way illegally interfered with the judicial process.”

His crimes were carried out with “planning, sophistication and professionalism,” and involved “a large quantity of contraband.”

He appears to be a career criminal, reportedly with a long juvenile criminal history and convictions as an adult as well. “The defendant’s prior convictions as an adult and sustained petitions in juvenile delinquency proceedings are numerous and of increasing seriousness,” the charging document said.

Of particular dismay, he was already well known to the system when these girls were raped and molested. CambrayMiranda, “was on probation, mandatory supervision, post release community supervision, and parole when the crime was committed,” reads the charging document. “The defendant’s prior performance on probation, mandatory supervision, post release community supervision, and parole was unsatisfactory.”

CambrayMiranda was also guilty in a separate case out of San Luis Obispo for residential burglary and when he returns to court for sentencing on Jan. 22, he will be sentenced for that crime as well.

He faces 80-years to life in State Prison for the rape convictions plus whatever he gets for the burglary case. The sentences would run concurrently.

The Atascadero Police Department and SLOPD investigated the rape crimes. The residential burglary case was investigated by the SLOPD; and Dep. D.A. Kimberly R. Dittrich of the Sexual Assault Prosecution Team tried the cases for the people.

Fresno Man Faces Life
for 2020 A.G. Murder

By Neil Farrell

A Fresno man has pleaded guilty to murdering an Arroyo Grande woman in 2020 and now faces life in prison.

District Attorney Dan Dow announced Oct. 10 that Kayonie Eliaz Mendibles, 21 of Fresno “pled guilty to first degree murder in the November 2020 killing of Marion Jeanine Vore. He faces 25-years to life in state prison at his Jan. 9 sentencing date.”



Kayonie Eliaz Mendibles

Vore was discovered murdered sometime in the late afternoon of Nov. 27 at her rural Arroyo Grande home.

According to a news release from the Sheriff’s Department dated Nov. 28, 2020, the previous day at about 5:08 p.m. they received a report of someone trespassing in the 2000 block of Chamisal Ln. in rural Arroyo Grande.

The deputies who responded also checked on the elderly resident of the home near the area where the trespasser was reported. That welfare check led to the discovery of Vore, 77, who was inside the home and had been murdered.

Deputies identified a suspect that witnesses had seen fleeing the area in a vehicle and sent out an alert. Shortly before 10 p.m. deputies in South County spotted the suspect vehicle driving through Arroyo Grande.

They conducted a “high-risk” traffic stop on Hwy 101 near the 4th Street exit in Pismo Beach and Mendibles, who was just 18 at the time, was arrested and charged with Vore’s murder.

With the suspect now behind bars, the D.A. said the sentencing hearing is set for Jan. 9 in SLO Superior Court. The case was investigated by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Deputy D.A. Julie Antos.

Nipomo Man Guilty of
Raping Teen, Causing
Pregnancy

By Neil Farrell

A Nipomo man has been convicted of forcible rape causing great bodily injury, the District Attorney announced, and faces life in prison.

In a 9-day jury trial that concluded Nov. 3, D.A. Dan Dow’s office said they had gotten a rape conviction on Florentino Marcelino Ramonsantiago, 30, for a sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl that included an enhancement for causing “great bodily injury.” Dow explained the circumstances of the enhancement.



Florentino Marcelino Ramonsantiago

“This special allegation was based on the fact that his vicious assault resulted in pregnancy,” the D.A. said in a news release. “The true finding on the special allegation subjects Ramonsantiago to a sentence of 25-years to life in State Prison.”

According to the original charging documents released by the D.A., Ramonsantiago’s crime dates back to April 2021, when he “did unlawfully have and accomplished an act of sexual intercourse with a person,” the document reads, “against said person’s will by means of force, violence, duress, menace and fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury.”

The original case included an additional 17 counts against Ramonsantiago involving drugs, weapons, other participants, and “a high degree of cruelty, viciousness and callousness.”

He has a long criminal history dating back to numerous “juvenile delinquency proceedings” and prior adult convictions, “of increasing seriousness.”

The prosecutor said this was a horror movie. “The violence and trauma suffered by the young survivor,” Deputy D.A. Kristin Barnard said, “is what one would see in a horror movie. The sheer courage it took for this young lady to report and later detail this shocking crime to a jury is remarkable. We are thankful to the jury for their focused attention in this very emotional and raw case and acknowledge the impact it has had on them as individuals.”

Ramonsantiago is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 30 in San Luis Obispo County Superior Court by Judge Craig B. Van Rooyen. Ramonsantiago faces up to 25-years to life.

The case was investigated by the County Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation. Dep. D.A. Barnard who is assigned to the Sexual Assault Unit prosecuted the case.

D.A.’s Office spokesman, Eric Dobroth told Estero Bay News that she went through with the pregnancy and had the baby; and mother and child are together still.



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Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Prescribed Burns in State Parks Scheduled



There is prescribed burning scheduled for multiple San Luis Obispo County state parks beginning in November and lasting through March 2024 according to California State Park officials.

The burns are scheduled to take place in Montana de Oro, Hearst San Simeon, Harmony Headlines, Estero Bluff and Morro Bay.

People traveling near the fire burn areas may see smoke from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day of the burns. In the unlikely event you smell smoke, San Luis Obispo County urges you to take precautions and use common sense to reduce any harmful health effects by limiting outdoor activities.

Officials recommend avoiding strenuous outdoor activity and remaining indoors as much as possible. These precautions are especially important for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory and heart conditions. Use extreme caution while driving near prescribed fire operations due to fire personnel and equipment in the area.

California State Parks in cooperation with the County Air Pollution Control District, Morro Bay Fire Department, and CAL FIRE, is conducting the burns.

All burning is contingent on weather and air quality conditions that are favorable for smoke dispersal. Should conditions such as weather or vegetation not be conducive for burning, the burns will be rescheduled.

Public Input Changes Parking Fees in SLO

Just in time for holiday shopping, the SLO City Council listened to a large group of residents and business

owners protesting a proposed increase in parking fees. The conclusion —parking downtown will soon be free for one hour and on Sundays in the parking structures

“The City Council discussed the public parking program last week and recognized that new parking rates and other downtown parking changes have been challenging for some community members and the business community,” said Whitney Szentesi, SLO public communications manager, in a news release. “After hearing from hundreds of community members who care deeply about the downtown, and after reviewing the status and forecast of the City’s Parking Fund, City Council decided to provide immediate relief from the new parking rates,”

Starting Nov. 23, 2023, parking downtown will be free of charge in the following ways:

- For one hour every day in the public parking structures
- Every Sunday in the public parking structures
- During the annual downtown holiday parade starting at 6:00 PM (both on-street and in the structures)

These free parking options will be available at least through June 30, 2025.

“The decision to provide this immediate relief was possible because the City is in a better financial position than projected,” Szentesi said. “Debt financing to fund the new parking structure project was secured at a lower interest rate than expected because of the City’s strong financial management practices. This means the City will pay about \$1 million less annually over the first five years of debt repayment. At the same time, the Parking Fund is projected to have a surplus of about \$1 million this fiscal year.”

Council directed staff to move forward with a Parking Rate Study that will include community engagement to analyze parking demand, pricing, and user experience.

Check Out Winter Hiking After Dark

Hiking after dark is whole new nature experience and offers a view of some of what goes on when the sun sets.

This winter, take the opportunity to experience the magic of Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve after dark. The City of San Luis Obispo Ranger Service heralds the return of the Winter Evening Access program at Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore the beauty of nature after sunset until 8:30 p.m., available through March 9, 2024, when daylight saving time is no longer in effect.

The program extends access to approximately 4.9 miles for both hiking and cycling and 65 free permits will be issued daily to ensure the conservation of nocturnal wildlife and the safety of all users.

“Community members will be able to see wildlife, typically reclusive during daylight hours,” said Doug Carscaden, ranger service recreation supervisor in a news release. “From rodents foraging, owls hunting, to bats feeding on flying insects, and raccoons seeking sustenance, the reserve comes alive at night with activity.”

Ranger Service encourages people to observe wildlife from a respectful distance and to refrain from feeding them.

In addition to the nighttime rules and regulations, visitors are reminded to follow standard open space rules, such as staying on established trails, leashing dogs, disposing of dog waste, no smoking, and respecting the environment by avoiding alcohol, fires, camping, littering, and amplified sound. To get your free Winter Evening Access permit, go to slorangers.org.

Sheriff’s Office Warns of Phone Scam



The Sheriff’s Office is warning residents of a phone scam in San Luis Obispo County. It is a familiar one, indicating it is successful from a criminal’s viewpoint.

There have been reports recently that someone claiming to be from the Sheriff’s Office has contacted individuals to inform them there is an issue with a federal agency and that a payment is needed to resolve the matter.

“The caller ID ‘spoofed’ an actual number which made it appear to be coming from the Sheriff’s Office,” said Sheriff’s spokesperson Tony Cipolla. “The caller proceeded to use a fictitious name and badge number of a Deputy to make the story more believable.

“We want to caution residents this is a scam. The Sheriff’s Office reminds you that it is not our practice to contact residents by phone regarding these matters.”

Anyone who receives a call like this should report it to their local law enforcement agency.

It is best to inform your family and friends about this scam so they can be prepared in the event they receive a call like this.

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.

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- **Customized for Immediate Response:** Termed the "Rip Current Interceptor" by other organizations, this UTV is more than a vehicle; it's a promise of rapid, efficient response. Equipped with essential EMS tools, first aid, and oxygen, it serves as a preliminary medical facility, offering immediate care as casualties are transported to larger medical establishments.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Equipped with a PA system, our Polaris UTV can preemptively communicate with beachgoers, ensuring clear paths for emergency access and informing the public of potential hazards or necessary precautions.

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News
Los Osos Heroes
Wanted



There are watchers and there are doers. Then, there are some who are more than just doers, they contribute, often profoundly, year after year.

The Chamber's Citizens of the Year Committee is looking for the so-called "heroes of Los Osos - Baywood." And are now accepting nominations for the Citizen of the Year 2023.

"The nominee," the Chamber says, "should be a person who gives outstanding service and dedication to the community and who is involved in more than one community effort, such as education, politics, environment, service organizations, youth, seniors, churches, business, non-profits, conservation, etc.

Last year's award went to Paul Irving, who has lived in Los Osos for 30 years and is the prime mover for music events and festivals that bring people of all interests and ages together.

"His beautiful photographs of local scenery, that he publishes every day, motivate people to visit, stay, shop, eat, and play in Los Osos," officials said.

The Chamber's first Citizen of the Year was awarded to Tom Corr in 1978. Since then, 47 other "heroes" have been honored with this prestigious award, including: Sylvia Smith, Judy Tewell, Gary and Pandora Nash-Karner, Bob and Beth Crizer, George Kastner, John Lindsey, Cheri Grimm, Jim Stanfill, Bill Lee, Bob Semonsen, Linda and Jim Quesenberry, Marshall Ochylski and Albert Calizo, to name a few.

The Citizen of the Year Committee, made up of past Citizens of the Year will meet after the first of the year to review the nominations and decide the winner. The Citizen of the Year 2023 will be announced at the March Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

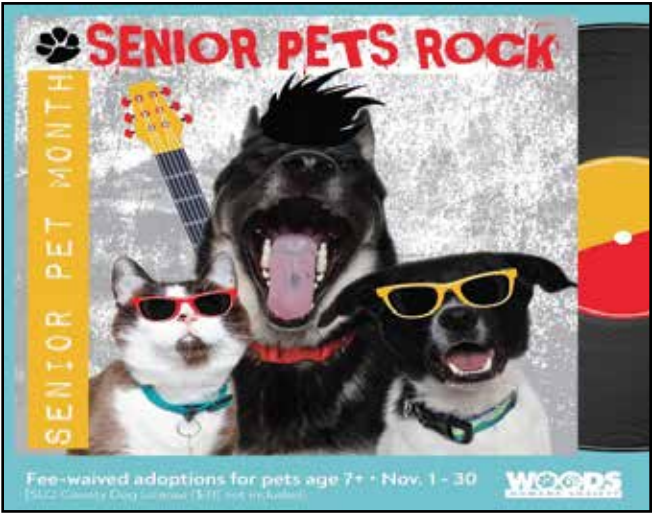
Who do you know who is a deserving a hero? Qualifications for nomination must include: 1. Outstanding service and proven community dedication to benefit Los Osos - Baywood over a sustained period

of time.
2. Involvement in multiple community efforts to benefit Los Osos - Baywood over a period of time, such as: education, beautification, environment, service or organizations, youth, seniors, churches, business, non-profits, conservation, politics, community service, etc.
3. Lives, works, or owns a business in Los Osos/Baywood.
Email nomination for Citizen of the Year with the person's name and why you think your nomination should with the heading "Citizen of the Year 2023" to cotylobp@gmail.com.
Information will be posted on Celebrate Los Osos Facebook page and on Nextdoor. https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateLosOsos/



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

'Senior Pets Rock'
Adoption Special at
Woods



Some "oldies" never go out of style—and that includes Solder pets. In honor of National Adopt a Senior Pet Month in November, Woods Humane Society is promoting

all of the timeless qualities of senior pets and waiving their adoption fees with their "Senior Pets Rock" promotion. The adoption special applies to dogs and cats ages 7+, but does not include dog license fees.
"When there are young puppies and kittens to adopt, it can be easy to overlook senior pets. However, this month, we want to remind potential adopters of all of the great reasons to consider an older, wiser companion," says Woods CEO Emily L'Heureux. "Like one of our favorite classic rock tunes says, these animals have 'hearts of gold' and can bring so much enjoyment to a family."
Woods says it currently has nine senior dogs and cats available for adoption (overall seniors make up about 8% of Woods' pet population) and the shelter length of stay for these senior pets can be two- to three-times longer than that of younger animals.
"Unfortunately, senior pets, who are more accustomed to the comforts of a home and less suited to the stressors of a shelter environment, often spend the longest amount of time in the shelter," explains L'Heureux. "Ironically, due to the fact that they are often already trained and have lower exercise requirements, these animals are among the most highly adoptable and can make the process of caring for a new pet much easier on new adopters."
To view all of the currently available senior pets at Woods, go to www.WoodsHumane.org/adopt or visit in person during daily public hours from 12-5 p.m. (adoption hours are from 12-4 p.m.). For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316. Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero.

Library Coat Drive
Ends Nov. 18

The weather is turning colder and will likely continue to throughout the winter months. A selection of county libraries, in partnership with Transition Mental Health Association, are holding a coat drive to help others keep warmer this season.
Warm your heart while helping others with a donated new or gently used adult-sized coats, hats, gloves, and sleeping bags (and anything warm!) at the participating libraries listed below through November 18:
• Arroyo Grande Library
• Atascadero Library
• San Luis Obispo Library
• Los Osos Library
• Morro Bay Library

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **Nov. 5:** Police were called to a disturbance at 5:30 p.m. in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated they arrested a 55-year-old tipsy fellow for suspicion of being schwasted in public.

• **Nov. 5:** Police responded at 1:51 p.m. to the 2000 block of Bayview where someone had passed away.

• **Nov. 4:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 3:45 p.m. at City Park in the 700 block of Harbor. The 41-year-old Sheila had a warrant and got tossed into the pokey.

• **Nov. 4:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 2600 block of Elm for a vandalism report. A man told police that some apparent terrorist vandalized his car, including, “racial slurs that had been burned into the interior headliner,” logs said.

• **Nov. 4:** Police responded at 1:25 p.m. to an apparently minor traffic collision at Napa and the Boulevard.

• **Nov. 3:** At 11 a.m. police arrested an offensive car in the 3000 block of Beachcomber whose registration had lapsed through no fault of the vehicle’s.

• **Nov. 3:** Police contacted a suspicious woman at 6:45 a.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. The scofflaw, 22, had two felony warrants and was booked into the County B&B.

• **Nov. 2:** At 12:14 p.m. police responded to the 1500 block of White Pine Dr., where another citizen passed Go for the final time.

• **Nov. 2:** Police towed off an unregistered vehicle from the 3000 block of Tide because the DMV monster had yet to be fed.

• **Nov. 1:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 11:22 p.m. in the area of Main and Errol. Logs indicated a

64-year-old model citizen was arrested for suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia and was injected into the hoosegow.

• **Nov. 1:** Police contacted a suspicious chap at 9:11 p.m. in the area of Alder and Sequoia. The 51-year-old bonehead had a bench warrant and was issued a new disappearance ticket and released under the yo-yo justice system of today.

• **Nov. 1:** A 43-year-old woman was contacted at 8:30 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. She of course had two bench warrants and again was cited and released to catch another day.

• **Oct. 31:** Police stopped a suspicious subject at 9:17 p.m. in the 1900 block of Sunset. A 21-year-old annoying flesh monkey was arrested on suspicion of being higher than the stacks on drugs.

• **Oct. 31:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3:12 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 56-year-old woman was nicked for a suspended license, resisting arrest and being krunked behind the wheel, which explains a lot but excuses nothing.

• **Oct. 31:** Police towed away a car parked too long in the 2800 block of Alder.

• **Oct. 31:** Police responded at 7:25 a.m. to a report that someone had died, on Halloween no less, in the 900 block of Pacific.

• **Oct. 31:** At 3 a.m. police towed off a car from the Rock area because the owner neglected to feed the DMV kitty.

• **Oct. 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:30 p.m. at Marina and Piney Way. Logs indicated the 46-year-old driver was cited and released for suspicion of driving while imbibing, on a suspended license to boot.

• **Oct. 30:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 9:30 p.m. in the area of Beach and Market, after the driver blew through a stop sign. Logs indicated the 19-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of driving on a toot, no license, and running a stop sign, because even duct tape can’t fix stupid.

• **Oct. 28:** Police spotted a suspicious subject outside The Siren bar at 11:30 p.m. in the 900 block of Main. The 21-year-old reveler was nicked for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and paraphernalia, as a lesson in slyness is

apparently in order.

• **Oct. 28:** Police espied a suspicious fellow traipsing down the 1000 block of Main at midnight. The 28-year-old swizzle stick was busted for suspicion of being schnockered and hauled to the gaol to sleep it off.

• **Oct. 27:** Police contacted a familiar foe at 8:20 p.m. in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd. The 53-year-old knucklehead had three bench warrants and was issued a fourth and released.

• **Oct. 27:** Police documented a report of possible suspected child abuse in the 4600 block of Rula Ct., made by a mandatory reporter.

• **Oct. 27:** Police towed off an offensive vehicle from somewhere on Main Street for failing to bleed for the DMV in a timely manner.

• **Oct. 25:** Police responded to the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., where they took a report for a missing person. On Oct. 26, at 10:32 p.m. they returned to the scene and arrested a 26-year-old louse for suspicion of felony domestic battery, assault, inflicting corporal injury on a spouse and sexual battery. The miserable cur was tossed into the County Jail.

• **Oct. 25:** Someone found a cell phone at Coleman Beach and police have it now.

• **Oct. 25:** Police responded to the 1700 block of Embarcadero where some scalawag had stolen fishing rods and a net was no doubt cast to hook the fiend.

• **Oct. 24:** Police responded at 8:26 p.m. to a disturbance in the 600 block of San Jacinto. Logs indicated they arrested a 34-year-old woman for suspicion of assault and domestic battery of a spouse or co-habitant. She cooled her jets in the clink.

• **Oct. 24:** Police responded to the 1200 block of Embarcadero where some pirate tool stole the battery off a boat.

• **Oct. 23:** Police responded at 2:30 p.m. to the 800 block of Quintana where some Mamaluke was apparently going wooly-booger and pitching a fit. The 42-year-old woman was nicked for suspicion of petty theft, disorderly conduct and being stewed in public, which might explain all the apparent drama.

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Be a Santa to a Local Senior Program



As the festivities of the holiday season begin, Home Instead encourages San Luis Obispo residents to participate in the Be a Santa to a Senior program and share joy by giving a gift to older adults in the community who may not have anyone to celebrate with. Local businesses hosts the trees to help spread cheer.

“The holidays can be hard for many older adults, especially those who may not have a companion to share them with,” said Matt Galbraith, owner of the San Luis Obispo Home Instead office. “Through Be a Santa to a Senior, we can help these seniors experience the happiness and togetherness the season can bring.”

To participate, shoppers can look for Be a Santa to a Senior trees or displays at locations around the area. Orna-

ments featuring the name and desired gift of an older adult will be on display, and shoppers can buy the requested gift and return it in a gift bag to the location with the ornament attached by December 8. The gifts will be delivered to local older adults in time for the holidays.

Be a Santa to a Senior trees can be found at the following locations:

- Carlock’s Bakery, 1024 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos
- Movement for Life Physical Therapy, 890 Shasta Ave, Morro Bay
- SLO Smiles, 878 Walnut St, San Luis Obispo
- SloDoCo Donuts, 195 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo
- SloDoCo Donuts, 6917 El Camino Real, STE E, Atascadero
- Tribe Coffeehouse, 1355 E Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande

“Gifts aside, the true value comes in the connection Be a Santa to a Senior makes between the community and our older neighbors,” said Galbraith.

As a franchise network, Home Instead is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Be a Santa to a Senior® program. Over that time the program has engaged more than 65,000 volunteers, provided more than 2.2 million gifts, and shared the holiday spirit with about 800,000 older adults nationwide.

For more information, BeaSantatoaSenior.com or call 805-473-5781.

SLO Food Bank Names New CEO

The SLO Food Bank has a new leader at the helm. Molly Kern is the new chief executive officer (CEO) She will replace Garret Olson in the position at the end of this year.

Since 2022, Kern served as the Chief Operating Officer following a nearly decade-long experience in key positions with the SLO Chamber of Commerce.

According to outgoing CEO Garret Olson, “In a relatively short timeframe, Molly has been the architect of significant change at the SLO Food Bank, including her leadership during the development of our newly adopted five-year strategic plan. The timing for passing the baton of leadership is ideal for our mission and our current momentum, and Molly is uniquely poised and skilled to take our organization to even greater heights.”

Following a 30-year career in the fire service, Olson joined the SLO Food Bank at the start of the pandemic, initially in a temporary emergency manager position. The organization was without a CEO at the time, and in May 2020, the board selected Olson to fill the roll.

The process and decision incorporated input from the board, managers within the SLO Food Bank organization, and donors.

“This process has confirmed three things for me,” said Ryan Caldwell, board chair and CEO of Wacker Wealth Partners. “First, Garret Olson has led the organization to an impressive level of cultural and financial health. Second, the entire SLO Food Bank team is incredibly competent and passionate. And third, Molly Kern is absolutely the right person to lead the organization into the future.”

Caldwell, Olson, and Kern agreed that the most important aspect of this transition is an uninterrupted continuation of their hunger relief mission.

“This is a significant and exciting transition for our team,” said Olson, “but for over 31,500 SLO County residents who rely on our vital mission each month, our commitment and driving focus continues to be on the reach and impact of our service. That is exactly how we are proceeding, without skipping a beat.”

Following the busy upcoming holiday season, Kern looks forward to connecting with SLO County leaders, partners, and clients to provide updates on the organization’s operations and a vision of future operations as captured in their new strategic plan.

Said Kern, “While food insecurity in SLO County is

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page10

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Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 9

significant and growing, our organization has never been more ready to serve. Guided by a strategic plan that is anchored in our client's daily realities, we are poised to provide greater nutrition, enhanced health, and compassion to the neighbors we serve.

"Throughout the history of the SLO Food Bank, we have been a place for nourishment, both for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity and for those looking to give back. It's hard to imagine a more rewarding role than one focused on our mission of alleviating hunger and building a healthier community, particularly as someone born and raised in SLO County."

Adopt a Fuzzy Friend



The Feline Network has many cats and kittens available for adoption and will hold an Adopt a Kitten Event on Saturday November 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at PetSmart in San Luis Obispo.

Cats and kittens are spayed/neutered, tested, micro-chipped and vaccinated prior to adoption. The adoption fee is \$100 for one or \$150 for two. A free vet examination is included.

We are still "swimming in kittens!" said volunteer, Elaine Genasci.*Our foster homes still have so many sweet and adorable kittens for adoption.

We offer a discount on two because having a pair of kitties is much more entertaining than a single cat."

The Feline Network is a non-profit humane organization established to reduce cat overpopulation through spaying/neutering and public education and to rescue homeless cats and kittens and place them in permanent homes.

The Feline Network is an all-volunteer organization that works with local veterinarians who generously donate their time and provide medical services at discounted fees.

For information on adoptions, low-cost spay/neuter, help with feral cats or to volunteer or donate, please contact us at 805-550-9064 OR (549-9CAT) or online at www.felinenetwork.org.

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Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Native Plants for Pollinators



On Sunday, November 19, from 2-4 p.m., the Los Osos Valley Garden Club hosts Master Gardener Peggy Burhenn as she discusses how gardening with native plants benefits our local pollinators. A certified California Naturalist, Burhenn will explain what steps you can take to make your garden more welcoming to pollinators, review which native plants are the most beneficial, which ones will grow well in your garden zone, and how to care for them. A member talk on Gardening for Native Bees in the Sand will be given by Cindy Roessler prior to Bernhenn's presentation.

The meeting takes place at First Baptist Church of Los Osos, 1900 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos (cross street Lariat Drive) and is free and open to the public. No signup/registration is required to attend. If you have any questions, email club president, Wendy McKeown at info@lovgardenclub.org. Photo credit: Tom Burhenn

A Christmas tradition returns with a local theater group with the 10th Anniversary stage production based on an iconic holiday movie.

San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre (SLO REP) will perform "A Christmas Story," written by Philip Grecian, and immortalized in a movie of the same name.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays during the run. No performances on Thursday, Nov. 23 or Friday, Dec. 1.

Tickets are \$20-\$40 and available online at: storep.org, or call (805) 786-2440.

The story revolves around Ralphie Parker, a 9-year-old boy in the Midwest during the 1940s, who wishes for, then schemes towards having a Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas.

Ralphie pleads his case to his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself at Goldblatt's Department Store. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out!"

A Christmas Story has been a SLO Rep holiday tradition since 2013.

The San Luis Obispo Vocal Arts Ensemble is celebrating 47 amazing years of making beautiful choral music for audiences in San Luis Obispo County and around the world! Under the musical direction of Founder Gary Lamprecht, along with accompanist Judy Robertson, Vocal Arts has some very special concerts planned for audiences in SLO County this winter season.

The holiday concerts will kick off the season in style with "Dona Nobis Pacem"

bringing hope and joy to audiences of all ages. The shows are a wonderful treat for the whole family. Enjoy classical choral music, holiday favorites and a couple of offbeat surprises.

All shows will end with a rousing sing-along of holiday favorites. The shows are Wednesday, November 29 at Trilogy in Nipomo, Saturday December 2 at the Mission San Luis Obispo, and December 10 at Cuesta College. Children's tickets are just \$10! These shows sell out each year so folks are encouraged to make their plans early. Parking is free at the Cuesta and Trilogy shows.

• Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:00PM Trilogy Monarch Dunes

• Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 3:00 PM Mission San Luis Obispo

• Sunday Dec. 10, 2023 at 3:00 PM Harold J. Miossi CPAC, Cuesta College

Tickets: \$40 Premium Reserve Seating (Mission Only), \$35 Preferred Reserve Seating (Mission Only), \$30 Reserve Seating and \$10 Children age 6-12. Order tickets online at vocalarts.org or call 805-541-6797

The San Luis Obispo 47TH Annual Holiday Parade: "out of this world!" on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 7 p.m. Participants are encouraged to incorporate elements of space exploration, intergalactic adventure, and cosmic wonder into their entries.

Let's partner for life's moments.

Together, we'll help you prepare for the next one — big or small.

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10 November 16 - November 29, 2023 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Community

The Annual Downtown SLO Holiday Parade has drawn thousands to downtown San Luis Obispo since 1976. Held on the first Friday in December, the parade has become a much-loved holiday tradition along the Central Coast for locals and visitors alike. Nearly 90 decorated floats, marching bands, vehicles, dancers, and more will march in the parade. Information regarding the route, accommodations, and more can be found at DowntownSLO.com/Parade. The parade will happen rain or shine.

This holiday season, visit Santa at Santa's House, ride the Classic Carousel, take family photos in front of the 20-foot tree, walk through animated lighted displays, experience a music-synced light show, and more!

Holiday Plaza & Santa's House Opening Day Celebration takes place on Nov. 24 at noon where attendees can watch Santa ride into Mission Plaza on a firetruck and enjoy a live performance from the SLO County Band.

Celebrate the opening of all the fun in the Plaza.

...



Runners take your mark before the feast. Thanksgiving morning at 8:30 a.m., community members are invited to participate in the SLO County Turkey Trot, presented by the SLO Food Bank and Running Warehouse.

The event offers two in-person locations: participants can stroll along the picturesque Avila Beach Promenade and Bob Jones Trail or savor the ocean view starting

at the Pismo Beach pier. For those unable to attend in person, virtual participation is an option, whether through walking, running, or hiking at a location of their choice or by showing support in spirit.

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

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

Help alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo County. Register now at <https://slofoodbank.org/trot>.

...



Join the Morro Coast Audubon for the Society MCAS November Virtual Community Zoom Program, "The Dinosaurs Amongst Us" presented by Kim Adelson, President of Black Hills Audubon Society on Monday, November 20, at 7 p.m.

Virtually all paleontologists agree that birds evolved

from dinosaurs, and most even go so far as to state that birds are, in fact, living dinosaurs. The flood of new data coming from newly discovered fossil beds – primarily from China – has only solidified that position. Come learn about the structural and behavioral similarities between birds and the more "classic" dinosaurs they evolved from. We guarantee that you will not only be surprised as to how dinosaur-like birds are, but also how very bird-like dinosaurs were. You will never think about T.Rex in the same way again!

Kim Adelson was a professor of psychology for almost 30 years. Before she switched fields so as to better study behavioral evolution, she earned a master's degree in evolutionary biology. Paleontology has been one of her avocations since she was a child. She is currently president of the Black Hills Audubon Society, where she also chairs the education committee.

All MCAS Zoom Community Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. No signup/registration required to attend.

Send questions via email to Wendy McKeown, programs chair at wendy@morrocoastaudubon.org

Photo Australian Cassowary (public domain photo)

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

- Make a Pie Garland - Wednesday, November 22, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Get ready for feasting by making a decorative pie garland with us! For school age kids.
- Teen Crafts & Snacks: Buy Nothing Day - Saturday, November 25, 2- 4 p.m.
- Book swap and repair fair! Bring a garment to mend or a book to swap. Come on down for an afternoon of spending nothing. For ages 11-18.
- Nintendo Switch - Wednesday, November 29, 3-5

Events Continued on page 12

experience

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Fri, Dec 15: 5-8PM • Sat, Dec 16: 5-8PM • Sun, Dec 17: 12Noon-3PM

Saturday, December 2, 2023

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Cancellation Date Sun, 12/3

Community

Events From page 11

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

...



The City of Paso Robles is set to dazzle residents and visitors with a radiant display of lights this holiday season at the annual Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony. This cherished tradition also symbolizes Cancer Support Community – California Central Coast’s 11th Annual Paso Lights of Hope, aiming to honor those affected by cancer while lighting up Paso’s Downtown City Park.
On the evening of Friday, November 25, the festive season officially kicks off when Mrs. Claus illuminates the breathtaking display. These lights will grace the park nightly, infusing warmth and hope into the community throughout the holiday season.
In an effort to make this year’s display even more vibrant and impactful, Paso’s Lights of Hope will adorn seventeen trees, offering a unique opportunity for sponsorship.
Paso’s Lights of Hope is a collaborative endeavor between Cancer Support Community, the City of Paso Robles and the Paso Robles Downtown Main Street Association. For those interested in participating and helping to illuminate the path toward CSC’s vision: “so that no one faces cancer alone,” sponsorship opportunities are available. You can learn more and get involved by visiting www.lightsofhope.org, calling (805) 238-4411, or emailing events@cscslo.org.

...

The following are free events brought to you by the Los Oso Library 2075 Palisades, Ave, 805-528-1862.
• Mini Weaving - Friday, November 17, 2 - 4 p.m.
Learn how to weave with Librarian Emily! We’ll make

miniature tapestry weavings together and learn more about how cloth was made in the past and how it’s made today.
• Teen Crafts & Snacks - Saturday, November 18, 2 -4 p.m.
Come on down for snacks and creativity. This Saturday we’ll be getting ready for next week’s feasting by making a decorative pie garland! Whether you love pumpkin, pecan, apple, cherry, or another pie flavor we’ve got you covered. For ages 11-18


...



The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble will give its fall concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in the Performing Arts Center.
Among the features of the ensemble’s season opener will be the world premiere of “Tahiyya” (“Salutation”) by Ken Habib, the ensemble’s director.
The concert opens with a suite of instrumental and vocal pieces selected from Arab art and popular music and celebrated across the Eastern Mediterranean, including classic examples of the muwashshah, a genre of poetry and music that arose in 10th century Andalusia in the southern Iberian Peninsula.
The program also includes a Romanian folksong and a Turkish instrumental piece that reflect the historical interconnectedness of West Asia, North Africa and Europe.
The Arab Music Ensemble is an orchestra and choir with vocal and instrumental soloists. Its membership represents a range of majors on campus and professions off campus. The dance troupe has a similar composition and has collaborated with the Arab Music Ensemble since its formation in 2006.
Tickets are \$15 and \$20 for the public, and \$10 for students. Event parking is sponsored by the PAC. Tickets are available at the Cal Poly Ticket Office between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. To order by phone, call 805-SLO-4TIX (805-756-4849).
For more information, visit the Music Department’s calendar website, or email music@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-2406.

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS



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

Each issue, this column will feature one of the Bookshelf Writers:
Debbie Black, Catherine “Kiki” Komreich, Judy Salamacha and Susan Vasquez

RV Camping: Gadgets & Gizmos Part 2

By Debbie Black

You live on Estero Bay. Lucky! People drive great distances to come here to camp. But you, you lucky dog, your RV won’t even break a sweat before pulling into one of a dozen local and beautiful campgrounds just minutes from your house.
After you’ve settled in, I’d like to share with you some more gear that will make that camping trip even better. Please note, I’m not associated with, nor compensated by, the companies who make these products. Here you go...
Coffee! Gotta have good coffee when camping. When we have electrical hook-ups, we use our single-cup Keurig and reusable Perfect Pod EZ-Cup with filters—much cheaper than k-cups, ecological, and I can mix my own half regular/half decaf pod. But dry camping without electricity has always been a coffee challenge. We tried a percolator, a French press, drip/filter coffee, instant coffee, even cowboy coffee. Then a friend told us about the MyJo and the heavens opened and birds began to sing. It’s a must-have if you’re dry camping. MyJos are inexpensive (\$25), durable and make delicious coffee. Put your favorite ground coffee in the MyJo refillable filter cup (or use a k-cup), fill the reservoir with boiling water, place on top of your coffee cup and press down on the pump lid. Yes, one cup at a time—but hey, you’re camping! Then go sit in your camp chair, place both hands around that steaming cup of fresh brew and thank the folks



Out & About Continued on page 23



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Community

Museum to CloseFrom page 1

The rest, including dozens of antique sewing machines of varying styles, sizes and manufacturers — each in perfect working order thanks to sewing machine technician Harry — will be sold via the local online auction company, SLO Cal Estate Auctions (see: <https://slocaalestateauctions.com>).

“With over 90 machines in the museum,” reads the auction site’s description for the sale, “this is a great opportunity to get a small piece of sewing history. Come enjoy antique, vintage. and toy sewing machines, and many sewing crafts from the Victorian and Pioneer Eras to the present.”

The website notes that the museum is open to the public and those interested can drop by during business hours, Thursdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to check out the many items for themselves, or see the museum’s website at: jewcraftm.com for more information.

But come Dec. 1, they will shutter the doors for good and close the books on an 8-year crusade to keep alive the arts of sewing, crafting, weaving, crocheting and more that Judy loves so much and nostalgically refers to as “Home-Ec.”

“They used to make everybody take Home-Ec in school,” Judy says with a laugh.

They opened a sewing museum 8-years ago at another location Downtown, and moved into the Quintana Road space in April 2019. Somehow they survived through the Coronavirus Pandemic and now they’re ready to let it go and relax. But there’s a museum’s worth of things to deal with and each one is like a work of art.

“We have so many big things,” Harrys says, “we don’t have the space at home for it all.”

Judy adds that they intend to continue living in Morro Bay but want to travel, as in go RVing across America visiting relatives and friends, something they’ve done before and really enjoy.

Harry says they’ve been to all 50 states and several foreign countries, too (he worked for the Navy).

Everything in the museum will either be sold, taken back home for display or put into storage and they have until the end of the year to vacate the space. The 90 machines all work perfectly, even the pedal (human) powered ones, thanks to Harry’s self-taught prowess as a technician. “My

husband is a scientist,” Judy explains, “and he’s become a really good repairman.”

These machines date from the 1850s to the 1950s, Harry says. Their collection includes dozens of “toy” sewing machines, child-sized working models plus numerous other gizmos, doo-hickeys and doodads used for making things like quilts, clothing, curtains and even spinning wheels to spin thread and looms to weave it into cloth.

“Some of the old ones,” Judy says of her sewing machines, “are very valuable.” But, “We want to retire and all we need is one machine for at home.” She and Harry both stress that the auction isn’t about making a lot of money, the museum was always free and accepted many donations, but to preserve history and foster a fondness for a way of life that has passed into history; a day when mom made your new school clothes and darned your socks instead of just buying new ones.

Each piece is, well, literally of museum quality, having been collected and curated over many years by Judy, who is a master crafter; with Mr. Fix-it, Harry making sure they are all good as new (maybe better for some models).

Judy hopes that in the few remaining days for the museum, moms will bring their children by and maybe take home a special gift from Judy, a lady who relishes homemade things for their thoughtfulness, creative beauty, function and history; and her handy husband Harry who could probably fix most anything good as new.

To check out the online auction for Judy’s Sewing & Craft Museum, go to: slocaalestateauctions.com.

As for the space, it’s several sizable rooms and a small high-ceilinged warehouse with a roll up door. It’s a space that has been the home of a variety of businesses over the years, including a glass shop, a window company, an art studio and soon a former museum.

It’ll be one of several above-average sized retail spaces in town coming open now, including an antique store on North Main Street at LaJolla (a sign out front says they are moving to Atascadero); another former antique store on Main next to Morro Creek (the Quonset hut with an art deco false façade); and another large historic Quonset Hut on Main near Beach that are now vacant or soon will be vacant and available for new business opportunities.



Harry and Judy Schenk stand amongst some of the 90 antique sewing machines that are being sold via online auction from ‘Judy’s Sewing & Craft Museum’ in Morro Bay. Photo by Neil Farrell

Vote for Cambria Chamber Board

Voting is now open for current members of the Cambria Chamber of Commerce to elect the 2024-2025 Board of Directors.

There are four open positions and a one-year vacancy to be filled. Voting runs through Nov. 17.

In the running are:

Juli Amodei has run her marketing ad agency for 23 years and lived in Cambria for 13. She has served on multiple boards, committees, and elected positions. She has been President of the Fresno County Women’s Chamber of Commerce, run event management for the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce, and she currently serves as a Board Trustee for Coast Unified School District.

Maira Arellano is a native of the Central Coast. She manages events at Cavalier Oceanfront Resort and has deep experience in hospitality, retail, and customer service. She knows this market, the importance of tourism, sales, events,

public relations, great communication skills, and she is bilingual.

Dianne Greenstein is part of the team at Serendipity in the West Village. She is a professional accountant with two decades of experience on boards. Dianne was secretary on the board of the Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine. She also has 14 years experience as a property manager working with boards of directors.

Steve Kniffen, Citizen of the Year for 2022, has served on the chamber board for several terms and has graciously agreed to run for another term.

Crystal Reynoso owns A Little Love Bridal in the East Village. As a business owner, parent, and part time worker for other businesses in town, Crystal has made great connections in Cambria.

Learn more about the candidates and cast your vote at <https://bit.ly/3FXJtXY>.

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Recall Effort From page 1

Community

Known as the Valley of the Bears, the living breathing version of the animals are not spotted in nature as often as one might think.

A black bear was spotted in the area about three years ago; it was reported swimming across the Morro Bay Estuary. California Fish and Wildlife tranquilized and transported it to the Los Padres National Forest after it climbed a tree in Los Osos. Brown bears are native to San Luis Obispo County, but black bears are not, MNEP says.

As a reminder, the American Museum of Natural History cautioned on its website, “For hibernating animals, an early wake-up call isn’t just an inconvenience—it can be downright lethal. Waking up from hibernation requires a lot of energy, depleting reserves that are key to surviving the winter.

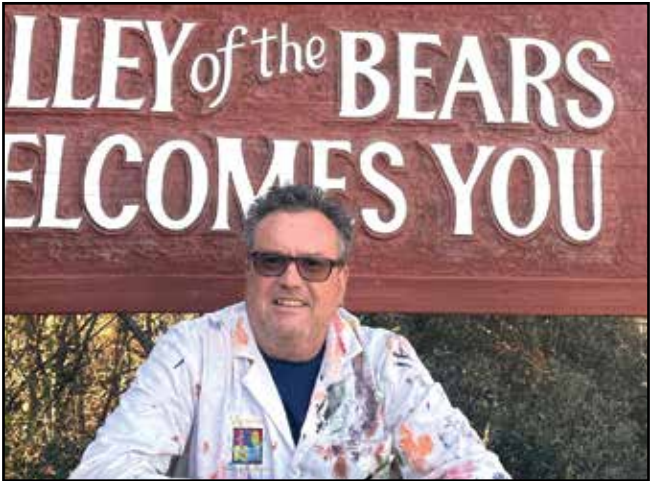
“It’s not just bears that are in danger if they wake up from hibernation at the wrong time. In colder areas of North America, many bats species sleep through winters in

caves, mines, and other large roosts, known as hibernacula.”

Even more bear fun: Every fall: Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska hosts Fat Bear Week, an annual tournament where the public picks from 12 ro-tund bears in an on-line brackets-style tournament.



The Bridge Bear on LOVR had algae removed and was scrubbed cleaned. Photo by Pandora Nash-Karner



John Biven, a retired art teacher who volunteered to paint most of the white lettering on the Los Osos entry way sign. Photo by Pandora Nash-Karner

Subdivision From page 1

northern side of the property. Some of the site is on a steep slope as well.

“The site includes steep slopes in the south and east portions of the site,” reads the City’s report, “some with landslide potential.”

In the General Plan update that was completed and certified in 2021, this property is zoned “Moderate Density Residential,” which allows for 4.1 to 7 dwellings per acre. That means the proposal is asking for fewer lots than the zoning would allow.

“This 10-acre parcel,” the report said, “is zoned to a lower density than the surrounding neighborhood, which is all Medium Density Residential, allowing 7.1 to 15 dwellings per acre (about twice the density of the subject parcel).”

The size — 48 lots — places the project within the City’s “inclusionary housing” requirements, which means they have to set aside 10% of the lots — five total — at affordable costs, a number to be determined later.

“The City of MB will determine the affordability level,” the report said, “likely to be ‘lower income’ levels which is 50%-80% of area median income. This equates to a home buyer or renter with approximate annual income levels between \$41,000 and \$65,000, which means that the rent or mortgage and related costs to the buyer/renter would need to be 30% or less of their total income.”

The City is currently doing an environmental review

of the proposal that will delve into several potential areas — Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Recourses, Hydrology, Hazards and Traffic Impacts. It looks like the project may require a full environmental impact report.

Neighbors, in letters sent to the planning commission expressed concern for everything from the location of overflow on-street parking, to landslides, high density, potential flooding, increased traffic on narrow streets, and tree removals.

As to the landslide potential, Community Development Director Scot Graham said, “The developed footprint is outside the slide area. Slide area will be a park/open space area.”

The hillside all along Panorama Drive starting at Del Mar Park, is subject to moving during very wet winters. Indeed, on more than one occasion, homes in the general area have been damaged when heavy winters have dropped over



Aerial photo shows the former Navy Fuel Depot at 3300 Panorama Dr., in North Morro Bay before two, 5.5 million gallon jet fuel tanks were demolished.



A front view of proposed home in the Panorama Drive project designed by RRM of SLO.



Rendering by RRM Design of SLO shows what the finished neighborhood on Panorama Drive would look like.

30-inches of rain in a season and the hillside starts to move. Some neighbors fear a catastrophic landslide could occur.

Though the overall property is relatively flat, there are sizable containment berms that were used to surround the fuel tanks and Graham said the plan was to bring in a whole lot of fill dirt.

“The tank areas are flat,” Graham said, “with exception of the berms. They were planning on bringing in 87,000 cubic yards of fill, but the community didn’t like that and neither did the Planning Commission. PC requested that they reduce the amount of fill that is to be imported.”

The property is an old fuel depot, and if history holds, these types of sites are often contaminated, including with cancer-causing chemicals. Is the site clean?

Graham said, “They are still waiting for final sign off from County [Environmental] Health. This will get sorted out as part of the environmental review.”

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Holidays at Home in Downtown Morro Bay



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On November 18, Set and Setting hosts “SoBar” an alcohol-free community gathering in downtown Morro Bay at 360 Morro Bay Blvd.

Mocktails, elixirs and tea are served, and the community is encouraged to come meet other like-minded folks. A watering hole atmosphere without the alcohol. People have been coming together and connecting in a new type of environment at the location for more than a year. The music and vibe are great.

Doors open at 4 p.m. and there is no charge to enter until 5 p.m. At 5 until 8:30 p.m., a \$10 donation is suggested. Mocktails, tea and elixirs are donation based as well. A fun evening for 21 and Over in downtown at

The Morro Bay Art Association present a free, hands-on demonstration of mosaic jewelry on December 11, 2023 from 3-5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay with Joan Martin Fee.

Fee is a craft designer, a television personality, author and instruction and magazine editor. She is also the owner of Creative Me Time, offering interactive workshops throughout the Central Coast.

Her creative journey began in 1990 when she submitted her ideas to the “Aleene’s Creative Living” television show and was asked to demonstrate her “Dress Up Dolly”

idea, using shrink wrap. Since then, she has worked for the largest manufacturers in the craft industry. Today she is widely known and appreciated for her ability to make people feel special through their creations.

During this demonstration, Joan will show attendees how to make beautiful jewelry just in time for the holidays. And don’t be surprised by the many participants reciting all of the Creative Me Time workshops they have participated in!

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 805-772-2504, or visit www.artcenter-morrobay.org

ties and other songs of the sea at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum for free. Audience members will be encouraged to sing along and share favorites. It all takes place at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum on Sat., Nov. 25, 11 a.m. For more information, go to morrobayshantyproject@gmail.com

Photo by Vince Cicero



The Morro Bay Shanty Project will perform sea shan-



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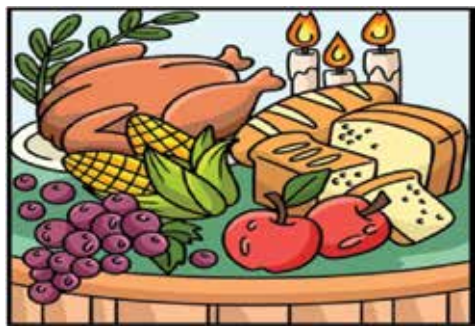


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Community

Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner



Join the Morro Bay Lions at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way on November 23, 2023 from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome and no reservations needed. There won't be any sit-down dinner as in the past, only drive up or walk up. For free home delivery, call 805-772-4421 Leave a message including your name and phone number.

Santa's House



The Rotary Club of Morro Bay is bringing Santa's to the Embarcadero! Visit Jolly ol' Saint Nick and get a photo to remember the occasion. Admission is free! Santa will be welcoming families on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. the first three weekends of December.

On Friday December 1, Santa will be at the Tree Lighting at City Park and will come to his house at 6 p.m. Santa's house is at the corner of Embarcadero and Front Street.

Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration



Watch the Christmas tree light up the park and share joys of the holiday with your friends and family. Head to City Park located at 734 Harbor Street on December 1, 2023 from 3:30-5 p.m. to enjoy the lighting of the Morro Bay City Park tree for the holidays! Activities begin at 3:30. Lighting of the Tree is at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Morro Bay Recreation Services at (805) 772-6278.

boats compete for prizes and celebrate the holiday wonder.

Caroling Cops



On Dec. 5 - 7, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., listen for the sirens and music and be on the lookout for police employees and members of the community as they join Santa on the Trolley and drive all the streets in Morro Bay handing out gifts to kids. Each night a different section of town is targeted. This is the only such event in the county. The slated schedule is Dec 4 North Morro Bay; Dec 5 Downtown & Embarcadero; Dec 6 South Morro Bay. Be sure to be on the lookout for the merry band of singer and give them plenty of cheers in gratitude.

New Life Jacket Loaner Station at Morro Bay Boat Launch!

Big news, boaters and water enthusiasts! Thanks to a collaborative effort with the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (Boat California), we're thrilled to announce the installation of a brand-new life jacket loaner station at the Morro Bay boat launch. This crucial amenity is back and better than ever, ensuring safety for everyone on the water.

A special shout-out to Harbor Patrol Officer Howland, whose dedication and hard work made this possible, especially after the harsh storms last winter (see last picture). His commitment to the project reflects the spirit of service and community we cherish in Morro Bay.

Lighted Boat Parade



Presented by Rotary Club of Morro Bay – on December 2 from 6-8:30 p.m. the official Lighted Boat parade will light up the night in the bay off The Embarcadero.

Be dazzled as our fishing, leisure and yachting community take to the water with decorated boats with dazzling lights and holiday cheer. Ooh and aah as participating

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Community

Crispy Smashed Potatoes Recipe

Let's face it potatoes are among the best side dishes that almost everyone loves — better yet, they are still affordable. If you haven't tried this versatile veggie smashed, you are in for a treat.

- Ingredients
- 1 ½ pounds small yellow-fleshed potatoes
 - ¼ cup olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 - 1 teaspoon butter at room temperature
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
 - ½ teaspoon dried sage
 - ½ teaspoon ground thyme
 - ½ teaspoon dried savory
 - ½ teaspoon sea salt
 - ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Potatoes: 1 ½ pounds small red or yellow
Oil: Olive oil ¼ cup
Balsamic vinegar: Two tablespoons of balsamic vinegar

Butter: 1 teaspoon butter at room temperature for richness

Seasonings: You can get creative here and combine your favorite mix or used some standards including 3 cloves fresh garlic minced, and about a 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, and ½ teaspoon each dried sage, ground thyme, sea salt, and ground black pepper.

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

1. Boil and drain the potatoes, then let them dry and cool completely on a kitchen towel.
2. Mix the remaining ingredients in a bowl while the potatoes are cooling.
3. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
4. Place the potatoes on a prepared baking sheet, then smash them with a potato masher or your hand.
5. Spoon the oil-herb mixture over each smashed potato.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until crispy. Serves 4, but realistically 2.

Next time you're at the boat launch and need a life jacket, remember this service is here for your safety and convenience. Let's all do our part in making water activities safe and enjoyable!

Kudos to everyone involved in restoring and improving this essential service! Let's keep Morro Bay a safe and fun place for all water adventures.



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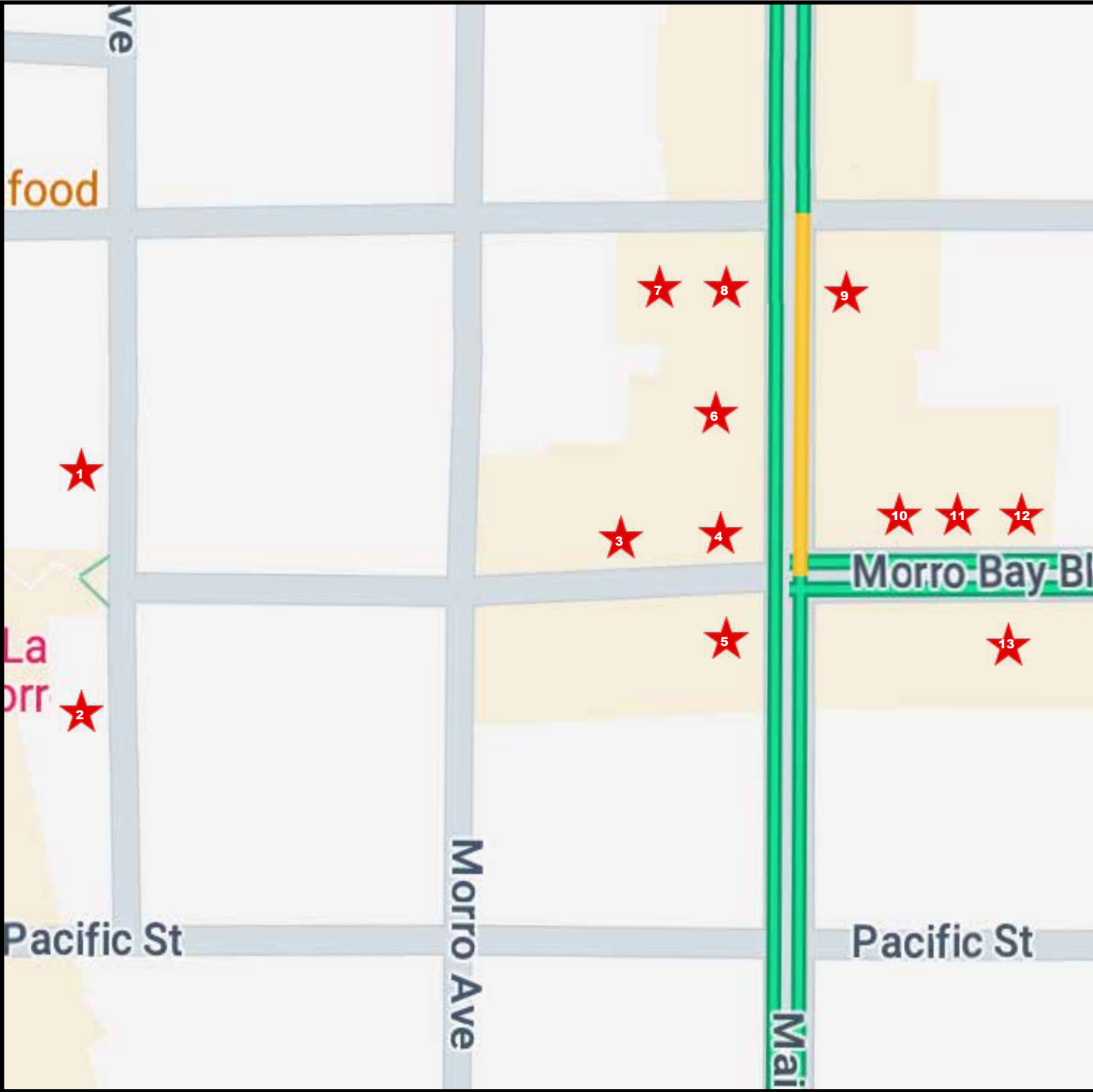
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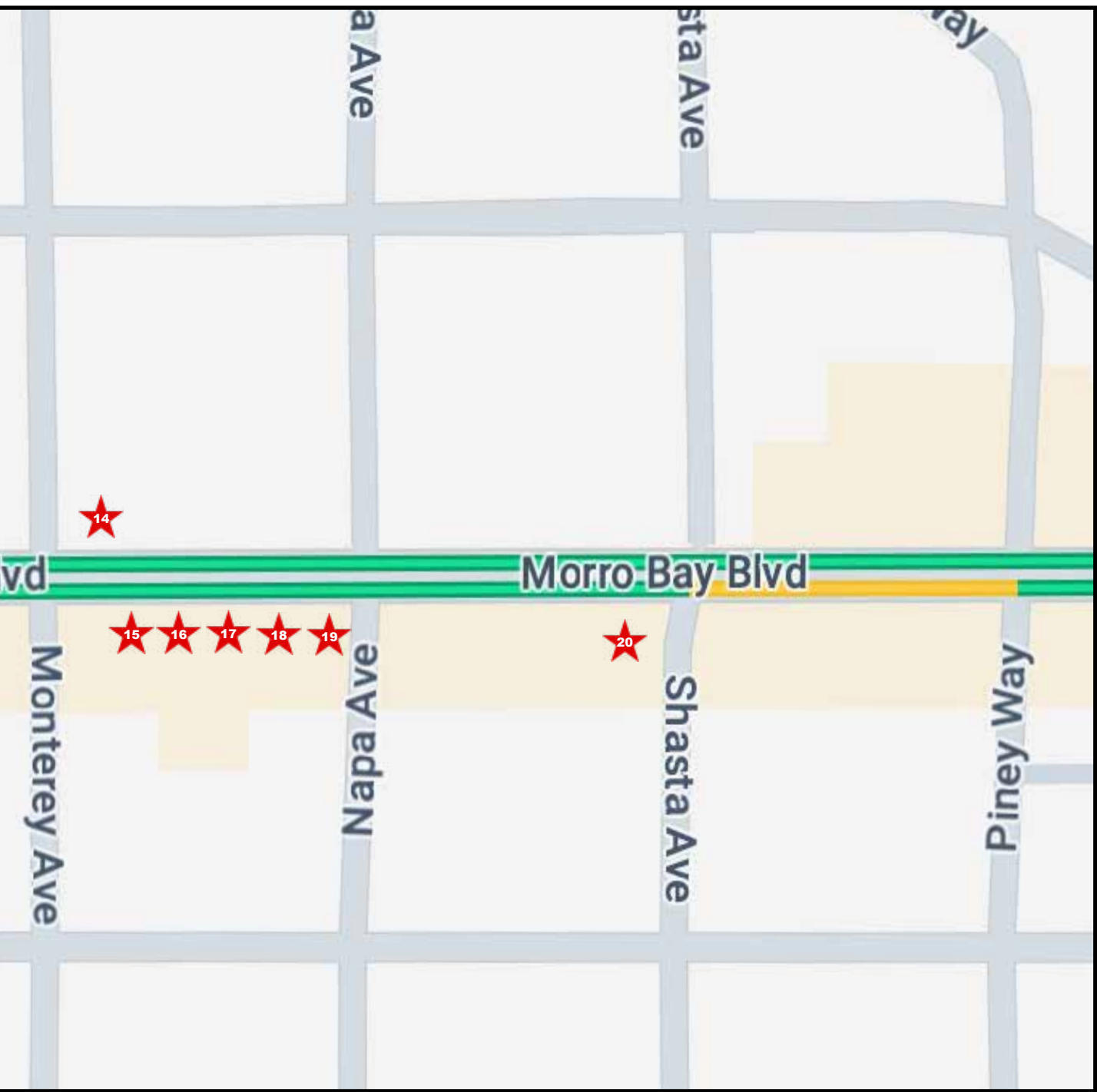
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Kelly Dominates

Senior runner Otis Kelly won the Ocean League Championship, repeating the first-place finish he earned at the Ocean League Mid-Season Meet.

Kelly finished in a time of 16-minutes and 22.73-seconds, a half minute ahead of Second-Place finisher, Josue Salinas of Santa Ynez H.S. (15:57.53). Ashton Andreadakis of Orcutt Academy was third in 16:33.06. Fourth was Samuel Fuson of Orcutt Academy (16:33.53) and fifth went to Nipomo's Marcus Napoli (16:36.18).

The rest of the Top-8 medalists were: Nipomo's Ryan Edwards (sixth, 16:38.36); Matthew Alvarado of Nipomo (seventh, 16:38.36); Eli Waldman of Morro Bay (eighth, 15:40.66); Armando Cervantes of Righetti (ninth, 16:43.01); and in 10th place was Fernando Romero-Angeles of Nipomo (16:43.89).

Other top Morro Bay runners were: Lucas McAlpine (16th, 17:15.19); and Jack Walker (26th, 17:40.95) followed closely by Nathan Fuller (27th, 17:41.33).

Also running for the Pirates were: Abe Gade (35th, 18:11.82), and Dominic Holst (40th, 18:32.65). There were 56 total runners representing eight schools in the Boys' Varsity Race.

In the team scoring Nipomo won the Ocean League with a very respectable 39 points and Morro Bay finished second with 78. Third went to Orcutt Academy Charter School with 82 points.

The boys' team was slated to compete in the CIF Central Section Meet on Saturday, Nov. 11 in Woodward Park in Clovis. The Top-3 teams will qualify for the State Meet on Saturday, Nov. 25 back at Woodward Park.

Last year the Pirates competed in Div. 4 for the Section Meet and at State. Kelly was 22nd overall in the State race as a junior and the team was seventh.

At Central Sections the Top-2 teams in each division qualify for State and the Top-8 individuals (apart from the team scoring) also earn berths to the Finals.

Lady Pirates Repeat

The Lady Pirates continued their mastery over the league as Morro Bay's Top-2 runners finished 1-2 and led the Girls to the Ocean League Title. And they're both freshmen.

Shelby Taylor won the 3-mile race in 18:34.11, ahead of teammate Wendy Wilson, who clocked 18:56.66, and landing a meaty, one-two punch to the girls' title push. And perhaps best of all, both girls are freshman.

Brooke Phelan of Santa Ynez was third (19:02.84); Sophie Ramirez of Cabrillo was fourth in 19:06.14; and fifth went to Amaya Uvalie of Righetti (19:35.65).

Adaleyah Jackson of Lompoc was sixth in 19:48.96; seventh was Leslie Rodriguez of Santa Maria (20:23.10) and eighth was Sophia Esparza of Nipomo (20:43.10).

Morro Bay's Lilith Butler was 13th for the Lady Pirates in 21:22.50; followed by Jane Hotaling (17th, 21:51.49); and Noleen Fahey (24th, 22:26.51) rounded out Morro Bay's runners. All told there were 49 runners in the Ocean League race.

In the team scoring Morro Bay won its second consec-

utive league title with 54 points, with Santa Maria second at 65 and third went to Cabrillo of Lompoc with 67.

The Lady Pirates too were slated to run in the CIF Central Sectional Meet in Clovis Nov. 11 and possibly also qualify for State, either as a team or individually.

JV Boys 10th

The junior varsity races for both the Ocean and Mountain Leagues were run together and Morro Bay finished 10th. There were 142 runners in the boys' JV race.

San Luis Obispo High took the Top-2 spots as Silas Buchanan was first and Chris Mason was second clocking 16:56.36 and 17:08.31 respectively. Of note, Buchanan is a senior and Mason a junior running in the JV race.

Morro Bay's top finisher was Joaquin Cuellar in 23rd place in 18:41.66. Also competing were: Cameron D'Aunoy (48th, 19:43.50); Odin Grafton (60th, 20:06.68); and three Pirates followed each other across the finish line finishing 69th, 70th and 71st. Aiden Elmendorf (20:26.60), was just ahead of Ahti Johnson (20:28.02) and Dustin Que (20:28.55).

Also running for Morro Bay were Bench Miranda, Brendt Elliott Mirand, Emmanuel Rios, Logan Bautista, James Lee, Orion Rea, Michael Pascual, Danel (sic) Velasco Ontanon, Dexter Parks, Leif Hjelstrom, Rogelio Castillo and Everett Mongin.

SLOHS won the race with just 28 points, Atascadero was second with 53 and Templeton third with 88.

SLO Sweeps JV Girls

In the JV Girls' race, SLO High swept the Top-8 spots to score a perfect 15 points and literally run away from second place Pioneer Valley, which had 63.

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News

SLO Tigers Catherine Tucker won in 20:35.12; with Charlotte Petit — a freshman — second (20:48.43) and Rebekah Waterbury third (20:48.75). Morro Bay didn't have any runners in the race, which combined the Mountain and Ocean Leagues.

Other Results

Of interest to EBN readers, Joshua Bell, the Templeton High senior who ran away with the Morro Bay Invitational Title at the start of the season, ran away with the Mountain League Championship as well, clocking 14:34.05. Second went to Tyler Daillak of Paso Robles, who also finished fourth at the Morro Bay Invitational. SLOHS runners Weston Greeneish and Nolan Roemmich were 3-4, with Lompoc's Noah Barthel fifth.

SLOHS easily won the meet with just 38 points; Arroyo Grande was second with 81 and third went to Lompoc with 87.

Out & About From page 12

who invented the MyJo. It's also the perfect gift for your camping friends.



RV Superbags—a game changer! Got a corner bed in your RV? How do you like changing that bed? A royal pain, right — making a bed while you're kneeling on it and cracking your head on the overhead cabinets? I was NOT a

happy camper. Then we met some people at Convict Lake who've become fast friends—mainly because they're nice individuals but also because they convinced us to buy a couple RV Superbags. Go right now and check out www.rvsuperbag.com. What a wonderful product and clever beyond words. Custom made in the US, these sleeping bags have a fluffy side for winter and a thinner side for summer, with removable, comfy sheets that Velcro into the bag. Brilliant! Everything is well made and generously sized. When it's too hot even for the summer side, we just sleep under the sheets. Per our friends' suggestion, we paid a little more for the 300 thread count sheets. Good move. Amazingly comfortable. We bought an extra set to switch out whenever we return from camping—all ready for the next trip. You have a choice of sleeping bag fabrics (Garth's and mine are different), bag size Single/Queen/King (ours are singles, 42"x80"!) and the sheet thread count. RV Superbags aren't cheap but they've been well worth the money for utter comfort, plus we've totally eliminated all bed-making frustration. We'd never go back!

Rocky! That's our name for our sweet portable gas fire pit. "Rocky time!" we say first thing on a cold morning. Nothing better than a no-fuss crackling morning fire and a cup of coffee. Well, maybe equally wonderful is lighting up Rocky at sunset during wine time. Or for after-dinner conversations when the stars come out. It emits a lot of heat but the base doesn't get hot, so we can put it right on our big camping mat—or even on our deck at home. It instantly turns on/off (do get the one with auto ignition, Outland Fire Pit 870, about \$155). When camping during restricted fire seasons, we're allowed to use Rocky while other campers can't build wood fires. Its 10' hose attaches to a standard 15/20lb propane tank. It doesn't use much fuel. I don't advise cooking marshmallows over its lava rocks. Spilled marshmallows = big mess. Yes, we miss the days of wood campfires, but we don't miss the



smoke that always seemed to follow me no matter where I moved my chair. And we're okay, at this point in our lives, with not having all our clothes smell like smoke for days after a wood fire.

We've come a long way from backpacking to car camping and now our rustic, woodsy RV camping. But we still enjoy being out in nature, and we appreciate things like MyJo, Rocky, and RV Superbags that make the experience simply more fun. We share our discoveries of gadgets and gizmos, so, hopefully, they'll make RV camping for you and your family even more enjoyable. Watch for Gadgets & Gizmos Part 3. And if you have any suggestions, please send them to me at debbie@debbienobleblack.com. Happy camping!

(Tenth article in the series "RV Camping in Your Own Backyard." Visit www.debbienobleblack.com).

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