

## ‘Queen for a Day!’



Photo, Mary Lou Jannopoulos (center) stands with the women of the City Council, from left: Laurel Barton, Zara Landrum, Mayor Carla Wixom, Jennifer Ford, and Cyndee Edwards. Photo by police chief Amy Watkins

By Neil Farrell

“Queen for a Day!” That’s how Mary Lou Jannopoulos responded when handed a bouquet of flowers at the Oct. 24 City Council meeting.

Mary Lou was there to receive a Resolution of Appreciation from Mayor Carla Wixom for her decades of devotion to the Bay Theater, Morro Bay’s only movie house (for Los Osos and Cayucos too), upon the recent sale of the Bay and her retirement.

The Bay Theater, first built in 1942 by the Army Corps of Engineers for the Navy boys training at the World War II training base (now the power plant).

She and her late husband Jim bought the Bay in 1973 from Ruth and Ted Morris.

Since Jim died in 1995, Mary Lou and her daughter, Heather and daughter-in-law Denise have run the place, given countless teenagers their first real jobs, and kept the magic of the last operating storefront movie house in San Luis Obispo County going all these years.

In the Council’s Resolution, Mary Lou is praised for

“the historical integrity and charm of the building while pursuing efforts to maintain and improve the physical and technical aspects of this landmark.”

The Theater, which has a little over 300 seats, had been profitable and well loved until March 2020 when the Coronavirus Pandemic shut down most of the businesses downtown, including the Bay.

The closure was so bad that she put the theater up for sale in 2020. Then in March 2021, she finally got a new movie to show and they reopened.

According to the Resolution, “Mary Lou invested \$100,000 into the Bay Theatre to keep it afloat during the Pandemic;” and she, “has successfully led the Bay Theatre’s post-pandemic rebound.”

She leaves a theater that got a lot of money invested in it over the past several years, including new seats, and sound and digital projector systems.

The Estero Bay News congratulates and thanks Mrs. Jannopoulos and her Family for all the years of keeping the old movie house afloat and thriving.

## Moving Forward:

## Flavor Fool Launches Flippo’s Fall Fun Community Event

By Judy Salamacha

Twenty-something years ago, Nicholas Martinez was transitioning to a new career as “shop keeper” for Bottle Liquors on Main Street, Morro Bay. Jack and Chuck Harper made him an offer he couldn’t refuse.

“I had been working as kitchen manager at Bayside Café for a year and one month,” Nick explained. “I loved working for Dawn Borst.” But he realized the new position would not only be a bump in salary but would allow him to broaden his supervisory responsibilities and management skills. What he might not have understood at 25-years-old was the business insight he had gleaned over the years from his grandfather, Raymond Minnite, would ultimately take him back to his preferred career sweet spot – food service and cooking.

His lifetime love affair with creating



An older photo of Chef Nick Martinez, who brings new treats to the table at Flippo’s in Morro Bay. The photo is of the restaurant he founded years ago in the Central Valley called Three Rocks Cafe. Photo Submitted

tasty menu items began when he was a teen. “I was 15 when my grandfather turned over the kitchen to me. It was the restaurant he founded in the Central Valley - San Joaquin Valley - called Three Rocks,

Flippo’s Continued on page 22

## County Animal Laws to Be Updated



By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County plans to update its animal regulation ordinance and bring it up-to-date with current state laws and accepted animal care standards.

Supervisors will hold a public hearing at their Nov. 7 regular meeting on adopting the changes to Title 9 of the County Codes dealing with the Division of Animal Services or DAS.

The agenda item from Dr. Eric Anderson, DVM and DAS Manager, would replace Title 9 with a new version designed to: “Eliminate inconsistencies and conflicting language within the present version and to update the provisions thereof to be consistent with current needs and humane animal care and control standards.”

Dr. Anderson explained that Title 9 “establishes rules and regulations related to the care, management and keeping of animals within the County. Additionally, it establishes the County Division of Animal Services’ role, responsibility, and authority in the enforcement of those codes. The last substantial revisions to the code occurred in 1998.”

Times have changed since 1998, including the actual laws, and the County’s law is now “outdated and inconsistent with currently recognized best practices. For example, the current code requires Animal Services to impound any cat found roaming at large, regardless of its age, physical condition, or temperament.”

Locking up every tomcat found roaming the streets has had negative consequences. “This practice has been found to be ineffective at managing or reducing the number of free roaming cats and is widely recognized as causing significant increases in animal euthanasia rates, while having no measurable community benefit. Consequently,

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## Women’s Network, 40 and Counting

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The South Bay Women’s Network is celebrating its 40th anniversary with their mission statement in mind, “support women’s issues through community outreach and empower them through education and volunteerism.”

In 1983, SBWN founding member, Jean Brown, saw a need for a group to support women in the business community. Five businesswomen interested in the idea helped spread the word and 40 women showed up for an organizational meeting and the first mixer.

“We are group who actually cares about our members, cares about women in business/ business owners and the

Women’s Network Continued on page 21

## City to Start Waterfront Plan Update

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay officials are embarking on another quest to update the town’s planning documents, this time focusing on the Waterfront Master Plan and expanding it across Morro Creek to Atascadero Road.

The City Council recently approved going for a Coastal Commission \$500,000 Local Assistance Grant to update the waterfront plan for the first time since it was adopted in 1996.

The non-competitive grant program was previously

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Grant for Haz-Mat, Marine Flare Event

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Harbor Department is getting a chunk of State money to help the maritime folks get rid of old flares and hazardous wastes.

Harbor Director Ted Schiafone recently got permission from the City Council to accept a \$50,000 grant from the State’s recycling agency, CalRecycle, for Marine Flare and Hazardous Waste Collection events, open to the public.

Such events allow people with things like hydraulic oil, motor oil and other chemicals and substances to safely dispose of them, as well as flares, which are highly flammable and inherently dangerous, and also regulated by the Coast Guard.

“The United States Coast Guard,” Schiafone said in a report to Council, “requires boaters to carry several unexpired visual distress signals on board, day and night.”

Like road flares, marine flares have a use-by date. “Pyrotechnic marine flares are a common type of distress signal, but they are explosive hazardous waste and con-

tain toxic chemicals, like perchlorate, that pose human health risks. Marine flares only work once and expire 36 to 42-months after the manufacture date.”

Marine flares could save your life in an emergency at sea or take your life if used improperly.

“For safety and environmental reasons,” Schiafone said, “it is essential to manage single-use pyrotechnic marine flares carefully. Residents should never throw flares overboard into the environment or out in household trash.”

The issue of expired marine flares is apparently widespread. “California resident boaters do not have access to an ongoing expired marine flare disposal program,” Schiafone said, “and recreational vessels generate about 174,000 pyrotechnic marine flares every year [according to the California Expired Marine Flare Working Group as estimated in 2012]. One of the reasons marine flare disposal is an issue is due to the cost of properly disposing of this type of hazardous waste.

“This grant program,” Schiafone continued, “will cover the cost of promoting and marketing the program to area boaters and the safe disposal of marine flares and hazardous



Photo shows some of the most common types of marine flares. Photo courtesy State Parks

waste.”

Readers might wonder what a “marine flare” actually is. According to a Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) webpage on the subject, “A marine flare is a type of pyrotechnic device that produces a brilliant light or plume of colored smoke as a visual distress signal to attract attention in an emergency, and to help pinpoint the boater’s exact location. Handheld flares [which operate on the ground] and rocket flares [which are fired into the air] are the two most-used visual distress signals because they can be used for daytime or nighttime.”

The Coast Guard requires boaters — with the exception of recreational boats under-16 feet; open sailboats under 26 feet and no motor; and manually operated crafts, i.e. kayaks, canoes and skiffs — to carry a minimum of three daytime and three nighttime use flares to meet the visual distress signal requirements; three daytime/nighttime pyrotechnic flares.

“The flares must be in serviceable condition, stowed where readily accessible and not expired. Under Federal Law, failure to have flares or expired flares carries a \$1,100 fine, and the Coast Guard has the authority to board and inspect a vessel “on a random basis,” according to DBW’s

Touching Sendoff for Sheriff’s K9s



By Neil Farrell

One thing’s for certain, law enforcement knows how to honor fallen officers; even those with four legs.

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department on Oct. 4 held memorial services for two retired K9 officers, Jacco and Gonzo, after they died while enjoying a well-earned retirement living with their Sheriff’s Deputy handlers and their families.

The two were interred in a small pet cemetery of sorts at the Sheriff’s HQ on Kansas Avenue.

Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said the dogs and their handlers — Dep. Souza and Dep. Franklin (no first names given) all retired in 2018.

Both Jacco and Gonzo were replaced on the force with new K9s, Cipolla said, soon after they retired. Each new police dog has a new handler, too. So how many K9s does the department have now?

“The K9 unit is currently comprised of six K9s and their handlers, Cipolla said.

Jacco and Gonzo were on patrol with their partners during their tenure on the force, which is usually 7-8 years for a typical police dog.

“Both dogs were trained in a patrol discipline,” Cipolla

said, “which included training to track suspects, apprehend suspects, and defend their handlers.Both were also trained in a narcotics detection discipline, and were able to detect narcotics [marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin].”

Such specially trained dogs are not cheap, and can cost upwards of \$10,000 or more including the specialized training with their handlers. K9 units also normally have specially equipped patrol vehicles (usually SUVs) that make room for the dog to be comfortable in the back seats and even have special functions to allow them to open the car doors and go to their partner’s aid if needed.

The handlers also work with the dogs while in training, and learn special commands to control the animals, often in a foreign language.

Jacco and Gonzo appear to have been Belgian Malinois breeds, one of a handful of dog breeds that are commonly used by law enforcement for a variety of functions. Others include: beagles, giant schnauzers, Airedale terriers, bloodhounds, boxers, Rottweilers, Dobermanns, Dutch shepherds and Bouvier des Flandres.

In the photos, Dep. Souza and Gonzo at left, and on the right is retired Dep. Franklin and Jacco.

Submitted photos

Correction

In last issue’s story about PG&E workers volunteering at the Botanical Garden, we misspelled Teresa Alvarado’s name.



Estero Bay News Staff

Dean Sullivan  
Owner - Publisher  
dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson  
Editor  
editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell  
Reporter  
neil@esterobaynews.com

Shari Sullivan  
Marketing Director  
shari@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan  
Judy Salamacha



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News

website.

Right now, there are no permanent facilities in California that can accept marine flares for disposal and only a handful nationwide. So events like the one Morro Bay is looking to host are the only legal way to dispose of the flares.

And Morro Bay is one of several local agencies that have applied for grant funding from CalRecycle to deal with marine flares.

Estero Bay News sent questions to the Harbor Department, and Harbor Patrol Supervisor Becka Kelly responded saying that they had not yet gotten the grant money from the State.

When they do, they plan to schedule the 1-day event in conjunction with next year’s Marine Swap Meet on the last Saturday in June (June 29).

“Grant funding,” Kelly said, “is for education/information on safe marine flare management and to host a temporary 1-day collection event for marine flares. Educational/informational aspect is focused on highlighting the risk of single-use pyrotechnic flares, difficulties in their safe collection/disposal, and the promotion of Coast Guard approved reusable LED alternatives.”

She added that they plan to get this message out through social media, webinars, a brochure, postcards to registered boaters, and “dock walking,” or speaking to boat owners in person.

These events aren’t cheap to put on. “This saves money on the high transport and disposal costs,” Kelly said, “which range from \$12-\$50 per flare and events costs of \$20,000 per event.

“Residents and boaters attending the event will have the opportunity to dispose of their pyrotechnic flares [no commercial flares], or sign a pledge to receive an eVDSD. Depending on give-away stock and boater preference, they will also have the option to receive a discount on a more deluxe eVDSD. Each boater will receive an educational brochure (additional brochure copies and display models of reusable flares will be left with the harbor too as educational pieces). The eVDSD used are from Sirius Signals, models C-1003 to giveaway and C-1002 for discount code.”

So-called, “Visual Distress Signaling Devices” are technically anything one might use to signal to would-be rescuers at sea — from a waving flag, to a handheld or aerial flare, and electric (battery) lights.

DBW’s website discusses the marine flare issue more in depth and tells how to properly dispose of them. It also talks about the benefits of using “electronic” distress signals instead of flares. See: [dbw.parks.ca.gov/marineflares](http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/marineflares) for this information.

And boat owners who need somewhere to properly dispose of things like used motor oil can call the Harbor Department, which has a waste oil collection facility; call 805-772-6254 to schedule an appointment.

### Publisher’s Comment

## Thanks Mom and Happy 98th Birthday

It was the summer of 1970, and a single women with her son moved from Los Angeles to Los Osos to start a new life. Now, more than five decades later, we celebrate her 98th birthday.

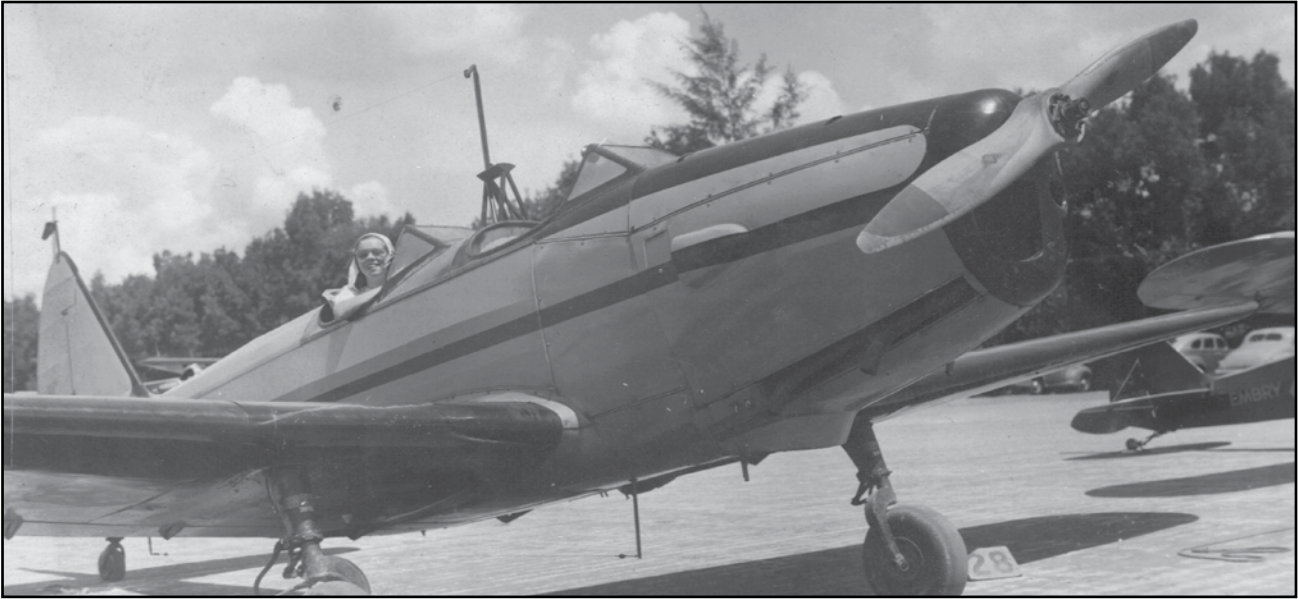

“Have I thanked you lately,” I tell my mom from time to time to thank her for moving from LA to Los Osos when we did.

Joan took to the area and put her mark on it with the things that interested her. She has written several books of the area including “Rounding Up The Ranches,” a book of sketches and water colors of ranches in the area. She is an avid history-buff and has unearthed many stories about the people and places that helped create Los Osos.

She was also a big part of starting the newspaper back in the late 80s. The joke was, “she was the only one who

knew how to type and spell.”

Thank you for everything you have taught me, Mom.



Joan Sullivan in front of her new home in Los Osos about 1970

Joan at age 17 flying solo for the first time

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# News

## Sequoia Court Storm Drain Project Funded

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay will accept a State grant to fix a sticky problem with a big storm drain on a North Morro Bay street.

Last May, Mayor Carla Wixom wrote to State Sen. Jon Laird and Assemblywoman Dawn Addis to ask them for State help with several infrastructure issues exasperated by last winter's heavy storms.

In July, the State Budget included some \$300,000 to repair a damaged storm drain system on Sequoia Court, a residential street off Ironwood Avenue just before the entrance to Del Mar Park.

The "Sequoia Court Storm Drain Replacement Project," is estimated to cost \$500,000-\$600,000 to fix, according to City Engineer Eric Riddiough. The City allocated \$120,000 in its 2023/24 budget for the job, said Riddiough.

It's also got \$163,000 left over from another storm drain repair, the "Elena Storm Drain and Slope Repair Project, that was recently completed," Riddiough said. "The storms in early 2023 caused greater widespread damage of the [Sequoia Court] storm drain, especially as the drain passes between residences on Sequoia Court, and as a result the repair project is no longer isolated to the roadway."

The storms also revealed a rotted out storm drain running underneath The Embarcadero just north of Beach Street that recently revealed itself when a sinkhole opened up in the sidewalk and under the street. That problem has since been repaired.

The money from the State was obtained with help from the City's lobbyist firm, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

Riddiough said the project design for replacing the 36-inch storm drain on Sequoia Court was almost complete and the City planned to go out for bids at the end of October, with the goal of having the job ready for contract award by December.

The construction window could be short with this project, as this coming winter has been predicted to be another wet one due to an El Niño ocean current potentially developing in the Pacific Ocean; a harbinger of a wet winter. Morro Bay's rainfall of late has been all over the charts.

According to rainfall records kept by the fire department, from July 2022 to June 2023 (fiscal year) we got 23.26-inches of rain measured at the Harbor Street Firehouse.

From January 1, 2023 to now (Oct. 24) they recorded 18.8" of rain, a total that is already a little above the annual average of about 16" a year, with November and December still to come.

In 2022, they recorded just 6.85" all year and in 2021 they got 15".

Doing work on storm drains needs to be done before they start flowing with runoff. The City's Measure Q, a half-cent sales tax, and Measure E-20, a 1-percent sales tax, in part are supposed to be used to maintain storm drains, so the City has a source of revenue for these jobs making it more favorable for grant monies from the State.



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## Explorers Celebrate Third Place Finish



By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's finest saluted its next generation and congratulated them on finishing third in a major competition for Police Explorers.

MBPD Ofc. Dan Palumbo on Oct. 24 introduced the City Council to the five teenage boys who make up the MBPD Police Explorers Post, explaining that leading the program is "the best part of my job."

He explained that the police explorers program is affiliated with Boy Scouts of America. "It provides youth between the ages of 14 and 21 the opportunity to receive in depth law enforcement training and sort of on the job training," Palumbo told Estero Bay News. "We require and promote volunteerism and we can provide letters for any cadet needing to show proof of volunteering [for college/job applications]."

The MBPD Explorers recently competed in a Central

California Explorer competition and placed third over all out of 12 teams. And most of those other programs were far bigger than Morro Bay's handful of cadets.

"This was a direct result of the hard work these guys put in," Ofc. Palumbo said, "and the dedication to improving."

The Explorers meet once a week for a couple of hours and volunteer for most all community events.

If readers are of the right age and would like to know more about the program or possibly join, email to: dpalumbo@morrobayca.gov or call him at: (805) 423-0081.

In the photo are from left: Cadets Victor Perez and Tony Medina, Ofc. Daniel Palumbo, and Cadets Jacob Vasquez and Miguel Salgado.

The boys are holding the awards they received in the individual competitions and the trophy they brought home from the recent competition where they finished third overall out of 12 teams. Photo by Neil Farrell.

## City Launches Wind Farm Webpage

By Neil Farrell

Readers who want to try and keep up with the offshore floating wind farm project have a new resource they can access with just a few keystrokes and clicks.

The City of Morro Bay has launched an informational webpage dedicated to the offshore floating wind project, which is undergoing review now by a federal agency.

The wind webpage is accessible off the City's official town website, see: [www.morrobayca.gov/1061/Off-shore-Wind](http://www.morrobayca.gov/1061/Off-shore-Wind).

The webpage has a number of links to Federal and State agencies, as well as a private organization studying economic and infrastructure impacts of the project.

Also included are several studies that have been done by various agencies, including a slide show presentation from the harbor director to the City Council that was recently released publicly.

The project would see the installation of hundreds of floating wind turbines — some 3 gigawatts capacity — in a nearly 400-square mile patch of ocean 20-30 miles offshore from San Simeon, and some 57-miles northwest of Morro Bay.

The Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held a public auction last December and sold three leases, each over-80,000 acres, to three companies — Equinor, Energize Ventures (Even Keel Wind), and Golden State Wind. Two additional, smaller lease sites were also sold off the Coast of Humboldt County.

In another energy information development, the California Energy Commission has also launched a new website dedicated to tracking the various energy storage projects that are being built around the state.

"New data," reads a news release from the CEC, "show California is surging forward with the build out of battery

energy storage systems with more than 6,600 megawatts (MW) online, enough electricity to power 6.6 million homes for up to 4 hours. The total resource is up from 770 MW 4-years ago and double the amount installed just 2-years ago."

This "energy storage dashboard" the CEC said, "tracks residential, commercial and utility-scale battery storage projects already installed and operating and utility-scale projects in development with near-term completion dates."

The dashboard only tracks battery energy storage systems (BESS), which make up the bulk of the state's energy storage systems. The information is customized.

"The dashboard can be filtered by county, utility, sector, source, and ZIP Code," the CEC said, "and features an interactive map. Data will be updated quarterly."

Energy storage plants, like the 600 MW lithium-ion plant being proposed by Vistra for the Morro Bay Power Plant property, are considered a "key component in the State's transition to 100-percent clean energy by 2045," the CEC said. "The dashboard presents statewide information for the first time and features data on more than 122,000 residential, commercial, and utility-scale battery installations. CEC staff is tracking another 1,900 MW of energy storage projects expected to be online by the end of the year for a total of 8,500 MW.



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Councilwoman to Hold Wind Energy Meeting

Morro Bay City Councilwoman Lara Zandrum will hold her second, public, town hall meeting, this one discussing the proposed floating wind energy farms. Landrum will be at the Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way, from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 to meet with constituents in an open forum event. "Share your ideas, questions & concerns about impacts to our town from the

proposed offshore wind project," reads a flyer from Landrum. The local forum comes on the heels of a forum with elected State and Federal officials and agency representative held in the San Luis Obispo Government Center. For more information from Landrum, send an Email to: MorroBayTownHall@proton.me.

Friends Seek to Buy UTV for Beach Safety



The Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department is hoping to raise \$40,000 for a Polaris UTV, like this one owned by the fire department, for beach lifeguards and other emergency responses. Submitted photo

By Neil Farrell

The Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department is embarking on a new quest to provide needed equipment to the department and enhance their ability to keep everyone safe. Formed several years ago to support

the needs of the tight-budget Harbor, the Friends is a non-profit organization that has raised considerable funds in support of purchasing several pieces of equipment for use by the department and the public. They include handicapped beach wheelchairs, new engines for a patrol boat and more.

Now the group is raising money to purchase a Polaris UTV (Utility Task Vehicle), "a versatile vehicle that promises a revolution in emergency response," reads a news release from the Friends. Their goal is to raise \$40,000 for the Polaris. "This isn't just any utility vehicle," the Friends said, "it's a cost-effective solution designed with the well-being of our community and environment in mind. Its presence on our beaches means quicker responses to emergencies, safer interactions with the public, and a reduced environmental footprint, thanks to its efficient design. Moreover, it ensures our lifeguards & Harbor Department can navigate through crowds during bustling public events, maintaining high visibility and accessibility when it matters most." The Friends explained why the Harbor Department needs a vehicle that the fire department already has. "Morro Bay is our sanctuary, a place where sparkling waves and smooth sands craft the backdrop for countless cherished memories. But amidst the laughter and waves, safety must remain at the forefront, and that's where our community comes in." The website goes on to list four reasons one of these UTVs is needed here: • Agility on the sand. "Regular emergency vehicles can find themselves at odds with the beach's challenging terrain. In contrast, the Polaris UTV, with its heavy-duty, puncture-resistant tires and superior suspension, promises smooth, uninterrupted

ed navigation across the sands. Its compact size means it can weave through crowded areas without disturbance, a critical need during peak season." • Cost-effectiveness. "Investing in a Polaris UTV is financially savvy. It's significantly more affordable than a standard-sized emergency vehicle, without compromising on functionality or safety features." • 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 communications. "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." Looking at the Polaris website, an UTV like the one at the fire department runs about \$33,000, assuming they don't piggy-back onto another agency's purchase order and get a discount. That would leave some money left over for equipment and gear. If readers would like to donate to this worthy cause, see: friendsofthembhd.org/lifeguard-utv.

COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker



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Most people would probably agree — energy bills today are outrageous! And while some might say this is truly a cruel world for those on limited incomes, it's also generous with numerous programs to help pay for utilities and live more comfortably in their homes.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co., delivers electricity to San Luis Obispo County (SoCal Gas provides natural gas service), via the Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), a non-profit provider of electricity. How that works is 3CE buys electricity on the open market and transports it to customers via PG&E's electric infrastructure.

3CE as a non-profit, can dictate where its electricity is generated and purchased from, with a goal of promoting carbon-free electricity generation.

PG&E for decades has funded a "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program" or LIHEAP, a program offering credits to income eligible customers, and the company recently announced that it had issued some \$73 million of LIHEAP monies in 2023, and there's apparently plenty

more left to give out.

"LIHEAP funding is still available," PG&E said in a news release, "and eligible PG&E customers who are behind on their bills are encouraged to apply today to receive the annual federal support."

It should be noted that money for the LIHEAP program comes from a surcharge on utility bills (gas and electric). So while the monthly surcharge is just a few cents per customer, when one has millions of customers, it adds up fast.

The average customer in the LIHEAP program gets \$1,000 credit on his electric bills, the company said. LIHEAP is administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development and "provided more than \$75 million in financial support to over 100,000 households in PG&E's service area in 2022."

Vincent Davis, PG&E's Vice President of Customer Operations and Enablement, said, "The LIHEAP program has helped thousands of PG&E customers get their energy

bills back on track, and there is funding available to help even more who qualify. LIHEAP distributed a record amount to our customers in 2022, and we encourage others who may be eligible to apply for support this year."

But is this money still available here, in San Luis Obispo County, where nearly everyone has been signed up to receive electricity from 3CE?

A PG&E spokeswoman said, yes, the LIHEAP Program is still available to non-PG&E customers of 3CE.

Eligibility for LIHEAP services can vary depending on income, household size and place of residence. For more information or to find a local LIHEAP agency to apply, see: [www.csd.ca.gov/energybills](http://www.csd.ca.gov/energybills) or call (866) 675-6623.

In SLO County the LIHEAP and other assistance programs are administered by CAP-SLO, see: [capslo.org](http://capslo.org) for information. CAP-SLO also runs a minor home repair and a weatherization program to help low-income people and those on government assistance (Social Security, AFDC,

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Challenges Remain for Inlet Purchase

Save Cuesta Inlet Inc, a non-profit organization seeking the transfer of the privately owned Cuesta Inlet to the public domain, announced that its fundraising efforts have now approached \$200,000. The funds were gathered over the last year and a half from more than 200 donors throughout the region to go towards the purchase of the 13-acre property which was put up for sale for one million dollars.

"The inlet to the Morro Bay National Estuary has been enjoyed for decades by area hikers, kayakers, birders, and others who appreciate a quiet space to take in the central coast's beauty," Save Cuesta Inlet (SCI) organizers said. "It was created in the 1950s when the owners at that time dredged the marshland in an attempt to develop it for residences or vacation homes with bay access. The proposed development never came to fruition and the land has remained vacant."

The non-profit has worked with the property's multiple owners, along with grantors, government agencies and conservancies that have expressed strong interest in the purchase and transfer of the land for public use.

"Towards that end, Save Cuesta Inlet had the property appraised and is seeking to have it purchased for the appraised amount consistent with IRS guidelines that limit government agencies and non-profit organizations to paying no more than the appraised value," SCI said. "The current appraisal value, \$700,000, is less than the \$1,000,000 asking price and all five of the private parties who own the land must agree to the sale price, negotiations are continuing. It is the fervent hope of Save Cuesta Inlet, its donors and thousands of Los Osos and area residents that a deal can be reached."

Contributions at all levels are needed. To learn more about the effort to Save Cuesta Inlet, including historic photos, maps, and an FAQ, go to [savecuestainlet.org](http://savecuestainlet.org).

Announces New Volunteer Recruitment County AARP Tax-Aide

Due to continuing demand for AARP Tax-Aide's free tax preparation and e-filing services for seniors and low to moderate income taxpayers, the SLO County Tax-Aide program is in need of volunteers for the 2024 tax season. Volunteers are needed for both tax return preparer positions, as well as client facilitators, and call-center

positions. All volunteers will receive training and IRS certification. If you

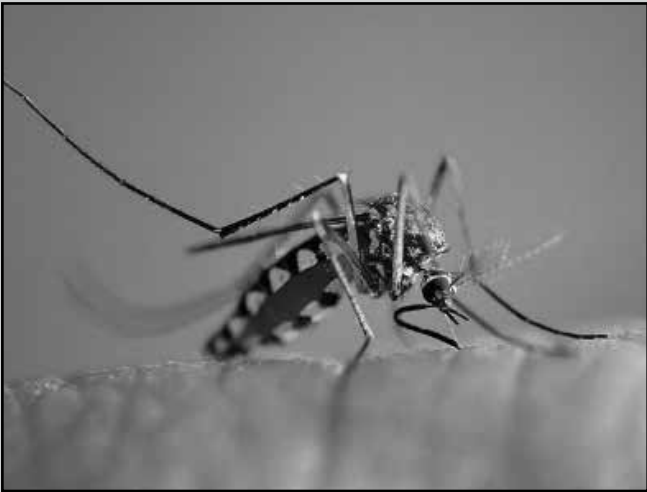
- Are reasonably skilled using a computer
- Have previously used tax preparation or other software
- Like working in a collaborative team environment
- And want to "Pay It Forward"

Then you may find AARP Tax-Aide a rewarding volunteer experience. Go to [www.ccfreetax.org](http://www.ccfreetax.org) for information on how to become an AARP Tax-Aide volunteer. The program has nine locations in the county spanning Paso Robles to Nipomo.

AARP Tax-Aide has been providing tax preparation service to Central Coast residents for more than 30 years. The approximately 75 local AARP tax counselors and other volunteers are trained annually, are IRS certified, and provide services across the county at nine preparation sites.

Started in 1968 by four volunteers, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is now the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation services. By using these services, seniors and low to moderate income taxpayers avoid preparation and electronic filing fees. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. In prior years our local Tax-Aide program in San Luis Obispo County prepared approximately 3,600 tax returns resulting in over \$3,000,000 in refunds being returned to the local economy.

West Nile in SLO



The Public Health Department recently confirmed two cases of West Nile virus in residents of San Luis Obispo County, including one case that was acquired locally. This is the first confirmed case of a person becoming

infected with West Nile virus here in SLO County. In prior cases, residents became infected while traveling to other areas where the virus is more widespread.

With the pandemic still close in our minds, Health officials emphasized this news does not highlight a major risk to the public but rather a moment to focus on awareness and prevention of West Nile virus, which is relatively common in much of the U.S.

"Together, we can take simple steps to prevent further spread, like protecting against mosquito bites and keeping an eye out for sources of standing water that make it easy for mosquitoes to breed," said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer.

West Nile virus is commonly spread to humans and animals by mosquitoes and most people do not experience any symptoms. About one in five people experience flu-like symptoms and a small number of people (less than one percent) develop serious neurologic illness. The risk of serious illness is higher for people over 50 years of age and people with certain medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. West Nile virus activity typically follows a seasonal pattern based on mosquito populations, with most cases occurring in the summer and fall.

"If we get rain this fall, mosquitoes may have more of an opportunity to thrive," said Dr. Borenstein. "Now is a good time to be aware and remember to dump or drain standing water around your home."

To prevent mosquito bites, focus on protecting yourself and your home:

- Apply a repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Be alert at dawn and dusk. Mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus usually bite in the early morning and evening.
- Check and repair screens, including screen doors, to keep mosquitoes out.

To eliminate mosquito breeding sites around your home, focus on eliminating standing water:

- Find and drain containers that collect water around the yard, such as flower pots.
- Clear roof gutters so water can drain properly.
- Clean bird baths, fountains, pet dishes, and other water sources at least once a week.

More information on West Nile virus activity in California is available at [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov).

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



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etc.) by coming out and fixing broken windows, weather stripping doors and installing low-flow plumbing fixtures, i.e. showerheads and faucet aerators, as well as insulating attics and in some cases, subfloors.

Other assistance programs include the “Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program” (LIHWAP) that helps people who have fallen behind on water and/or sewer bills. “Eligible customers with past-due balances can receive up to \$15,000 in bill support,” the company said. “For more information on LIHWAP, see: [www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill](http://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill) or call (866) 675-6632. Customers must apply by Dec. 31, 2023.

### Windwalker Back at Sea



She’s no doubt as pretty as the day she was launched in 1984 and soon she’ll go fishing once again.

Kelly Håkonsson, the Washington State man who bought the commercial fishing vessel, Windwalker, for just \$1,000 at auction in July after she was seized by the Harbor Department for back dockage fees, has completed the bulk of the boat’s resurrection and returned her to sea.

Windwalker looked rough and hadn’t left the T-pier in years after her owner, John Gillespie, fell ill and got behind with the boat’s fees.

Our last contact with Håkonsson, he was in Field’s Landing up in Humboldt County and had the boat hauled out at Reincke Marine Fabrication.

From there, he re-launched the Windwalker and motored up to Eureka where he plans to continue working on her.

“I am now re-doing rigging and topside paint at a slip in Eureka,” he said.

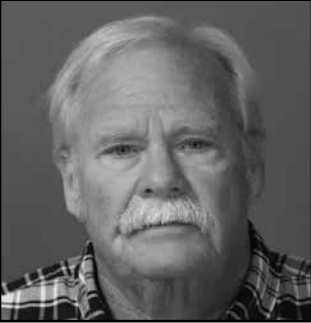
His plan is eventually to take Windwalker tuna fishing and sail her down to the South Pacific.

Photos by Kelly Håkonsson

### Alleged Internet Sex Predator Arrested

Sheriff’s deputies have arrested a Southern California man for allegedly trying to seduce a local teenager over the Internet.

According to a news release, on Oct. 25, deputies arrested a Caliente, Calif., man who allegedly “had made electronic contact with someone he thought was a minor living in San Luis Obispo County. The man had agreed to meet with the minor for sex.”



Mark Hershey

The suspect apparently traveled to San Luis Obispo he was arrested. The suspect was identified as Mark Hershey, 67 of Caliente. He was charged with suspicion of “sending or showing harmful material to seduce a minor, contacting a minor with the intent to commit certain felonies, and arranging a meeting with a minor for a lewd purpose,” according to the news release.

### A Polynesian Voyaging Canoe visits Morro Bay



By Mona McKelvy

Hōkūleʻa, a replica of a traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe, was welcomed to Morro Bay by several hundred people recently at Tidelands Park. Hōkūleʻa was escorted into the harbor by the Central Coast Dragon Boat Association, as well as several members of Pale Kai Canoe Club.

The yak tityu tityu yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe (YTT) of San Luis Obispo County and Region and the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties led a formal welcome ceremony for Hōkūleʻa’s crew, complete with greetings and protocol.

After welcoming remarks from Morro Bay City Manager Yvonne Kimball and City Council members, the event proceeded with a hula ‘auana presentation by a Santa Maria-based hula group, Hoapili Pomaika’i Aloha, with a tribute to the people, the land, the sea, and to Lahaina.

A San Luis Obispo-based hula group, Na Mele o Ke Kai, showcased a hula kahiko presentation featuring traditional Hawaiian chants accompanied by an ipu heke drum. To honor our shared ancestral ties to the ocean,

and to celebrate the collective spirit of unity as Indigenous peoples, Chumash Traditional dancers presented classical dances from various regions.

Later, a “Talk Story” event took place with Hōkūleʻa crew members at the Morro Bay Community Center and the crew provided tours of the voyaging canoe on October before departing for her next destination, Ventura.

**What makes Hōkūleʻa’s arrival so special?**

Hōkūleʻa embraces the Polynesian tradition of navigation, relying solely on using the stars, swells, and winds, without any modern instrumentation. Their voyage, known as “Moananuiākea” aims to circumnavigate the Pacific Ocean, starting from Juneau, Alaska. One of the primary objectives of the of the voyage is to foster sharing, connection, and learning among diverse communities and Indigenous peoples throughout the Pacific, united in their commitment to making the Earth a better place. “Moananuiākea” is Hōkūleʻa’s 15th major voyage, over the span of 50 years.

To find out more about Hōkūleʻa, and to keep up to date with her journey, visit: <https://hokulea.com>



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Police Blotter



• **Oct. 22:** Police contacted a regular customer, 38, at 8:22 p.m. in the 900 block of Quintana. Logs indicated the sly dog had three bench warrants and so was jailed. After a detour to the hospital to have him checked out, he was apparently healthy enough to go to jail.

• **Oct. 21:** At 10:30 p.m. police got a tip that a runaway juvenile was at the Pacific Cottages Motel in the 2800 block of Alder. Logs indicated they found the hooligan and returned him to his guardian.

• **Oct. 21:** Police responded to the 300 block of Embarcadero where they found a 38-year-old man with a car that he apparently borrowed without permission, aka stole, but apparently not being charged that way.

• **Oct. 21:** Police documented a report that some illuminasty fellow was “suspiciously watching children” at Lila Keiser Park.

• **Oct. 21:** Police responded at 1:17 a.m. to the 300 block of Surf for a suspicious woman lurking about. Logs indicted they contacted an apparent criminal mastermind, 39, who had 13 bench warrants. While being arrested police allegedly found suspected drugs and paraphernalia, as some people just never learn.

• **Oct. 20:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9 p.m. at Main and Errol. Logs indicated the driver, 29, was cited for a suspended license and a bench warrant, so he'll no doubt now be on double-secret probation.

• **Oct. 19:** Police responded to a disturbance at 7:49 a.m. in the 2600 block of Elm. Logs indicated an un-neighborly dispute apparently got physical and someone was assaulted, as trying to knock sense into somebody doesn't fly these days.

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• **Oct. 18:** Police responded at 10:06 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Elm. Logs indicated they arrested some cad for allegedly trying to prevent an elderly or dependent woman from being taken to the hospital for medical attention.

• **Oct. 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:51 p.m. somewhere on Quintana Road. Logs indicated the 24-year-old driver was nicked for suspicion of driving tore up from the floor up.

• **Oct. 17:** Police responded at 6:30 p.m. to the 600 block of Embarcadero where some would-be scalawag apparently damaged locks on bikes he was trying to steal, a case of “Curses, foiled again!”

• **Oct. 17:** Police contacted some swizzle stick traipsing along the 700 block of Monterey at 3 p.m. Logs indicated the hombre, 28, was tossed into the gaol for suspicion of being deep in his cups.

• **Oct. 17:** Police responded at 2:11 p.m. to a 9-1-1 hang-up call in the 400 block of Morro. Logs indicated police determined that some husband of the year had committed domestic battery. Charges were filed with the district attorney, as the blackheart fled the scene.

• **Oct. 17:** Police responded at 10:45 a.m. to the high school for a report of assault with a deadly weapon. Logs indicated the incident involved juvenile suspects and one unknown adult suspect.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded to the 400 block of Whidbey Way for a Morro Bay felony report of someone vandalizing a backyard gate latch, in this week’s example of why we need SWAT.

• **Oct. 16:** Police responded at 6:40 p.m. for a report of someone being a danger to himself or herself in the 200 block of Bradley. Logs indicated they were taken away for a 72-hour Vay-Kay with County Mental Health.

• **Oct. 16:** At 5:17 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject in the 500 block of LaJolla. A 52-year-old fellow was tossed into the dungeon for suspicion of worshipping too much at the feet of Bacchus.

• **Oct. 7:** Police responded at 10:13 p.m. to a demolition derby at Hwy 1 and San Jacinto. Logs indicated a suspected smashed fellow, 37, ran a red light on the highway and crashed into two cars. He was towed off to the hoosegow

Woman Arrested in Baseball Bat Assault

Sheriff’s deputies arrested a Paso Robles woman after she allegedly beat a man with a baseball bat.

According to Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, at about 9:50 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 deputies responded to a report of an assault in the parking lot of a Dollar General Store at 972 K St., San Miguel.

The victim, Nicholas Bundren, 32 of Atascadero, “was struck in the midsection and then on the side of the head.”

Detectives investigated the beating and arrested Janine Laurice Cesena, 31 of Paso Robles for the alleged assault with a deadly weapon.

for suspicion of driving half cut at the wheel.

• **Oct. 7:** Police responded at 11:36 a.m. to a domestic dispute in the 3300 block of Panorama Dr. Logs indicated a 42-year-old was nicked for alleged abuse of his spouse causing great bodily injury.

• **Oct. 6:** At 6:23 p.m. someone turned in something they found someplace in town.

• **Oct. 5:** At 12:38 p.m. police responded to the 400 block of Bernardo for a citizen who had passed away.

• **Oct. 5:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 10:30 a.m. in the 600 block of Harbor. The 38-year-old scofflaw had multiple warrants and was jailed, a case of he won’t fail to appear this time.

• **Oct. 5:** At 2:10 p.m. a 22-year-old fellow came to the police station and turned himself in for a bench warrant out of Madera County. He was cited and released and has to find another ride home.

• **Oct. 5:** Police arrested another anti-hero, 31, in the 700 block of Quintana who had two bench warrants.

• **Oct. 4:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:13 p.m. in the 600 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver, 69, was nicked for suspicion of driving tanked, no doubt after he blew the breath test.

• **Oct. 4:** At 2:50 p.m. police responded to the 1100 block of Monterey for another citizen who died. The day before, at 7 p.m. someone else was found in the 1300 block of Berwick.

• **Oct. 2:** At 5:12 p.m. police contacted a suspicious woman loitering on private property in the 100 block of Main. Logs indicated she had five bench warrants. She was cited and released with her soon-to-be sixth.

• **Oct. 2:** Police responded to the 200 block of Marina where some scoundrel stole the straps holding down a tarp over a trailered boat “that resulted in water damage to the boat’s motor,” which one might presume would be waterproof.

• **Oct. 2:** Police responded to the 3000 block of Ironwood where a man said his identity and banking information was stolen by some monster fraudster.

• **Oct. 2:** Police contacted a suspicious woman, 28, at 12:17 p.m. in the 400 block of Morro Bay Blvd. She was nailed for allegedly being hammered.

“The Sheriff’s Office is continuing to investigate,” Cipolla said. “We are asking anyone who was at the store on Oct. 12 at approximately 9:50 p.m. and may have seen what happened or has more information on this incident, to call the Detective Division at 805-781-4500.

Janine Laurice Cesena

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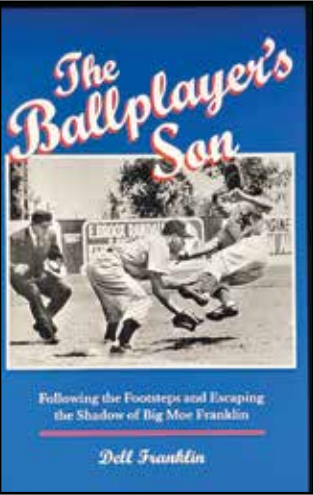
The BookShelf Writers consist of four Estero Bay women who have been writing & critiquing together for over five years. For more samples of their work, please visit [www.thebookshelfwriters.com](http://www.thebookshelfwriters.com)

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

**A Salamacha Five Star Review: Cayucos Author Dell Franklin Hits It Out of the Park!**

There were three reasons I instantly wanted to read Dell Franklin's second published book. First, Dell is an excellent writer. I knew his stories would take me to another world. While reading his first autobiographical experience, I literally felt I was on a virtual Mississippi cruise learning about his Life on the Mississippi, 1969. I'm also a baseball fan. I love going to games, but I go for the show, watching teamwork in action. This is a book of action and introspection. Finally, my favorite reads and movies have rich, complicated characters that reveal drama in their backstory and truth in their today. Dell has taken another deep dive into his amazing life. I hope there is a movie version someday of all nine innings of "The Ballplayer's Son: Following the Footsteps and Escaping the Shadow of Big Moe Franklin."

The book's promotional write-up is spot on. "The Ballplayer's Son" is full of passion, grit, and heartbreak. It



Dell Franklin's latest book is a must read for fans of baseball and family relationships.

is the story of baseball in the hard-nosed 30s, 40s, and 50s, of a Jewish ballplayer who dealt with bigotry head on, of a devoted dad's burning desire to play in the major leagues. And it is the story of a son who both feared and idolized his father, whose personal journey went from soaring self-confidence to utter despair on the journey to find himself, even if it was a self he barely recognized."

Let me add that the book reveals universal truths about us – and America – past and present. Murray 'Big Mo' Franklin's life lessons are warnings for us to pay attention or we risk discovering something important only after the "aha" moment is no longer useful. Indeed, this is a baseball story and anyone who follows baseball will relish the insider information about many of baseball's greatest players Big Mo met during his professional career and young Dell had the privilege to know personally or through his father's vivid storytelling. Big Mo's ballplayer son could recite them in his father's voice as if it was a current interview by professional writer, Dell Franklin. This is a coming-of-age story with Dell the protagonist, wrestling with his struggles to adulthood. It is a love story – between mother and dad, son and father, and mother and son – all entangled with their love/hate relationship with professional baseball. Dell's characters are believable and likable, not because they are real and related to our neighbor in Cayucos, but because they demonstrate commonality among all of us as the Franklins live through the good times and years of struggles.

Let me tease you with a few highlights that would have made me curious enough to buy his book even if I didn't care much about baseball.

Most author biographies promote their backgrounds to pump up their worthiness as an author. Dell's bio is pure honesty – preparing the reader he's the son, but not the ballplayer: "Always a practicing athlete, Franklin tended bar most of his life with occasional cab driving, a stint as riverboat storekeeper, and futile stabs at waiting tables, sales and construction..."

A Murray "Big Mo" Franklin life lesson: "Sometimes, Dell, you have no control over events in your life. You have to eat a little crow and you gotta make the best of it all be-

cause there is no other choice. It's no different in baseball than in life."

And another life lesson: "Big Mo" signed up to play his first professional experience for \$100 p/month in West Virginia. "We were the town heroes. They had nothing and we had everything. It was a good lesson in life to never get too big for your britches."

Dell's grandfather predicted Dell would be a scholar and an artist. Growing up Dell read all the classics and played baseball every chance he got.

The Franklin family was very close and loved each other enough to survive their many battles. The book's introduction begins: "My mother always urged me to write about my father, and when I asked her why, she said, 'Because he is different than most men, and he is especially different from the other players he played with in his career. Oh, his teammates loved him, and he fit in, because he managed to find something good in just about everybody, and he is the kind of man people trust without knowing why.'"

Dell adds, "I always felt I was different too." And Dell was...and yet he wasn't. In what ways, you ask? My readers, that will be up to you to discover and enjoy.

Dell will be signing "The Ballplayer's Son" at Coalesce Book Store on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 1-3 p.m. during Morro Bay's Community Market.



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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Downtown M.B. Meeting Tonight, Nov. 2

Join the conversation to help shape the future of Downtown. The City of Morro Bay will host a downtown community forum on Thursday, November 2 from 530 p.m. to 730 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building at 209 Surf Street. Discussion topics to include downtown character, downtown height, housing opportunities, and economic development.

For more information or future questions, send and email to Community Development Director Scot Graham at sgraham@morrobayca.gov or call (805) 772-629.

BofA Foundation Invests in University Bound



The Bank of America Foundation recently donated a nice sum of money in support of the Cuesta College Foundation University Bound program. The Foundation donated \$10,000 to the program that supports historically underrepresented students in their goal of transferring to universities to continue their education. The Foundation partnered with Cuesta College's University and Transfer Center in the past to launch the first University Bound program during the 2021-22 academic year, with money donated to the Cuesta Fund. "Navigating through college and transfer planning can be challenging, and our goal is to provide all of the informa-

tion and support students need for a successful and smooth transfer," said Kate Porter, university transfer/career center faculty coordinator. "Building on the demonstrated success and impact, Bank of America is proud to take the lead in supporting these students and expanding the program. This partnership allows the Cuesta College Foundation to reallocate its efforts and investments toward other crucial college priorities." The University Bound Program plays a pivotal role in addressing equity gaps associated with transferring to four-year institutions, including persistence and goal attainment challenges. Learn more about Cuesta College's University Bound program at [cuestaedu.com](http://cuestaedu.com).

Flippin' Fun Festival, Nov. 4

Flippo's in Morro Bay is hosting a "Flippin' Fun Fall Festival," set for 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. There will be festive food and activities for kids of all ages at Flippos. There will also be 10 local businesses on hand and live music with the incomparable, Frankie Paredes. Flippos is located at 220 Atascadero Rd., across from Morro Bay High School.

Bird Festival Returns

Bird aficionados, your time in the sun is right around the corner. The 2024 Morro Bay Bird Festival returns January 11 - 15. Registration for the Festival opens on Saturday, November 4 at 8 a.m. Readers planning to attend the Festival, it is highly recommended that you register at that time as events fill up very quickly on opening day. Organizers say the key to successful registration on November 4th is to practice registration during the previous week, from October 28 to November 3. The entire schedule as well as the link to the practice site and the Registration Site can be accessed on the Morro Bay Bird Festival Website: <https://morrobaybirdfestival.org>. The 2024 Festival features 201 events that provide 40% more available "registration seats" than the 2023 Festival. The schedule this year includes field trips all over the county, master classes on nature journaling, photography, gull identification, bird sounds and falconry. On the water there will be bay cruises, pelagic boat trips and kayak trips. Numerous workshops and field trips will be held for beginning birders of all ages. Presentations by bird experts and scholars will be held at several locations. There will also be a free Saturday Community Day and Bazaar for local families. The Keynote Speaker, Jennifer Ackerman, will present at the Cuesta College Performing Arts Center on Saturday night featuring her latest book "What an Owl Knows" and John Muir Laws will lead numerous nature journaling classes and speak at the annual Banquet at the Madonna Inn on Sunday Night.

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

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Cambria Rotary presents the Taste of Cambria event. Feast on tastings from over a dozen Cambria restaurants while enjoying live music and a beautiful ocean view. A Taste of Cambria takes place on Tuesday, November 7 from 5:00 - 7:30 at Sea Chest Restaurant, 6216 Moonstone Beach Drive. Purchase tickets at <http://www.tasteofcambria.com/>. Proceeds benefit programs for Cambria youth and refurbishment of the Rotary Bandstand at Shamel Park.

Quota International of Morro Bay Charitable Foundation invites folks to "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" on Saturday, November 18 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 490 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos.

Shop for holiday treasures from the array of "nearly new" jewelry, purses and scarves with proceeds going to benefit our local communities. Cash only for purchases. For more information, go to [quotamb.org](http://quotamb.org).

Morro Bay Art Association presents The Annual Winter Faire & Juried Craft Show featuring some of the finest artworks on the Central Coast November 9 through December 31, 2023 at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street. This very special holiday event offers a collection of exceptional paintings, photography and fine crafts, spanning a variety of artistic mediums from traditional to contemporary. Crafts include fiber, wood, glass, sculpture, pottery, jewelry and more. There is an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, go to [www.artcenter-morrobay.org](http://www.artcenter-morrobay.org) or call 805-772-2504.



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Financial Advisor  
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Morro Bay, CA 93442  
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Financial Advisor  
241 S. Ocean Ave  
Cayucos, CA 93430  
(805) 995-2110

**Cambria**

Jonathan Mumper  
Financial Advisor  
1073 Main Street  
Cambria, CA 93428  
(805) 927-1343

Sandy Cha Mumper  
Financial Advisor  
1073 Main Street  
Cambria, CA 93428  
(805) 927-1343



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The Faculty Art Show spotlights the wide range of

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11



Community

... Morro Bay High School Aggie Backers will host its Annual Barn Dance on Saturday, November 4 at Swallow Creek Ranch (6030 CA-1, Cayucos CA 93430). This event serves as an important fundraiser for the Aggie Backers as they seek to raise funds support the Morro Bay High School Future Farmer of America (FFA) Chapter.

“We are excited to get the community together for this annual event, to enjoy good food, live music, and a live and silent auction all in effort to support the FFA kids,” said Casey Rosenlieb, newly elected Aggie Backers president. “The annual barn dance raises money enabling the Aggie Backers to support the FFA and agriculture programs at Morro Bay High School. Funds raised pay for field trips, FFA conferences and events, and scholarships for our graduating seniors.”

This year’s event begins at 5 p.m. with open bar and appetizers followed by a tri-tip dinner. There will be a silent and live auction facilitated by auctioneer Cody Dawson as well as a rifle raffle and wine pull. Dancing to live music from Julie Beaver and the Rocking B’s Trio. Advanced tickets are encouraged as barn capacity is limited. Admission is \$75 per person or a table of six for \$400.

For more information or to register for this special event, visit mbaggiebackers.wxsite.com or contact Casey Rosenlieb, Aggie Backers President, at (805)234-8915.

... Morro Bay Art Association presents “Paint Your Pet,” with Karyn Blaney, an interactive demonstration on November 13, from 3-5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St.

Although Blaney has a fine art degree from Kent State University with a concentration in printmaking, she never wants to be restricted to one medium. Whether it’s paint, ink, pencil or paper, Karyn lets whatever subject she’s working with dictate the creative process. Karyn pulls from images and memories that excite her and hold her attention. From movie scenes to people she connects with or passes on the street, Karyn finds many of her inspiration from just about everywhere. Her resulting creations feature loose brushstrokes and a dreamy feel to a uniquely Impressionistic style.

Blaney started ArtSocial805, a traveling art studio, 8 years ago on the central coast, and is based in Paso Robles. She has instructed thousands of people from ages 5 to 95 since the business’ start. She has branched out into specialized classes featuring Paint Your Pet, Homeschooling, Glow events, Watercolor Bar by ArtSocial805 and so much more. For more information visit www.artsocial805.com.


... The following are free and open to the public at the Morro Bay Library - 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394

- **Marble Run** - Wednesday, November 8, 3 to 5 p.m. Come to the library and play with marbles! Build your own creations and have lots of fun. For ages 4+
- **Mini Tapestry Weaving** - Wednesday, November 15, 3 to 5 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. For school age kids.
- **Make a Pie Garland** - Wednesday, November 22, 3 to 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, 2:00-4:00 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 to 5 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.

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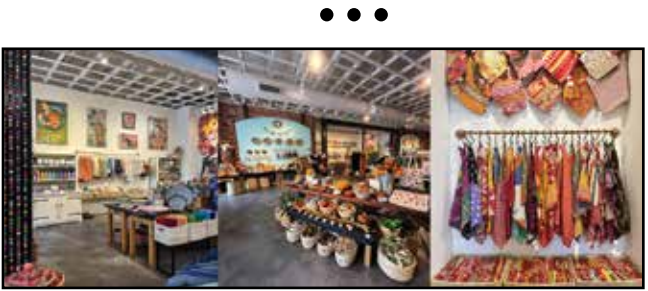
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Support the League with Holiday Shopping at HumanKind Wednesday, November 1, 10 am - 6 p.m. This is a “three-fer” you just can’t pass up: support the League of Women Voters and our work to protect democracy; support the mission of HumanKind to build stronger societies worldwide: and find beautiful holiday gifts for your family and friends.

On Wednesday, November 1, shop at HumanKind either in person or online and 10% of your purchases will be donated to the League. HumanKind is located at 974 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo. It is open from 10:00 am to 6 pm. Visit the store or shop online. If you shop online you can pick up your purchases in the store or have them shipped to you.

HumanKind is a non-profit retail shop that carries handcrafted goods from skilled makers around the world. The brick and mortar shop, located in downtown San Luis Obispo, is filled with a colorful array of apparel, accessories and home goods. The growing online shop at showcases the beauty of each product and tells the stories that make their items unique.

... Cruise Control Cambria invites the public to welcome the artist Inbar Levi, her new book and her work into the space for an intimate evening with an opening reception on Nov. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at 1075 main street, Cambria. Levi is a photographer, a creative director and a fashion




designer. Born and raised on the coastline of Israel, Inbar has spent almost a decade in London completing her fashion menswear design undergraduate, and postgraduate degrees at Central Saint Martins in London. Inbar had stints at Maison Martin Margiela in Paris and Wendy & Jim in Vienna. Following her graduation from the masters fashion design program at Central Saint Martins in London and studying under the direction of the late Louise Wilson OBE, Inbar had relocated first to New York City, and later on to Los Angeles where she launched her own fashion label.

Inbar was selected by Vogue Italia to present her collection at Pitti Uomo in Florence, and had also showed several collections at the NYC showroom Capsule.

Inbar has photographed and creative directed videos and editorials for the likes of Vogue Italia, i-D magazine, Tank magazine and Rollercoaster, and her collections have been featured in numerous international publications such as Man About Town, Wonderland and Highsnobiety.

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

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# Letters To The Editor



## Addis Addresses Support for Marine Sanctuary

*Editor's Note Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) sent the following letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in support of the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.*

As the California State Assemblymember representing the 30th Assembly District, which runs along 200 miles of California's coast and includes the oceans off of San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, I offer my strong support for the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Protecting ocean health off of California's coast is urgent, and our approach must be comprehensive - including both conservation and climate action. Therefore, I applaud NOAA's proposed expansion to the south along the Gaviota coast. However, I urge you to forgo the proposed exclusion of ecologically and culturally rich ocean and coastline areas of Morro Bay and Cayucos that would leave those areas unprotected.

Morro Bay is my home. It's where my husband and I raised two children. It's where I taught in public schools and served on the city council. First peoples who see the ocean as sacred have lived here for millennia. Additionally Morro Bay is a fishing village and a place where hundreds of thousands of people visit every year for its natural beauty. Our economy is dependent on the ocean and its sea life. Our collective ability to thrive hinges on our ocean's health.

Like many people, my perspective and inspiration come from where my home is. It's why I ran for office and why I serve on the California Ocean Protection Council. It's why I founded the Central Coast Legislative Caucus - to protect, promote, and celebrate what makes my home and the entire Central Coast special. Therefore, I strongly urge you to include the protection of the vital Pacific waters off of Morro Bay and Cayucos, along with the vast array of marine life and sacred places like Morro Rock, in the sanctuary boundary. Doing so will recognize the ecological and cultural significance of this ocean area and its importance to the people who live here.

NOAA has stated that the Agency-Preferred Alternative sanctuary boundary excludes areas off of the coast of Morro Bay and Cayucos due to potential conflicts with offshore wind energy infrastructure needs. Fundamentally we must both protect and preserve our oceans while combating the climate crisis - a crisis that is causing a rise in ocean temperatures and subsequent loss of sea life, feeding grounds, and hospitable habitat. The critical work necessary to achieve these goals is a part of the same mission.

While I applaud NOAA's attempt to work collaboratively, the proposed exclusion is neither the only, nor the desired, approach. In fact, prior sanctuary designations show us that there are pathways for multiple critical uses within sanctuary boundaries. Therefore, I urge NOAA to take expansive, creative and bold action to craft a unified sanctuary that encompasses the entire Central Coast ocean area.

*Dawn Addis  
Assemblymember, 30th District*

## Is Democracy Personal or for the People?

Dr. McPherson's letter to the editor regarding democracy explains why residents went unheard during the Irons and Headding administrations in Morro Bay.

In the early 2000s, Mayor Janice Peters understood representative democracy to mean elected officials represent the voters' will in their votes.

That view changed in 2012 and persisted for a decade. Under mayors Irons and Headding, elected officials represented their personal views in their votes. McPherson, Barton, Ford, and Edwards were/are reflections of this approach to local government.

Current Mayor Wixom seems to represent the Mayor Peters approach to governing: represent the will of the voters.

Californians believe representative democracy does not exclude direct democracy -- initiatives, recalls, and referendums -- but operate hand-in-hand.

Maybe this is the key question to ask anyone running for office: If elected, will you represent the voters' will or your personal will when you vote?

*Betty Winboltz  
Morro Bay*

## No Longer in a Pickle

A big thank you and congratulations to everyone involved with the Los Osos Pickleball Community! We now have lines for four pickleball courts painted on two of the existing tennis courts at the Los Osos Community Park. This would not have been possible without you.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and played on our old string and tape courts, you helped us prove there was a need for pickleball in Los Osos. Thank you to all of you who came to community meetings to show your support. Thank you for the donations to pay for the string and tape, pickleballs, replacement nets, and the cost of painting the lines. Most of all thank you for your tenacity and kind words of support.

Join us on the courts! Bring your friends and enjoy playing on the courts you helped create.

*Karen Kimura  
President Los Osos Pickleball Community*

## Should we Ditch Democracy?

In her fascinating Viewpoint piece (October 19-November 1 issue), Marlys McPherson argues against direct democracy: "Citizens are busy with their lives. We don't necessarily have the interest or time to study complicated issues to make informed decisions. That is why we elect our representatives to do so." But if we don't have the interest or time for study, then we don't have the interest or time to vote intelligently for our representatives. So maybe we should just relax, ditch the whole "democracy" thing, and let the Ones Who Know Best run our affairs. Their track record is so impressive.

If approved, the initiative on the ballot next year puts the fate of Morro Bay in the hands of us uninterested and busy citizens. Our representatives might want to pay attention.

The same issue reports that the CEO of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is leaving to take a job with one of the companies hoping to cash in on offshore wind development. No comment necessary.

*Gary Kuris  
Morro Bay*

## Sign up for Honor Flight

I have lived in Morro Bay for decades. I am a veteran who had the privilege of being on an Honor Flight in October. Honor Flight is a volunteer program that flies Veterans for free to Washington, D.C. for a 3-day whirlwind trip to honor us for our service to the Country.

Morro Bay city council gives out community grants once a year to nonprofits that serve Morro Bay residents. Honor Flight requested a \$3,000 grant that would cover the cost of 2 veterans trip to D.C. This seemed logical when you consider that 10 MB vets have previously been served by Honor Flight, I and another MB vet just returned, and an Honor Flight board member is from Morro Bay.

However, the day was almost lost when the sub-committee recommended no money go to the Veterans via Honor Flight. Here is the irony: the council holds its meetings in the Veterans Hall! Fortunately, the city council saw the error of the recommendation and allocated \$2,000 to Honor Flight.

I recommend all veterans of any war or any decade sign up with Honor Flight. <https://www.honorflightccc.org/> Sincerely,

*Jim Nance  
Morro Bay*

### Letter to The Editor Policy

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

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College Readiness 101

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

Financial Aid Basics

Simply put, financial aid is money awarded to students to help them, and their families, pay for college. It can come from federal and state governments, colleges, universities, and private sources. The components of financial aid include scholarships and grants, loans, and work-study. Keep in mind that not every student gets all three of these awards. This is determined by an individual’s eligibility. Who should apply? Anyone who thinks they might qualify or require financial aid at some point during their child’s undergraduate career. It is important to note that some colleges will not consider a request for institutional aid if the student neglects to submit the necessary forms when they apply as a freshman or transfer student.

The Cost of Attendance (COA), also known as a budget, is a combination of direct and indirect costs determined by colleges to show the amount of money a student might spend in order to live and study at an institution for a 9-month academic year.

Direct costs include tuition and fees that are paid directly to the institution and can be found on the student bill. Generally, the tuition and fees will be the same for all students unless a student is enrolled in a specific program. These fees may cover the cost of having a car on campus, parking permits, computers, art supplies, etc. Room and board represents the average cost of a dorm room with a meal plan. The Free Application for Federal Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA, includes a question about where a student plans to live. If you choose the fancy dorm room and gourmet meal plan this will not increase your financial aid award.

Indirect costs are determined by each institution and are based on an average cost of attending a particular school. While these costs are not paid directly to the college, they must be considered when figuring out the true cost of attendance. These costs include: Books & Supplies (can be more for art supplies, lab fees, etc.). Transportation (varies greatly from school to school) and Personal Expenses (laundry, toiletries, and as my grandmother used to say, “pin money”).

In order to determine what your family will pay for a particular college you will need to use the institution’s Net Price Calculator (NPC). NPCs, which can be found on individual college websites, are designed to provide families with a basic idea of how much they might pay for a degree at a particular institution. Unfortunately, not all NPCs are created equal. Some can be quite challenging to locate.

While required by law, these calculators do not always offer enough transparency and are not always based on the most up-to-date data. Nevertheless, they can be helpful when making college cost comparisons. They are a good place to begin.

If you expect to receive any help from Uncle Sam, you need to complete your FAFSA by the required deadline. According to the FAFSA website, “many states and colleges set priority deadlines by which you must submit the FAFSA form to be considered for the aid programs they administer. There is also a federal deadline each academic year.” My advice is that you fill it out early as federal funds are not limitless and tend to run out the longer you wait. This year the “new better” (their words, not mine) FAFSA opens December 2023. Next year it will return to its usual October 1st opening. Unfortunately, the new FAFSA contains the same number of questions, but at least it will be more interactive and fun, kind of like tax returns.

All students must create a Federal Student Aid government account. Both students and their “contributor” (no longer called “parent”) will need their own FSA I.D. and password regardless of who establishes the application. There is no obligation to contribute if you fill out as “contributor” on a student’s form. The student is also considered a “contributor”. A student must be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen to be eligible for federal student aid.

Hot Tip: I strongly suggest that you record your FSA I.D.s and passwords in a safe place as the experience borders on torture when one loses it. The purpose of the FAFSA is to determine each student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The student and/or family fills out a form that gathers information from both the student and parent which includes income and assets. Home equity value (house where you live) and retirement funds such as 401K’s & IRA’s (Roth & Traditional) are two assets not considered in the FAFSA formula. The EFC is the minimum amount of money that the federal government expects the family to contribute to the student’s college expenses. Beginning in 2024-2025 the EFC will be called the Student Aid Index (SAI). Once your FAFSA is processed you will receive an email that contains your Student Aid Report (SAR).

In order to receive institutional “need-based” aid from a private college, you will most likely need to fill out the CSS Profile. The CSS Profile is somewhat similar to the FAFSA but a bit more intrusive and time consuming. Some private institutions will require that you complete an application they have created to replace the CSS Profile. Unlike the FAFSA, each biological parent and stepparent is listed on the CSS Profile. If parents are separated or divorced, the noncustodial parent will receive a link to create their own CSS Profile. I recommend that the student or parent login to the CSS Profile using the student’s College Board account.

While all of this may seem daunting, it is a lot better than it used to be so count your blessings. Should you need further assistance when filing for financial aid, you can call the following helpline phone numbers: 1-800-433-3243 (FAFSA) and 1-844-202-0524 (CSS Profile). The people on the other end of the phone line are very helpful!

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

The Case of the Headless Corpse: A Body of Evidence Surfaces



Dale Johnson, Chuck Stoll, Glenn Silloway, Marlys McPherson, Ed Bischof, Joe Ingrassia, Jim Reed, Charlie Stoll of the Historical Society of Morro Bay recently presented “The Case of the Headless Corpse. Photo by Monica Bischof

By Carol Swain

When does a coroner’s inquest bring up more questions than it answers? When it’s an inquest into the death of a neighbor whose remains—minus head and hands—are found on the property owned by Morro Bay’s European founder himself, Franklin Riley.

The Historical Society of Morro Bay recently presented “The Case of the Headless Corpse” to an audience at Calvary Lutheran Church Franklin Riley had moved onto land near the bluff over the Morro Bay estuary in 1864. He used the Homestead act to claim 130 acres, which included what is now downtown Morro Bay.

Two of HSMB’s leaders, Glenn Silloway and Marlys McPherson, set out to find information for a presentation highlighting Franklin Riley, the “man who owned a town.” While visiting the History Center of San Luis Obispo County, the collections manager, Brittany Webb, mentioned to Glenn and Marlys that she had recently seen Franklin Riley’s name in the archives. She located the file which contained the actual handwritten transcript of the Coroner’s Inquest into the death of one Sheldon Parsons.

Mr. Riley’s name appeared prominently in the document. He discovered a body, or more accurately, the remains of a body, on the beach near his house. He identified it by its clothing as his neighbor Sheldon Parsons. Mr. Riley provided most of the testimony. The coroner’s inquest was held “near Franklin Riley’s house” at “the Morro” on July 28, 1867.

J. H. Hollister (as in Hollister Peak) was the jury foreman. Other jurors were John Jennings, José Canet, J. W. Cooper, B. J. Flint, William Smith, Victorino Chavez,

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Pedro Romero, and John Bains. Glenn and Marlys assigned the witnesses' and jurors' parts to a cast of willing locals who played the participants in the inquest as detailed in the record. Glenn narrated. Mr. J. J. Simmley (Joe Ingrassia), Justice of the Peace, called each witness. Franklin Riley (Ed Bischof) described finding the body "near the water" while out for a walk. He recognized the remains as those of Sheldon Parsons "by the boots and pants."

The inquiry then centered on the testimony of witnesses who had last seen the deceased. Mr. Riley recalled Mr. Parsons fretting about his finances, how he owed money—to Mr. Riley for one—and his reaper had been damaged so badly that he couldn't use it. Both Mr. Riley and Mr. Hollister (Chuck Stoll) recalled offering suggestions to Mr. Parsons about repairing the equipment and getting back to work. Mr. Riley reminded him he didn't owe him very much money.

Other witnesses confirmed Mr. Parsons's state of mind as being "discouraged" Witnesses also recalled that Mr. Parsons wanted to "sell everything and leave the county." Additional witnesses Mrs. Riley (Marlys McPherson), John Bains (Charlie Stoll), and George Stone (Dale Johnson) offered testimony. The nine-member jury delivered its verdict on the cause of death of Mr. Parsons that same day. J. H. Hollister read the statement, "We the undersigned have come to the conclusion that Sheldon Parsons came to his death by his own hands according to the evidence given." All nine jurors signed the document. The audience at Calvary Lutheran Church was aghast. How could Mr. Parsons kill himself "by his own hands" when both his head and his hands had been severed? What happened to Sheldon Parsons's property (horses, his reaper, worth \$1000 in his estimation)? Where is the head? And the hands?

In a remarkable coincidence, a severed head was found near San Simeon. A deputy sheriff delivered the head to Morro Bay, and a day later, on July 29, 1867, a second hearing was held. Local physician, Dr. J. W. Hays (Jim Reed) testified that he did not believe the head belonged to the body purported to be Sheldon Parsons's body. His opinion was that the occipital bone was too large to fit with the vertebrae.

Dr. Hays had also filled a molar for Mr. Parsons, and this head had no such filling in its teeth. Whose head was it? Why was the hearing about the head held a day later? The evidence offered no conclusion. The audience at the church, however, offered lots of speculation! Historical records from 1867 are sparse. The fact that these documents exist and could be located is unusual. Sorry Folks, as of this writing, no other information is available. Of course, any of you history sleuths are welcome to investigate further!

History buffs with knowledge of the case are encouraged to contact the Morro Bay Historical Society at 805-399-2772 or send snail mail to PO Box 921, Morro Bay CA 93433.

Sheriff's Bike Giveaway Kicks Off

The County Sheriff's Office is gearing up to play Santa Claus for the 34th year and readers who want to donate to the cause can do so now.

The Sheriff's Office has been giving away bicycles for Christmas to needy San Luis Obispo County youths since 1989. The Christmas Bicycle Giveaway is a community benefit and rehabilitation program run out of the County Honor Farm. Inmates at the long-term jail repair, recondition and repaint bicycles donated by the community and the department gives them away as Christmas presents to local children who sign up for the program.

The bikes come with an approved safety helmet, which are donated by the public or purchased by the Sheriff's Advisory Committee using donated monies. The donations also pay for new parts for the bikes.

"This program," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said, "was created to promote the holiday spirit by giving away refurbished bicycles and new helmets to children in need in San Luis Obispo County. Due to the generosity of those in our community, the program has continued to be a big success."

Having Honor Farm inmates work on the bikes gives them a chance to learn a skill that could help them when they eventually get out.

"The program," Cipolla said, "instills in the inmates a positive work ethic, self-respect, and a sense of worth to the community." At bike giveaways in the past, the inmates bringing the bikes out to the kids seem as joyful as the children.

The department is asking for donations of new bikes — adult or child sized (though they really need kids' bikes due to high demand) — new helmets and cash for parts.

Also, if readers know a child up to 15-years old, who needs a bike, see the website at: slosheriff.org. On the Homepage, click on "Community Resources" at the top and then click on "Forms and Applications" on the drop down menu to get an application.

Applications are due in by Tuesday, Nov. 28 and the bike giveaway event is on Tuesday, Dec. 12 starting at 9 a.m. at the Honor Farm

Lots of folks help make this annual event possible. "The Sheriff's Office," Cipolla said, "would like to thank the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation, Bike SLO County [Bike Kitchen], The SLO Bike Club, The Sandlot Group of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Garbage and County of SLO Health Agency for their continued support and donations to the Sheriff's Bike Program."

If readers would like to donate children's bicycles or new helmets in the box, can bring them to any of the Sheriff's Department Substations, which are located in Los Osos (on 10th Street), Templeton and Oceano, or drop them off at the Honor Farm on Oklahoma Avenue (off

Hwy 1 at Kansas Avenue).

To make a monetary contribution for the purchase of bikes, parts or helmets, send a check to: Sheriff's Advisory Foundation, Attn: Bicycle Fund, P.O. Box 3752, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403.



Sheriff's deputies, including retired former Undersheriff Tim Olivas (back row, left), pose with some of the free Christmas bicycle recipients from the 2017 Sheriff's Christmas Bike Giveaway. Photo by Neil Farrell

Free BLOCK PARTY Event!

Saturday, November 18  
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Morro Bay Sweeps Ducky Derby

The Morro Bay Rotary Club filled the harbor on Oct. 14 with bright yellow rubber ducks for its Third Annual Rubber Ducky Derby. Rotary Club members sold over 1,200 entries, each duck costing \$10 to support Rotary’s various charitable causes, programs and scholarships. And with some serious cash prizes up for grabs and tensions were high (as high as can be expected for a rubber ducky derby), as the yellow birds were dumped into the bay off the Galley Seafood Grill & Bar. The finish line was at the Tideland Park floating dock and with an incoming tide the gaggle of rubber ducks only took about 15-20 minutes to reach the finish.

The Top-3 ducks won cash prizes. The First Place winner of \$1,000 cash was Elsie Casida of Morro Bay. Second place and \$750 went to Susan Garza of Morro Bay with third place going to Morro Bay Police Chief Amy Watkins, who got \$500.

It marked the first time Morro Bay residents swept the derby.

And sticking with tradition, the last duck out of the water was Harry Hamilton’s, who sadly won nothing.

Photos Submitted



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# Community

## David J. Rogers Gallery Attracts Worldwide Visitors for Retreat



Photo by Peggy Rogers

David J. and Peggy Rogers recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of the David J. Rogers Fine Art Gallery at 407 Morro Bay Blvd. in Morro Bay by renewing their lease for at least another five years.

Co-owner and Operations Manager, Peggy Rogers, sends a heartfelt thanks the Morro Bay community and businesses for welcoming her husband's 34 students from all over the world as they celebrated a year of watercolor artistry mentored by their master watercolor artist, David.

"Dave had been mentoring 48 students for a year on their watercolor journey," Peggy said. "Their end of year retreat was in celebration of all their accomplishments and a fun-filled, three day, plein air retreat. We had 34 of the 48 students attend. We had one from the UK come, several from Canada, and many from across our United States. All in all, 32 hotel rooms were booked in Morro Bay by our guests. They started arriving on Wednesday with the retreat starting on Friday. Several of our guests attended the fall edition of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Shop, Sip & Stroll on the Embarcadero on Thursday and had a great time."

The event began on Friday with a full day of plein air painting at Tidelands Park in Morro Bay and later all guests were treated to a banquet dinner at the Inn at Morro Bay and were presented certificate of completion for their year's study.

"Saturday, we met up at the gallery and

all drove to Leffingwell Landing in Cambria. We painted there as well all day. Spencer's Market was very helpful in making lunch fixings and cheese platters for our guests during our painting days as restaurants were not easily accessible. After painting all day, we came back to the gallery and had a wine and cheese reception, and Dave critiqued their work from the two days. We had a great time, and everyone went out at various local restaurants for dinner afterwards.

"Sunday, our final day of painting, we met up at the gallery again and drove over to Montana de Oro. Again, lunch was provided for everyone, and we came back

Students at the Inn at Morro Bay.



Artist David J. Rogers teaches students during an artistic retreat. Photo by Peggy Rogers

to the gallery for more wine, cheese, and critiquing Dave was going to give away his paintings but instead decided to raffle them off and raise some money for a local charity – Paso Robles Youth Arts Center – the two paintings raised \$775"

Additionally, David and Peggy began the second year of students on September

1, 2023, and they will be going through their mentorship sessions throughout this next year and coming September 2024 for their retreat."

The Rogers plan to turn this program into a quarterly event starting in 2024.

The David J Rogers Fine Art Gallery can be reached at (805) 225-5077.

## Get Tuned in Morro Bay



The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Let's Get Tuned, a new sound bath and yoga studio.

"Nestled in the heart of our community, this serene sanctuary promises to harmonize mind, body, and spirit," Chamber officials said. "We extend our warmest congratulations to Let's Get Tuned and look forward to the soothing waves of well-being they'll bring to our town. Welcome to the neighborhood!"

"Let's Get Tuned offers daily yoga classes and daily sound bath classes. A sound bath is a session where you simply rest comfortably while carefully selected instruments are played. The sounds relax the nervous system and leave one feeling rested and refreshed.

The studio also offers a variety of yoga classes suit-

able for all levels, including a special class for veterans.

Owners, Jon Nowaczyk and Natalie Teichmann, have been a local Morro Bay business for more than six years and are excited to expand their offerings to this beautiful Bay view location.

Stop by and meet Jon and Natalie at 781 Market Ave, say "hello," sip some tea, enjoy the view and perhaps stay for a sound bath.



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# Community Events along



The crowds were out in force for the 44th Annual Los Osos Baywood Park Oktoberfest and Car Show by the Bay last Sunday.

The family fun event is a collaboration between the Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce and the Bay Osos Kiwanis with the support of local businesses and organizations.

The Fun Run supporting Morro Bay Athletic Boosters, in honor of Ron Roundy, commenced the day. The run was made possible by its dedicated sponsors, namely Movement for Life Physical Therapy and Running Warehouse. The Bay Osos-Kiwanis club organized and hosted a delicious pancake breakfast that was provided free of charge.

The party was hopping at 2nd Street Music, sponsored by Visit Los Osos. It featured Bay Love near the Oktoberfest vendor area and the Familiar Strangers in the Car Show area. This year's event saw a remarkable increase in vendor participation, with more than 50 vendors surpassing the number from last year.

The Beerwood Beer Garden opened its doors at noon, boasting an impressive lineup of over 10 breweries and wineries including: There Does Not Exist, Antigua Brewing Company, SLO Cider, Wild Fields Brewhouse, Timshel Nursery & Vineyard, Inc., California Coast Beer Co., Durham cider + wine co., Central Coast Brewing, Kulturhaus Brewing Company, Colony Mash Brewing Co., Ballast Point Brewing Company, Deovlet Wines, and Topa Topa Brewing Company.

The Celebrate Los Osos Main Stage introduced a community hour featuring the Morro Bay High School Cheerleaders, along with several event sponsors and nonprofit organizations.

Throughout the day, the Stage featured a lineup of performances by Carbon City Lights, MiniNova, and The Santa Cruz Family Band.

The Kids Zone was generously sponsored by three local businesses: CG Bookkeeping, Miner's Ace Hardware, and Brightside Pizza.

Next up for The Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce is the annual Christmas Parade taking place December 9, 2023.



Photos by Dean Sullivan



## Rock Radio Bash

Photos by Dean Sullivan

Local station 97.3/107.0 The Rock Community Radio had Morro Bay swingin' and swaying' to the sounds of Unfinished Business and Murder Hornets as well as jumpin' and spendin' their support-cash on a mega-community donations for a variety of auction items on Saturday, October 28.

Hal Abrams, founder and treasurer, offered his thanks to all. "We knew people were ready to come out and have a good time. They came early and stayed late. We sincerely appreciate everyone who was ready to prop up our community radio station to keep us on the air and help us grow into our future. We got the word - if not all the funding we will need, but know we can look forward to the next ten years of 'Radio for People, Not for Profit.'"

Abrams also wanted to offer get well wishes to Jill Knight, who offered a future personal two-hour concert as an auction item in lieu of her reaction to a flu shot, and condolences for a death in the family has been sent to Dulcie Taylor. "Thanks to our other two great bands, we were able to adapt and have a full evening of rocking' music and fun."



Photos by Dean Sullivan





# The Central Coast

9th Annual

MORRO BAY

TRICK-OR-TREAT

saturday, October 28th, 2:30-5:30pm

## A Downtown Trick-or-Treat

Photos by Neil Farrell

Hundreds of kids of all ages turned out Oct. 28 for Morro Bay's Annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat. The Main Street-Morro Bay Boulevard core was also hosting the weekly Saturday Farmer's market, making for a whirlwind of activity in the usually mellow Downtown. The Morro Bay White Caps Band performed for the crowd, bedecked in costumes from sea monsters to Sgt. Pepper and even Santa Claus. Participating merchants dressed for the occasion, handed out candy and treats to the kids, who were dressed in a variety of themes — from Star Wars, to Spider-Man, fire chiefs, police SWAT, witches and fairy princesses, and all manner of monster, ghoul, ghost and goblin. Congratulations to the Downtown merchants and City Recreation Department for organizing a fun, family-friendly event.



## 10th Annual Witch's Paddle

Photos by Neil Farrell

The 10th Annual Halloween Witch's Paddle set sail Saturday morning in Morro Bay Harbor. Hundreds of fun-loving souls took to the water on a beautiful day for a paddle, gathering mostly at Coleman Beach and striking out down the waterfront to the cheers of hundreds of folks scattered from Morro Rock to Tidelands Park. Cameras and cell phones recorded the event for posterity and to post on the Internet.





## Waterfront Plan From page 1

Updating the waterfront plan is being driven by changes to the State's addressing potential future effects of climate change. "Funds may be used for projects that are designed to assist local governments in assessing impacts and planning for coastal resiliency," reads a report from Community Development Director, Scot Graham, "including adapting to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise."

Assuming this is money in the bank, what would \$500,000 buy? “The funds received,” the report said, “would pay for consultant services, with staff time spent working on the Waterfront Master Plan update to be paid from the City’s General Fund portion of the budget. No cash match is required in order to apply for the grant.”

Graham told Estero Bay News that he'd like to expand the reach of the waterfront plan to include the old sewer treatment plant site on Atascadero Road and focus attention on what is needed for the offshore wind energy companies, who are all expected to need the use of harbor facilities.

The disposition of that property, which is co-owned by the City and the Cayucos Sanitary District, is the last piece of business left between the former partners in the treatment plant and ocean discharge pipe. The details of the old plant's demolition — when, how and who will pay what — and future use and/or redevelopment are being negotiated in private between the two agencies. No official announcement has been made.

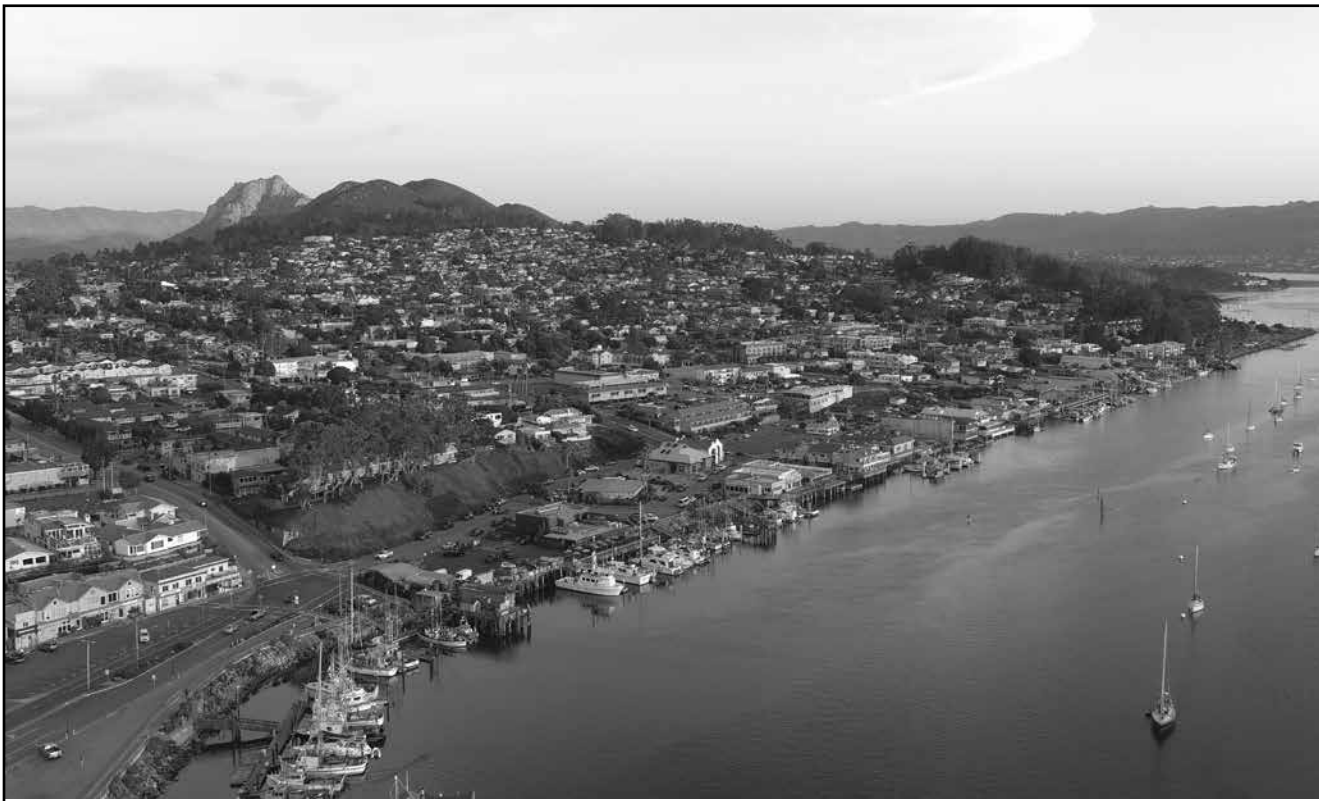
Planning that sizable, beachside property is further complicated by the Coastal Commission's denial of the City/CSD's first sewer project, which would have built a new plant next door to the old one. The Commission declared the property to be in a flood plain and subject to coastal hazards — primarily tsunamis, and sea level rise.

“Morro Rock is included in the existing master plan,” Graham said, “and we would continue with that in the update. The Pit area is also an area I would want to consider.”

A quick scroll through the City’s “Document Center” on its website, found several other “conceptual” plans that have been done over the years including to redevelop Centennial Parkway and the Centennial Staircase along with a parking garage with a motel/retail development on the bluff top; and a 2014 Cal Poly graduate student class exercise that looked at redevelopment of the North Embarcadero Area.

Graham is looking to form an ad hoc committee to work on the waterfront plan update to possibly include, "Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners, Harbor Advisory Board members, and possibly representatives from the Embarcadero Master Lease Holder group, commercial fishing industry, and maritime museum."

So what's in the Waterfront Master Plan now? "The current Waterfront Master Plan chapters," Graham said, "cover identification of planning areas, transportation and harbor improvements, proposals for each planning area, and waterfront design guidelines. The current WMP boundary planning areas cover from the north Morro Rock/Coleman Park area — including the Sandspit to the PG&E plant intake and Little Morro Creek — and extends all the way



Drone photo of Morro Bay embarcadero. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The sea level rise component has the potential to greatly effect the future of the Embarcadero, most of which is built atop fill, bordered from the sea by rock revetment. Revetment repair is among the long list of maintenance issues the Harbor Department has on its plate as well.

The update is supposed to assess the danger from sea level rise. “This is consistent with multiple LCP Policies including LU-8.2,” Graham’s report said, “which addresses planning for Morro Rock and to incorporate sea level rise projections and an updated coastal hazard vulnerability assessment; Policy LU-8.7, which requires relocation of under-deck utilities, decks, piers, etc., in the Embarcadero

This Waterfront Master Plan work will go on along with work on a specific plan for the power plant property that the City has already begun, as well as putting together a plan/project for whatever improvements and repairs that might be needed to the T-piers and facilities that the wind energy companies would need.

And the waterfront plan's eventual resting place will be as part of a future GP/LCP Amendment.

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**Women's Network** From page 1



The South Bay Women's Network is celebrating 40 years. This picture was taken in 1987 during a lunch meeting at Salty Pelican. Photo submitted



The South Bay Women's Network Scholarship awards dinner in 2022 at The Savory Palette. Photo submitted

"This has become our signature fundraising effort and focus," said Rodden. "SBWN started out fundraising for the women's shelter. As the years went by, we started seeing more of a need to support women through education to help them make better lives for their families — especially reentry students, women who had either family issues, poverty or domestic violence hinder them from higher education. We also saw that the women's shelter received donations from so many other sources, so we focus on our

To accommodate the variety of schedules, member SBWN is offering lunch meetings as well as evening meetings. Their next meeting is Nov. 7 at the Savory Palette Wine Bar in Morro Bay for the Let's Party Like it's 1983

For more information, contact South Bay Women's Network at P.O. Box 6213, Los Osos, CA 93412-6213 or send an email to [info@sbwn.org](mailto:info@sbwn.org).

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California. His restaurant’s name was the Three Rocks Cafe. It was known for its breakfast platters and great hamburgers. My grandfather was an amazing man. Really all his brothers and sisters were incredible. They grew up in a coal mining cave in Utah, but all contributed to building towns, schools, real estate empires, and their own families. I was a lucky kid to learn from such beautiful people and receive all that my grandfather provided for me.”

However, Nick admits it was his father that instilled his love for cooking. “My dad is who really taught me how to cook. He was from San Antonio Texas and trained under a French Chef at Neiman Marcus when it was still a Gentleman’s Club. I’ve cooked with many chefs. Now I can tell you after 35-years of experience he was the best I ever learned from. I wish I had known it at the time, but I feel some of it stuck.”

Nick also believes it was Grandfather Ray that gave him the best advice of his life. “He owned a vacation home in Morro Bay that I now live in and have for 28 yrs. As a boy, we would visit regularly during the summers. When I turned 18, we had a discussion about me leaving home. He told me about all the places he had been in his life. I told him I would love to live in Morro Bay but didn’t think I could afford it, and he replied with the best advice I have ever taken, ‘You are going to struggle wherever you go in life, so you might as well pick

somewhere you love, and if that is Morro Bay then go.’ You got me crying [he told this reporter during the interview]. He was my best friend. My biggest supporter. Unconditional love was his forte. I miss him so much. He made my life. I’m just trying to keep it up.” And doing all the right things, this columnist must add.

“In 1995 I moved up to Morro Bay,” Nick continued. “I owe it to Soula and Gus Rangousses for hiring me for my first cooking job in my new community.” He would never shy away from extra hours or hard work to earn his way. During his first few years he also work for Kitty’s Kitchen, Rosa’s Landing, Outrigger and Flying Dutchman before he landing the Bayside Café full-time job.

So, it wasn’t long before the Harpers agreed with Nick’s dream idea to create an in-store delicatessen at Bottle Liquors. Indeed, it was a good business decision for them that allowed Nick to create a new profit center for the establishment and keep his chef skills sharpened. They rebranded their store as Bottle Liquors & Deli.

It was about this time when I first met Chef Nick. I was fairly new to the community thinking the wine industry might be my next career path. I was hired to coordinate the Wine tent for the Morro Bay Harbor Festival. Nick was one of the local food vendors I enticed to showcase their businesses among the 40-some wineries.

He went all out and served Oyster Rockefeller to the delight of our guests. That led to a catering I hired him for when some Bakersfield friends who all had homes in Morro Bay and Cayucos decided to have a progressive dinner. Nick cooked and served our main course at the Kirschenmann’s Cayucos vacation home. It was stunning and Chef Nick would go on to other catering out of the deli.

Then along came COVID-times and life changed for so many of our businesses. The Harpers decided to focus back on their core business and Nick was ready to find his new niche in the food industry. He created his own distribution business, Flavor Fool. It currently sources several food products from out of the area and Nick personally picks up and delivers to his local clients.

Meanwhile, Chef Nicholas’ soul needed to cook for others. He reached out to contacts he had made working with wine brokers at Bottle Liquors & Deli and several catering jobs have kept him busy at winery events. For example, he’s worked with Chef Justin Lewis at Kindred Oak Farm of Paso Robles and Epoch Estate Wines in Templeton. And, once his Morro Bay associates realized Nick was catering again, he was asked to do other events like the monthly breakfast he recently catered for the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Then another close connection happened that has led to future collaborations. Flippos’ new owner, Von Odermatt and Nick met. Nick has created a couple “pop-up caterings” to enhance activities Flippos had in the works to showcase its rebranding

from a skating rink to a multi-use activity center for all age groups.

Nick said, “Von and I are a couple of ‘wantrepreneurs.’ We brainstorm ideas we know will work and sometimes get to try them out. One day he said he had hoped Flippo’s would become more of a special events center for birthdays, anniversaries, game nights and more. I said, ‘Well then we have to have an event to show the community Flippos is an events’ center.’”

That seedling comment launched the idea of this year’s Flippos Flippin’ Fun Fall Festival brought to by Flavor Fool on November 4 from 4pm to 8pm. The flyer states there will be food and activities for all ages and 10 local businesses “will have a game to interact with the guests.”

Darts, ring toss, basketball shooting, face painting, cake walk, and a continuous prize wheel of give-aways. “Listen for updates on 97.3/101.0 The Rock Community Radio for more information,” said Nick.

Participants as of this writing are Buttercup Bakery, Off the Wall, Paula Radke Glassworks Art Gallery, Tacos Menin, El Morro BBQ, Flavor Fool, Gaia’s Garden, YSLASH Carocha’s Art Gallery and Studio, and Mike’s Barbershop. Local favorite Frankie Paredes will provide the music.

And Flippo’s is a special events center already with the entire facility having games for adults and kids of all ages, plus beer and wine and soft drinks.

Plus drum roll, please, Chef Nicholas will serve some amazing treats he created. But he said, you have to follow Von’s number one rule - HAVE FUN!



the application of such codes is opposed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA),

National Animal Care and Control Association (NACCA), U.C. Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program, and CalAnimals among others. The proposed revision removes

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News

the mandate to impound healthy adult cats and allows for a more humane, effective, and responsible management of community cat populations.”

Some practices that are today considered normal aren’t even addressed in current County codes. “Title 9 as written,” the report said, “does not include a ‘pooper scooper’ law. As a result, it may be offensive and discourteous for an animal owner to allow their pet to leave its waste in a neighbor’s lawn or on a public sidewalk, but it is not illegal and there is no way to compel animal owners to pick up after their pets. The proposed revisions include a provision, which addresses this issue.”

And while the law has provisions for impounding pets it says nothing about farm animals found roaming free. “No such provisions are made for livestock found roaming at large,” the report said. “As a result, there is no clearly established guideline for how long those animals must be held and sheltered before they can be adopted out. The proposed revisions also include a provision that gives direction in this regard.”

The law has several other things wrong, for example a definition of “Commercial Animal Operation” vs. a backyard “Hobby Breeder” or puppy mill as they are sometimes called.

“The current definitions of a ‘Commercial Animal Operation’ and a ‘Hobby Breeder’ contain overlapping language to the extent that the demarcation between the two is not clear. Similarly, the County has established limitations

on the number of domestic animals, which may be kept at any single residence — specifically no more than three dogs and no more than three cats, unless the owner has secured a permit from Animal Services.

“However, this provision is set out in San Luis Obispo County Code Title 22 (Section 22.30.090) which establishes regulations related to land use and zoning restrictions, and which Animal Services does not have legal jurisdiction to enforce. The proposed revisions rectify that by creating an equivalent code within Title 9.”

And since every incorporated city in SLO County is contracted for animal services through the County, the changes in the law will have to be adopted by each city, too.

Under those contractual agreements, each city agrees to adopt language within their municipal code that substantially aligns with the County Code. “This is intended to promote community-wide consistency in how those services are provided and in the application of animal care and control measures.”

Among the interesting changes to the new law is one prohibiting possession of unsafe and wild animals. “This provision prohibits the keeping of animals, which pose significant threats to personal and public safety including venomous reptiles, large snakes such as reticulated pythons or anacondas, and wolf hybrids.

“An exemption is provided for zoos, circuses, educational or research institutions, and similar facilities.”

Another new requirement is that all dogs and cats over 4-months old must now be implanted with an identifying

microchip, as apparently a license tag is no longer sufficient.

“These devices are highly effective at reuniting lost pets with their owners and are a key factor in reducing unnecessary animal impounds and shelter overcrowding. A similar state law recently established the requirement for all animals impounded by a shelter be micro-chipped before being returned to their owner or adopted into a new home. This provision is intended to prevent those impounds in the first place.”

Also, any cat that is allowed to roam the neighborhood must be spayed or neutered and if someone finds a cat roaming around that isn’t fixed, they can do so at their own expense. “This measure will help control the proliferation of free roaming cats.”

Such free-roaming cats must also now be vaccinated against rabies. This is meant to fight the spread of rabies, and matches the requirement that has long been in place for dogs.

DAS recently moved into a brand new shelter that was built a few doors down from the original shelter on Oklahoma Avenue (off Hwy 1 at Kansas Avenue).



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Local Florist Petals it Forward

For the last eight years, thousands of floral industry members in all 50 states have organized their teams on one day in October to take part in Petal It Forward.

The event is part of the Society of American Florist’s goodwill initiative where participants hand two flowers or bouquets to an unsuspecting stranger, urging them to keep one and share the other with someone else.

“It’s a powerful way to illustrate the positive health benefits of giving and receiving flowers. Science has proven that flowers reduce stress and anxiety and make people happy. Let’s come together as an industry and spread the power of flowers,” the SAF website states.

Petal it Forward was a success locally with flowers delivered to



Photo: Sandra Van Fossen, Debbie Deis, Julie Strong and Rose Savicki hands out flower in front of the local pet store.

area businesses including Los Osos Rexall Pharmacy and Gift Store by Debbie Deis who owns D&D Floral Design. “One man exclaimed, ‘I love Los Osos’ as he walked into Rexall,” said

owner Judi Tewell. “Where else can you walk into one of your favorite stores and be handed free flowers? Thank you Debbie Deis for all that you bring to this community. You are priceless.”

The Return of the SLO Blues Society

After shutting down due to COVID restrictions in 2020, the San Luis Obispo Blues Society, one of the oldest Blues Societies in the country, is coming back strong with three shows in the fall and winter of 2023/24.

The first show is the Nick Moss Band on Friday, November 10 at 7 pm at the SLO Vets Hall (801 Grand Avenue). The SLO Blues All-Star Band opens. Advanced online tickets are \$32 at my805tix.com/e/nickmoss. Tickets at the door will be \$40. Doors open at 6:30 pm, music starts at 7. This is a 21 and over show.

Chicago native, guitarist and vocalist Nick Moss, and New Jersey native, harmonica player and vocalist Dennis Gruenling – deliver a deeply rooted, timeless blue collar blues.

According to Moss, “We are a rare breed as far as how authentic we like to keep the music.” That’s not a surprise to longtime fans, as Moss represents the city of Chicago as one of the few bluesmen working today to have learned his craft firsthand directly from many of the genre’s original creators.

Dennis Gruenling, is considered among today’s most innovative and creative blues harmonica players. Gruenling’s giant, fat-toned harp work, raw-boned singing and untamed energy are a perfect foil for Moss’ inspired guitar



playing and straight-from-the-shoulder blues vocals. Rodrigo Mantovani on bass, Taylor Streiff on keyboards and Pierce Downer on drums round out the quintet.

The Nick Moss Band has received five Blues Music Awards, with wins in 2020 for Band Of The Year, Song Of The Year for “Lucky” and Traditional Blues Album Of The Year for “Lucky Guy,” and in 2019 for Traditional Blues Male Artist (Moss) and Instrumentalist—Harmonica (Gruenling).



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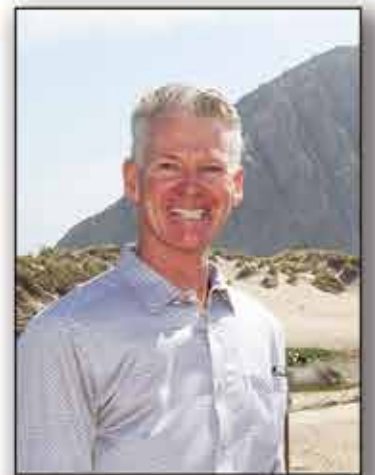
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