

Goin' Around and Around over a Roundabout



By Neil Farrell

Like a schoolyard, pick-up game of basketball, citizens in Morro Bay love to choose sides on a political issue, and flex their jaw muscles to win the day.

Over just the past three decades they sided up and battled over a new sewer treatment plant, a desalination plant, a new power plant, growth and a giant battery storage plant, among countless other issues.

Their latest foray into citizen activism appears to be the notion of installing a roundabout at the troublesome intersection of Main Street and Hwy 41.

The roundy, as they are nicknamed, has been hashed over for more than 20 years. The City commissioned a traffic study of that intersection, plus the intersections of Main and San Jacinto, and Morro Bay Boulevard and Quintana Road, way back in the 1990s.

That study recommended roundies at all three crossroads. That initial City Council rejected outright a roundy at Main and San Jacinto and hesitated on the one for Main and Hwy 41. The MBB and Quintana roundy was built and has been in use for nearly 20 years, but three different City Councils had to vote for it a total of six times, as concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety kept the discussions going.

Hwy 41 and Main street. Drone photo by Dean Sullivan

The Main-41 Roundy was chosen years ago as the best option for solving the intersection's growing issues with carrying capacity. The intersection is very crowded at certain times of the day, like before and after the high school's day, and whenever the Cuesta Grade (Hwy 101) gets blocked — whether for an accident, or wildfire — funneling the North County commuters onto Hwy 1 and ultimately through this intersection.

Over the years, involved agencies — Caltrans and San Luis Obispo Council of Governments or SLOCOG — have reluctantly at times, lent their support. However, a few years back, SLOCOG was wondering why the costs at \$12 million, had risen so dramatically?

Citizens have always been divided over it, with the same pedestrian and bicycling safety concerns dominating the discourse.

Ironically, the main argument in favor is that roundabouts slow down traffic making it safer for everyone. On the other hand, opponents counter that nothing slows traffic down better than a 4-way stop sign.

The extensive study on the intersection has progressed, at what former City Councilman, the late-Bill Peirce used to call “the glacial speed of government.”

In 2023, the City finally began to work on the EIR for the project and earlier this month, was asked to allocate

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‘Weee are the Champions, my friends...’

Photos by Neil Farrell

School spirit was in full effect May 17 when Morro Bay High School held a mini parade down the Embarcadero to celebrate two girls sports team that won CIF Central Section Championships this school year. The girls and their coaches piled onto a flatbed trailer and in the back of a truck and paraded from Tidelands Park to the high school, traversing the Morro Creek Bridge and ending up at the school gym for a Championship Banner hanging ceremony and awarding of Championship rings, one for each of the girls on the cross country and water polo teams. These are the 15th and 16th CIF Championship Teams in the school's history and the fifth and sixth for a girls' sports program. The Div. 2 Water Polo Team is the first to win CIF not competing in cross



Morro Bay High Girls' Cross Country Team poses with their CIF Central Section Div. IV Championship rings.



Morro Bay High's Central Section Div. II Girls' Water Polo Team pose with their championship rings.

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RTA Taking Over Morro Bay Buses

By Neil Farrell



A major change in Morro Bay's in-town bus service is about to drop, but readers shouldn't fret, there won't be any major changes to the service itself.

The City Council about 6-months ago, voted to contract with the Regional Transportation Authority or RTA, the agency that runs the big bus routes between SLO County cities, and have RTA take over the Morro Bay Transit system as of June 1.

That's the smaller, Runabout-style buses that circle

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Prescription Pickle with Rite Aid Closures

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



The pending closure of Rite Aid stores across the country leaves a lot of questions with answers that, perhaps, only time will tell.

For the second time in two years, Rite Aid has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which will result in the closure or sale of 1240 stores across the nation including those in Los Osos and Morro Bay.

“After considering all alternatives, the only viable path forward for Rite Aid is to once again commence Chapter 11 proceedings,” Rite Aid Communications representative

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A Long and Winding Road Funding Shortage



County chart shows the rise in pavement maintenance costs from Fiscal Year 2017/18 to FY 2025/26. In 2017/18 it cost a little over \$400,000 a mile, rising to a high of over \$950,000 a mile in 2024/25 but dropping to an estimated \$900,000 next year. Chart courtesy SLO County

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors are going to have to make a tough decision. Infrastructure — both maintenance and replacement projects big and small — are the bane of the government’s existence. One of the hardest questions of many that define our times is how can we keep up with the normal wear and tear that infrastructure — roads and bridges — take, multiplied by the occasional natural disaster-caused damage and sudden catastrophic failures, in the face of rising costs for everything from construction labor, to materials, to the considerable overhead that feeds the bureaucracy? And then toss in the little matter of stagnant or reduced funding, almost all of which derives from gasoline sales taxes on the Federal, and in California, the State level. And for a twist, there’s the State’s push towards electric vehicles, which unfortunately, don’t buy gas; and, of course, the fluctuations in the wholesale and the retail prices per gallon mucking up the percentage-based tax equation. That simplified scenario is what the County faces now with its two main road infrastructure programs — Bridges and Paving Maintenance — each of which gets millions a year in gas taxes, all via Caltrans, which controls most all transportation project monies. Money for these is heaped into the County’s Roads Fund before being dealt out to bridges and pavement management projects. Some of the monies the County gets, like from the Federal Government, can’t be spent on maintenance. There’s a middleman here too, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), which is charged with divvying up much of these gasoline taxes to County and City roads projects, balancing needs with available funding throughout the county. In a May 5 staff report to Supervisors, County Transportation Division Manager, Joshua Roberts, laid bare the ugly truth — Public Works needs help shuffling with money, if it’s going to get identified bridge repair and replacement projects done. It all started in April 2022 with a presentation on the status of the Bridge and Pavement Management Funds, Roberts said. “At that time, the Board supported staff’s recommendation to adopt a ‘Zero Deficient Bridges’ Budget Performance Measure.” He added that the Supervisors came up with an idea to cover not-yet received bridge project money as “advanced construction” loans out of the County’s considerable reserve funds. That plan “was successful in allowing three projects to go to construction in advance of having full funding programmed by Caltrans,” the report said. Reaching zero deficiencies as in fixing every bridge in the county, is a tall task. Roberts said they also reported “that there were 20 ‘deficient’ bridges identified for replacement or retrofit over the next 10 years.” Of those 20, Roberts said, seven were “being advanced through various steps of project development,” six had been identified as eligible for the Highway Bridge Program

(HBP), as the Federal program is called; another six had been identified as HBP eligible “but were awaiting funding programming by Caltrans;” and another seven are “local” bridges, meaning they are not eligible for HBP money, and fall completely under the County’s burden to pay for. None of these bridges were under construction in 2022, when the staff approached Supervisors. It wasn’t always like this. “In the years prior to 2022,” Roberts said, “the County Bridge program replaced or retrofitted five bridges in five years.” Roberts told Estero Bay News that they were in a bit of a lull in 2022 as projects were being worked on. Those have since moved forward. For EBN readers, the bridge of concern, which has been on the County’s to-do list for quite a while, is replacement of the South Bay Boulevard Bridge over Los Osos Creek. Roberts said that considerable project, expected to take two years to complete, is almost ready to go. South Bay Boulevard “should go out for bids in late summer,” he told EBN, “or early fall.” In order to comply with the project’s permitting provisions, he added, construction has to begin no later than Spring 2026. It seems a massively expensive project considering it only spans a short stretch of 2-lane roadway, albeit an incredibly busy and important 2-lane road. The County has already spent millions on it. “Project development costs to date,” Roberts’ report reads, “are \$2.5M including \$300,000 of local match. Construction is projected to cost \$33.7M including \$6.1M of local match and \$27.6M of programmed HBP funding.” Money for construction is coming out of President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. But it’s what that and other similar funding bills don’t cover that’s the County’s problem. “Local match funding from the Road Fund has averaged \$2.3M per year since 2022,” Roberts’ report said. “Fiscal Year 2025/26 is anticipated to be a significant year for the program with an estimated \$6M required local match for the South Bay Blvd project alone.” This shortfall isn’t new and in years past the Public Works Department asked for support out of the General Fund, the repository of all County collected taxes — primarily property, sales and bed taxes — to pay for such things as County Administration, Fire and Sheriff’s Departments, Courts, Libraries and most everything else, including the Public Works Department. “In FY 2021/22,” the report said, “one-time General Fund support of \$1.36M was allocated to the Bridge Program. Since then, Public Works has submitted budget requests averaging \$1M to support the Bridge Program each fiscal year, but none have been approved.” He added that they’ve been tapping into the Roads Reserve Fund to cover the Bridge Fund shortfalls, in order to reduce the hit to the Pavement Fund. That money is now being tapped out too. This next County budget, the Bridge Fund is going to come to Supervisors like a kid with his pockets turned out and no money to go to the movies. “In FY 2025/26 the local match need of \$7.1M for the multiple pending bridge projects must be funded from the Pavement Management Program. This requirement will eliminate almost all funding for road paving contracts in 2026 and result in pavement project delays into future years.” Roberts told EBN that “every dollar of Bridge funding that goes unfunded reduces the amount of money for road management.” It’s been the norm to be a little short. He said they used to allocate \$4.50 of every \$6 needed, and now they might get up to \$5 but the costs are \$8 not \$6. So why is overhead so high and where does it go? “The Department of Public Works coordinates with many County Departments,” Roberts’ report said, “as well as various local, State, and Federal agencies in administering the County Maintained Road System. These include: the Department of Planning and Building, County Counsel, Central Services Department, the County Auditor – Controller – Treasurer - Tax Collector - Public Administrator, the County Administrative Officer, Caltrans, FHWA [Federal Highway Administration], all incorporated Cities within the County, many of the Special Districts within the

County, many local, State, and Federal regulatory agencies, utility companies, and others.” As the South Bay Boulevard Bridge spans a navigable waterway and sits adjacent to a National Estuary, environmental review work has been considerable. But the County has all permits it needs and stands ready to go forward. Given all this coordinating, the actual construction part seems to be the easiest thing to do, though in actual dollars, it’s where the majority of the money is spent. “Road Fund expenses include administrative charges from the General Fund,” the report said, “such as County-wide Overhead and Liability Insurance, which are necessary to support the Road Fund.” “In the last 5 years these costs have increased by 287%, for a total cost increase of \$4M since 2021. With the exception of a one-time \$875,000 offset for insurance costs in FY 2024/25, these ongoing annual cost increases must be absorbed by the Road Fund.” The County is stuck between a rock and a hard budget reality. Under the Pavement Management program, “Available budget must first be allocated to mandated or necessary work, such as labor, equipment, and materials for roads maintenance and support staff to fulfill the basic requirements for maintenance and safety.” Matching the local costs for the bridge program comes in second on the priority list. “The next priority,” the report said, “is local match costs for capital bridge replacement projects to leverage the 80%-plus of State and Federal funding provided for these projects. This leaves “the Pavement Management Program to absorb budget shortfalls.” But when the bridges need \$7.1M in a single year, “the structural funding challenges for pavement management funding remain an issue.” The County is charged with maintaining some 1,100 miles of paved roads to an acceptable level, and at the current rate, “exceeds the available funding.” He laid out four options for the Board to consider: • Reduce pavement quality goals “to better align with available funding.” • Reduce HBP participation by cancelling projects or extending timelines into future years. • Support Statewide initiatives to stabilize revenue such as mileage-based road usage charges in lieu of gas taxes.

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• Transfer maintenance for roads or appurtenances such as drainage basins or street lighting to others.

Though the staff had asked for ideas on funding, Roberts said he expects they will return to the issue when they discuss the next County Budget. The County Administrative Officer did mention one possible source for the money — Diablo Canyon closure funds.

Pacific Gas & Electric paid tens of millions to the County when it first announced it was closing Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. South Bay Boulevard is the escape route for Los Osos in case of an emergency evacuation caused by the plant, so that expenditure could easily be justified.

Another possibility is to ask voters countywide for a tax increase. SLOCOG had considered putting a sales tax hike on the ballot last November but pulled it off so as not to conflict with a few cities that also had sales tax measures on the ballot.

Roberts confirmed that such a sales tax hike would help their situation considerably. It would provide additional infrastructure monies and general road maintenance money too, he said.

Community Foundation Gets Overdue Honors



Ray Riordan (MBCoC Board Member and Morro Bay Chamber Foundation President; Hannah Held, VP of Community Foundation of Estero Bay (CFEB); Loren Leidinger, Outreach & Development Director, MBCoC Board Member, Morro Bay Chamber Foundation Board Member; Ron Reisner, President of CFEB
Photo by Dean Sullivan

By Neil Farrell

It all started as a noble calling — to help local kids play in the City of Morro Bay’s various youth sports programs — and has grown in both breadth and depth, expanding the opportunities to all the children of the North Coast and covering a variety of recreational programs.

The Community Foundation of Estero Bay, started out as the Morro Bay Community Foundation in 1992 when

then Recreation and Parks Director, Andrea Lucker teamed up with community volunteer extraordinaire Marlene Peter to start a non-profit organization partnership.

Now in 2025, the Community Foundation is being honored as the Non-profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. It’s an over due recognition but one the Foundation is embracing. The Chamber and Foundation have also long had a working relationship.

The Foundation raises money to award scholarships to needy children in town to help pay for youth recreation programs in the only town in the Estero Bay Area that offers recreation programs.

Foundation Board member, Ron Reisner explained that the purpose has been to “Raise money for Estero Bay youth activities and participation in youth sports, recreation and enhancement programs at reduced costs.”

They originally started helping just low-income families, but eventually the parameters for determining who qualifies and who doesn’t changed. At one time they based their help list on which children were getting free lunches at school. That rather personal information is more confidential now, and the way the local schools work now, every kid in eligible for lunch programs, no matter their family’s economic level.

Reisner, who met with the Estero Bay News along with his wife, Ann, and Hannah Held, another board member, said gathering financial information “became problematic.” Also, in the beginning they only support scholarships for the City’s programs.

In 2015 they did a rebranding of the Foundation, making major changes in who they help and the programs they’ll support.

They also changed the way they awarded grants, going from giving money to the families to pay for the programs, to supporting the sports leagues and programs, who then offer discounted costs to the kids.

“We used to have more direct contact with the families,” Reisner said. The awards now channel through a Scholarship Committee. “Now we support the programs,” he explained. “The Scholarship Committee invites a program to make application for funding.” The program would say they’d like funding for 30 children, the grant award would reflect that number.

Held added that the scholarships average about \$200 a child, but “We can raise that to 100% with special circumstances.” They also try to split their awards 50:50 between sports and enrichment programs, like the SLO Symphony for example.

The Symphony runs a “Strings in Schools” program introducing school children to music. The Foundation will give an award to cover just local kids. “We support kids in Los Osos not Arroyo Grande,” she said.

The Foundation Board is due for some changes, as long-time board members Held and Reisner are term limiting off the board soon and need replacements.

In some cases, like with the Little League, they award equipment grants, giving the kids a gift card to sports retailer, Dick’s where they can go shop for what they need.

The list of programs they sow support is lengthy and includes South Bay Soccer, Central Coast Little League, the Cambria Youth Athletic Assoc., which runs soccer, baseball and basketball leagues; Legacy Driven Basketball; Infinite Music; Cayucos After School Program; and the SLO Symphony and the Strings in Schools Program,

And they also support the Morro bay recreation Department and the 14 youth programs — from Aquatics and Fustal, to Junior Lifeguards, and Kids’ Camp.

As for the Chamber Award, all said they welcomed it, especially Reisner, a Chamber member himself, who nominated the Foundation (Chamber Awards for Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Living Treasure, etc. are solicited from the members and voted on by the Chamber Board.)

“I had no expectations,” Reisner said. “I was surprised we never got it before and very surprised when we got the Award.”

If they meet the scholarship policy the committee will look at it and make a recommendation to the Board, Held explained.

Reisner said the Foundation has deliberately “steered clear of religion and politics.”

They had some board members who were interested in DEI, he explained, but after discussions on the Board they decided not to change their policy.

But as with most everything, there are limitations on what types of programs they don’t support. They also don’t support club teams that hold tryouts to join.

Held said their approach to fundraising falls in three categories seeking grants, raising money through events and trying to find someone to make an endowment. One of the big events that went on for many years was the Annual Dixon Spaghetti Dinner, but Held said that one ended several years ago.

“Sometimes you get to the end of event’s life.”

Another event is the Annual Morro Bay Sings, dinner and concert and coming up later this year, if their annual Donor Appeal.

Reisner said when he first got on the board, several entrepreneur-minded people came aboard and focused the efforts on fundraising. “We spent a couple of years going after grants from wherever we could find them, and had some success from that.”

Their endowment fund was set up with the hope it would be successful enough to replace their fundraising.

The Foundation runs about \$70,000 a year. Overhead costs remain low for the all-volunteer Foundation so that they can give out \$50,000-\$60,000 in scholarships.

The other honorees for this year’s Chamber of Commerce Awards are: Business of the Year: Bay Theatre; Citizen of the Year: Linda Winters; Living Treasure: Ray McKelvey; and Luminary Award: Dana Swanson.

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Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Pacific Wildlife Care Facility in SLO



Pacific Wildlife Care board members pose at a groundbreaking ceremony in San Luis Obispo. Pictured from left: Chair Kim Jeffrey; Director-at-Large Kathleen Dillon, team lead for new facility planning; and Kristin Howland, executive director. Photo by Connie Pendleton.

By Connie Pendleton

Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) held its groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, May 7, at the future location of the Kim & Derrel Ridenour Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on the northwest corner of Buckley Road and Esperanza Lane in San Luis Obispo.

A goal of \$11.7M was reached to begin building a 16,000-square-foot facility with an additional 8,100 square feet of animal enclosures.

Dozens of people attended the event, including board members, staff, donors, media and volunteers. PWC Chair Kim Jeffrey introduced guest speakers, Kelsey Shaffer, vice president of the yak tit u tit u yak tilhini (ytt) Northern Chumash Nonprofit Board; Emily Francis, San Luis Obispo City Council member; and Kara Woodruff, district director for Senator John Laird.

Shannon Riggs, DVM, director of animal care for the center, explained the dire need for the new facility. Since PWC's opening in 1984, it has treated more than 40,000 wildlife patients.

"We've done all this from a facility, ...to put it nicely, as many of you can attest, has reached its limits."

In 2013, the facility took in just over 2,000 patients, and last year it treated over 3,100. Riggs said, "We just simply don't have space at our current facility to adequately house, efficiently move animals through rehabilitation, and effectively condition or prepare these birds or animals for release at our current facility."

For the first time, PWC will be able to separate predator and prey species, an essential component of effective rehabilitation. Wildlife will move through stages of care in specialized enclosures designed to match their recovery needs, preparing them for successful release. The new center will offer a hospital-grade environment, allowing staff to deliver expert medical and rehabilitative care in a dedicated space.

The wildlife rehabilitation center, currently located in Morro Bay, is San Luis Obispo County's only facility to provide rescue, care, and recovery for injured and sick wildlife with a goal of returning them back into the wild. It is also the only organization in the county licensed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide for the types of animals in their care.

Construction of the new facility will proceed in phases, and the day-to-day care of thousands of wild patients, especially during the height of baby season, requires ongoing

support. Work is expected to begin at the end of June or beginning of July 2025 on the 10-acre property in SLO.

PWC began with a small group of dedicated home rehabilitators working with a network of veterinarians. It has grown into a successful 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with one full-time wildlife veterinarian, a small paid staff and over 250 volunteers. In addition to treating and rehabilitating its animal patients, it provides a wildlife education program for the public.

New Durangos to Fight Video-Game Driving



An unidentified CHP officer poses with one of the new Dodge Durangos the agency recently purchased to combat what it calls, 'video game-styled' driving. Photo courtesy CHP

By Neil Farrell

It's been said that this younger generation plays video games entirely too much and it's skewed their view of the real world.

Whether that's true or not, the California Highway Patrol is buying a new generation of patrol vehicles designed to combat what it calls, "Video Game-Styled" driving.

"In the real world," the agency said in a news release, "aggressive lane weaving, triple-digit speeds and road rage aren't part of a high-score strategy — they're deadly."

The CHP has a "new generation of low-profile, specially marked patrol vehicles to crack down on what can

only be described as 'video game-styled' driving on our highways."

CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee said, "The new vehicles give our officers an important advantage. They will allow us to identify and stop drivers who are putting others at risk, while still showing a professional and visible presence once enforcement action is needed."

The State purchased 100 new Dodge Durangos and paired with their existing high-performance vehicle fleet including Dodge Chargers and Ford Explorers, "blend into traffic just enough to observe the most reckless and dangerous behaviors without immediate detection. Once enforcement begins, their markings serve as a clear reminder that safety is the CHP's top priority."

The Durangos do not have an emergency light bar mounted atop the roof, which is perhaps the easiest way to detect when "Johnny Law" is in your rear view mirror.

The emergency lights are instead mounted inside the cab at the top of the front windshield. The vehicles are also not painted black and white, the traditional colors associated with law enforcement.

In that regard they deploy a similar sneaky strategy long used by the CHP, which has used pure white patrol sedans (Camaros) for many years.

The CHP said there are over 390,000 car crashes each year in California and nearly 1,000 reckless driving reports phoned in every day. The new sneaky patrol vehicles should help them with enforcement.

"These new tools will help our officers hold the most egregious violators accountable," the news release said. "Last year, CHP officers issued almost 18,000 citations to drivers speeding over 100 miles per hour."

Speeding is a major cause of about 30% of crashes and a major contributor to traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Speeding "is particularly dangerous because it decreases reaction time, extends stopping distance, and intensifies the severity of crashes," the release said.

The agency dispatched 25 of these high performance Durangos spreading them out across the state. All 100 of the vehicles "will be strategically placed along California's busiest, high-risk roadways by June."

They said their goal is to improve safety on California's crowded highways. "Our goal remains the same: reduce injuries, prevent fatalities, and restore a sense of safety on California's roadways."

"We urge all drivers to obey speed limits, avoid aggressive behavior, and share the road responsibly."

SLO County Declares May 'CalFresh Awareness Month'

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors proclaimed May 2025 as "CalFresh Awareness Month," highlighting the program's vital role in alleviating hunger. CalFresh, California's version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), currently serves more than 31,000 San Luis Obispo County residents. The proc-

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lamation comes as Congress considers proposals that could cut SNAP funding by 10 percent or more.

“With CalFresh providing 10 meals for every one meal provided by food banks to people experiencing hunger, our partnership is more vital than ever before,” says Molly Kern, SLO Food Bank CEO. “To meet the increased food insecurity caused by a 10% cut to SNAP, the SLO Food Bank would need to double in size.”

The CalFresh Alliance—a collaborative effort between the SLO Food Bank, Department of Social Services, County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department, and community partners—is dedicated to increasing enrollment among eligible residents.

“CalFresh supports the health of our community and our local economy,” says Garrett Frice, Community Wellness program manager at SLO County Public Health Department. “As an economic engine, CalFresh provides over \$6 million in benefits to the residents of our county every month. That investment supports individuals, grocery stores, farmers’ markets, local businesses, and agriculture producers. CalFresh also helps ensure every person in our community has the food they need to live a healthy life”

In honor of CalFresh Awareness Month, the SLO Food Bank and Department of Social Services are offering one-on-one application assistance appointments on Fridays from 3 – 5:00 p.m. in May at the SLO Food Bank Pantry.

“We want to make the process as simple as possible by walking applicants through the application from start to finish,” says Robb Koch, CalFresh program manager at the Department of Social Services. “Our trained staff can help community members complete their applications and understand the process in a supportive environment.”

For more information about CalFresh, to make an application appointment, or to apply for benefits, go to calfreshslo.org.

Congressional Women of the Year Named



Retired County Clerk, Julie Rodewald has been named a 2025 Congressional Woman of the Year for Dist. 24, by Rep. Salud Carbajal.



Lisa Kawamura of Arroyo Grande, a Cal Poly lecturer and union leader, was named a 2025 Congressional Woman of the Year by Dist. 24 Rep. Salud Carbajal. Photos courtesy Rep. Carbajal

By Neil Farrell

Our local Congressman has named the 2025 Congressional Women of the Year for Dist. 24 and two local women have been honored.

Congressman Salud Carbajal (D — Santa Barbara) named Alison Wales of Lompoc; JoAnne Meade Young of Santa Barbara; Lisa Kawamura of Arroyo Grande; Cherie Eulau of Ventura; and, Julie Rodewald of Los Osos for the honors.

“Each year,” Rep. Carbajal said, “I am inspired by the extraordinary women who are shaping the future of the Central Coast. The 2025 Women of the Year winners

represent the very best of our region —leaders, educators, advocates, and public servants — who have dedicated themselves to uplifting others and driving meaningful change.”

“The Congressional Women of the Year Award,” reads a news release from Carbajal’s Office, “honors exceptional women across the 24th Congressional District who have made a positive impact on their communities. Winners span a variety of backgrounds and professions and represent the thousands of women working tirelessly to improve the quality of life on the Central Coast.”

The honors amount to having their names and their stories entered into the Congressional Record, the official documentation of the activities of Congress, and will receive a special commemorative pin at a ceremony that will be held at a later date.

Rodewald, a long-time Los Osos resident, was the elected County Clerk-Recorder for about two decades, capping a long career running the County’s elections.

“Julie Rodewald’s dedication to democracy and public service,” Carbajal said, “has shaped lives in San Luis Obispo for decades. She served for 33 years in the Office of the SLO County Clerk-Recorder, ensuring everyone had the right to vote.”

Now retired for over 5 years, her service continues. “Even in retirement,” the news release continued, “she continues to advocate for voting rights. She serves on the Board of Directors for the SLO County League of Women Voters and launched the Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow, Today initiative, which registered or pre-registered over 3,500 local high school students.

“She worked with the Latino Voter Engagement Project to help Spanish speakers in the community exercise their right to vote, and even helped create a short film, Forever Voters, to inspire civic engagement. Julie’s dedication to ensuring every citizen exercises their right to vote is truly inspiring.”

The other local honoree, Kawamura of Arroyo Grande, is an executive at Cal Poly.

“Lisa Kawamura is currently president of the Executive Board of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Faculty Association union, Carbajal’s news release said. “She fights to ensure that her colleagues receive the pay and treatment they deserve.

“As a woman of color, she is particularly supportive of other women-of-color faculty and encourages them to speak up for themselves, no matter who else is in the room.”

Her main work is in the classroom. “She is also a 27-year lecturer in the Department of Communication at Cal Poly SLO, where she has taught hundreds of students public speaking.

“Lisa has been a featured speaker at the SLO County Women of Color Network’s annual Women of Color Symposium 2-years in a row. Through her leadership, advocacy, and teaching, Lisa Kawamura continues to empower both colleagues and students, leaving a meaningful mark on the Cal Poly community and beyond.”

CHP on Lookout for Aggressive Driving

The Highway Patrol is on a campaign to combat aggressive driving, which as anyone who regularly drives Hwy 1 between San Luis Obispo to Morro Bay can attest, is a problem on the State’s highways.

“Aggressive driving,” reads a news release from the CHP, “has increasingly become a major cause of concern for many road users.”

The CHP uses a pretty broad definition of what consti-



tutes aggressive driving, and frankly, it’s a safe bet anyone with a license has done some or all of these bad behaviors.

“Aggressive driving is any unsafe driving behavior,” the news release said, “such as tailgating; cutting in front of another driver and then slowing down; and blocking vehicles from passing or changing lanes; performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for the safety of others.”

The ultimate aggressive driving leads to road rage. “Extreme cases of aggressive driving can escalate to road rage. Road rage is aggressive or violent behavior that occurs between drivers on a roadway.”

Road rage usually starts with something insignificant, like an unsafe lane change that elicits a middle finger salute. “Road rage can start off with rude gestures,” the CHP said, “including yelling, insults, threats, and throwing objects at vehicles; and quickly escalate to conduct such as ramming, sideswiping, forcing a driver off the road, or threats to injure, kill, or harm another individual.”

The Templeton CHP office recently conducted an anti-aggressive campaign on Hwy 46 leading out of Paso Robles, one of the most heavily traveled roadways in SLO County. They risked writer’s cramp, so many tickets were written up.

On May 9, “CHP Templeton Area, in conjunction with CHP Coastal Division Investigative Services Unit, conducted a proactive enforcement detail targeting aggressive driving in San Luis Obispo County.

“During the operation, units were strategically located throughout the major corridors of US-101 and State Route 46 based on recent data extracted showing the highest locations of known aggressive driving.”

Patrol officers were on the lookout for aggressive drivers and apparently found them everywhere.

“During the operation, numerous traffic citations and warnings were issued and one investigation was completed identifying a potential aggressive driving incident, which led to a multi-vehicle traffic crash.”

The CHP issued a friendly warning about this type of unsafe behavior — how to avoid it and how to respond when you can’t. “The CHP would like to remind everyone if you find yourself in this type of situation, remaining calm and courteous behind the wheel lowers your risk of an unpleasant encounter with other motorists.”

Rules of the road to remember include: “maintain adequate following distance; use turn signals; allow others to merge; use your high beams responsibly; tap your horn if you must (but no long blasts with accompanying hand gestures); be considerate in parking lots and park in one spot, not across multiple spaces; and, be careful not to hit cars next to you

Aggressive Driving Continued on page 6

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Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Hiking and Biking at Righetti Hill



A view from a trail at the newly opened Righetti Hill Open Space area. Photo courtesy of City of SLO

The City of San Luis Obispo formally opened the 51-acre Righetti Hill Open Space with a public ribbon cutting ceremony at the trailhead at the corner of Twin Creeks and Hillside Drive.

Righetti Hill, one of the City’s striking Morros, helps meet the goals for accessible and inclusive open spaces and now features over two miles of sustainably built trails:

- Quarry Trail – a hiking only ascent to the 563foot peak for 360degree vistas of Cerro San Luis, Bishop Peak, South Hills, Islay Hill and Edna Valley.
- Roadrunner Roundabout – an easy hiking and biking trail the traverses all the way around the hill.
- Bunny Hops – a purpose-built downhill beginner’s mountain bike trail designed especially for kids.
- Creek Corridor Pathway – a concrete surface pathway and familyfriendly bike path along a scenic creek corridor with neighborhood connections.

“These trails showcase the best of San Luis Obispo – unparalleled scenery, careful conservation and a community that rolls up its sleeves to make good things happen,” said Robert Hill, sustainability and natural resources official. “Thank you to every neighbor who helped shape the conservation plan and to the volunteers who put boots on the ground and tools in the soil.”

The project team, led by the City’s Office of Sustainability & Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation Department, installed new trails, informational and education signs and kiosks, and new picnic bench seating area. Field crews and volunteers logged hundreds of hours building trails, planting trees, and restoring habitat.

Online Petition to Save Morro Elementary



A group of folks who want to prevent the sale of the former Morro Elementary School site have started an online petition on Change.org — search Morro Elementary.

The petition, by Dawn Schoennauer, educational advisor with Family Partnership Charter School Morro Bay Montessori Learning Center, reads, “For nearly 90 years, Morro Elementary School has served generations of Morro Bay children, families, and educators. Its closure and potential sale impact our community, displacing local programs, disconnecting us from our shared history, and threatening access to a beloved public space that has long been a center for learning, creativity, and connection.

“If this school is sold or repurposed for private development, we lose more than just a building, we lose a piece of our identity. The original 1936 structure and the architecturally significant 1954 additions by architect Frank Wynkoop represent rare and irreplaceable examples of educational innovation and sustainable design. It is a cultural landmark, a place of learning, and a shared memory for generations of Morro Bay residents. The original building, built during the New Deal era with federal grants and land donated by the Quintana/Huerra family, represents a time when our community came together to build a new school in one year from start to finish! It holds significant architectural, educational, and social value. Once it’s gone, we can’t get it back.”

Ideas listed as potential uses for the site include: New City Center- move the city government into a space that reflects Morro Bay’s character; civic resource center hosting town meetings, voting booths, and public information services; a nonprofit collective space with shared offices and meeting spaces for local nonprofits and service groups; intergenerational housing that combine affordable units for seniors and young families or educators, fostering mutual support and community connection; and several more.

Bill for SLO County Businesses Passes Assembly

Assemblymember Dawn Addis’ (D-Morro Bay) bill aimed at supporting small business and economic development in San Luis Obispo County got a green light from the Assembly.

AB 1008 would authorize the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to issue up to 10 new on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses over a two-year period, bolstering business for local restaurants, wineries, and tourism spots along the Central Coast.

“AB 1008 is about increasing vital source of revenue for SLO County,” Addis said in a news release. “This legislation supports our visitor serving businesses, restaurants and tasting rooms to expand their offerings while the federal government’s erratic policies and tariffs create a downturn in tourism – a vital part of the Central Coast economy. I am proud to author legislation that will help our communities thrive.”

AB 1008 is sponsored by the County of San Luis Obispo and supported by a coalition of tourism and business organizations.

“Each year, nearly 7.5 million visitors are drawn to the beauty of San Luis Obispo County,” said Supervisor Dawn Ortiz Legg (District 3), “Thanks to Assemblymember Dawn Addis and the passage of AB 1008, which provides Type 47 liquor licenses, the hospitality industry will now have expanded opportunities. This initiative supports small businesses and boosts local economic growth.”

AB 1008 now moves to the State Senate for consideration.

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

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Aggressive Driving

From page 5

with your door.”

They recommend avoiding any confrontations, after all if someone is hotheaded enough to go into a road rage, who knows what they are capable of doing. “If you find that you have agitated another driver,” the CHP said, “do not react or retaliate. This will only cause the situation to escalate.”

Also, “avoid eye contact with angry drivers; do not respond to aggression with aggression; keep your distance; have passengers record the incident; if possible, have an escape route; do not drive home if the aggressive driver continues to follow you; and if you feel you are at risk, call 9-1-1 and drive to a police station.”

And, “If you are confronted, stay as calm and courteous as possible. If you feel threatened, call 9-1-1,” the CHP recommends. “Be prepared to give the description of the driver, vehicle, license plate number, location, and direction of travel.”

And remember, the CHP is on the lookout for aggressive drivers, much the way they focus on drunk driving enforcement during certain times of the year, like St. Patrick’s Day and New Year’s Eve, so don’t get caught up in an incident like this. The authorities could potentially place at least some of the blame on you.

“The California Highway Patrol takes aggressive driving and road rage seriously and will actively investigate these incidents.

“Road rage can lead to a 6-month driver license suspension and may even lead to misdemeanor or felony charges.”

They are asking anyone who is a victim of road rage and asks people to report it when it occurs. “The public’s assistance is essential to combatting aggressive drivers and road rage. Anyone who witnesses this type of behavior is encouraged to call 9-1-1 and report the incident.

“The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of safety, service, and security.”

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6 May 22, - June 4, 2025 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Odd Fellows to Send Students on Pilgrimage

By Neil Farrell

A pair of Morro Bay High School students will join nearly 100 students from the U.S., Canada and several other nations, for the 2025 Pilgrimage for Youth program, sponsored by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and their sister organization, the Rebekahs.

The I.O.O.F. recently held a small dinner to congratulate the two students selected to participate on the trip, which first began being offered in 1949. Those students are Joaquin Cuellar, 16, a junior at MBHS and Vena Frier, 15 and a sophomore.

Qualifying for the trip entailed writing an essay, Cuellar explained, exploring how the United Nations handles current global issues.

That simple description belies the competitiveness of the essay contest that’s open to high school students from all over.

“This unique educational program,” reads a description of the Pilgrimage program from the I.O.O.F. website, “brings high school students from around the world to study and participate in discussions concerning world affairs, as well as making new and lifelong friends.”

The organization goes on to say that in 2025 there will be 82 students participating from 23 different countries.

The speech contest winner was Stella Stein of Pennsylvania, the website announced, and she will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Second place went to Lily Carter of Alberta, Can., plus a \$1,000 scholarship.

Locally, the I.O.O.F. Lodge 300 raised money for the trip through several fundraising events, in particular several very successful jigsaw puzzle exchanges, where puzzlers bring in old jigsaw puzzles and exchange them for others they haven’t completed yet.

Asked how he became interested in the Pilgrimage for Youth Program, Cuellar said he happened upon a notice for the contest in the school counseling office. “I was there looking for job opportunities,” he explained, “and it sounded interesting and fun.

Frier, who takes part in the school’s championship Mock Trial team said she’s interested in going to law school and becoming a lawyer working in diplomacy. “I thought this was a good opportunity,” she said, to practice her diplomacy.

The essays were about 600 words or so and Frier said it amounted to about two pages of text. Cuellar said his essay dealt with human rights and the U.N.’s approach to ensuring those rights are respected, especially in Third World countries. Among the issues he touched on was how the U.N. ensures what should be universal concerns, like safety for workers. “They’re trying their best,” he said of his research into the matter. “They are doing some good things.”

Frier’s essay dealt with something that’s long been an issue locally, fishing, more specifically “global fishing and how the United Nations handles over-fishing.”



Morro Bay High junior, Joaquin Cuellar, at left, stands with Odd Fellows Lodge 300 member, Glenn Goodwin, who organized the Lodge’s essay contest, and at right, is MBHS sophomore, Vena Frier. Cuellar and Frier were selected for this year’s Pilgrimage for Youth trip to the East Coast. Photo by Neil Farrell

Over-fishing has long been an accusation made by regulators and environmentalists when seeking to further restrict especially commercial fishing. “It is a universal idea,” she added.

Frier said she has her sights set on attending Stanford University when she graduates in two years, to study political science with an ultimate goal of going to law school, too.

Cuellar is less committed at this point to any particular school. He said he doesn’t have a specific school in mind to attend but he does want to study environmental science, no matter which school he picks. “My aunt is a biologist,” he said. “She’s been helping me.” He may take advantage of Cuesta College’s free tuition offers for local high school graduates.

The Pilgrimage’s itinerary looks pretty full. They arrive in Philadelphia on June 28 and travel up to New York City. They’ll be in the Big Apple June 29-July 4, visiting all the tourist sights and of course the U.N.

They’ll spend July 4-5 in Boston and take in all of Bean Town’s storied history.

They’ll visit Niagara Falls on July 6; the Gettysburg Battle site on July 7; and then spend July 8-9 in Washington D.C. A visit with POTUS apparently isn’t on the itinerary but they’ll visit the major tourist sites in the Nation’s Capital. (And if they do tour the White House, there’s always a chance that this President could stop by and say Hello.)

They go back to Philly on July 10 and fly home again on the 11th. It’s quite a trip that’s been planned and the local Lodge is happy to be able to fund a couple of students this year.

According to the I.O.O.F. website: “Each student will take part in comprehensive discussions with other students from around the world and make new and lifelong friendships. Also, students will experience one of the greatest cities in the world, New York, attend a Broadway play, visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, tour the 9/11 Memorial, Philadelphia, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Gettysburg and Washington, D.C.”

Cuellar is a local boy who was born in San Luis Obispo and has lived in Los Osos “my whole life.” He’s a runner having been part of the school’s Cross Country and Track teams and he also works summers for the school district.

Frier said she was born in Utah and her family moved to Morro Bay in 2015, and then to Los Osos in 2016, where they still live.

Nigel Paul Photography at Cambria Center for the Arts



Anna’s hummingbird feeding on Pride of Madeira nectar. Photo by Nigel Paul.

By Connie Pendleton

“Animal Magic: Our Local Wildlife Striking a Pose,” is the title of a studio exhibit by Cambria photographer Nigel Paul. It is currently on display at the Cambria Center for the Arts (CCA) and continues through June 29.

One of Paul’s stunning images of the area’s wildlife includes newborn fawns that have just stood up for the first time. A determined-looking great blue heron, a buck shedding its antlers, and a ground squirrel that looks like it is whispering a secret to another, also grace the exhibit.

During an afternoon interview, Paul described capturing animals that are looking right at him. He said, “They are engaging with you.” Just like a studio photographer who helps human subjects feel comfortable in front of the camera, he focuses on patiently helping animals do the same. He waits quietly with minimal movement to ensure they are relaxed before raising his camera. He shows respect for wildlife; if he perceives any signs of anxiety, he quietly backs away.

Paul described an encounter with fox kits, visiting a location early in the morning over three consecutive days. Three cubs finally appeared from out of their den under a fallen tree to greet their mother, who had returned. He was able to take a picture with two of the three looking at him as they playfully moved about. He also recounted how he saw a bobcat in his yard one day and was able to quickly grab his camera. He opened his back door as the animal moved away from him. After making a quiet noise to encourage the animal to turn its head around, he was able to capture it looking back at him.

Another photographic interest includes classic cars. He has gained more and more experience taking pictures at car shows in a variety of locations such as Paso Robles and the renowned Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance. He enjoys shooting photos of moving automobiles and uses his technical skills to capture that motion.

Nigel Paul was born in London, England. He enjoys a successful live sound engineer career for many nationally and internationally renowned recording stars. After moving to the United States over 30 years ago, he took up photography to document his new surroundings and tours. He has put a pause on his work in the music industry and is now seriously pursuing his passion in photography.

He has wildlife note cards available for sale at the CCA exhibit. They are also available at a few shops in Cambria. More information is available on his website, nigelpaulphotography.com.

CCA is located at 1380 Main Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m.

Viewpoint

Morro Bay Roundabout Should be Buried Once and for All

On April 22, Morro Bay’s City Council halted an ill-conceived roundabout at the intersection of Highway 1 and Main Street that would cost our citizens years of construction headaches, untold expenses, and create an unsafe situation for pedestrians.

The Roundabout Project at Highway 41 & Main Street has been in discussion since the 1990’s. Back in 2002, a 35 page “Initial Study and Checklist” was published which included a site plan proposal (<https://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9738/Roundabout-Final-MND-92002?bidId=>). This project was eventually rejected and allowed to die a natural death. . . until it was resurrected around 2014 and promoted by the same Council that would have voted to allow a BESS on our Embarcadero. The cabal was voted out of office.

And now the ghost is back to haunt us. Twenty-five years later, Cal Trans has proposed virtually the exact same layout. The roundabout was supposed to increase capacity, smooth out the traffic delays and improve pedestrian safety. As designed, it would do nothing to address these concerns. As our City grows, especially anticipating the expansion of housing east of Highway 1, the development of the Power Plant Property and the increasing popularity of our beach areas, this proposal will be outdated before it is complete. The roundabout Cal Trans proposed, then and now, is inadequate and short-sited.

Our Council heeded the residents that know and use the intersection every day. On April 22, our City Council responded to Morro Bay citizens’ overwhelming wish to kill this proposal once and for all. In public comments and written correspondence, opposition to the roundabout outnumbered supporters by nearly two to one.

Our Council has been accused of ignoring the recommendations of “experts.” The experts site national crash data to make their “safety” case for roundabouts, in general, using a reduction of head-on and T-bone collisions to illustrate their point. However, I doubt this data takes in to account daily use by hordes of distracted off-campus high school students. Roundabouts are designed for vehicles, not for pedestrians. Regardless of what the experts say, crosswalks as a “feature” in a roundabout are insane solutions to pedestrian safety. The crosswalks in the current proposal (see page 59: <https://pub-morrobay.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=3210>) look like a hopscotch board, and the students themselves describe it as a game of “Frogger.” But there are real-world consequences. The point of a roundabout is to yield to the traffic on your left without stopping, so a driver will always concentrate their attention to the left. Pedestrians trying to cross from the right are often unseen. Similarly, there are no accommodations for bicycles or the disabled.

Accepting a \$12 million grant could be a deal with the

devil, not the windfall that the developers would like us to believe. Private property would have to be acquired to complete the roundabout. If the property owners resist, we may be in for a lengthy and expensive legal battle over eminent domain. CalTrans and SLOCOG have committed funds, but who will pay for the cost overruns? A pedestrian bridge has been suggested, but it is not in the budget. No consideration has been given to the south-bound off-ramp and the dangerous left turn needed in order to head east. Will the businesses affected be compensated? Will we lose tourists during the years of construction chaos? How will concerns over flooding be handled? There is no “free lunch”.

I lived and worked in Arroyo Grande 40+ years ago when Oak Park Road, the Frontage Roads & off-ramps from Hwy 101 all converged at an intersection very similar to the one under consideration in Morro Bay. The solution has been safe and successful: The north- and south-bound off-ramps were relocated so that the Hwy 101 traffic emptied on to the frontage roads about 1/4 mile before the Oak Park Road overpass. The Oak Park/Hwy 101 intersection was therefore simplified, and the entire flow of traffic (vehicles and pedestrians) are managed by broad lanes and well-timed traffic lights.

Similarly in Morro Bay, we have the perfect opportunity to “fix” the flow of traffic between the Quintana & Main

Viewpoint Continued on page 21

Police Blotter



• **May 11:** The warrant squad was apparently on the job as logs indicated officers roused three wanted people at three different locations. At 4:30 p.m. they found one scofflaw in the 2000 block of Main; at 5:30 p.m. they nabbed another in the 300 block of San Gabriel; and, at 10:27 p.m. they caught the third louseketeer in the 400 block of Monterey.

• **May 10:** Police responded at 5 p.m. to the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., for a reported battery at the Morro Bay Mobile Station.

• **May 10:** Police responded at 10:37 a.m. to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Market. Logs chalked it up to a mental health matter.

• **May 9:** At 11:02 p.m. police clocked a speeding car at Main and Radcliff. Logs indicated the driver was arrested for suspicion of driving honked with a speeding ticket thrown in for good measure.

• **May 8:** Police started a report for identify theft by an unknown chiseler, at an undisclosed location, but it was listed as a felony.

• **May 8:** Someone at Hill and Bayview reported getting ripped off of some undisclosed and apparently not too valuable treasure. The case was a misdemeanor.

• **May 7:** Police in the 700 block of Quintana caught up to a delinquent with a bench warrant outside Albertson’s Market.

• **May 7:** At 9 p.m. in the 500 block of Quintana, police caught a crook at the Catch a Wave Salon.

• **May 7:** Police responded to the 300 block of Kings for a report of stolen car parts, as apparently another catalytic converter got converted into cash.

• **May 7:** Police responded to the 3300 block of Panorama Dr., for a vandalism report.

• **May 7:** Police took a report of suspected child abuse at a home in the 1600 block of 14th St. in Los Osos.

• **May 7:** At 7:30 a.m. police contacted a suspicious subject at the USA Gas Station in the 1700 block of Main who had a bench warrant and was allegedly found in possession of drugs with two or more prior convictions for drugs. No word on whether Congress is planning a protest.

• **May 6:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 9:40 p.m. in the 800 block of Quintana. The weapons grade moron had an out-of-county warrant, yet another case of arrive on vacation and leave on probation.

• **May 5:** Police responded to the 900 block of Balboa for a report of some tortured soul getting annoying, threatening or harassing phone calls, a problem that a blast in the earhole with an air horn usually cures.

• **May 5:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow traipsing along in the 300 block of Surf, who had apparently been playing a little ring-around-the-nosey.

• **May 5:** Police responded at 9:41 a.m. to a watering hole in the 900 block of Main. Logs indicated the alarm was

sounded at The Siren after someone apparently used a fake credit card. Logs indicated additional charges of theft of personal property, using a false ID with someone else’s credit card and criminal conspiracy were also listed. And, someone had apparently found something worth handing over to police.

• **May 5:** Police responded at 8:31 a.m. to a hoo-ha-ha in the 600 block of Harbor. Logs indicated they nicked a ululating slizzard and issued a 1-way ticket to Palooka-ville.

• **May 4:** At 1:12 p.m. the police posse rounded up another wanted doggie in City Park and lassoed him or her into another court appearance.

• **May 4:** Two cars went badda-boom in the 600 block of Harbor at 11:39 a.m. No apparent carnage resulted.

• **May 3:** At 7:43 p.m. police contacted another dingus on the lam from a felony bench warrant in City Park on Harbor Street.

• **May 3:** Police returned to the City Park honey hole where they contacted a suspicious subject who they discovered to allegedly be in possession of a crack pipe.

• **May 3:** At 7 a.m. police towed away an apparently slacker vehicle parked for too long at Main and Harbor.

• **May 2:** Police responded at 8 p.m. to a disturbance as some apparently schnockerod knot head was pining for trouble on Piney Way at Morro Bay Boulevard.

• **May 2:** Police responded at 9:19 a.m. to Todd’s Garage in the 900 block of Quintana and apparently ticketed a car parked on the street with expired tags, which no garage can fix.

• **May 1:** Some scoundrel got into a parked car in the 800 block of Ridgeway stealing undisclosed treasures.

• **May 1:** Some petty thief committed petty theft in the 1300 block of Main.

• **May 1:** Police responded to Micky-D’s in the 700 block of Quintana for a reported case of grand theft, you want fries with that?

• **April 30:** A suspicious subject with a bench warrant turned himself or herself in at the police station, as sometimes they just jump in the boat.

• **April 30:** Police responded at 6:39 p.m. to the 700 block of Quintana for a reported fender-bender.

• **April 30:** Someone in the 500 block of Embarcadero reported that petty theft was afoot at 5:30 p.m.

• **April 30:** Someone at the Family Partnership Charter School in the 1100 block of Napa found something of no doubt great importance and turned it over to police.

• **April 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 a.m. at Main and Beach. Logs indicated the driver had a suspended license for a DUI and had allegedly taken off the car’s court-ordered, interlock device, used to make sure saucy folks don’t drive stewed.

• **April 29:** Police responded to the 500 block of Bernardo for a grand theft report. No word on what money, labor or property was stolen, swindled or defrauded.

• **April 29:** Police responded to the 700 block of Quintana and met with Chuck’s Towing on some informational matter.

• **April 29:** Police responded at 10:44 a.m. to a traffic collision in the 400 block of Little Morro Creek Rd.

• **April 28:** Police responded at 11:43 p.m. to the 500 block of Atascadero Rd., for a reported case of felony false imprisonment.

• **April 28:** Police responded at 4:25 p.m. to the 2200 block of Emerald Cr., where someone had checked out of paradise and into Heaven.

• **April 28:** Someone broke into another car in the 300 block of Quintana and stole enough stuff to constitute a felony grand theft report.

• **April 28:** Some apparent unknown sinner committed felony vandalism at St. Timothy’s Catholic Church in the 500 block of Piney Way, for which you can rest assured there was at least one unimpeachable witness, God.

• **April 26:** Police got in motion at 7:40 p.m. to City Park on Harbor Street for a notion of some kind of commotion. Logs indicated some joker got a snoot full then went about disturbing the straights. He or she got a citation.

• **April 26:** Someone found something of some value somewhere by Morro Rock. Police have it now.

• **April 24:** At 8:30 p.m. someone reported being robbed, as unknown scalawags broke into a parked car to pinch the booty.

• **April 26:** Police encountered some unnamed miscreant fellow with a bench warrant. Logs, in their newfound thoroughness and in the sense of non-disclosure, didn’t say where or who or how many, but it happened at 12:53 a.m.

• **April 25:** Police responded to Albertson’s Market at 10:18 p.m. for a reported shoplifter taking the ol’ 5-finger discount. Logs indicated the secret shopper had prior petty theft convictions making this one a potential felony, so they’re in real trouble now.

• **April 25:** Police responded at 1:42 p.m. to a burglary report at a fast food and indigestion joint on Main Street. Logs indicated some bandito desperado had looted Taco Bell and no doubt then made a run for the border.

• **April 25:** Police logged a report for something somebody had found at an undisclosed, and apparently super secret location, presumably in town. So if you lost something and don’t know where, hey it might be yours.

• **April 25:** At 10 a.m. someone reported a case of alleged felony vandalism and defacement of property. Logs didn’t give a location or the nature of the skullduggery.

• **April 25:** Police responded to a reported car crash at 8:34 a.m., so if you got stuck in traffic, now you know why.

• **April 24:** Police got a report of theft from a vehicle, as the tourist tax gets collected once again.

• **April 24:** Police contacted a familiar foe at 9:11 p.m. at Central Coast Glass in the 400 block of Quintana. The scofflaw was issued another disappearance ticket and released.

• **April 24:** At 8:15 p.m. police responded to an undisclosed location in town where some soul had died, and if you’re reading this, it wasn’t you.

• **April 24:** Police responded quickie-quickie to the Harbor Hut Tiki-Tiki on The Embarcadero where some chiseler had bounced a rubber check.

• **April 24:** Police espied a suspicious vehicle at 2:17 p.m. and cited the slacker-mobile for expired registration.

• **April 24:** Someone came to the police station and turned over yet more stuff they found somewhere in town.

• **April 23:** At 2 p.m. police responded to a disturbance someplace in town (we guess they’d rather not say), and apparently cited the disruptive Falstaffian Disciple of Bacchus for getting drunk and disorderly.

• **April 21:** Police responded at 3:18 p.m. to a report of some tortured soul being harassed by some harasstartd with repeated harassing phone calls, for which a call block apparently wouldn’t work.

• **April 21:** Another offensive vehicle was cited someplace in town for parking in one place too long.

• **April 21:** At 8:11 a.m. police responded to yet another reported car burglary. Logs didn’t say where this was.

• **April 21:** At 7:45 a.m. police took a report of truancy as apparently some hooligan decided school was out today, or maybe the surf was up.



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OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

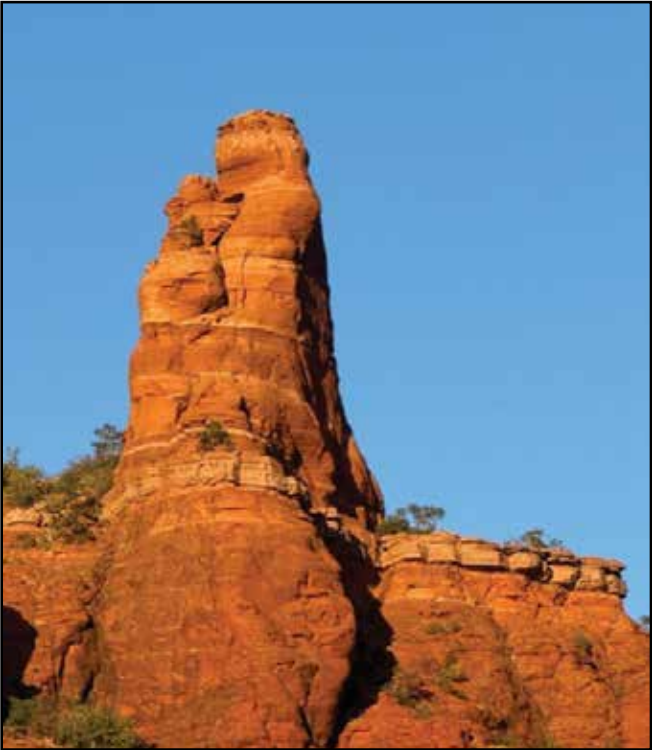
THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

Finding My Muse

By Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich



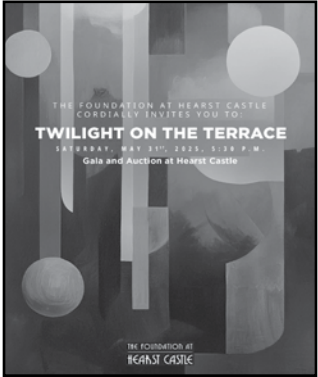
Mother and Child at sunset.
Photo by Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich

I’ve always been a creative person, and I go through phases of brilliance (at least in own my mind) but spend most of my time just wishing I could be motivated to write, paint, draw, create. All things I love to do, yet don’t feel inspired. So, I took a little vacay to Sedona, Arizona, where the red rocks have always spoken to me. I’m in a little VRBO studio apartment near the crest of Chapel Hill, a space that used to be an art studio, with the rust-colored monolith in front of me. The studio has a dome-shaped sunroom: the stunning red rock riding tall ahead, the Chapel of the Holy Cross to my left, and a rock formation called “Mother and Child” to my right. Today is Easter Sunday, and I’m watching the sun rise,

creating a halo directly behind Mary’s head, as she stands resolute, hugging her baby boy. I’m not religious. After graduating from parochial school, I lost my love for religion when I was thirteen. I tried keeping up with it in high school, but just couldn’t get inspired. Over the years, without conscious thought, I fell into atheism, and soon after, I was leaning more toward agnosticism. More years went by, and I became what is commonly referred to as spiritual. But I’m feeling a surge of spirituality and energy I’ve never experienced. Of course, I’m sitting in or very near one of Sedona’s famous vortexes, so that might be part of it. My creative muse has been snoozing for years, poking his head out every few months to play hide and seek. But today I feel him standing in front of me, jumping up and down, waving his arms to get my attention. He’s not hiding now, he’s right here, asking me for a hug. Just the fact that I’m sitting here and writing, after a loooong dry spell, leads me to believe that I’ve stumbled into his embrace. And my muse even arrived with a name. Elliott. The name of the painter who designed and built the little sunroom where I now sit. George Elliott, the very brilliant and successful painter whose energy still resides here (as does his art). I’m taking this as a message. Remember that I identify as a spiritual person. But I’m hard wired with a relationship to Mary, Jesus, Joseph — the whole gang. After eight years of Catholicism, pretty much three hours a day, that little family is embedded deep within my soul. So much so, that I thank “baby Jesus” every day of my life. Whenever something goes my way, be it a near-miss car accident, an avoided tumble, a line opening at the grocery store, you name it, I look up and say, “thank you, Bobby” (yes, his name has devolved). I rarely ask for things, almost never, but I consistently show my gratitude. He’s my buddy, my guardian angel. When I went through hospice training in the ‘80s, religious leaders from seven denominations came to speak to us on how their church views death. I found it one of the most fascinating and enlightening discussions on both life and death, from different religious perspectives. Each pastor/priest/rabbi/deacon had beautiful insights, and my main takeaways from each were quite similar — forgive, do good, love your fellow man, listen to your God. My interpretation? Be kind. So today I’m being kind. To myself. I’m giving my soul permission to listen to Elliott. I’ll be keeping my muse in my heart and bringing his energy back to Estero Bay. And I’m pretty sure this new inspiration will stay with me, after all, Morro Bay also has a big rock, and it is said to be a vortex. I think I had a muse all along, he just had a really good hiding place.

Roaring ‘20s and Fashionable ‘30s Gala

History lovers will soon get a chance to attend a cocktail party similar to the thrilling soirées hosted by William Randolph Hearst in the roaring ’20s and fashionable ’30s. Scheduled for Saturday, May 31, “Twilight on the Terrace” is The Foundation at Hearst Castle’s signature annual fundraising event, set against the breathtaking backdrop of one of California’s most iconic landmarks. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., party goers will experience an unforgettable evening of toe-tapping jazz by Alex Mendham and His Orchestra, exquisite cocktails, and local fare. The gala will end with a riveting auction featuring treasures from the Central Coast and beyond. One lucky winner will even get the chance to travel to Greece and see the place that inspired the castle’s famous Neptune Pool! Funds will support children’s educational programs and the preservation of Hearst Castle’s irreplaceable treasures. “Twilight on the Terrace is not just a celebration of Hearst Castle’s rich history, but a crucial opportunity to secure its future,” Foundation Executive Director Doug Jenzen said. “This event helps support our mission to preserve this iconic landmark and inspire the next generation of visionary historians, scientists, and artists.” Funds raised at the gala will directly benefit children’s educational programs like the STEAM Program, which includes a custom tour of Hearst Castle and a guided exploration of nearby San Simeon Bay and pier. The program combines science, technology, engineering, art, and math to make a lasting impact on children from traditionally underserved communities. To purchase tickets, visit foundationathearstcastle.com/twilight-on-the-terrace-2025 or call (805) 995-9720.



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Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The annual celebration of all things scarecrow is earlier than usual this year — a prelude to the summer solstice. Join the Scarecrow Solstice Soiree at Camp Ocean Pines for an evening of local wines and small bites while enjoying a beautiful sunset. It all takes place on June 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. DJ Ponce will provide music for your listening or dancing pleasure. Come wearing your best sun hat creation, and you may be selected for a prize by anonymous judges quietly circulating among the crowd.

Enjoy wine from these local providers: Absolution Cellars, Cayucos Cellars, Cutruzzola Cellars, Moonstone Cellars and Parr Collective Tasting, Bassetti Vineyard, Harmony Cellers and Hearst Ranch Winery.

Tickets are \$60 and are available at my805tix. This event helps fund the annual Cambria Scarecrow Festival.

Casa Ramos Art Gallery, home to the artwork of John Ramos and others is holding a raffle fundraiser to benefit the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, a non-profit organization tackling food insecurity in Estero Bay.

Set to mobilize the community to care for our neighbors, this campaign focuses on raising funds to provide school kids with food to eat on the weekends, when they're off campus and at risk of going hungry.

The prize is "No Dings" by Jonny Miller, a sustainable art piece that can be used as a bench or table, indoors or out. It's made with recycled redwood, copper, and a well-loved surfboard. For the cost of a ticket, folks can win a \$950 piece of functional artwork, and 100% of ticket sales will go towards feeding our vulnerable neighbors.

The drawing is live until June 14, the day before Father's Day. Raffle tickets (1/\$25, 3/\$65, 6/\$100) can be purchased in person at Casa Ramos Art Gallery in Los Osos, Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Casa Ramos is trying to find ways to reach the

community and do what we can to enhance people's lives whether it's through art or through fundraising, we want to make a difference— and benefiting the Kindness Coalition is a no brainer," said Elena Ramos-Peffly, owner of Casa Ramos Art Gallery. "We've been supporting them for a long time, and we love the work they're doing for local school kids."

For more information about the Kindness Coalition, go to esterobaykindnesscoalition.org. For more information about Casa Ramos Art Gallery, go to losososart.com. The gallery is located at 1034 Los Osos Valley Rd.

Local award-winning author Debbie Noble Black is inviting kids and parents to join her at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay on Saturday, June 7, from 1-3 p.m. for a book signing event for her latest release, "The Old Secret at Hotel Oregon." This second book in her historical fantasy series for kids ages 8-12 finds 10-year-old Sara in the notoriously haunted Hotel Oregon faced with the impossible task of rescuing twelve ghost children from eternal oblivion before the end of a fast-approaching eclipse. She needs help from a mishmash cast of "ghost clothes" worn by real historic characters, but also from her snarky, uncooperative older brother.

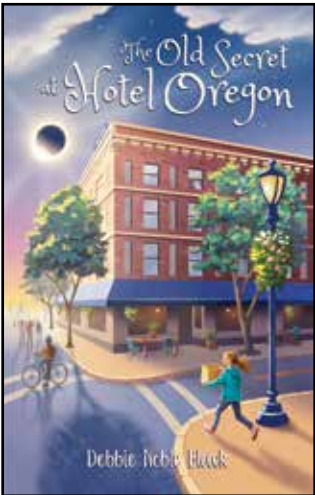
Book one in the series, Deetjen's Closet, recently won First Place in the Gertrude Warner International Middle Grade Fiction Awards. Both books will be available at the signing or can be purchased from local bookstores, Bookshop, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.

The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble's Spring concert is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31, in Spanos Theatre. Highlights include a set of Syriac love songs, and the world premiere of "here & there" by ensemble director Ken Habib, which he will perform with guest artists Ishmael on qanun; Fathi Aljarrah on kamanja; Rafid Yalda on nay, and Faisal Zedan on riqq, daff, and darabukka. Jenna Mitchell will lead the dance troupe. Tickets are \$22 for general admission and \$12 for students. They can be purchased at pacslo.org.

People Helping People, South Bay Seniors, springtime rummage sale takes place Friday, June 6 from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades, Los Osos.

The rummage sale offers something for everyone such as household goods, tools, furniture, collectables, toys, books, jewelry and more.

People Helping People distributes food every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and they lend medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs and more. They also sponsor the Annual Needs & Wishes Holiday Fundraiser and monthly Community Dinners.



The iconic Classic at Pismo Beach Car Show is set to return for its 39th annual celebration. Recognized as one of the largest classic car shows on the West Coast, the event attracts over 75,000 visitors and showcases vintage and custom vehicles along the streets and pier of downtown Pismo Beach.

This free, family-friendly event is nostalgic and fun for all ages. Parking can be limited during the event, so attendees are encouraged to stay downtown, arrive early, carpool, or use local ride services.

Schedule Overview:

- Thursday, May 29: Vendor and sponsor setup; VIP Cocktail Hour at Vespara Resort Hotel
- Friday, May 30: Registration opens; Gold Class car selection; live music and vendor exhibitions
- Saturday, May 31: Opening ceremony with Color Guard; Show & Shine; charity auction; Sunset Cruise Parade
- Sunday, June 1: Final day of Show & Shine; awards ceremony; live music performances

A live charity auction takes place during the event, offering attendees the chance to bid on unique items and experiences. Proceeds from the auction will benefit meaningful causes, including the Folds of Honor Foundation, the Ronald

Events Continued on page 12

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Community

Events From page 11

McDonald House, and the Pismo Beach K-9 Program.

For a detailed schedule and more information, go to www.theclassicatpismoeach.com.

...

It's time for Trans Pride in the Park. On Sunday, June 1, Meadow Park in SLO will be made into a vibrant celebration of trans, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming joy, resilience, and community. This year's theme — Then, Now, Forever — is a powerful reminder that queer and trans people have always been here, and always will be.

During an exceptionally difficult year, gatherings that uplift joy and community matter more than ever. It's a day of celebration for all the love in our community with plenty of opportunities to make art, connect with friends and family and learn more about the affirming resources we have right here in SLO County.

Come support the local vendors, artists, and organizers who make it all possible. All ages welcome and allies are encouraged to attend. Grab your chosen family, a picnic blanket and get ready for a beautiful afternoon in the park from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

...



The Cal Poly “The Sacred Veil” choir concert is at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 1, in the Performing Arts Center. Named for Eric Whitacre’s momentous work, the concert

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focuses on themes of struggle, hope and healing. Cantabile presents Abbie Betinis’ “A Blessing of Cranes” about Hiroshima atomic bomb victim Sadako Sasaki; and PolyPhonics and Chamber Choir will perform “The Sacred Veil,” featuring a student cellist and dancers, and pianist Paul Woodring. Tickets are \$17 and \$22 for general admission and \$12 for students. They are available at pacslo.org.

...

Art Center Morro Bay presents the MBAA Illuminations exhibit joined with the Central Coast Artists Collective of Photography and Fine Craft juried exhibit through June 23.

Illuminations: Reflections and Shadows - We see them in a mirror, a pond, or a puddle. It could be your face, the light from the sky, or the silhouette of a scene shining on a surface. Illuminations is an MBAA members-only exhibition that dives into the study of light and the ways it reveals, transforms and inspires. Whether through literal depictions of light sources or metaphorical interpretations of enlightenment and clarity, this exhibit encourages creativity in showcasing how illumination can shift perspectives and bring hidden aspects of life into focus. From radiant bursts of color to subtle shadows, artists are called to interpret how light shapes our world and evokes emotions, offering unique insights into the interplay between light and darkness.

CCAC Photographers and Craft makers: Central Coast Photographic Society and the Craft makers Coalition join forces for an exhibition in the Russell Gallery (upstairs), running concurrently with “Illuminations” downstairs. Member artists display recent works, highlighting variety in technique and subject matter.

For more information, go to www.artcentermorrobay.org or call 805-772-2504.

Photo credit: Golden Flash by Bill Rumbler

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library and start your summer reading challenge. Curiosity Cabinets at each library – you will have to come in to see them! It all ends on August 9 with a huge celebration party at Cuesta College.

- Paws to Read – Wednesdays, 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School age.
- Storytime - Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. - 11a.m. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.
- Mobile Health Clinic – first and third Wednesdays of each month, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Reproductive health care provided by CAPSLO's The Center Mobile Health Care Clinic.
- TMHA Van - Fridays, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Transitions Mental Health Association provide services, referrals, supplies to unhoused individuals.
- SLO many questions about the Pismo Preserve – Thursday, June 5, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Join us for an informative presentation about one of the jewels of the Central Coast, the Pismo Preserve.
- Art Party – Friday, June 6, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Unleash your creativity at our monthly art party. Use your imagination to make unique art pieces using beads, paper, pens, pencils, scissors, glue and more. All materials provided, you bring the inspiration. Preschool, school age, and tween.

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Atascadero Pride

Atascadero Pride returns to Atascadero Lake Park for the second year in a row — marking the fourth Atascadero Pride event — on Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Atascadero Pride is a family-friendly event for the entire community to come out and celebrate with the theme “Love Changes Everything.” It's a chance for the community to come together in a show of unity, joy, and inclusion. Everyone is welcome to join in a day filled with color, compassion, and connection. This free event is all about celebrating love in all its forms and will include: music and dancing; weddings in the gazebo — bring your marriage license; roller skating, skate rentals, and instruction; food vendors and artisan booths; community resources and creative activities; the San Luis Obispo Blood Mobile will be on site; children's activities; prize drawings throughout the event; and a special musical performance by acclaimed actress and singer Karole Foreman.

Events Continued on page 14

Mobile/manufactured home in a fantastic location! 321 Lark Avenue is situated in Quail Run Estates on a desired corner lot. The 2 bedroom, 2 bath home is 1488 square feet and lays on a permanent foundation. The living room offers plenty of sunlight and desired vaulted ceilings. There even is an attached 2 car garage. Quail Run Estates is a 55 years and older gated community for active seniors. Amenities include pool, tennis courts, a clubhouse, scheduled community activities, plenty of guest parking and RV parking.

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Vacation Rental seat must be owner or manager of a licensed Vacation Rental or Rental Company within Morro Bay City limits.

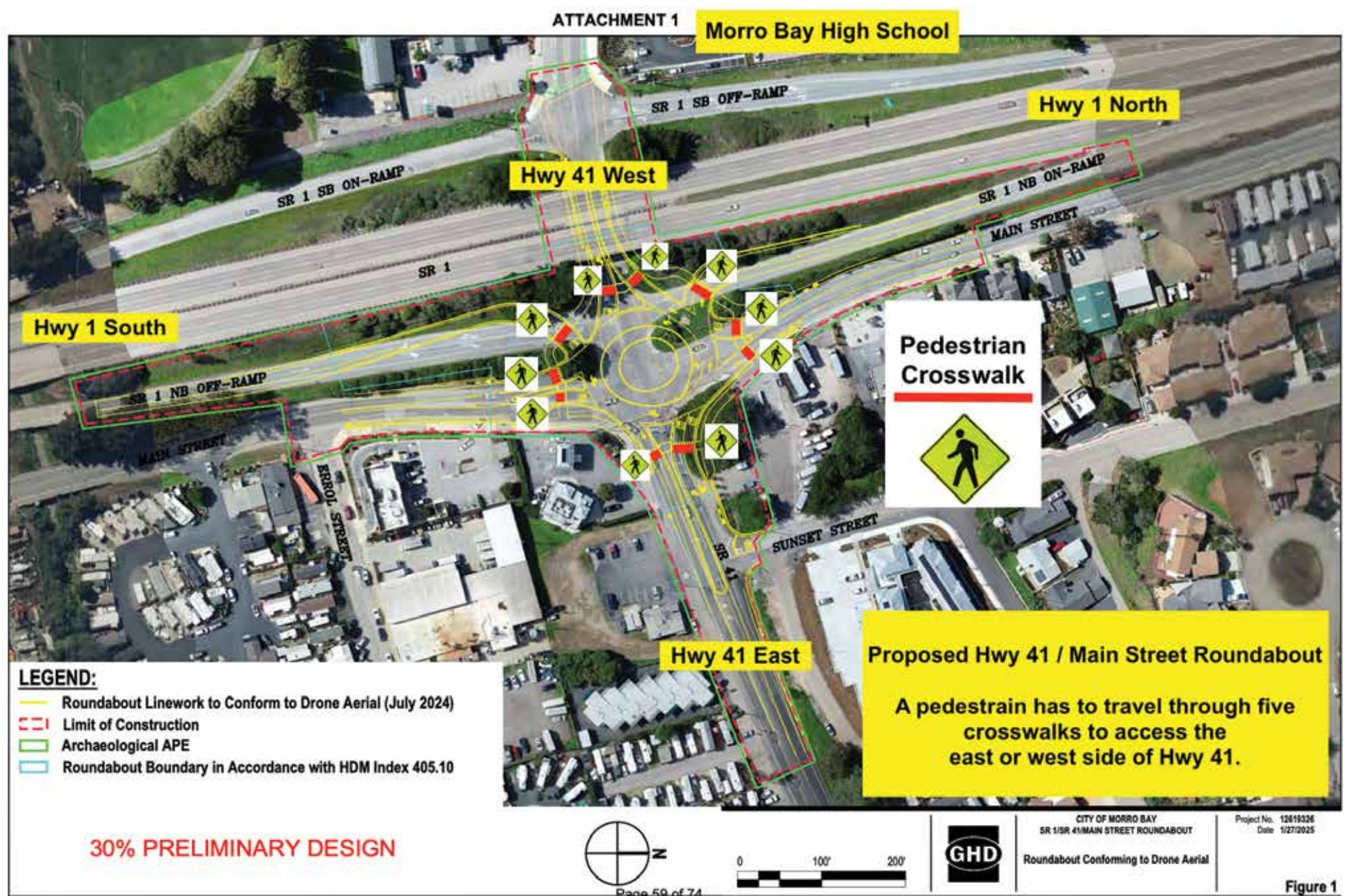
Find out more information at: www.morrobay.org/board-of-directors/

Deadline for applying - May 24th, 2025

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Tell the City Council:

1. You want an action plan now.
2. You want a "no" vote on the EIS, so the roundabout does not move forward.
3. You want a "yes" on local control; a "no" to any roundabout to protect student safety.

Email the City Council: council@morrobayca.gov
Attend City Council meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 5:30pm at the
Vets Hall on Surf Street where the decision will be made.

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Community

Events From page 13

Be part of the celebration by becoming a vendor or sponsor, signing up to be a volunteer, or plan your wedding moment in the gazebo. Details and applications available at atascaderopride.org or email atascaderopride@galacc.org.

This May, Meals That Connects joins the nation in celebrating Older Americans Month recognizing the countless contributions of older adults and reaffirming the commitment to supporting their health, independence, and engagement in community life. With the 2025 theme, "Flipping the Script," this year's celebration focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. Guest Speaker Michelle Clark will discuss Healthy Aging on May 27, at 11:30 a.m. at the Los Osos Open House at South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave. Admission is free.



Holy music, Batman. The Cal Poly Music Department has a few shows slated in early June. Cal Poly's Jazz Ensembles will present a "Sounds of



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Harmony" concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 6, in Spanos Theatre. Guest vocalist Inga Swearingen will join the Vocal Jazz Ensemble for its set, including "Centerpiece" by Harry Edison and "Company" by Rosana Eckert. Four Jazz Combos will perform a mix of standards and original student arrangements, and the University Jazz Band will play selections by Les Hooper, Jeff Jarvis, Mike Tomaro and others.

The Cal Poly Symphony will perform the final compositions of Sergei Rachmaninoff, Richard Strauss and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7, in the Performing Arts Center: the first movement from Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances," Strauss' "Im Abendrot" ("At Sunset") with guest soprano Amy Goymerac, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor. David Arrivée will conduct "The Last Works" program.

The Wind Bands' "Edifice" Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 8, in the Performing Arts Center will focus on how sound and space interact within architectural constructs. The program will include Peter Meechan's "James Webb's Pillars (From A Starry Night)," "Dreams of an Architect" by Joshua Ideo, Frank Ticheli's "Angels in the Architecture," and "Cathedrals" by Kathryn Salfelder. Clarinetist Sarra Hey-Folick will be featured on Scott McAllister's Led Zeppelin-inspired "Black Dog Variations."



NATURAL HISTORY NUGGETS California Cool

By Dean Thompson

Many years ago, while working with 6th graders during a field trip at a state park picnic area, we heard a terrified scream coming from behind the door of the outhouse. It turns out a snake had crawled under the outhouse door and was now between a student and her freedom. It really is remarkable how long and loud a little girl can scream. After managing to get the door open, we saw the girl perched on the top of the toilet, pointing a trembling finger towards the offender. There, coiled up in the corner, was a skinny, 6-inch garter snake whose jawbones were probably aching from the high-frequency screams being emitted. After picking the snake up, I tried to show the



A northern Pacific rattlesnake relaxes by the trail. Photo by Dean Thompson

student how harmless the poor little creature was, but she was having none of it and ran off. Over the years, many polls have revealed that Americans are more terrified of snakes than any other animal, spiders run a close second. Many times, those fears are tied to cultural and family traditions or fears. Or perhaps it's popular media's representation of snakes with fangs and venom. California is home to 46 species of snakes, but only six contain venom. Of course, these snakes should rightfully be given their space and respected.

Here on our coast, we are lucky in a couple of ways. We only have one venomous snake, the northern Pacific rattlesnake, and the ones that live along our coastal plain are some of the mellowest rattlesnakes you will ever encounter.

I've worked in Montana de Oro for over 35 years and see numerous rattlesnakes every year. I can count on one hand how many times encounters with these lovely creatures were aggressive. The vast majority of rattlesnakes in Montana de Oro are the epitome of the laid-back, coastal Californian. There've been times when they were coiled up along the side of the trail, remaining motionless until they realized 20 kids were looking at it and snapping pictures. Then they would slowly slide off into the brush or down a nearby hole, not even buzzing their tail. A far different response than I've received from western diamondbacks in the Mojave Desert.

Rattlesnakes are beautiful, fascinating creatures with unique traits. Males can have some of the highest testosterone levels of any animal and like lizards they have two penises, called hemipenes, one for each teste. In humans and most other mammals, sperm from both testes is mixed prior to mating, so males from those animals have just one chance to inseminate before they need a "refractory period" to recharge (you know what I mean, guys, right?). A snake (or lizard), on the other hand, can mate with one female and then use his other hemipene for another female soon after if the opportunity arises.

The females also have some surprises in their physiology. Females can store the male's sperm in their bodies for up to eight years and then give live birth, sometimes from several different males. Some females have even been observed to have given birth asexually! Once born, the females are very caring mothers working with other females to care for their young in "nurseries" for about 10 days until the babies undergo their first shed, then go off on their own.

Perhaps I've given you a different perspective on our scaly friends, and if you're walking along hoping to see one of these striking creatures, keep your eyes open along the sides of the trails or near holes, rocks, or logs. I tend to see them on the coast most often on overcast days in the summer rather than sunny ones. Being ectotherms, they rely on their surroundings to manage their body temperature. The combination of warm ground with a cloudy sky is perfect snake weather!

Dean Thompson is a naturalist and storyteller who has worked as an educator and field biologist for the past 42 years, primarily in the Estero Bay area. His writings, titled "BrainFodder - Ruminations of a Naturalist", can also be found on Substack.




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Sports

Final ‘Athletes of the Month’ for 2024-25



Morro Bay High student/athletes, Lilah Green (left) and Sage Olivas of the Track & Field team are the school’s May 2025 Athletes of the Month.

By Neil Farrell

As the school year winds down so too does the prep Asports year at Morro Bay High School. The Athletic Boosters Club has named its final Athletes of the Month for the school year, and a pair of track runner and a jumper have been given the honorary nod for May 2025.

The Boosters have been honoring student athletes every month for several years now, as nominated by their coaches. The kids have been selected for their achievements on the field of battle and leadership off the field, as well as their sportsmanship and academic achievements.

“For the month of May, the MBHS Athletic Boosters would like to congratulate the following student/athletes: Lilah Green and Sage Olivas,” the Boosters Club said.

Boys and Girls Track and Field

Track Coach Jennifer Frere nominated Green and Olivas for the final honors for the 2024-25 school year. Green has done amazingly well during this her senior year, and in a variety of events.

“Lilah,” Coach Frere said, “is a 4-year track athlete for

the Pirates. She competes in the sprints, hurdles, jumps and pole vault.

“Lilah always has a positive attitude and challenges herself at practice and meets. This year she qualified for the West Coast Relays and has set personal bests in the 100 meters, 200m, long jump and hurdles.”

Green is among the best long jumpers in the State. “She is currently ranked second in CIF for the Long Jump,” Coach Frere said. “Her goal is to continue track at American University in Washington, D.C. in the fall.”

Olivas is in his first year competing for the Pirates. “Sage Olivas is a freshman stand-out,” Coach Frere said. “Sage competes in the sprints and just set a personal best in the 400m with an incredible time of 53.83 seconds.”

Olivas’ dedication to his sport goes above and beyond. “He challenges himself at every practice,” Coach Frere said,

“doing the hard work that it takes to get stronger and faster. Sage also ran track at Los Osos Middle School and Cross Country for the Pirates this past fall. We are looking forward to great things from Sage in the years to come. Good luck at League Finals!”

The Boosters Club sends along it’s thanks to the coaches and the school. “For all the student/athletes and their coaches for the entire academic year of 2024-25, thank you from your Athletic Boosters! Your dedication and efforts are truly appreciated and you have helped make MBHS have another fantastic school year!”

Estero Bay News also wants to thank the coaches and student-athletes competing for MBHS this school year. You’ve done amazingly well and made your school and your community proud. Go Pirates!

Champions From page 1

country and basketball. It also marked a milestone for Cross Country Coach, Jennifer Frere (née Locavara), who became the first person in school history to have her name on a championship banner as both a player and coach. But the coach’s name appears not on a “team” banner but is listed on a separate banner among a small handful of athletes who won State Championships. Also on hand was legendary cross country and basketball coach Cary Nerelli, whose name appears on the other four girls championship banners and several boys banners as well. Each girl got a fabulously cool Super Bowl-like ring as a gift.



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Sports

Pirates Win in 9th; Make Quarterfinals of CIF

Story and photos by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High School’s magical baseball season survived the first round of the CIF playoffs, topping a scrappy team from Justin Garza H.S. in Fresno, 5-4 in extra innings.

The third seeded Pirates advanced to the quarterfinals and set up a match-up at Mission Oak, which defeated Fresno High 4-2 in their first-round game. Mission Oak, 18-8-1 on the season, is ranked sixth in Div. III of CIF Central Section.

Morro Bay improved to 24-5 on the year and was the undefeated, 12-0, Champions of the Ocean League. The quarterfinals game is set for May 21 in Fresno.

Against Garza, the Pirates’ Eli Brown pitched six solid innings and left in the seventh ahead 4-2.

But Garza scraped out two runs in the top of the seventh to notch the score, then held on in the bottom of the inning to force extra innings.

The Pirates’ Jack Deovlet smacked a single to right field to drive in the winning run. Colton Whilt was on the mound in the 9th to record the win.

The Pirates got two hits from Frankie Ainley and one apiece from Quentin Crofts, Deovlet and Joseph Skaggs.

As a team the Pirates knocked nine hits and played error-free defense. They were aided by three wild pitches from the Guardians, at least two of which scored Pirate runs.

The Pirates continued their hot streak and lived to fight another day in what is arguably the best baseball season in school history.

The Pirates, if they get past Mission Oak on the 21st, would face either Hoover or Hanford in the semifinals on May 23. Winning that game would put them in the Central Section Div. III Championship game, scheduled for May 29.



Morro Bay’s Jack Devolet slides in safe at home, scoring Morro Bay’s fourth run on a wild pitch. That’s Byron Erkenbra, No. 22, who was at bat when the run scored.



Eli Brown snaps off a breaking ball against Justin Garza High of Fresno.



Frankie Ainley scores a run for Morro Bay.



Starting pitcher, Eli Brown, gave Morro Bay six solid innings on the mound.



Morro Bay’s Byron Erkenbra connects against Garza High of Fresno.

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By Theresa- Marie Wilson

May Madness Returns to Cayucos May 24

The Cayucos Chamber of Commerce invites all to the party of the year, May Madness, on Saturday, May 24, at 6 p.m. in the Cayucos Elementary School auditorium. This festive evening features a dinner, exciting auctions, and over \$5,000 in prizes and giveaways, all to benefit the town's beloved 4th of July celebration.

- Guests will enjoy a fun-filled night complete with:
- Live auction featuring exclusive local experiences and items
 - Silent auction with one-of-a-kind treasures
 - A crowd-favorite Wine Pull for a chance to score premium bottles

May Madness is the only fundraiser that supports Cayucos' full lineup of Independence Day events, including the fireworks show, Front Street Faire, public safety, sanitation, and event permitting. With rising costs across the board, community participation is critical to keeping these cherished traditions going strong.

New this year, the Chamber has introduced something special — VIP Sparkler Tables. These upgraded tables include reserved seating for eight, appetizers, desserts, bottles of wine, and table service, creating an elevated experience for those looking to celebrate in style. VIP tickets can even be hand-delivered locally, golden ticket-style.

Tickets start at \$200 and are available at Sea Shanty, Schooners, Edward Jones or online at cayucoschamber.com/shop/may-madness-tickets.

For full details on the 4th of July festivities, including parade information, the sand sculpture contest, fireworks schedule, and more, go to www.cayucoschamber.com/july4th.

Arts Bring in the Bucks



San Luis Obispo's creative spirit isn't just inspiring; it's an important part of the local economy.

A countywide report recently released by the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council (SLO County Arts) reveals that arts and cultural activities within City limits attracted 1.1 million attendees in fiscal year 2024, supported 718 jobs (full-time, part-time and seasonal), and had a total economic impact of nearly \$27 million.

Arts and cultural organizations play an important role in supporting the tourism industry as well. The report estimated that San Luis Obispo visitors who attended arts and cultural experiences on their trip generated \$99 million in spending, supported 1,763 jobs, and had a total economic impact of about \$163 million in SLO.

"From our murals and sculptures to world-class performances and festivals, creativity is woven into everyday life in San Luis Obispo — and the study illustrates how that contributes to our economic and cultural vitality," said City Manager Whitney McDonald. "The insights from this report will help inform our future programming and

investment in this sector, in alignment with our Major City Goals."

The report notes the City's decades-long commitment to the arts to helping the sector thrive. The City invests about \$2 million annually in arts and culture, including in its public art program, community promotions, placemaking activities, cultural activities, and low-cost lease agreements with various arts and cultural organizations.

Officials say the City is proud to have one of California's first municipal public art programs and continues to set aside 1% of capital improvement plan funds annually to support public art projects. This investment alone has resulted in more than 100 permanent art pieces that everyone can enjoy for free. The City's public art transforms parks, streets, and plazas into open-air art galleries celebrating the local culture and natural environments.

The City has also provided significant one-time grants to arts and cultural organizations in recent years to various individual projects, including nearly \$4 million toward the new SLO REP theatre capital campaign.

The report also notes that focus group participants identified several challenges and opportunities for the sector, including strengthening the financial sustainability of arts and cultural organizations, increasing affordable artist housing and venues, expanding audience engagement, and deepening cross-sector collaboration and investment.

Commissioned by SLO County Arts with funding support from the City of San Luis Obispo and the City of Paso Robles, the study is the first comprehensive look at the creative economy in a decade. Researchers from PolicyCraft Institute combined surveys, economic modeling, and focus group data to capture the sector's reach across tourism, employment, and community wellbeing.

The full Creative Economy Report is available at slo-countyarts.org/creative-economy-report.

Spokes Expert Event

The Spokes "Ask an Expert: Fundraising" presentation takes place on May 27 from Noon to 1 p.m. The event takes place on Zoom and is \$25 for general admission and \$10 for Spokes members.

Spokes Ask an Expert is a series of small-group learning sessions that bring together nonprofit leaders and staff with local experts to explore timely and relevant topics. This session, dedicated to Fundraising, is designed for organizations that may not have a Development Director.

Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in advance and engage in live discussions during the session.

The following topics could serve as a basis for generating questions:

- Developing a Fundraising Strategy
- Donor Cultivation & Retention
- Priority of Fundraising Campaigns and Channels
- Messaging and Storytelling
- Evaluating Data to Measure Success
- Board Engagement
- Managing Donor Data
- Grant Writing

Time with the expert and space are limited. Submit your question(s) at registration. Register to receive the log-in information at spokesfornonprofits.org under classes/workshops.

Cozy Faber is the Deputy Director of Partnership and Giving at AGE Africa, a nonprofit providing life-changing opportunities to young women in Malawi through targeted initiatives in education, mentoring, and leadership development. Prior to AGE Africa, Cozy served as the



Development Director at SLO Classical Academy. She proudly serves as President of the Association of Fundraising Professionals' SLO Chapter and actively participates in local and online fundraising forums.

Organizers ask that attendees have your camera on during the session

The League of Women Voters to Register Voters at Mission Plaza

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County will provide voter registration and other voter services at Pride in the Plaza on May 31 and again at the Juneteenth Celebration on June 14.

Pride in the Plaza, the centerpiece of Pridefest 2025, runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 31. Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and marks the day in 1865 when Union soldiers announced the end of slavery in Galveston, Texas. The Juneteenth Celebration takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 14. This year's theme is "We're Still Here – Standing Together."

"The rights of American voters are under attack," League representatives said. "From gerrymandering voting districts; to erecting barriers to register to vote or change your name, address or political affiliation on your voter registration; to challenging the legitimacy of vote-by-mail, efforts to suppress the vote and limit the franchise are alive and well in our nation and our state.

"The League seeks to ensure that all qualified Americans are registered to vote. To register or update your registration, to learn your rights, visit the League booth at Pride in the Plaza on May 31 and again at the Juneteenth Celebration on June 14."

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County is a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to people 16 years and older, of all gender identities. With more than 100 years' experience.

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Woody and Arlo Guthrie Tribute Concert in Cambria



Performers gather on stage at a 2024 tribute concert at Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre. Photo by Donald Atkins, courtesy of Songwriters at Play. By Connie Pendleton

A tribute concert to legendary folksingers Woody and Arlo Guthrie is slated for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre (CCAT). Music will include a wide range of topical ballads and broadsides, including songs from Woody’s album, “Dust Bowl Ballads,” and Arlo’s hits like “City of New Orleans.”

The concert includes local and regional performers. The duo Bay Love, Bev Prayer, Chet Perryess, and Holly Anne Lewis are local favorites. The Dennis and Laura Show hail from Carpinteria, and Kern Richards and Steve Bannon from Southern California. Home to the Santa Cruz region are Michael Gaither, Woody Bell, and the brother-and-sister duo Kai and Lola Guthrie.

The late Woodrow Wilson (Woody) Guthrie (1912-1967) was a composer, singer, songwriter, and activist who was one of the most significant figures in folk music. He also wrote children’s songs. Developing a lifelong love of traveling the open road, Woody hitchhiked, rode trains, and walked across the country. He played music and took whatever small jobs he could to help support his family.

Along with a group of musician friends, he used music to support social causes, such as union organizing, anti-Facism, and peace. He was an advocate for truth, fairness, and justice. In addition to his best-known work, “This Land Is Your Land,” he wrote over 3,000 songs.

His son, Arlo Davy Guthrie (b. 1947), performed and recorded his father’s music and created his own. Arlo’s most well-known song, “Alice’s Restaurant Massacre,” is an 18-minute humorous storytelling of the time he was refused induction into the army on the grounds of a criminal conviction for dumping garbage. It is played widely during Thanksgiving time. He is renowned for combining his storytelling with traditional folk music. Arlo is also well known for covering Bob Dylan songs and joining Pete Seeger in concert tours. Many enthusiasts know Arlo as the ‘A’ in the quartet, HARP, which included Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, and Seeger.



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The show is produced by Songwriters at Play, the husband-and-wife team of Steve Key and Bonnie Wilson-Key. Other tributes they have brought to CCAT include the music of Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, Dolly Parton, Willy Nelson, James Taylor, Carole King, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan.

CCAT is located within Cambria Center for the Arts at 1350 Main Street. Reserved seating is \$25 and for CCA members, \$20. More information and tickets are available at <https://cambriaarts.org/shows-and-performances/>.

References: woodyguthrie.org and arloguthrie.com.

Lost at Sea Ceremony Set for May 26

Memorial Day is when we remember and honor the fallen soldiers who perished in defense of the nation. But in Cayucos it’s also a time to remember all souls lost at sea, military and civilian.

The 23rd Annual Lost at Sea Ceremony is set for 3 p.m. Monday, May 26 at the Cayucos Pier.

The ceremony will feature prayers, readings and speeches, a bell ringing ceremony and the moving, MIA/POW ceremony that honors the men and women who never returned from war and whose fates are unknown. There will also be bagpipes and a performance by the Cuesta Concorde Chorus singers.

The ceremony recognizes Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, and Merchant Mariners lost at sea; and civilians — commercial fishers, pleasure boaters, and even folks like surfers and divers who perished at sea.

Most of these unfortunates were lost without a trace



Airplanes from the Estrella Warbird Museum conduct a flyover at the 2023 Lost at Sea Ceremony in Cayucos. This year the ceremony is set for Monday May 26 at 3 p.m. Photo by Neil Farrell

and so there are no graves where loved ones can go to mourn their passing. This ceremony honors them all.

The ceremony culminates with a procession down the Cayucos Pier where a floral wreath is thrown into the water to a rifle salute and the playing of Taps. Airplanes from the Estrella Warbird Museum in Paso Robles, are also slated to fly over the Pier and perform the Missing Man Formation (weather permitting).

The ceremony is free to attend and always crowded, so if you want a seat, come early. It should last about an hour.

Surf Camp BBQ, June 7



A barbecue and auction benefiting Project Surf Camp (shown here in 2018) is set for noon-4 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at Movement for Life Physical Therapy Clinic, 890 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay.

Tickets are available now for the Annual Summer Barbecue benefiting Project Surf Camp and hosted by Movement for Life Physical Therapy clinic in Morro Bay.

The barbecue and auction fundraiser is set for Saturday, June 7 from noon to 4 p.m. at Movement for Life, 890 Shasta Ave., across from the Morro Bay Library.

Suggested donation is \$15 for the meal. Various auction items will be available to bid on, with proceeds going to support Surf Camp.

Project Surf Camp is a non-profit organization that uses surfing, the beach, ad other modality to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficiency in people of any age with special needs.

Run by volunteers, the day camp takes the campers

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and introduces them to the ocean/beach environment and teaches basics of wave riding, all in an incredible fun and inspiring experience.

The Morro Bay City Recreation Department is a partner with Surf Camp, which is supported by several other local civic organizations and numerous volun-

teers.

This summer’s schedule runs from June 11 to July 12, see: <https://project-surfcamp.wildapricot.org> to register for the camp. Home Page is at: www.projectsurf-camp.com.

For information about the barbecue, call 805-772-4325.

A Dose of Good Dogma Venn Diagram of Behavior

By Lisa Ellman

I’ve started using the concept of a Venn diagram to help my clients get a clearer picture of their dog’s behavior. A Venn diagram is basically a model for visualizing concepts and relationships. The middle, main circle, is called the “union” or “intersection.” That’s where all the other closed circles meet and overlap (refer to Google for visual). There may be a dozen or so that overlap and eventually manifest as the overt behavior that we see at the intersection. Practically all of what dog owners often refer to as “bad” or “inappropriate” behavior is not one discrete behavior at all. It is a combination of components (circles). Combinations of nature, nurture, trauma, experience and all the other factors that create behaviors.

As an example, let’s put “fear” in the intersection. Of course, your dog can’t articulate exactly what has made them fearful. It’s up to us humans, as guardian and caretaker to look at and determine the factors to alleviate and resolve the fear behavior as much as possible. Personally, I am afraid of the dark. I don’t know what influences contributed to that, perhaps growing up in Los Angeles (LOL). But I can avoid the dark, I can control my surroundings. Your dog cannot.

If you have a fearful dog, what you might see instead of actual fear are behaviors like offensive leash reactivity, barking, anti-social behavior or maybe a complete lack of social behavior. Additionally, each circle, aside from the nature/nurture, might contain elements such as lack of early

socialization, birth order, absence of structure/routine, insufficient human leadership or confidence, lack of self-confidence, lack of trust, no previous exposure to stimulus, frustration, inadequate activity, inability to utilize natural canine behavior such as sniffing on walks, chasing prey, etc. The possibility factors are abundant!

Just for fun, let’s address a lack of human leadership factor. I’ve worked with many clients on their dog’s offensive leash reactivity. What I’ve noticed is that there is often a lack of confidence in the person. I realize that those canine reactive bursts can be frightening and cause people to freeze or freak out internally. But that’s an essential part of the dog’s reaction. Your dog already senses the change in the human body chemistry and the way the hold on the leash feels when another dog is approaching. So, the human anxiety, fear and tension, transferred directly to the dog, creates a more anxious, fearful, tense dog. Your dog is constantly aware of your energy, whether on leash or off.

Ultimately, you are your dog’s role model: captain, managing director, overseer, however, you want to describe it. Your confidence, leadership, encouragement and guidance are what’s necessary to help your dog work through and overcome not only the behavior that presents itself, but also those hidden away factors that feed into it.

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



or treats.

More information is available on the Chamber of Commerce website, cambria-chamber.org, or by calling (805) 927-3624.

Letters

To The Editor



Pro Roundabout

I use the intersection at 41 and Main Street at least twice a day. As you surely know, it is most congested on weekends. Those people are spending lots of money in Morro Bay. Let’s make it as convenient as possible.

I am in favor of a roundabout. Please go forward with that plan.

*Timothy Daniels
Morro Bay*

Overdevelopment Causing Hazards in Cayucos

It’s well passed time to update the building codes for Cayucos and have them aligned with what Cayucos is today.

The growing desire of property owners in Cayucos to maximize occupancy as well as have buildings constructed that maximum the loss of open space demands a response from our Board of Supervisors and Planning Department.

The current codes allow for overdevelopment which is causing hazards to our citizenry including parking congestion and inaccessibility for ambulances, firetrucks and waste removal trucks as well as water, sewer and run off issues.

Let me provide one illustration/example, it being the situation which has developed on the cul-de-sac block at 6th St. and St. Mary Ave. This very short five home block ends at the foot of a steep hill. A home built this year on a double lot took advantage of the old long standing property line, respected by citizens in the past, and placed their house at maximum legal point towards the street. This reduced the road from 25’ across to 17.’

The two homes built within the last two years have separate apartment rentals on their lots (ADU’s). If all residents on this

cul-de-sac were present, there would be at least 17 vehicles! This does not include guests’ vehicles. The result is extreme congestion, with vehicles having difficulty turning around and getting out. Additionally, garbage trucks sometimes cannot do their job — they have to back up or even walk a distance to get to the cans. Also, ambulances, firetrucks, and post office vehicles have very difficult access. When one neighbor called the county with her concerns about garbage and mail pickup, mail delivery, she was informed people would have to take their garbage cans down to St. Mary Avenue and pick up their mail at the post office. That is not a reasonable system!

It’s clear that development will continue on three of the five lots

(the houses having been built in 1942, ’49 and ’58) in the near or not too distant future. The Planning Department and the Board of Supervisors must act now, get back to the drawing board and design codes that reflect the needs of the Cayucos of 2025.

*Barbara Karush
Cayucos*

Letter 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

Local Love Night, Tonight May 22

By Connie Pendleton

Lively music, dancing, free food, and open houses are the featured activities for “Local Love Night,” set for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22. The Cambria Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the fun-filled event as a “thank you” to the community for their support of the Chamber and village’s businesses.

Free food selections from charcuterie boards will be available at the Visitor Center, 767 Main Street. Folklórico dancers are set to offer spirited performances to Mariachi music at Pacific Premier Bank’s parking lot, 2255 Main Street. Free chips and salsa will also be offered. Participating businesses throughout the village are planning open houses with discounts, special giveaways,

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Morro Bay Chamber 2025 Gala Dinner

Photos by Dean Sullivan

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2025 Annual Awards Gala on May 17, celebrating individuals and organizations who made outstanding contributions to our community in 2024.

This year's honorees exemplify dedication, service, and impact: Linda Winters was named 2024 Citizen of the Year, Ray McKelvey honored as 2024 Living Treasure, Dana Swanson recognized as 2024 Luminary, the Community Foundation of Estero Bay awarded 2024 Nonprofit of the Year, and The Bay Theatre celebrated as 2024 Business of the Year. Guests enjoyed an evening of delicious cuisine, with hors d'oeuvres by Pamplemusse and dinner by Chef's Table Catering, complemented by beverages sponsored by Absolution Cellars, Central Coast Brewing, The Siren, and Mixer Cocktail Co.

"The evening was a meaningful celebration of the people and organizations that help make Morro Bay such a vibrant and connected community," Chamber officials said.

The event's "Beach Ball" theme was brought to life by beautiful table decor and glass floats provided by Under the Sea Gallery. Sponsors were Even Keel Wind, Mechanics Bank, PG&E, Perfect Union, Ten Over Studio, CAPSLO, Peck Planning & Development, Promotions Plus, and Salamacha PR Strategies. The Chamber wished to also thank all who attended, including community members and elected officials such as Assemblymember Dawn Addis, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Mayor Carla Wixom, Morro Bay Councilmembers Jeff Eckles, Cyndee Edwards, Zara Landrum, and Bill Luffee, as well as Clint Werick, Grover Beach councilmember and senior district representative for Senator John Laird.



Linda Winters (left) receives Citizen of the Year from Morro Bay's CEO Dina Lundquist



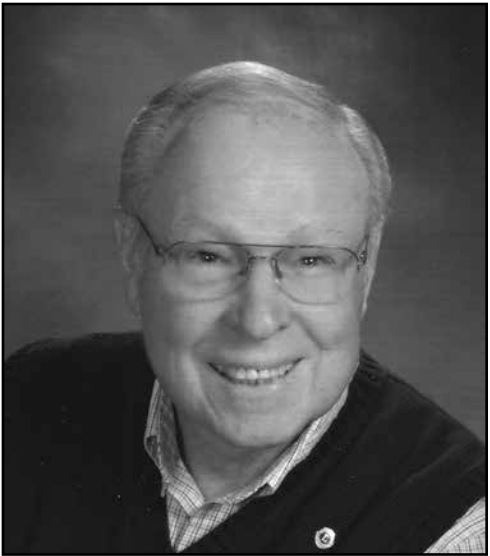
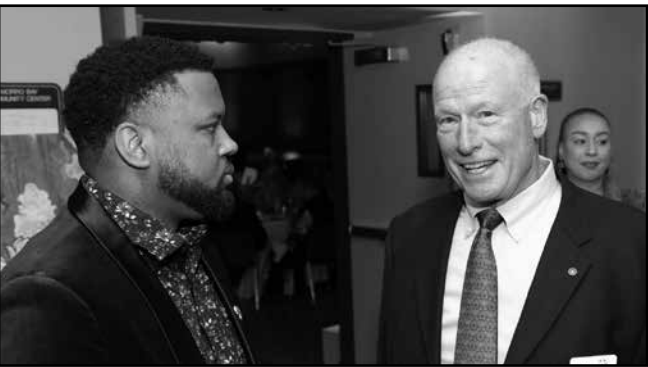
Bay Theatre celebrated as 2024 Business of the Year. Dina Lundquist, Cameron Wilson, Ryan Blevinsand and Jim Duffy



Dana Swanson recognized as 2024 Luminary, presented by Morro Bay City manager Yvonne Kimball.



Community Foundation of Estero Bay awarded 2024 Nonprofit of the Year. Ray Riordan, Hanna Held, Loren Leidinger and Ron Reisner



Ray McKelvey honored as 2024 Living Treasure

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News

Roundabout From page 1

more money towards the EIR study.

At the April 22 City Council meeting, the City staff asked the Council for permission to continue to spend money on the EIR.

City Engineer Cindy Cecil and Public Works Director Greg Kwolek's report said they needed more money for the consultants, GHD, to go ahead and finish up the document.

"The fiscal impact of continuing the project to completion of the environmental phase is approximately \$81,000 of already budgeted project funds," the report said. "The Project funds used for this work are development impact fees, traffic impact fees, and project specific fees, which are restricted to this project and/or capacity enhancements for this intersection."

The City has been spending money out of the Measures Q and E sales taxes for the project review.

Money to build the project, which is upwards of \$12 million, would come through Caltrans and SLOCOG, so the lion's share of the costs do not fall upon the City's tight budget.

"The Project is approximately 95% through the environmental phase," Cecil's report said. "Draft documents are currently under review by Caltrans and their comments will be incorporated into the environmental report."

She goes on to say the draft EIR is expected to be released for public comments sometime in August.

"Final environmental documents are currently scheduled to be ready for City Council approval in February 2026," according to the report. The project is tentatively slated to start in the 2028-29 fiscal year, provided the funding is approved through the State Transportation Commission, Caltrans' ruling body. As it breaks down now, Caltrans is expected to allocate \$4 million and SLOCOG \$8M, with the City covering the early, soft costs like the EIR.

Going into the April 22 Council meeting, it would have seemed headed for easy approval on the consent agenda, but nothing in Morro Bay is that easy.

The Council voted 3-2 not to continue funding the project EIR, a turnaround that's stunned a lot of folks in town and ignited what could be the next big issue for the upcoming 2026 elections.

At the Council's May 13 meeting they got another earful from several speakers who decried the vote as wasting a lot of time, effort and money, but balanced well by those who continue to argue against a roundabout. It would seem to still be a 50:50 issue.

One person, Courtney Shepler, contacted Estero Bay News and said she was shocked by the vote and is doing something about it. "I want the City Council to follow a reasonable process," she told EBN, "and to follow the community."

She's only been in Morro Bay for five years, she explained, and was just enjoying life here. She isn't someone who watches the City Council "like a hawk," as some people here like to do.

But she said the discussion back in 2023 on the project was thorough, with plenty of public outreach. The project was "cruising along," she said. "I hadn't heard a peep about it."

She said she was "Completely blown away" by the "No" vote, calling it "not acceptable as a reasonable pro-

cess."

She added that the EIR was the only thing Morro Bay's on the hook for and "There's no money to be saved on Morro Bay's part."

Consequently, she said, she and some others in town are starting a new citizen's action group, which isn't even to the point yet of choosing a name, but she's finding a lot of support for her position. "I was surprised to find out there are hundreds of Morro Bay citizens who are traffic engineers."

She also noted last November's Election, when three council seats were open, but no challengers to Mayor Carla Wixom, and Councilmen Bill Luffee and Jeff Eckles entered the races. She said this new group would "make certain that doesn't happen again."

Another citizen's advocacy group has enjoined the crusade on the roundy, Citizens for Affordable Living or CAL.

CAL sent out an email blast to its supporters urging them to support the Council's "No" vote.

And copies of a recent editorial by The Tribune, which lambasted the City Council for voting against the roundy, has been left on people's doorsteps.

It seems a full-on push in opposite directions — pro and con — is taking shape.

At that previous Council meeting, it was explained to the City Council that that vote would have to come back. According to the official minutes of the April 22 meeting, City Attorney Rob Schultz "explained, based on the motion, staff would discontinue the environmental work and replace \$1.2 million of Measure Q/E funds, effectively stopping the project from moving forward, but the item will need to come back to Council to take steps necessary to reject the project and also take a formal position should SLOCOG choose to take up the project." The item should come back to the Council at its May 27 meeting.

Shepler said the "No" vote has "awakened the sleeping majority," who plan to push hard for the City to continue with the roundy.

EBN contacted SLOCOG for its views on this and the possibility of them taking it over.

SLOCOG Programming Chief, Rich Murphy, said they plan to bring an item to the SLOCOG Board on June 4. "As a run up to informing the Board of the changes discussed and acted upon by the City Council on April 22," Murphy said, "SLOCOG staff will meet with our advisory committees to also inform them of potential — emphasis on potential — next steps.

"It is SLOCOG's staff position," he continued, "that the environmental document be completed. We value the input provided to date on various design related issues with respect to the west side of SR1 and the pedestrian safety concerns raised on the east side.

"It is our position that the best way to review and ultimately advance implementation of an infrastructure project that will remedy current deficiencies and ensure safety for all is to complete the environment document and project report."

He added that if the City is unable — or unwilling — to continue the EIR, "then SLOCOG staff is recommending to the SLOCOG Board that the regional agency finish it.

"In the meantime, all prior SLOCOG funding commitments remain on the project unless otherwise directed

by the SLOCOG Board."

That's an assurance that might seem unimportant, however, a couple of months ago, the SLOCOG staff was recommending the roundy funding be taken back, along with funding for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector bike lane, and the money be transferred to the Bob Jones Trail Project, in order to meet a funding deadline, and keep millions in grants for that project. SLOCOG's Board didn't go for it and the staff was able to find other funding for the Bob Jones Trail.

Another player in this saga is the school district, as the main concern of proponents (and opponents) is the safety of high school kids that stream through the intersection before and after school and at lunchtime.

MMBHS Principal Scott Schalde, at the April 22 meeting, told the City Council that a previous poll of the students found that they were not concerned about pedestrian safety and would be supportive of a roundabout if it would improve traffic patterns, according to the meeting minutes.

Ryan Pinkerton, the Assistant Superintendent for San Luis Coastal, said the student comments were less about pedestrian safety and more about opportunities for improved pathways and access.

Shepley said she and her growing group of concerned citizens just want to see the City move forward with the roundabout.

"I'll never ignore a City Council agenda again," she vowed, "ever."

Readers can email the City Council before they take up matter again on the May 27. Send comments to: council@morrobayca.gov.

Viewpoint From page 7

Street overpass, the Berwick/Main Street intersection and the Main Street/ Hwy 41 snarl. We already have an off-ramp to Main Street from north-bound Hwy 1 traffic; therefore, the one that dumps out on Highway 41 could be eliminated. With that as the primary access to Main Street from north-bound Hwy 1, and with widened streets and intelligent use of traffic lights, several problems could be solved for the long term.

The intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 41 is a major interchange, complicated by frontage roads and outdated ramps. It should be considered with the same sweeping vision that it deserves, not a revived plan from 2002. In a perfect world, the entire intersection, including the underpass and the on and off-ramps would be rebuilt and expanded to allow for future traffic and development, with a bridge added for pedestrian and bicycle safety. In 25 years, maybe a reimagined roundabout would be the right answer.

Roundabouts are wonderful solutions to keep vehicle traffic flowing smoothly, but trying to shoe-horn one at this intersection is folly. A roundabout would be expensive and dangerous, and is likely to lead to more problems than it will solve. This project should never have been re-started. Soon, during a future Morro Bay City Council meeting, we will put the final nail in the roundabout coffin.

We should go back to the drawing board with a creative team of thinkers and forget the "experts."

Gail Johnson
Morro Bay





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Obituary
Patricia (Pat) Lou Brock Bullen
1931 - 2025



Our dear friend, Patricia (Pat) Lou Brock Bullen, passed peacefully at her home in Los Osos, California on March 22, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her mother Jane Brock, her father William Brock and her older sister, Suzanne Brock.

Pat was born on January 11, 1931 in Los Angeles, California.

Pat graduated from Hollywood High School in 1948 and continued her education earning a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, 1953 majoring in political science.

Upon graduation, Pat embarked on an amazing adventure traveling to New York City and then boarding a ship to England and continuing on trains and bicycles through Europe. This was the first of many international adventures during her life.

Pat pursued a career as a legal secretary, working in New York, Florida and Japan. Upon retirement she returned to college and earned a Master of Arts from the University of Antioch, majoring in clinical psychology. Pat served as a counselor for fellow senior citizens in her community.

Pat left behind an amazing community of friends from her fellowship that held her in the highest esteem, and we will miss her kindness and wisdom most dearly.

Celebration of Life for Coy Stanford "Stan" House, Jr.

There will be a celebration of life ceremony for Coy Stanford "Stan" House, Jr. who passed away peacefully at home on April 19, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was 77.

All who knew Stan are invited to attend the celebration on Friday, May 30 from 3 – 6 p.m. at Carla's Country Kitchen in Morro Bay, 213 Beach St.

He would be happy if people donated in his memory to either the Friends of the Morro Bay Fire Department or the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Salmon Season From page 1
members that works with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Federal waters (past 3 miles) but the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (formerly Fish & Game), enforces the rules at the docks, and usually apes the PFMC's decisions.

The State agency also controls salmon fishing in inland rivers and streams.

California first canceled Salmon season in 2008 and 2009 when salmon runs the previous year in the Sacramento River were at record lows.

In an unprecedented move, the PFMC voted to close commercial salmon this year for the third straight year. The PFMC vote was 13-1 for the three-peat closure.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the PFMC voted to allow some limited sport salmon fishing this year, the first time it's done this since 2022. The normal sport fishing limits for salmon are two fish a day.

"The ocean recreational fishing season will be restricted to several days in the summer and fall," the L.A. Times reported, "and the total catch will also be strictly limited."

Under the new rules, a total of up to 7,000 salmon will be allowed to be caught statewide in the first, tiny, fishing window, June 7-8, according to the Times.

State Fish & Wildlife added, "If the limit is not attained in those two days, the fishery will open again July 5-6. Additional dates are available in late July and August for use until the summer harvest guideline is attained." This quota is for the entire California Coast — from the Oregon to the Mexico borders.

Between Pt. Reyes (30 miles north of San Francisco Bay) down to Point Sur, "the fall fishing season will open Sept. 4-7, with a 7,500 Chinook fall harvest guideline."

And, "If this guideline is not attained, the fishery will reopen September 29-30. Additional days are available in October between Point Reyes to Pigeon Point if any of the fall harvest guideline remains."

The size limit is 20-inches in length, and the daily bag limit is still two fish.

All these machinations of the regulators are a huge disruption for a "sleepy little fishing village," like Morro Bay, which thrives when the salmon bite is good.

When the fish are biting, tourism takes a big jump. It's been said that nothing fills up this town like a good salmon bite, bringing waves of fishermen to town pulling their boats to chase one of the Pacific's true delicacies and most popular sporting fish.

Closures hit commercial fishers hardest of all, as with many salmon fishers, as salmon season can make up as much as three-fourths of their annual incomes. Many commercial fishermen hold more than one commercial fishing license and can power through if one season is bad. But a full closure is a hard hook to shake.

Commercial fishermen since the mid-1990s have faced one regulatory action after another attempting to limit the catch and increase fish stocks. But while in the past, overfishing was mostly blamed for dropping fish stocks, now they blame it on water mismanagement by the State and too warm of water in rivers and the ocean due to climate change.

Nearly every fishery — from salmon to deep water trawling, and even crabbing — has been impacted at one time or another. And various schemes — from catch limits, to gear restrictions — have been tried to increase fish stocks.

As for the slip waivers, they have specific qualifications written into the harbor policies. "To qualify for the commercial fishing slip rate," reads a report from Harbor Director, Chris Munson, "commercial fishermen must provide receipts or tickets as proof of active fishing during the season.

"Vessels 26-feet in length or less require \$5,000, while vessels greater than 26-feet in length require \$10,000. However, due to the closures, meeting this requirement has not been possible."

The City's rules allow individual fishermen to apply for waivers but can only qualify twice in a 10-year period, according to Munson's report.

"Although Morro Bay commercial fishermen are provided the opportunity to maintain their discount on slips fees by applying for waivers individually," the report said, "they have been for reasons that are specific to that fish-

erman, such as boat repairs/inoperability, health, or other reasons along these lines."

But a statewide closure, enacted by bureaucrats in Sacramento working at the State and Federal agencies, is something fishermen can't control.

"The recent salmon closures," Munson's report said, "have been completely out of local fisherman's control. By enforcing the slip qualification, it will put an even greater financial strain on the commercial fishermen who were unable to fish due to the closure."

Doing this waiver would seem to go against the City's narrative that the Harbor Fund needs money, but it's apparently the right thing to do.

"Although charging the non-commercial rate will increase revenue to the Harbor Fund," the report said, "it is defensible to provide a blanket waiver to support the viability of the Morro Bay commercial fishing fleet which has region-wide economic benefits."

When the matter went before the Harbor Advisory Board in April, the board recommended waiving the fish ticket requirements because of the 2024 closure and also advised the Harbor Director to seek City Council authority to be able to waive the requirements, whenever there's a major closure like this.

"Commercial fishermen will be required to have an active permit for the affected fishery for the vessel which uses the slip," Munson said.

RTA From page 1

the city on fixed routes and operate only within the City Limits.

The City's bus system has long been coordinated to compliment the RTA's regional transit bus routes, with the central hub and transfer spot at City Park on Harbor Street.

From there one can catch a RTA bus heading north up Hwy 1, to Los Osos or to San Luis Obispo. School buses also use City Park as a transfer spot for local school children.

The City system has seen changes over the years, as for a long time it was a City-run service called Dial-a-Ride, which would dispatch the buses when someone in town called and asked to be picked up at their house and taken somewhere specific, almost like a taxi service. Drivers and dispatchers all worked for the City.

But due to budgetary issues, that was changed to a fixed route, where the buses only stopped at designated bus stops running a regular route down Main Street with a few other stops in town. The City also hired a contractor, MV Transportation, to run the service.

Response to that type of service was poor and so the deviated-fixed route was born. Deviated-fixed route (or flex route) has buses running a fixed route on a regular schedule but being able to deviate up to three-fourths of a mile from the route to pick someone up at their home.

Riders have to call ahead to arrange for pickup. It seems to work pretty well and it's this system the RTA is inheriting from the City.

"For the passengers," RTA Executive Director Geoff Straw said, "there won't be any major changes."

One thing RTA has that the City doesn't is a GPS based app called, Automatic Vehicle Location, which Straw said can be downloaded through the RTA website (see: www.slorta.org), or each bus stop in town has a little sign with a phone number to call where the exact location of buses can be found.

This will allow riders to know exactly when a bus might show up to their stop. It also has schedules, and fares



The RTA will take over Morro Bay's in-town bus system on June 1, and while there aren't any immediate plans for changes, they are working on updating the transit plan. One potential change could be installation of so-called 'Simme Seats,' shown here, at bus stops that don't have any seating available.

Advertisement for Joel Pace Real Estate, featuring a photo of Joel Pace, a starburst graphic saying 'Ask about \$1,000 Seller Credit', and a list of services: Property Cleanup, Pre-List Inspections, Professional Photos, and Massive Marketing. It also includes a testimonial from Nisa L. and contact information for Joel Pace.

Advertisement for Flooring Discount Center, featuring the text 'Waterproof, Hardwood, Carpet & Vinyl Flooring' and 'For the Quality you want and the Experience you Need.' It includes the address 787 Harbor St. Morro Bay, CA 93442, phone number 772-2211, fax 772-7747, and website www.fdcmb.com.

Advertisement for Waters Edge Window Cleaning, featuring a photo of Dave Rutherford, the text 'Waters Edge Window Cleaning', and a list of services: Powerwashing, Solar Panels, and Gutter Cleaning. It includes the phone number (805) 305-9973 and website watersedgewindowcleaning.com.

News

listed. Other than that increased access to route information, Straw said the only change riders might notice is their driver is wearing a different colored uniform shirt.

They are also working on the marketing aspects of the change and he said they should soon have announcements on RTA’s website as well as the City’s. Right now, the phone number on the little bus stop signs, which rings at the City, will automatically pass over to the RTA’s dispatching, but eventually the number will be changed to a direct connection to RTA.

Straw said there won’t be any changes to the routes but they are working with the City on updating the short range transportation planning.

He said the City’s Transit Plan was approved just before the COVID Pandemic hit in 2020, which changed many aspects of public transportation, and now is in need of being updated.

They plan to do a deeper dive into Morro Bay’s transit needs to potentially find other improvements they might try.

The flex-fixed route idea isn’t new to RTA, Straw said their Route 15 Runabout service, based out of Los Osos uses this too, and serves the North Coast all the way to San Simeon.

The City has long had issues with its transit system. In order to get funding, it must hit certain ridership goals, which has been a challenge.

Straw said they hope to have a draft transit plan ready to go to the City Council in September. It will also have to be approved by the RTA Board, which is made up of one representative from each SLO County city, plus the five County Supervisors and someone representing special districts.

The RTA also has a computer tracking system mounted on the buses that will keep track of where riders get on and get off the buses, building a database that Straw said can be used for future planning.

He noted that Atascadero too is about to turn its in-town bus service over to RTA on June 1, and both towns had long contracted with MV Transportation, a private company that has public transportation contracts all over the state. When Morro Bay contracted with MV Transportation, it was the smallest contract the company had.

Straw said there has been synchronicity between Morro Bay and Atascadero, as the company ran both out of a single admin office, sometimes sharing drivers, many of whom had to commute over Hwy 41.

“We want as seamless a change over as possible,” Straw said. Though the deviated-fixed route system sounds an awful lot like what ride services like Uber now specialize in, Straw said there are major differences.

“It is a good way to provide service,” he said, “but Uber doesn’t have handicap-accessible vehicles.”

As for other potential changes, this reporter pointed out that several city bus stops located up North Main Street don’t have benches or shelters to protect against the sun, wind and rain. And, there is one bus stop on Hwy 1 just south of the Hwy 1-San Jacinto Street stoplight, which never seems to have anyone waiting for the bus.

He said they will be looking at all that and also figuring out how to improve one of the busiest bus stops, at Spencer’s Fresh Market, a stop that not a lot of people know about.

The RTA has standards that must be met for a bus stop to get benches and shelters, he explained. It needs to have 10 boardings a day for a bench, and over 15 gets a shelter. The transit plan will help define the needs at each stop.

“The other thing is lighting,” Straw said. Most of the smaller bus stops don’t have lighting and when it gets dark early (standard time), like in the fall and winter, people are sometimes trying to catch the last bus of the day in the dark. If a driver doesn’t see them they might miss the bus.

They have about 30 so-called “on demand lights,” which are solar powered and a rider can turn on with a switch.

They also use what’s called “Simme Seats,” single seats attached to a bus stop signpost. “We have about 30 in RTA’s service area,” Straw said. “That’s probably something we’ll look at.”

So while the management of the City’s bus system is changing, the service itself shouldn’t, at least not right away. Once the new transit plan is completed, there may be some

changes made.

But, “We’ll have data to show the City Council for potential improvements,” Straw said.

Rite Aid Closures From page 1



Rite Aid stores across the nation are closing leaving concerns about local prescription needs. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

Alicja Wojczyk, told Estero Bay News. “We will use this process to pursue a sale of our prescriptions, pharmacy and front-end inventory, and other assets. While we do not yet know what the outcome of this process will be, we are in active discussions with multiple potential buyers.”

Dates of stores closing were not offered nor were answers to questions related to individual stores in Morro Bay or Los Osos. Further, employees are prohibited from talking to the media about anything related to the subject.

For now, Wojczyk said “It is important to note, however, that any store operations or assets we do not sell through this process will no longer be owned or operated by Rite Aid. This means that over the next few months, all Rite Aid distribution centers will close, and all stores will either close or be operated by a new owner. During this process, customers can continue to access pharmacy services and products, including prescriptions and immunizations, both in stores and online.”

Where that leaves patients and prescriptions in the near future is another answer that will have to play out.

Ihab Doss, the owner of Pill Save Pharmacy, 3118 Main St. Suite B, Morro Bay, said that many patients have already switched to his location.

“We’re currently transferring patients from Rite Aid, we just need them to call us to do the transfer,” Doss said. “They just need to give us their name, date of birth and phone number, we will call them back whenever we have something ready. We do all the back work with the pharmacies that try to transfer the prescriptions.”

Customers can also begin the process on the website pillsavepharmacy.com.

Most pharmacies provide more than prescription medications typically offering immunizations, medication therapy management, and blood pressure monitoring.

According to the National Community Pharmacists Association’s (NCPA) 2024 report, which provides an annual overview of independent community pharmacies, the industry represents 35 percent of all retail pharmacies in the United States and no single pharmacy chain has more stores than all independents combined.

However, independent pharmacies such as Pill Save Pharmacy and Los Osos Rexall Drug & Gift are not necessarily sitting in enviable spots as the increase in patients could mean a loss in profits.

As an industry, independent pharmacies are often forced to take lower-than-cost reimbursements from insurance companies to fulfil the needs of customers. NCPA says that disparity has increased with the popularity of expensive drugs such as GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) used for diabetes but that have become more common as a weight loss drug.

“With independent pharmacies closing at a rate of more than one each day since last year, the report lays bare the ramifications of low and negative reimbursements for GLP-1s and other drugs, no longer countered by tax incentives and revenue earned from offerings related to COVID-19,” said NCPA CEO B. Douglas Hoey, pharmacist, MBA in a news release. “Whether through other immunizations or services like long-term care, having a successful business increasingly relies on diversifying and bringing in different types of revenue. With the turbulence

we’re seeing in independent and chain pharmacies alike, there’s a dire need to fix the broken pharmacy payment model.”

The report states that 83 percent of prescriptions at independent pharmacies are filled with a generic drug. “This number trended down, perhaps in part due to the exploding popularity of GLP-1 agonists, a category with no generics on the market.”

Jason Tewell, pharmacist of Los Osos Rexall, 989 Los Osos Valley Rd., said that there are advantages to independent pharmacies. “If you would like to try to work with a local, independent pharmacy that really cares about you, sometimes that can be at an added cost, but having a close relationship with your pharmacy can really be pivotal in your terms of healthcare, and navigating the complications of Medicare.

“Every [health insurance] open enrollment, I help people look at plans. I often give them a printout of what I think the three or four best fit plans are that will allow them to come to my pharmacy without being penalized by not using mail order.”

Currently prescriptions are still being filled at Rite Aid stores, but for how long is up in the air. In a news release, Matt Schroeder, Chief Executive Officer of Rite Aid, said that the Company has secured commitments from existing lenders to access \$1.94 billion in new financing. “This financing, along with cash from operations, is expected to provide sufficient funding during the sale and court-supervised process. The Company intends to divest or monetize any assets that are not sold through the court-supervised process. Rite Aid has filed a number of customary motions with the Court seeking authorization to support operations, including continued payment of employee wages and benefits.” Again, how that will truly roll can’t be predicted.

Another issue added to the mix of uncertainty is President Donald Trump’s May 16 executive order to lower prices Americans pay for prescription drugs to keep them in line with other country’s pricing. The EO, as it stands, would allow consumers to purchase directly from the drug manufacturers who sell to Americans at a “Most-Favored-Nation” price, bypassing middlemen.

“If drug manufacturers fail to offer most-favored-nation pricing, the Order directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: (1) propose rules that impose most-favored-nation pricing; and (2) take other aggressive measures to significantly reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the American consumer and end anticompetitive practices,” a news release issued by the White House states. “The United States has less than five percent of the world’s population, yet funds roughly 75% of global pharmaceutical profits.

“Drug manufacturers discount their products to gain access to foreign markets and then subsidize those discounts through high prices charged in America — in essence, Americans are subsidizing drug-manufacturer profits and foreign health systems, despite drug manufacturers benefiting from generous research subsidies and enormous healthcare spending by the U.S. Government.”

The order gives drugmakers 30 days to meet some price targets before further action is taken. It remains to be seen if courts will block the executive order.



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(2004)
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