

‘No Kings’ Protest in Los Osos



By Theresa- Marie Wilson
Photos by Shari Sullivan and Theresa-Marie Wilson

While not officially on the list for the second national No Kings rally on Saturday, Oct. 18, close to 250 people protested on the four corners at South Bay Boulevard and Los Osos Valley Road.

Protesters waved signs, chanted, and sang “This Land is Your Land,” as cars drove by with many honking their horns in support.

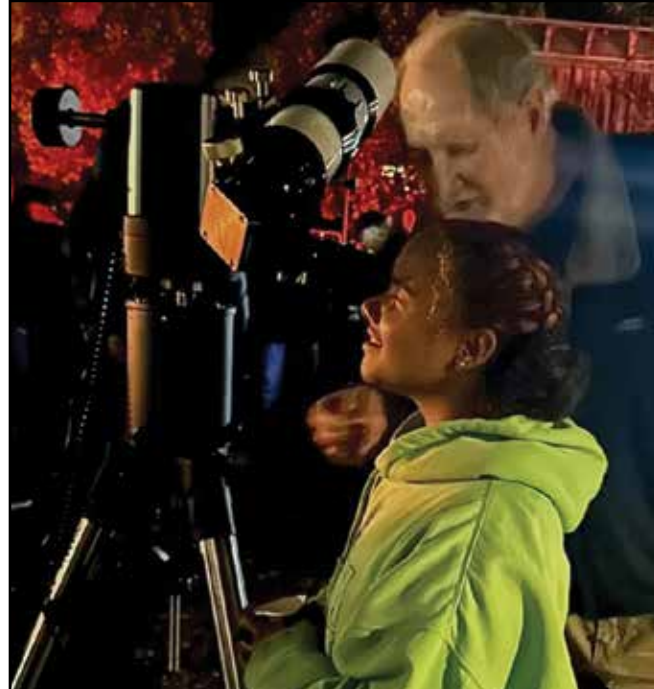
Protests were held through San Luis Obispo County, across the nation and overseas accusing President Trump of embracing the role of a monarchist rather than an elected official and the resulting erosion of democracy.

“The president thinks his rule is absolute,” said Mobilize.us, a website promoting the event. “But in America, we don’t have kings, and we won’t back down against chaos,



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Cambria’s Dark Future



David Gibbs, an amateur astronomer, sharing the night sky with Desiree Warner. Photo submitted

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A nonprofit in Cambria is working to ensure the future is dark.

Beautify Cambria is leading efforts on the Central Coast to certify the town as an International DarkSky Community. DarkSky International (DSI) is the recognized global authority on light pollution, leading an international movement to protect the night sky.

The Beautify Cambria Association’s DarkSky Initiative will host The Future of Night event on Saturday, November 1, at Santa Rosa Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1174 Main Street, Cambria from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The goal of The Future of Night event is to inform the community and others about the importance of protecting the night skies in Cambria and the Central Coast from ever-increasing light pollution and its detrimental impact on both humans and wildlife.

Scientists say light pollution is rapidly increasing around the world raising concerns for human and environmental health. DSI identifies several detriments of light pollution, including negative impacts on wildlife (disrupting migration, reproduction, and feeding), human health (disrupting circadian rhythms, leading to sleep disorders, and increasing the risk of chronic illnesses), and the environment (wasting energy and contributing to climate

Dark Future Continued on page 19

MB-Cayucos Connector Agreement Reached

By Neil Farrell

Another piece of the very large puzzle of a project to build a dedicated bike lane connecting Morro Bay and Cayucos has been finalized.

The Morro Bay City Council recently approved a cooperative agreement granting the County right-of-way over three City owned parcels and clearing another hurdle for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector Trail, a dedicated bike/pedestrian lane that will run along the bluff top overlooking Chevron Dog Beach, on the ocean side of Hwy 1.

This long-awaited trail, a segment on the California Coast Trail, needed the agreement to satisfy a condition of approval from the Coastal Conservancy, which granted some \$150,000 to the City to buy Dog Beach from the Cayucos



The City of Morro Bay and SLO County have reached agreement on a right of way across three Morro Bay-owned parcels at Dog Beach, needed for the Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector Trail, a dedicated bike and pedestrian path connecting the two towns.

Sanitary District.

The County needed a pathway through the North Point parking lot, owned by the City, North Point Natural Area, and

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SLOCOG Workshop Oct. 29 on Future Tax Hike

By Neil Farrell

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is looking to pass a sales tax increase to pay for road repairs, and has been undertaking a series of community workshops, with the next one set for Morro Bay.

SLOCOG, the countywide agency that distributes State and Federal gas taxes to local agencies for road repairs and maintenance, and funds major transportation projects, is proposing the “Local Roads First Initiative,” that would

Tax Hike Continued on page 20

Cambria Scarecrow Festival features 200 + entries until October 30.

Photos by Keith Pendleton

According to bird counts, crows are most prevalent in the Cambria/SLO Coast area in the autumn and winter months. With that in mind, Cambria holds an annual Scarecrow Festival beginning with a late September set-up and running through October 30.

The gambit must be successful in reducing the pesky corvids because this year represents the seventeenth iteration. Crows, ravens, magpies, jays, rooks, jackdaws, nutcrackers, tree pies and choughs all fall into the corvid

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South Bay Bridge Contract Awarded



South Bay Blvd. Bridge, heading south. Photo by Paul Irving
By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors were expected to award a construction contract for replacing the South Bay Boulevard Bridge over Los Osos Creek at their Tuesday, Sept. 21 meeting.

The lowest bidder was Security Paving Company, Inc. based in Westlake Village, Calif., according to a County report, with a bid of \$23.52 million. With contingencies, the not-to-exceed number comes to \$25.87 million.

Supervisors were also asked to approve and execute a contract through Dec. 31, 2028 — the expected end date for the job — with MNS Engineers, Inc. for \$3.26 million “to provide construction management services.”

This too has a contingency budget of \$326,493 for a total contract value of up to \$3.59 million for construction management.

They also had to transfer over \$4 million in roads monies from the County’s Pavement Management Program into the project’s specific account. This money in turn came out of the County’s share of SB 1 gas taxes.

Back in 2015, the County hired a consultant to do assessments on its numerous bridges and South Bay over Los Osos Creek failed inspection.

Given the complex nature of permitting for a project crossing a creek in the Coastal Zone, it’s taken nearly 10 years to get to the point of awarding construction contracts.

As the only direct route linking Morro Bay and Los Osos, South Bay Boulevard needs to be in good repair, especially while the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is still in operation.

South Bay is the main evacuation route for some 15,000 Los Osos residents in the event of a nuclear disaster. Diablo Canyon sits south of Los Osos on the south side of Point Buchon.

The roadway is also vital for school children as Morro Bay’s middle school kids attend Los Osos Middle School and Los Osos’ high school kids travel over South Bay Boulevard to get to Morro Bay High.

When Chorro Creek floods South Bay during severe storms, everyone who needs to go from one town to the other must detour down to San Luis Obispo and come back around on either Los Osos Valley Road or Hwy 1.

Also, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is working on a plan to protect South Bay Boulevard against sea level rise in the distant future, further illustrating the importance of the roadway.

According to a County report from 2022 the bridge is in bad shape. “The bridge has been identified as seismically deficient and subject to liquefaction related collapse during a sizable earthquake. In addition to seismic concerns, some of the existing concrete piles have deteriorated over time. Replacement of the bridge, rather than seismic retrofit and pile repair, is the most cost-effective alternative.”

The South Bay Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project will replace the existing bridge with a modern concrete girder bridge, the report said. The new bridge will be constructed alongside the old bridge, according to the County, and the old bridge torn down.

That area where the old bridge stood will be restored to a natural state.

It’s unclear at this point how long the old bridge will remain open to traffic while the new one is being built but

at some point, the roadway will likely have to be closed.

But so long as the road stays open past Los Osos Creek, the normal detour could be shortened considerably by taking Turri Road instead of going all the way into SLO.

The logistics for the project should be interesting, as there is literally nowhere near the bridge that could be used for a construction yard. The bridge is bordered by protected lands the Elfin Forest and the Morro Bay National Estuary, as well as State Parks lands.

County Spends \$28M on New Computer System

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo County is planning to completely replace its computer systems, spending a whopping \$28 million for new software and an IT contract for training and troubleshooting.

County Supervisors were asked to approve three contracts totaling \$28,242,254, including a 10-year licensing agreement with Iron Brick Associates, LLC; a 3-year “master services” agreement with Cognizant Worldwide Limited; and a contract with Collaborative Solutions, LLC to “implement the Enterprise Resource Planning Replacement Project,” according to a report on the purchase.

The item included extending one position within the County IT Department through June 30, 2028, a move that forced a budget adjustment of over \$167,000.



“The ERP Replacement Project,” reads the report from Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, James Hamilton, “represents a comprehensive business and technology transformation, aimed at modernizing the County’s systems and improving business processes through the adoption of industry best practices and out-of-the-box software solutions.”

“By adding, consolidating, and replacing existing systems with a modern cloud-based software solution delivered through a Software as a Service (SaaS) model, the County expects to achieve greater process efficiency, enhance automation, provide a more robust and scalable technology foundation, and significantly improve the user experience.”

The new system was prompted in 2022, when the County’s old system was about to lose tech support. The Board of Supervisors approved \$17 million in the 2022-23 budget for the switch to a new system, according to Hamilton’s report.

That led to the creation of an ERP Executive Steering Committee, with the County Administrative Officer, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, the IT Director, Human Resources Director, and Director of Public Works.

That committee led to the Supervisors hiring Info Tech Research Group, Inc., an independent technology consultant “to conduct a Countywide needs assessment. The assessment identified the County’s current and future business requirements.”

Info Tech stayed with the County through a Request for Proposals process, which was sent out in July 2024.

Given the size of the contract, the response was large. “By the close of the submission period on Sept. 6, 2024,” Hamilton’s report said, “the County received 12 qualified proposals representing five distinct ERP platforms and their respective implementation partners.”

This of course led to formation of another County employee committee with people from County Admin., Hamilton’s ACTTC Office, IT, Central Services, HR, and Public Works, to evaluate the proposals.

Two of the 12 were selected to make formal presentations — Cognizant Technology/Workday (implementing Workday) and Highstreet Consulting Group (implementing Oracle).

It was apparently quite a production. “In October

and November 2024,” the report said, “both finalists were allotted a full week during the demonstration period to present their software solution and implementation plan to a diverse group of County staff.

“To guide the demonstrations and ensure consistency, staff prepared detailed demonstration scripts that covered key requirements from the RFP that crossed all functional areas.”

Seems everyone was invited to get involved. “To ensure broad participation, County staff were invited to attend the demonstrations either in-person or online, and the Selection Committee members were directed to attend all five days of each demonstration in person. In total, 230 County

Clarification

Some information we reported on affordable housing requirements for a potential private development proposal at Morro Elementary School was not accurate.

Morro Bay City Councilman Jeff Eckles, quoting one paragraph in our last article, in an email, said, “And if the city can’t make a deal, the properties must be used for affordable housing, even if they are sold to a private entity. With 10 acres to work with, that could mean high density housing at the Morro site.” (EBN, Oct. 9)

“This sentence is not accurate,” Eckles said. “Affordable housing in the context you used in your sentence is income-based, deed-restricted, subsidized housing.

“If a private developer purchased the property, they would not be limited to that category, although affordable housing could be included in a market rate development in order to secure development bonuses or concessions on things such as parking or density.

“Since this has been a source of angst in the community, it would be good if the sentence is corrected.”

Correction

It’s been pointed out that we’ve mistaken the Morro Bay Community Development Director’s last name more than once. The Director’s name is Airlin Singewald, not Swearingin. Sorry to Mr. Singewald for the mistake



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Adorable SLO cottage with updated features and a view of Bishop's Peak. Conveniently located near Cal Poly bike trail with walking bridge, you can walk to downtown San Luis Obispo's shops and restaurants. There is a studio in the back with a separate address and entry off the driveway behind the main house, with its own fenced in yard. The driveway is long and has plenty of parking which leads to a detached 2 car garage. This lot is zoned R3 and an additional two units may be built, to boost rental income! Entering the main house, you'll see living room with gas fireplace, and a door to the fenced in side yard. Enjoy a cozy night outside at the newly plumbed firepit. Professionally landscaped front yard with automatic sprinklers. The home has two bedrooms connected by a jack-n-jill bathroom updated with a new pedestal sink and glass shower enclosure. The kitchen is newly remodeled with concrete countertops and subway tile backsplash. Dining area has the original built-ins that add to the charm of this home.

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staff attended all or part of the demonstrations.”

Staffers that took part filled out a questionnaire that the selection committee reviewed to form the recommendation that was made to the Executive Selection Committee, which passed the recommendation on to Supervisors to award the contracts.

So what’s in it for taxpayers? “The implementation of modern, user-friendly interfaces,” Hamilton’s report said, “including mobile functionality, is expected to greatly improve operational efficiency across all departments.”

County to Get Homeless Grants

San Luis Obispo County is getting \$1.7 million for a program that helps people on Medi-Cal find a place to live.

The grant is from CenCal Health, the managed care system in SLO and Santa Barbara Counties for low-income residents enrolled in Medi-Cal. The grant comes out of one of its programs.

“The California Department of Health Care Services developed the Housing & Homelessness Incentive Program [HHIP] to support California Advancing and Innovating in Medi-Cal [CalAIM] implementation and housing and homelessness service providers,” reads a County report on the grant. “HHIP is a voluntary incentive program for Medi-Cal Managed Care plans, such as CenCal Health, designed to improve health outcomes and access to services by addressing housing insecurity and instability as social determinants of health for the Medi-Cal population.”

The HHIP has two main objectives:

- To reduce and prevent homelessness; and,
- To ensure managed care plans like Cen Cal Health, “can connect Cen Cal Health members to needed housing services through partnerships and capacity building.”

The money is coming to the County through its “Continuum of Care” program and a CoC Transformation Award.

“The CoC Transformation Award,” the report said, “was specifically for the San Luis Obispo County CoC and Santa Barbara CoC to develop and implement innovative, effective, sustainable, evidence-based projects and initiatives to effectively support individuals to remain in or move into safe, stable housing.”

The County’s partner in this is the Community Action Partnership of SLO or CAP-SLO. County Department of Social Services and the County Health Agency will work with CAP-SLO on the program to, “utilize the funds to enhance the Coordinated Entry System, improve data collection including the annual Point in Time Count of individuals experiencing homelessness, refine local data systems including the Homeless Management Information System, expand local housing and shelter capacity, and sus-

tain existing projects within the local Continuum of Care.”

County Behavioral Health department will also be working with this program.

The County workforce will increase by one, a Business Systems Analyst III, in a limited time position, at \$78,000 a year salary and \$53,000 in benefits to finish out this year. In FY 2026-27 the job will pay \$123,000 in salary and \$83,000 in benefits, and \$206,000 total employee cost.

“Essential duties and responsibilities will include,” reads the report, “program development and coordination to lead the transition of housing-related funding from the Mental Health Services Act to Behavioral Health Services Act, Proposition 1; development of housing system expertise and integration within Behavioral Health by participating in activities related to Coordinated Entry; completion of data management and reporting necessary for funding sources; and development of housing retention strategies for use by Behavioral Health case managers.”

The money comes in two installments of \$855,000 each. The first was to come in as soon as the funding agreement is signed. And the second installment is due in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Broken down the \$1.7 million is split three ways — \$352,000 to Behavioral Health “to increase appropriation in salary and benefits; \$51,200 to Social Services for eight interns for the homeless Point in Time Count; and \$1.3 million for “services and supplies.”

The Point in Time Count, a census of the County’s homeless population, started in 2017 and has been done through contracted services, but the County will do the next one in house.

“This will improve the County’s PIT process,” the report said, “by keeping direct control over each stage of preparation, data collection, and reporting within the Division. This will allow for more efficient communication and faster turnaround times. Interns are essential to this sustainable model.”

The interns will concentrate their efforts on specific areas in the county with high homeless populations. Each of the eight will work 320 hours at \$20 an hour.



Missing Woman Found Murdered



Isabel Lucas Velasco, 50 of Coalinga, was last seen alive Sept. 12 in Arroyo Grande and was reported missing Sept. 13. She was found murdered in rural Coalinga, allegedly by her ex-boyfriend and his brother. Photo courtesy SLO County Sheriff’s Office



Brothers, Alejandro (Top) and Celestino Soriano Ortiz, stand accused of murdering Isabel Lucas Velasco and burning her vehicle.

By Neil Farrell

A missing Coalinga woman has been found but there’s no happy ending, as the case has now been ruled a homicide.

Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla said in a news release that Isabel Lucas Velasco, 50 of Coalinga, who had been reported missing, was murdered and her body left in rural Coalinga.

Lucas Velasco was reported missing Sept. 13 and her last known location was on a “job site in rural Arroyo Grande on the 12th,” according to the original news release

Missing Women Found Continued on page 4

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from when the Sheriff's Office went public and asked for information on her disappearance.

Their search turned up two vehicles believed connected to the case.

"The Sheriff's Detective Division," Cipolla said in a second news release, "has seized two vehicles for evidence in relation to her disappearance."

Photos of two trucks released by Cipolla were of a red late model, extended cab Toyota Tundra or Tacoma and a white, 4-door truck of indeterminate make and model. Cipolla did not say whether either of the trucks was the vehicle presumably driven by the victim and allegedly burned by the two suspects.

It's apparent their investigation was leading them back to Coalinga. "The Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's assistance regarding any sightings or interactions with either of these two vehicles on the night of Sept. 12 and/or the day of Sept. 14 in the area of Coalinga and Avenal.

"Detectives are specifically seeking witnesses in the area of Highway 198 west of Coalinga for both of these dates who may have seen either of these two vehicles or captured them on surveillance cameras."

The search for the missing woman continued for about a month and her body was discovered where the Sheriff's Office had sought help from the public, though Cipolla did not say whether anyone on that rural, 2-lane country highway had come forward.

Highway 198 runs from Hwy 101 just south of King City over the Diablo Range Mountains and through the Coalinga oilfields, then winding through a couple of scenic valleys and into Coalinga.

The area west of Coalinga is bucolic, with grassy meadows dotted with oak trees, with horses and cattle grazing. Whatever led investigators to this area paid dividends pretty quickly.

"On Saturday, Oct. 11," Cipolla said, "the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office and the Fresno County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue teams, along with detectives, conducted an extensive search of Highway 198, west of Coalinga. During this search, Search and Rescue located a body, believed to be Isabel."

He adds that the body was turned over to the SLO County Coroner's Office "for confirmation of identification."

They appear certain as to cause of death, as two men have been arrested and charged with her murder.

"This case is now considered a homicide," Cipolla said, adding that two brothers have already been arrested.

Alejandro Soriano Ortiz, 45 of Coalinga, Cipolla said, has been arrested and charged with one count of suspicion of murder and one count of arson, "in connection with burning the victim's vehicle."

The other suspect and Soriano Ortiz' brother is Celestino Soriano Ortiz, 40 of Santa Maria. He has been charged with suspicion of being an accessory to murder and arson.

The older brother, Alejandro, is believed to be the victim's ex-boyfriend, Cipolla said.

Sheriff Ian Parkinson praised the law enforcement agency cooperation. "We want to thank the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office for their valuable assistance."

"I also want to highlight the amazing work of our Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit, Special Victim's Unit, Special Operations Unit, and the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit for their tireless dedication to solving this case and giving some closure to Isabel's Family."

Cipolla said the case was still under investigation.

Missing Elderly Man's Body Found

The search for an elderly, at risk San Luis Obispo man has ended in tragedy.

According to Sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla, James Quinn, 86 had been reported missing from his home in rural SLO after failing to return from a regular walk through the San Luis Country Club neighborhood. Quinn was considered at-risk because of his age and cognitive decline, Cipolla said.

He was last seen about 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13 in the 200 block of Charles Dr.

The Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team was called out and an extensive search begun for Quinn. Cipolla said they found him at about 5 p.m. on Oct. 14 lying in a field near the Country Club.

"Quinn was unresponsive when he was located," Cipolla said. "He received medical attention, but shortly afterwards was pronounced deceased."

The case marked a second major search conducted by the Search and Rescue Team in just a few days.

On Saturday, Oct. 11 the team took part in the search for a missing Coalinga woman, finding what's believed to be her body off Hwy 198 in rural Coalinga.

Two brothers have been arrested and charged with her murder.

New Bikes, Helmets Needed for Sheriff's Giveaway

The County Sheriff's Advisory Foundation is starting its Annual Christmas Bike Giveaway and asking for donations to help bring some cheer to a child in need.

Begun in 1986, the program spreads the holiday spirit by giving away refurbished bicycles and new helmets to kids in SLO County. The County Honor Farm serves as the assembly point for donated bikes in need of repairs. The inmates at the Honor Farm do the repairs.

The program instills in the inmates a positive work ethic, self-respect, and a sense of worth to the community, according to the Sheriff's news release.



The Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team found the body of James Quinn, 86 of San Luis Obispo in the San Luis Country Club neighborhood a day after he was reported missing.

The Foundation is asking for new bicycles, new helmets or monetary donations for replacement parts. They will also accept adult bikes but mainly need children's bikes, as they are in high demand.

If readers know a child up to 15-years old in need of a bike, see the website at: slosheriff.org and click on "Community Resources" on the homepage and then "Forms and Applications" in the drop-down menu to get an application.

Applications are due by Nov. 20. This year's bicycle giveaway is set for 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Honor Farm on Oklahoma Avenue (take Kansas Avenue turn on Hwy 1).

Donors can drop off a new bike or helmet in the original packaging at the Honor Farm or at any of the Sheriff's Substations (Los Osos, Templeton, Nipomo).

To make a monetary donation, send a check to: Sheriff's Advisory Foundation, Attn: Bicycle Fund, PO Box 3752, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403.

NPR Journalist to Speak Nov. 9

On November 9, KCBX Central Coast Public Radio presents two prominent NPR Journalists, Ailsa Chang, co-host of NPR's news program "All Things Considered," and Kelly McEvers, host of NPR's "Embedded" podcast and former co-host of "All Things Considered."

The show begins at 2 p.m. at Harold J. Miossi Cultural and Performing Arts Center (CPAC) at Cuesta College (HWY-1, San Luis Obispo). Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$20 for students. More information available at kcbx.org.

In this candid discussion, Chang and McEvers will share their experiences reporting from the field and in the studio, the importance of independent journalism, and the power of storytelling to make news more relatable and impactful.

Ailsa Chang

Ailsa Chang is an award-winning journalist and host of NPR's "All Things Considered." A former lawyer, she began her radio career as a Kroc fellow at NPR before reporting for WNYC and NPR's Washington Desk. She has covered everything from Capitol Hill battles over healthcare and immigration to the hidden asylum industry in New York's Chinatown. Her investigations into police



Ailsa Chang of NPR's 'All Things Considered' will speak at Cuesta College on Nov. 9

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practices and public defense have earned national honors, including the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton and the Daniel Schorr Journalism Award. A Fulbright Scholar and Stanford Law graduate, she also holds degrees from Oxford and Columbia. She grew up in the Bay Area and is the proud dog mom of Mickey, a high-five-slapping shih tzu.

Kelly McEvers

Kelly McEvers is a two-time Peabody Award-winning journalist and former host of NPR’s flagship newsmagazine, “All Things Considered.” She spent much of her career as an international correspondent, reporting from Asia, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East. She is the creator and host of the acclaimed “Embedded” podcast, a documentary show that goes to hard places to make sense of the news. She began her career as a newspaper reporter in Chicago.

PG&E Donates top Food Banks



A local utility company’s charitable arm is making sizable donations to local food banks, as Federal programs “lose funding.”

The Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation Foundation, said PG&E in a news release, “is providing \$1.12 million to local food banks, tribal food banks and senior meal programs to help feed the growing number of individuals and families struggling with food insecurity as federal assistance programs lose funding.”

Stacia Levenfeld, CEO of the California Association of Food Banks, said, “The California Association of Food Banks is incredibly grateful for PG&E Corporation’s ongoing partnership in our mission to end hunger in California.

“This support is especially vital during these uncertain times, with federal cuts to SNAP [CalFresh] at the same time Medicaid and other crucial programs’ funding is being reduced. Families will look to food banks as a source of relief to ensure they don’t go without essential nourishment.”

The PG&E Foundation’s donation “will provide the equivalent of approximately 3.13 million meals for individuals and families in need and support more than 50 Central and Northern California organizations, according to PG&E.

Locally, the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County was given \$20,400 and the Senior Nutrition Program of SLO County, aka Meals that Connect is getting \$7,500.

All told seven food banks and food distribution organizations in SLO, Santa Barbara, San Benito and Monterey Counties, received nearly \$122,000.

PG&E has a formula it uses to determine how much to give each one. “Grant amounts consider county poverty and unemployment levels,” the company said, “using the California Department of Social Services’ formula, to promote equity among counties with higher need. Funding comes from PG&E shareholders, not customers.”

The donations come during Hunger Action Month in October, “a nationwide effort to raise awareness about hunger in America and inspire action to combat it.”

According to the California Association of Food Banks, California produces nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables, but “more than one in five residents do not

know where their next meal will come from. Communities of color face even higher levels of food insecurity.”

PG&E also has agreements in place with 25 food bank organizations located in high fire risk areas, “to provide food replacement during and up to three days after a Public Safety Power Shutoff.”

PSPS events “may be called when dry, windy weather is forecast, and PG&E may need to turn off power in certain areas to prevent wildfires and keep customers safe.”

“PG&E also opens Community Resource Centers during PSPS events,” the company added, “to provide basic supplies, charging stations and information to customers. Transportation support, hotel accommodations and discounts may also be available.”

The PG&E Corporation Foundation “is an independent nonprofit [public benefit] organization, separate from PG&E and sponsored by the PG&E Corporation.”

For more information, see: pge.com and pge.com/news.

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Joan’s deep love for our local history led her to play a key role in the effort to relocate the historic schoolhouse in 1974 from its original site at Los Osos Valley Road and Turri Road to the community park, so it is a fitting location for this gathering. Built in 1872, the school remained in operation until it closed in 1958.

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Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Affordability Goes Beyond New Homes



While increased home construction is often cited as a solution to California’s affordability crisis, a Cal Poly finance professor says simply building more homes won’t solve the problem.

Instead, Hamed Ghoddusi, an associate professor at the Orfalea College of Business, said communities like San Luis Obispo need to pursue a concerted effort to build homes for specific types of workers, including educators and medical providers.

“We already see that people in high-demand professions are leaving SLO to relocate to places that pay well and cost less to live,” said Ghoddusi. “Also, the ‘medical desert’ situation that is partly caused by high housing costs is forcing residents with specialized medical needs to leave the area to reside in counties with higher density of health-care providers. Some of those residents are critical members of the community that may not be easily replaced.”

The research, funded by the Economic Development Administration’s University Center, is part of a collaboration with CSU Chico, the grant leader, along with Cal Poly and Fresno State.

The median list price for homes home in San Luis Obispo exceeded \$1.3 million this summer, according to the Realtors Association. That rising price is at least partly due to an influx of remote workers, local tech jobs and wealthy retirees, Ghoddusi said.

“The demand for those groups keeps the willingness to pay high and strong,” he said. “I believe with factors such as climate change, higher traffic and increased crime rates in larger cities, SLO may become even a more desired place to live and that may put further pressure on our local housing prices, similar to what Santa Barabara has experienced on a different scale.”

As a result, more construction would likely just add more expensive homes that are out of range for many locals — including a variety of needed professionals.

Ghodussi is a member of the Real Estate Initiative, a joint effort between the Orfalea College of Business and College of Architecture and Environmental Design to prepare Cal Poly students for real estate careers and provide relevant research.

Addis Recognizes Filipino History Month



State Assemblymember Dawn Addis officially recognized October as Filipino American History Month. Addis is the co-author of the HR-65 Resolution that honors the contributions of early Filipinos to the California Missions, agriculture, military and more.

“This resolution is especially important to me because, as a Morro Bay City Councilmember, I helped Morro Bay place its monument to the first Filipinos in a beautiful location with Morro Rock as its backdrop,” Addis said.

In the photo, Addis is standing next to the monument to the landing of the first “Filipinos in the continental United States” recognition plaque. On October 18, 1587, the first “Luzones Indios” set foot in Morro Bay on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza.

In part the Resolution reads, “Throughout the history of the United States, Filipino Americans have made cultural, economic, political, social, and other contributions to

our country that have resulted in the rich, diverse, and vibrant tapestry of our nation.”

Updated COVID Vaccines



San Luis Obispo County residents can now get protection against COVID19 with updated vaccines from pharmacies countywide and Public Health Department clinics in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.

In the State of California, anyone age six months or older is recommended to receive the annual seasonal COVID-19 vaccination. For most community members, the vaccine will be fully covered by health insurance.

“This season brings the combined challenges of flu activity, potential COVID-19 surges, and the usual demand for urgent and emergency care,” said Dr. Penny Borenstein, county health officer. “I strongly encourage those seeking additional protection against COVID-19 — particularly anyone at higher risk for severe illness or who lives with someone who is — to get the updated vaccine.”

Community members may be asked to confirm an underlying health condition or sign a consent form when scheduling or receiving their vaccine. The FDA has licensed the newest COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 65 and older and for those 6 months to 64 years with certain health conditions.

To ensure access for everyone, California and its western state partners in the West Coast Health Alliance have adopted policies guaranteeing continued availability and insurance coverage for all community members who choose to be vaccinated. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, contact your local pharmacy, visit VaccineFinder.org, or call 805- 781-5500 to schedule at a Public Health clinic.

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Community

Morro Bay Resident and WWII Veteran Turns 100



Richard Williams of Morro Bay recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Photo Submitted

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Richard P. Williams, of Morro Bay, celebrated his centenary birthday on October 16.

Born in Newark, Ohio, Richard joined the Navy after graduating high school at age 17. He served in the Pacific Theater in World War II as a part of the Amphibious Force - Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP) in the assault on Okinawa, Japan. He later was stationed on the Landing Ship, Tank (LST 599) off the China coast.

Upon the completion of his enlistment in 1946, Williams attended Ohio University on the G.I. Bill where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering.

“You have got to get a good education, beyond high school, if possible,” Williams said in an email interview. “At one point, they tried to work us more than an eight-hour day, but I brought in the law books to show them that, since we weren’t upper management, they had to pay us overtime. I had just studied these books about six months earlier at college. And from then on, we didn’t need to work any more than eight hours a day. That’s the power of education.”

It was during these years in Athens, Ohio, that he met the love of his life, Dorothy Kindinger, and started a family.

“With the G. I. Bill, I managed to get a college education that I didn’t otherwise think possible,” Williams said. “It was there that I met Dorothy, on a blind date. That seemed to work out.”

Richard and Dorothy were happily married 60 years until her passing in 2011. The pair have two daughters: Gretchen and Diane.

Williams spent most of his career with General Motors in Cleveland, Ohio, and played an essential role in the design of the Power-Glide Transmission, the first automatic transmission, leading to what is used in most cars today.

With his background, Williams has followed cars for years as they evolved from floor pedals to electric to driverless vehicles.

“The Model T Ford was the most popular vehicles back in my childhood, but a lot of people couldn’t afford them,” he said. “We used to have a lot more public transportation. Buses running all over town, and, for 10 cents, you could do a lot of riding. Parades and public events happened around town about once a month.”

Over the course of a century things change a lot. Williams reflected on some of the other difference that he recalls from his days as a younger man.

“I can recall when we went from short wave radio to regular radio, then TV,” he said. “When TV first came out, the picture was about five inches wide. Now, you have things that cover the wall!”

“I remember the days that for refrigeration, you only had a block of ice, which came in 25, 50 and 100 lbs.”

Williams has been a very active member of the Masonic Fraternity both in Ohio as well as the Kind David Lodge in San Luis Obispo. In 1947, he was raised to the title of Master Mason.

Williams remains an active member of the Calvary Lutheran Church of Morro Bay. Friends from SLO County and from other countries attended a big gathering to celebrate the monumental birthday.

Estero Bay News wishes William a happy belated birthday. Thank you for your service.



Richard Williams served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater in World War. Photo Submitted

Local Kid Earns Podium Finish in His First Kart Race



Copeland Wimmer (center) celebrates his first podium finish and first trophy at the Santa Maria Karting Association event on October 12, 2025. Photo by Matt Neiswanger

Copeland Wimmer, a third-grade student at Del Mar Elementary School, raced his way onto the podium in his very first go-kart competition at the Santa Maria Karting Association event held at the Santa Maria Airport Kart Track. Not only did he finish on the podium, but he also earned his first trophy, marking an unforgettable debut in the world of kart racing.

Copeland competed in a Praga Cadet Kart in the LO206 Junior 1 Pilot class which was prepared by the Morro Bay High School ASB Auto Club. With weeks of dedicated training and practice leading up to the event, he displayed remarkable skill, composure, and sportsmanship throughout his first race.

“We couldn’t be prouder of how Copeland handled himself on the track,” said his mom, Courtney Wimmer. “His focus, determination, and spirit really shine through.”

“This isn’t just a father-son hobby for us,” said Ritchie Wimmer, Copeland’s dad who is also the auto technology instructor at Morro Bay High School. “It’s part of a larger community effort to give local kids the support and foundation they need to pursue their dreams.”

The event drew participants from across the region, and Copeland represented Morro Bay and the growing youth racing community tied to the high school’s automotive technology program and local motorsports mentorship efforts. Copeland’s family filled the bleachers in support of him, cheering him on throughout the event.

First Kart Race Continued on page 9



The Rotary Club of Morro Bay’s 5th Annual Ducky Derby was a tremendous success and our Sponsors and Donors deserve a huge *Thank You!*

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With a special thank you to the Central Coast Dragon Boat Association and all of the people who participated in our event by purchasing ducks!

Notice of Public Sale of Private Property

Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code §21700 et seq.), notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property, stored at Bay Osos Mini Storage, 2028 Mountain View Dr, Los Osos, CA 93402. The sale will be conducted online at www.storagetreasures.com, ending on or after 10/23/2025, at which time the property will be sold to satisfy the lien for unpaid rent, late fees, and other charges as allowed by law. The personal property stored by the following tenants may include, but is not limited to: household goods, furniture, clothing, tools, electronics, and miscellaneous personal items. Name of Tenant: Justin Brownlee - Unit I06. All sales are subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. Property is sold as-is, and the facility reserves the right to refuse any bid.

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Police Blotter



• **Oct. 5:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 10:31 p.m. someplace in town. Logs indicated the a man was nicked for failing to register as a convicted sex offender and felony suspicion of possessing illegal drugs with two prior arrests for the same dirty business.

• **Oct. 5:** Police responded to a disturbance at 4:58 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated they broke up a suspected misdemeanor battery of a spouse or simple assault, though these things are never simple matters.

• **Oct. 5:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:33 p.m. at some unknown location. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of driving deep in his cups.

• **Oct. 4:** Police responded at 11:28 p.m. to deal with an unruly drunkard with a warrant, at an undisclosed watering hole in town, a case of the nail that sticks out gets hammered.

• **Oct. 4:** Police responded to a suspicious subject inside Albertson's Market on Quintana. Logs indicated the ne'er do well allegedly had a pocket full of dope.

• **Oct. 4:** At 3:51 p.m. police logged a report of a missing person, which is neither here nor there, when they don't say who, nor where...

• **Oct. 4:** Police responded to a mentally disturbed subject report at 9:45 a.m. They had a similar call the night before at 7:20 p.m. Logs didn't indicate if this was the same person in distress or two, mentally deranged people, nor which is worse.

• **Oct. 3:** Police cited a vehicle parked at McDonald's for registration expired more than six months, as the drive-th-

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ru lane goes slower and slower.

• **Oct. 3:** Two vehicles were burglarized overnight. Logs didn't indicate where these despicable crimes happened, so we're apparently to assume nowhere is safe from the bilge rats that roam these streets at night.

• **Oct. 2:** At 3:55 p.m. police responded to a local business at an undisclosed location for a suspected shoplifter. The alleged pilferer also gave police a fake name, which is about par for the course, and is being charged with that little indiscretion as well.

• **Oct. 2:** Police took a report of a missing person at 12:52 p.m.

• **Sept. 30:** At 3:57 p.m. police cited a vehicle at an undisclosed location because the owner hadn't paid the DMV its bucket of guts in over six months.

• **Sept. 30:** At 12:53 p.m. police responded to another fender-bender at an undisclosed location in town. No word on how bad the crash was, but they're rarely good news.

• **Sept. 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11 p.m. at an unknown location in town. Logs indicated the driver was cited for being half cut behind the wheel.

• **Sept. 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:19 p.m. at an undisclosed location in town. Logs indicated this driver too was cited for suspicion of sloppy driving.

• **Sept. 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:32 p.m. no doubt for some trumped up code violation. Logs indicated they cited the sneaky fellow for having fake tags and expired registration too, a case of nice try but no soup for you.

• **Sept. 29:** Police marked for possible death a vehicle parked too long in one place under the State Vehicle Code: VC 22651(k), the only death sentence still honored in this state.

• **Sept. 29:** Police were called at 11 a.m. for a trespasser and contacted an apparently popular fellow as he had both a local and out-of-county warrant.

• **Sept. 29:** At 8:57 a.m. at Coleman Park, police contacted a suspicious subject who was discovered to be on probation and of course when searched, police allegedly discovered suspected illegal drugs in his possession and the fact that he has at least two prior arrests for dope, as some fools never learn.

• **Sept. 29:** Police were called at 3:04 a.m. to a disturbance at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the matter involved a mentally ill person.

• **Sept. 28:** Police contacted a regular customer acting suspicious at 6:24 p.m. inside Albertson's Market on Quintana. Logs indicated he or she was a reprobationer in violation and so subject to search, and low and behold they allegedly discovered a hookah pipe no doubt stashed in their drawers. He or she was apparently cited and released, because these days they let loose the little fish as a matter of rote.

• **Sept. 28:** Police responded at 10:14 a.m. to the Bali Hai

Cayucos Car Show Saturday

The 34th Annual Cayucos Car Show is set to take over Downtown Cayucos in a display of chrome, rubber and pure horsepower.

The Car Show is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 on Ocean Avenue Downtown. Rain or shine, the show will go on.

There will be a live band, beer garden, and barbecue available along with about 300 of the finest classic cars and hot rods you'll find anywhere.

The Cayucos Car Show marks the last car show of the year in San Luis Obispo County and while it's relatively small compared to some the quality of the vehicles is outstanding.

Sponsors include Nelson's Garage, Inc., Shoreline Inn, Reeves Auto Repair, Lee Borchard Concrete, Seaside Motel, Budweiser-Pacific Beverage, Enns Const., Sea Shanty Restaurant, Dale Kaiser Real Estate, and Westside Auto Parts.



Several car lovers talk shop at the 2023 Cayucos Car Show. This year's show is set for Saturday, Oct. 25. Photo by Neil Farrell

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Community

Local Derby Winner

No, it's not the famous one for horses in Kentucky, it's the 5th Annual Rotary Ducky Derby in Morro Bay. Rotary members and friends of Rotary were out at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, October 4, to launch the little yellow rubber ducks into the incoming tide at the Galley/Hofbrau Inlet to begin their race to the finish line at Tideland Park. Each of the duckies wore the number assigned to it for which members of the community, visitors, and Rotary members from many clubs paid \$10 each to vie for the chance to win cash prizes.

Ducky number 1243 crossed the finish line in record time as waterborne wranglers from the SurviveOars Dragon Boat Team kept a keen eye on the racers. No fouls were reported, and it was a clean race.

The happy first place winner was Dave Bisso who accepted a check for \$1,000 from Ducky Derby organizer and Rotary Fundraising Chair, Pat Teter. Eddie Galladro was second place winner receiving \$750 and third place with



Rotary team ready to board the Bay Cruisers electric boats for the Ducky Derby.

\$500 went to Erin Birchell of Cencal Roofing in Morro Bay. Funds from the race will go to scholarships for Morro Bay High School and Trade School students and to the Rotary Club of Morro Bay's Grants Program that awards grant monies to area nonprofits.

"It was a beautiful morning," said Teter, "the incoming tide was perfect and hopefully everyone there had a good



Dave Bisso accepts a check for \$1,000 from Ducky Derby organizer and Rotary Fundraising Chair, Pat Teter during the annual Rotary Duck Derby event.

time watching those little duckies give it their best. And our Ducky Wranglers were very busy netting 1,829 duckies after they crossed the finish line." The Morro Bay Rotary Club Really says they appreciate everyone's participation, whether you bought one ducky or many, as well as the event sponsors. There is a short video of the announcement of the winners on the Rotary Club of Morro Bay Facebook page. Sponsors for this event were: Estero Bay News, Cencal Roofing, Harbor House Inn, Hinson's Tire Pros, Morro Bay Active (Senior) Adults, Spencer's Fresh Market, Hay Printing, and Bay Cruisers Electric Boat Rentals.

Kart Race From page 7



Copeland at Santa Maria Airport Kart Track. Photo submitted

The family says a special thanks goes to Mark Blackford, board member of the Santa Maria Karting Association (SMKRA), "for his help getting Copeland up and running. This accomplishment highlights the region's expanding interest in motorsports education, linking students from elementary through high school in hands-on, skills-based learning that celebrates teamwork, safety, and competition."

New Owners at Goofy Graphics

By Neil Farrell

It's been a mainstay on Morro Bay's Main Street for over 40 years, and the goofiness at Goofy Graphics will continue well into the future, even though the original owner has now retired.

Gary Ryan, a local Living Treasure, boat captain and jazz banjo player, who opened and ran Goofy Graphics for four decades recently retired.

He's now sold the business — lock, stock and barrel — to two young entrepreneurs — Zoey Chaisson and Derek Kenney, who plan to keep the fun going.

Kenney said he bought the business from Ryan, as he and his life partner Chaisson took a break from doing renovations on the building for a quick interview. How they'll find the time is a mystery.

Kenney has another business, Coastal Breeze Electric, an electrical contractor outfit based in Cayucos. He also plays music in a country rock band, the Tavern Travelers, who are getting ready to release an album. Kenney said his stage name is Derek Denim, and he plays with band mates, Cody St. James and Brandon O'Connor at bars and taverns all over SLO County.

Chaisson is busy too, with a massage business, Opu-



Zoey Chaisson and Derek Kenney are the new owners of Goofy Graphics in Morro Bay. Photo by Neil Farrell

lent Healing & Massage, located a couple blocks away from Goofy Graphics at 1052 Main St., Ste. F.

The pair also have three young children together, no doubt making for quite a busy life.

Goofy Continued on page 10

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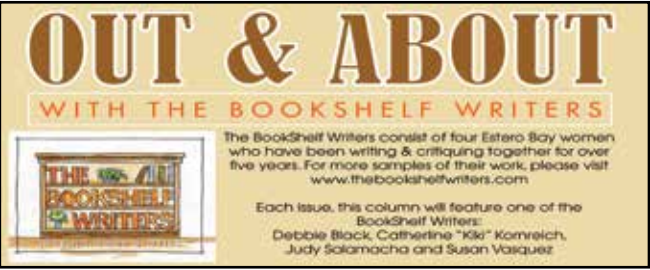
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Joel Pace, When He's Not Wearing His SLO Realtor Ball-Cap

By Judy Salamacha

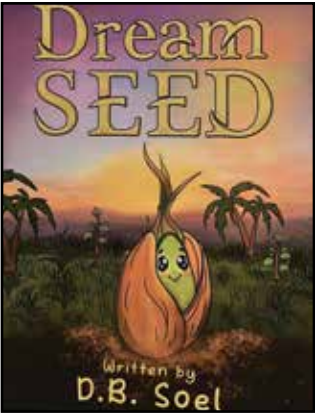
It was literally last April that I contacted Joel Pace. I had received a notice from him that D.B. Soel, a pen name, had just published “Dream Seed.” What I discovered was a beautiful gift a parent can read to their child of any age. “Dream Seed” is a delightful lyrically written and illustrated children’s picture-book. “Each child begins as a dream of the parent, a dream of great potential,” the author states in the acknowledgement. The story introduces “...a seed that vibrated with an exciting dream ... nurtured with equal parts love & joy...”

I was curious how and why this busy local realtor found time and inspiration to write and publish a book. He explained, “The genesis for “Dream Seed” came out of a traumatic family event. The story is an allegory of how we are in control of our energy, our vibrations. Whatever we think about, we bring about. We are each other’s dream-makers in this life. It takes a village, but if our energy is focused, we can become anything we wish to become.”

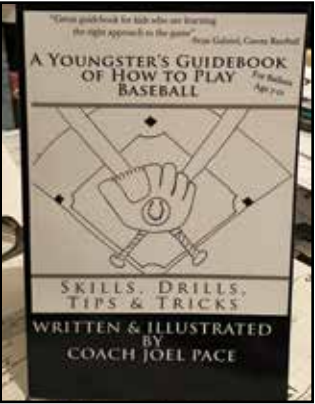
Joel not only believes humans can be more than we think we can be, but he has also coached this belief his entire adult life. “I published “A Youngster’s Guidebook of How to Play Baseball: For Ballers Age 7-12” my last year of presidency of the Central Coast Little League. It was inspired by a team that had mainly players from single family households. My heart went out to these kids. Nobody would coach them, but some grandpas agreed to assist.”

The book is narrated by “Coach” intended for coaches and ballers. “During practice, it’s best to split kids into different drills and rotate.” Joel said. “I had jotted down the ABCs of the fundamentals so we could all be on the same page. It eventually became the basis of the book. For appeal to this age group, I created and defined vocabulary terms and used crossword and word search puzzles to enrich their interest. I used words like pickle, wheelhouse, force out, strike, ball, etc. Each fundamental has its own chapter, with its own puzzle. I drew illustrations, intending for them to color it, hoping they would imagine themselves sliding into the base, or stretching for a ball, or catching with two hands.”

Both books are available at Amazon, and, as we go into the 2025 World Series, this columnist recommends you gift this baseball how-to book to your youth baseball dreamers.



‘Dream Seed’ written by D.B. Soel, a pen name for local realtor Joel Pace.



Another book written by Pace that he has put into practice coaching Little league teams. Bookshelf column head

Joel promises in the book’s forward, “Playing good baseball is as easy as ABC. Each skill you need to know is explained in simple, easy-to-follow ABCs. Practice each section and you should get better quickly.”

Joel looked back on his career – so far! “Baseball was a sport I loved, and I was pretty successful at it. At 9-years-old, I pitched our team to the Tournament of Champions. In high school, football and baseball were my sports and my coaches and teammates helped me shape my behavior and mindset to be a champion. I did a lot of observation then. The subtleties of socioeconomic disadvantaged/ advantaged, race and family issues were all around me. I identified with the underdog and generally didn’t feel I belonged.”

And yet the inadequacies he felt sparked his future dreams. “Entrepreneurs make a ton of money! I grew up poor, so this became my goal and ambition. When I was a senior in high school, I stumbled upon a real estate principles textbook at a garage sale, read it, and desired to become an agent.”

His mother encouraged college first. “I went to Humboldt State University and played baseball for their D2 club team. Humboldt truly helped me broaden and expand my perspective. I knew I wanted to push to understand myself on deeper levels. I was studying engineering, but the idea of becoming a real estate attorney held great fascination, so I switched to English, focusing on prelaw. But then I was exposed to amazing literature that made me think on vastly deeper self-actualization levels. After graduating, I traveled with friends to India and discovered many truths about the mind, and how we can control our destiny.

“I became a high school English teacher and coached. but my spirit needed to be more free. I needed to generate wealth for my own freedom and no longer feel impoverished. So, I resigned my position, and we decided to move to San Luis Obispo County to be closer to my in-laws in 2004.”

That’s when he started and ultimately sold his entrepreneurial venture, SLO Chai, and then began to focus on real estate sales and marketing. And periodically, writing.

“My inspiration to write,” Joel shared, “is personal growth. I sincerely believe we are more than we think we are. I try to communicate that we all have an ability to rise above challenges, to become more than we think possible. As human beings, we have the strongest mind known to nature. By thinking, and using our mind and emotions in positive ways, we can reach for our highest potential beyond perceived limitations, and manifest what we absolutely dream and desire in our lifetime.”

What’s next for Joel Pace? “I consider myself lucky. I married my sweetheart at 25 and we have two wonderful children. A wonderful adventure is about to take shape. My wife and I have designed and developed a software app for Virtual Reality. As my wife is a labor and delivery registered nurse, it focuses on pregnant and laboring women. So, pregnant women, prepare to be empowered and overcome all your fears! You will absolutely want and need this app! More on that later!”

A Good vs. Evil Fund-raiser Dinner

The epic battle between heroes vs. villains is the theme of this year’s Sheriff’s Advisory Foundation Annual Fundraiser Dinner, set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 in San Luis Obispo.

Get ready for an epic showdown “and a thrilling evening of good vs. evil at our Heroes vs. Villains-themed event,” The Foundation said in a news release. “Whether you’re a caped crusader or a notorious nemesis, come dressed to impress for a night full of fun!”

There will be appetizers, bar specials, live and silent auctions, a costume contest, dinner, and dancing with a live DJ.

Goofy From page 9



Gary Ryan reties after forty years

So why take on another business? Kenney said he’s been doing graphic art his whole life, designing artwork under the business name — Toxic Skateboards. And when he was 15, Kenney said, Ryan helped him make stickers to sell, so his connection to the place runs deep.

They don’t seem overwhelmed, as they unearth lots of interesting items amidst 40 years of accumulated stuff.

Chaisson points out that the space is huge and the graphics shop probably doesn’t even take up a third of it.

“We’re going to gut it and see what happens,” she said, adding that there’s enough room for a multi-dimensional store.

They hope to bring in other small businesses that will help attract people to the store. Really, it’s a work in progress, with the first step to clean the place out and make any needed repairs.

They plan on keeping the name, Goofy Graphics, mainly because it’s got great name recognition, but also, Kenney said he specifically bought the name so he could keep it going. “We wanted to keep the name alive,” he said.

The clean-up and renovations ought to take about two months, Chaisson said.

COLLEGETOWN



By Michael Walker

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Community

Proceeds support SLO County Law Enforcement, so gather your super squad or round up an evil entourage and help the Sheriff's Foundation make a difference.

Tickets are exclusively available for purchase through the Foundation website, see: safslo.org/product/annual-fundraiser. Seating is limited. Please note this is a 21 and over event.

The fundraiser dinner is at The White Barn, 217 Green Gate Rd., in rural San Luis Obispo.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Take part in the Halloween Magical Mystery Show. By the Sea Productions and Rick Bruce, the Wizard of Cambria, invite you to step into a liminal world where stories wait inside sealed boxes and a soul stands at the threshold between lives. In this spellbinding, audience-guided show, each chosen box unlocks a tale from long ago. Which boxes will be opened? Which stories will be told? It's up to the audience. When the final story unfolds, one spirit may find the courage to move on.

This original show plays Halloween weekend only, October 31-November 2, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., at 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Reservations and tickets are at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287.

On Saturday, October 25, Morro Bay Recreation Services, the Morro Bay Chamber, and Barber Jon of Mike's Barbershop will host the 11th Annual Morro Bay Trick-or-Treat from 2:30-5:30 p.m., in conjunction with the Morro Bay Farmers Market.

The Trick-or-Treat Committee, along with numerous local organizations and businesses, will hand out candy and goodies to trick-or-treaters of all ages. To ensure a safe and festive atmosphere, the 200 block of Morro Bay Boule-

vard will be closed to traffic during the event.

More than 40 local businesses and organizations will participate, either by setting up booths or handing out treats directly from their storefronts throughout the downtown area. Families can also enjoy a photo booth, face painting, a bounce house, live music by The White Caps, and a ride on the Haunted Trolley.

Trick-or-Treat maps will be available for pickup at 2:30 p.m. at the Morro Bay Recreation Booth, with trick-or-treating beginning immediately afterward.

This free, family-friendly event is open to all families and promises to be a spooktacular afternoon celebrating community, creativity, and Halloween fun.

For more information, please contact Morro Bay Recreation Services at (805) 772-6278.



Cal Poly Music Faculty Showcase is set for Oct. 31 during Mustang Family Weekend at 6:30 p.m. in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center featuring:

- Flutist Jennifer Jo and pianist Idona Cabrinha: Piazzolla's "Night Club 1960" from "Histoire du Tango"
- Violinists Emily Lanzone and Grace Seng: Sergey Prokofiev's "Sonata for Two Violins"

- Pianist Janet Joichi: Chopin's "Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor," Op. 35
- Trumpeter Christopher J. Woodruff and tubist Stephen Nutt: Eugene Anderson's "Baroque 'N Brass."

Admission will be charged at the door. Prices are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students.



Halloween Festivities Return to Downtown SLO Farmers ' Market on Thursday, October 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public.

- Trick-or-Treat Trail from 6-8:30 p.m. Families are invited to follow the trail and collect candy as they Trick-or-Treat at downtown businesses and farmers' market vendors. Trick-or-Treaters are encouraged to start at Mission Plaza and follow the map through downtown. Families are encouraged to bring their own treat bags and print maps at home or use the digital version. The map will be published online at DowntownSLO.com/Halloween as the date approaches.
- Costume Contest in Mission Plaza. Registration/Check-In: 6-6:30 p.m. Contest: 6:30-8:30 p.m. People of all ages are invited to participate in the annual Costume Contest in Mission Plaza! Prizes from local businesses will be awarded to winners in the following categories: age groups 0-2, 3-4, 5-8, and 9-12, as well as pairs and groups. The contest will be emceed by Pepper Daniels of 98.1 KJUG and judged by San Luis Obispo City Mayor Erica A. Stewart, alongside local leaders from sponsor organizations. Pre-Registration (Online): Closes Thursday, October 30, at 1 p.m. For the first time, an online pre-registration form is available to speed up the check-in process. Those interested can register now at DowntownSLO.com/Halloween. As always, on-site registration will still take place at Mission Plaza before the contest begins. All participants must check in at Mission Plaza before the contest. Registration is free.
- Scary-oke! from 6-9 p.m. Scary-oke! karaoke contest at the intersection of Chorro and Higuera. Sign up onsite and compete for cash prizes! Farmers' Market | 6-9 p.m. The community is invited to dress up in costume and enjoy five blocks of over 120 vendors offering fresh produce, famous BBQ, delicious meals, crafts, baked goods, and more! Halloween Festivities coincide with the normally scheduled

Events Continued on page 12

MORRO BAY BIRD FESTIVAL

Is Coming to Town January 15-19, 2026

Join us for five days of breathtaking scenery, amazing wildlife, unique storytelling, and unforgettable local adventures. There's something for everyone at this year's festival.

See you at the Morro Bay Community Center!

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Festival Highlights

- Bay Cruise & Lunch Aboard the Chablis
- Flight Lessons Folk Opera by Deborah Crooks
- Movie Matinee: *The Big Year* with Special Guest Greg Miller

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- Nature Journaling Workshops

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Art Center Morro Bay welcomes Elizabeth Tolley, a well-known plein air oil painter with many awards and credits for her outstanding painting achievements to her name. She is giving a free oil painting demonstration Saturday, Nov.1 from 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay. No reservations needed. For more information, go to ArtCenterMorroBay.org or call (805) 772-2504 for details.



The Bear Valley Quilters Boutique takes place Sunday November 2, at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event features unique handmade items perfect for the holidays. For more information, go to bearvalleyquilters.org or send an email to bearvalleyquilters@gmail.com.

The club's meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. They also have an in person sit and sew on the second Friday of the month.

Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to EditorEBN@gmail.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. Please, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers. We do not guarantee publication but try to include as many as we can.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MORRO BAY

Roger Castle Was HSMB's Leader

Many of you have learned that Roger Castle died recently after an 8-year battle with disabilities induced by a medical treatment. He was inspiring to us as we watched him continue to lead the fundamental work of the Historical Society of Morro Bay despite his physical limitations, proving to us that it is the ability that matters. Those of us who worked and planned with him know how invaluable he was to HSMB and we wanted to share some of that with you.

Roger filled almost every role possible in the Society over the years, from financial and compliance manager to collections director. He was there in 2002 when the Society came out of a 'hiatus' and re-organized under the leadership of Gary Ream. And, of course, he was president from 2007 to 2012 as well as being our one indispensable board member the entire time. Now we must cope with that.

History was the point of it all. Roger and Gary Ream wrote and published the Arcadia Press book "Images of America: Morro Bay" in 2006 and a few years later they published "Morro Bay Then and Now" with Garry Johnson adding current photos. When we can keep them in stock (a challenge) you can purchase these books from HSMB or from Coalesce Books in Morro Bay.

Roger had surprising talents and terrific persistence. He invented a unique spreadsheet-based information system to categorize and search our collection, achieving similar functions to a very expensive off-the-shelf software package. He kept our books, wrote for our newsletter, and made sure our formal state filings were on time. Maybe most important of all, he provided that necessary source of grit that kept us going. He didn't talk at board meetings



to hear himself; he listened and his responses were worth hearing.

So, we will miss him for a hundred good reasons. He and his sister Nancy were born and raised in Morro Bay, and Roger lived with his wife Marge in Los Osos for many years. We will have them and our own memories to help keep us going, but it's not the same, is it?

Big Sur Jade Festival inhabits Harmony For Second Year

Photos by Keith Pendelton

The 29th Annual Big Sur Jade Festival was held in Harmony during the weekend of October 10- 12. Sponsored by the South Coast Land Trust of Monterey County's Big Sur area, this was the second year in a row the hamlet of Harmony hosted the event.

Seventeen bands from both counties performed for the crowd over the three-day weekend. Sunday afternoon featured folks dancing to Rough House, as "sweet perfume" also wafted through the air mixing with the music. The cars replaced the cows in the field next to the hamlet to



Seventeen bands performed at the festival. Dancers are just starting to groove to the tunes.

over-flow capacity. Glass-blowing classes are offered (year 'round), gorgeous gift pottery is sold, and an art gallery saw additional tent vendors sell their jade and other gifts.

Surely, Harmony Cellars up the hill benefited from the better-than-expected turnout. Ironically the wine-tasting operation just completed a summer-long Friday concert series in mid-September, offering large crowds to the glass-blowing and pottery businesses in the hamlet.

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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa- Marie Wilson



The Los Osos – Baywood Chamber of Commerce welcomed Beach Hut Deli as one of their newest members with a festive ribbon cutting ceremony and mixer!

“We had a fantastic time celebrating with the team and community members at their laid-back, beach-themed location,” Chamber officials said. “If you haven’t tried it yet, you’re missing tasty, layered sandwiches, crisp fresh ingredients, and a lineup full of bold tastes and fresh ideas. From their signature ‘surfer-style’ subs to crisp salads and hearty sides, Beach Hut Deli serves up more than just food — they deliver a full-on good vibes experience.”

Planning an event or office lunch? Beach Hut Deli also offers catering services, perfect for corporate meetings, parties, or any gathering large or small that needs great food without the hassle. Whether it’s a tray of sandwiches or a full spread, they’ve got you covered.

Beach Hut Deli is located at 1240 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos, (805) 439-0998, beachhutdeli.com/store/los-osos/.

Driscoll’s Pledges \$5 Million to Poly

Driscoll’s, the global leader in fresh strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries, has pledged \$5 million to Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. This investment will launch a state-of-the-art farm store, anchoring Cal Poly’s new Plant Sciences Complex and advancing the university’s commitment to developing future leaders in food and agriculture.

The farm store, located within the six-acre Plant Sciences Complex, is part of the college’s vision to create a vibrant campus hub for innovation. Students will gain practical experience in

growing, producing, marketing and selling campus-made products, while engaging in applied research and retail innovation. Driscoll’s will have the opportunity to name the farm store, leaving a lasting legacy and celebrating its commitment to community partnership and student development. “Driscoll’s is committed to cultivating the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of agriculture and food,” said Soren Bjorn, CEO of Driscoll’s in a news release. “Our partnership with Cal Poly reflects our belief in the power of education, innovation and hands-on experience to drive meaningful change for our industry and communities.” The Plant Sciences Complex, which broke ground in November 2023, will feature the George Wurzel Plant Sciences Building and the Bee Sweet Citrus Agriculture Automation Lab, both set to open in 2026. The farm store, located at the corner of Highland Avenue and Mt. Bishop Road, is scheduled to begin construction in 2026, with an anticipated opening in summer 2027. The store will unite Cal Poly’s food and agriculture enterprises, providing a central location for collaboration and community engagement. Students will gain insight into every step of the food supply chain — from farm operations and food safety to product development and marketing, preparing them for leadership roles in a rapidly evolving agricultural landscape. Other industry contributors to the Plant Sciences Complex include the James G. Boswell Foundation, Bee Sweet Citrus and Taylor Farms. To join the effort, contact Russ Kabaker, assistant dean of advancement and external relations, at 805-756-6601 or rkabaker@calpoly.edu.

League Luncheon on Immigration and Local Law Enforcement

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County present a Lunch with the League webinar addressing the role local law enforcement agencies have in immigration issues on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at noon. Discussion topics include what is the residential status of immigrants and how does the law apply to them and when and how local law enforcement agencies can take part in enforcement actions directed at individuals who are immigrants? The expert panel includes top law enforcement leaders in SLO County who direct the policies and actions of the departments responsible for carrying out the law. They will discuss these policies and actions in the context of community needs and how the law applies to immigrants. The panel includes Jim Munro, chief of police, Grover Beach; Ian Parkinson, sheriff, SLO County; Rick Scott, chief of police, San Luis Obispo; and Dan Suttles, chief of police, Atascadero and will be moderated by Jim Gardiner, retired SLO police chief. For more information about this webinar, contact Glenn Silloway at socialpolicy@lwvso.org. Registration is required at lwvso.org/.

Spokes Annual Symposium

Spokes, an organization providing resources to empower the nonprofit community, will host its annual Symposium Thursday, November 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. at San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, located at 4875 Morabito Place in San Luis Obispo. Designed to convene nonprofit leaders from SLO County to explore connection and collaboration opportunities, the Symposium includes a keynote, interactive sessions, and a networking hour with appetizers and beverages.



This year’s keynote will be virtually presented by Lindsay Kijewski (pictured), partner at SeaChange Capital Partners, a New York City-based nonprofit that provides grants, loans, analysis and advice to help nonprofits work through complex financial and organizational challenges. Lindsay will explore the many forms of collaboration that strengthen nonprofits and safeguard mission delivery amid funding challenges. Symposium attendees will have the chance to engage with Lindsay and other local nonprofit leaders through structured activities, followed by a casual social hour with appetizers and beverages to close the event. “Our local nonprofits are confronting significant challenges, including unpredictable funding, increased scrutiny of programs, and political pressures that affect the sector as a whole,” said Michael Simkins, CEO of Spokes. “The path forward may not yet be clear, but we know we are stronger together. Our hope is that the Symposium helps strengthen connections and provides a launching point for sustainability through collaboration.” Advanced registration is required for the Spokes Symposium. Cost is \$60 general admission and \$30 for Spokes members. Tickets can be purchased at spokesfornonprofits.org.

Poly Students Makes Lego History

Most Lego sets are dreamed up in Denmark by teams of professional designers. This summer, one of the company’s newest releases came from an unlikely place: the imagination of Alex Sahli, a computer science student at Cal Poly. His Italian Riviera build, a 3,251-piece village of pastel homes and cobbled streets, is now on shelves worldwide, complete with his name and a photo of him holding the set in the instruction manual. Priced at \$299, the set was inspired by his travels in Italy.

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Cal Poly computer science student Alex Sahli holds the official Lego Italian Riviera set he designed, a 3,251-piece model inspired by his travels in Italy. The build is the 67th fan design to be produced as an official Lego set. Photo courtesy of Alex Sahli

For Sahli, a resident of Portland, Oregon, the accomplishment grew out of a lifelong love of Lego.

“I’ve been a fan my whole life,” he said. “I remember being 2 or 3 at my grandparents’ house in Seattle. They gave me the Universal Building Set 566, and I couldn’t put it down. I’d build a house, a car, whatever I could imagine.”

What began with those childhood builds eventually led to models displayed in Denmark, at Legoland and at the Lego House near company headquarters in Billund.

Sahli submitted the Italian Riviera to Lego Ideas at the end of high school, knowing the odds were slim. Thousands of projects are uploaded each year, but only those with 10,000 supporters advance to review. Since 2008, the platform has turned just 67 fan projects into official Lego sets. Sahli’s Italian Riviera became the 67th, advancing through review and months of revisions before reaching shelves three years later.

“At first I thought it was a joke,” he said. “It took a couple of days to sink in.”

When Lego announced the set, Sahli shared the video with his extended family at their annual retreat in Oregon.

“It was a fun, full-circle moment,” he said, “from getting my first set to sharing one with my family.”

Lego Ideas designers earn a 1% royalty on the total net sales of their set and receive 10 complimentary copies — perks that came with Sahli’s milestone release.

As the Italian Riviera moved toward production, Sahli worked closely with Lego’s team on the final design. Over the course of a year, he joined calls to discuss adjustments, sometimes dialing in from a café in Lisbon or an Airbnb in Ghana during Cal Poly’s Semester at Sea.

“They got my input for the final design,” he said. “I was happy with the changes they made.”

Part of the fun of the Italian Riviera set is spotting the surprises tucked inside. Sahli added personal touches: a tiny painting

of a Tuscan villa, numbered stickers referencing his birthday, a lucky number and his Semester at Sea voyage, No. 134. And when he spotted the minifigure version of himself, a tourist with a camera in hand, Sahli couldn’t help but laugh.

“I’ve made it in the Lego world,” he said. “Can’t ask for more than that.”

Fans can follow Sahli’s latest designs on Instagram: @galaxy-brickworks.

Half-Off Pet Ooptions

Both Woods Humane Society and The County of SLO Animal Services Division (ASD) are offering half-off pet adoption fees through Sunday, October 26. The joint adoption promotion comes as an early kick-off to Woods’ annual Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival, held at Woods in San Luis Obispo on October 25, from 12-3 p.m.

“Our annual Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival is a free community event and pet party that honors all of the ways pets enrich our lives,” says Woods Humane Society CEO Emily L’Heureux. “Thanks to our generous, animal-loving Wiggle Waggle sponsors, we are also able to offer this 10-day half-off adoption promotion to encourage more local families to open their hearts, join in the fun, and adopt a new best friend.”

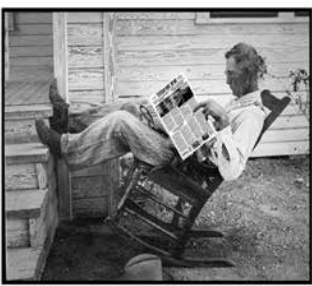
ASD, located next door to Woods Humane Society SLO on Oklahoma Avenue, will mirror Woods’ adoption promotion and will also offer a “Check Your Chip” booth at the festival.

Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival features an afternoon of canine carnival fun for families and their leashed dogs, including doggie costume contests, a stuffed animal pull, photos with Santa Paws, a full Pet Fair of more than 40 local vendors and food trucks, and more.

Woods Humane Society’s adoption centers are located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, and are open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. To view adoptable animals, visit www.WoodsHumane.org/adoptions. For more information, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

The County of SLO Animal Services Division is located at 865 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, and is open to the public for adoptions Monday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about Animal Services, visit www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Animal-Services or call (805) 781-4400.

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NATURAL HISTORY NUGGETS

Mycelial Minds

By Dean Thompson

Let’s talk to zombies! The HBO series “The Last of Us,” where a fungal pandemic causes people to turn into zombie-like creatures before they die, was just too much for my wife. I think it was the scenes of the fibrous mycelial filaments, called hyphae, coming out of people’s mouths, trying to infect another, that was the final straw. Added to that was the knowledge we have as biologists that the plot was not that far from the truth.



Ant killed by Ophiocordyceps fungus. Photo by Katja Schulz / Flickr

In the show, it is a Cordyceps fungus that invades people’s bodies, and in real life, there is a fungus called Ophiocordyceps that invades carpenter ants’ bodies. Merlin Sheldrake, author of the wonderful book about fungus called “Entangled Life,” goes into great detail about how this fungus achieves its goal of reproduction by using the ants’ bodies.

Once infected by a fungal spore, the filaments of hyphae wind in and among the ants’ body cavities, enmeshing their muscle fibers. The fungus ends up being almost half of the ants’ biomass. Weirdly enough, it avoids the ant’s brain. Instead, the fungus secretes chemicals to act almost like a puppeteer, to direct the ants’ movements.

What exactly does the fungus want the ants to do, you may wonder? Good question, I’m glad you asked. The fungus directs the ant to leave the safety of its nest and climb up onto a nearby plant, where it will clamp its jaws around the plant in a “death grip.” Once there, mycelium grows out of the ant’s feet, anchoring it to the plant. Then, after the fungus digests the ant’s body, it sprouts a stalk out of its head so it can rain down spores onto ants walking below. As researcher David P. Hughes says, the organism has basically become a “fungus in ant’s clothing”.

The uncanny thing is that this zombie fungus directs its host with such precision. As Sheldrake explains, “Ophiocordyceps compels the ants to perform the death grip in a zone with just the right temperature and humidity to allow the fungus to fruit: a height of twenty-five centimeters above the forest floor.” Not only that, the fungus also

Mycelial Minds Continued on page 16

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Community

Mycelial Minds From page 15

orients the ants according to the direction of the sun, and ninety-eight percent of the time, the ants clump onto a major vein of the plant. I guess it's not too much of a surprise that Ophiocordyceps is closely related to ergot fungus, from which Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann isolated alkaloids to create LSD.

Keep in mind that Ophiocordyceps is not an isolated case. For example, there's the Entomophthora fungus that will manipulate the minds of flies to climb up high, where they become glued to the surface by their mouthparts as they try to feed. Eventually, they too will have a fungal stalk protrude from their bodies to spread spores into the air.

Or how about the Massospora fungus that infects cicadas and causes the rear third of their bodies to disintegrate, but their essential nervous system remains intact; that way they can discharge spores out of their ruptured hind ends! Matt Kason, the researcher from West Virginia University who discovered this, calls the male cicadas "flying salt-shakers of death" due to the fact that the fungus causes the males to become hyperactive and hyper-sexual despite the fact that their genitals have long since crumbled away.

Okay, I'll just stop right there.
It kind of makes you think twice about all the fungus among us!

Happy Halloween!
Thanks go out to Merlin Sheldrake, whose book "Entangled Life" inspired me to write this piece.

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 "Ruminations of a Naturalist", can also be found on Substack.

Trick or Treat and Witch's Paddle, Oct. 25

Morro Bay's two big Halloween events will take place on the same day in 2025.



This family of witches was at the 2024 Downtown Trick or Treat. This year's event is from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Photo by Neil Farrell

Downtown Morro Bay will again fill with spooks, ghouls, super heroes and fairy princesses for the 11th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat.

The free event is open to the public and takes over several blocks of Morro Bay Boulevard and Main Street in the central business district from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25.

There will be a map available of participating merchants who will have treats for all the costumed Halloweeners.

They will also have a face painting booth, a photo booth, the Haunted Trolley spook house, live music with the White Caps Band and a bounce house to burn off some of that candy.

So get dressed in your favorite Halloween costume and join the fun. Open to all ages.



The 11th Annual Witch's & Warlock's Paddle is set for noon Saturday, Oct. 25 in Morro Bay Harbor. Photo by Neil Farrell

Also at noon on Saturday, Oct. 25 is the 11th Annual Witches & Warlocks Paddle, as hundreds of witches, warlocks and all manner of ghoulies take to the bay for some stand-up paddling fun.

Hundreds of folks line the Embarcadero from Coleman Beach to Tidelands Park, for the annual watery spectacle, with witches on paddleboards, kayaks and canoes.

The Witch's Paddle is a non-permitted, non-sanctioned event, so participants do so at their own peril.

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Obituaries

Kelley Ann Davis
1954-2025



Kelley Ann Davis, 71, of Los Osos, California passed away on Monday, September 29, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William J. and Patricia J. Otis; sister Dulce J. Otis-Richardson and nephew Donald S. Underhill. Those she leaves behind are husband Robert A. Davis; siblings Stacey L. Underhill, Dixie D. Otis, Michael M. Otis (Michelle) and Lucy V. Tucker (Katherine); nieces Shannon D. Lozano (Isaac) and Selena S. Underhill-Berk (Jordan); nephews Tyler W. Otis and Shane C. Otis; Great niece Madison D. Pope (Dustin); Great nephews Ryan J. Underhill and Brody A. Berk; Great-great nephew Shepherd G. Pope; and lastly her best friend Gale Grasse-Sprague.

Kelley's love of family, her sense of humor, and her generosity will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She will live in our hearts forever.

Remembrances may be sent to your local animal non-profit organizations.

In Print and
On Line
esterobaynews.com

Robert Bennett Castle
1945 - 2025



Roger Castle passed away at home on October 1, 2025. He was born in San Luis Obispo, CA, on June 29, 1945. He grew up in Morro Bay, CA, in a home that his father built from poured adobe.

Roger worked at Cuesta College for over 10 years as a theatre technician for both the Interact Theatre and the Cuesta Auditorium. He helped build the current San Luis Repertory Theatre facility (formerly the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre) and was involved with the theatre there for over 20 years.

He worked for CAPSLO as a home repair technician for 18 years. He loved helping people, especially seniors, stay in their homes. During his later years, he was involved in the Morro Bay Historical Society and wrote two books about Morro Bay with his friends.

He is survived by Marge Castle, his wife of 42 years, and their son, Noel, of whom he was very proud, his sister, Nancy Castle, his nephew, Roscoe (Melissa), great-niece, Lyra, and several cousins. He was especially close to cousins Barbara Allen (Carl), Patty Bennett (Tim), and Mary Bennett. He was preceded in death by his father, Miles Castle, and mother, Jean (Bennett) Castle.

Roger's ashes will be spread in the ocean of his beloved Morro Bay surrounded by his family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Morro Bay Historical Society, PO Box 921, Morro Bay, CA 93443.

A
Dose
of Good
Dogma



“It’s the most “

time of the year!”

By Lisa Ellman

We’re coming into that time of year again; holidays and chaos right around the corner, starting with Halloween. Depending on your dog’s temperament and social skills, it can be wonderful or extremely stressful. It’s a difficult and chaotic time; traveling, people coming and going, abundant food and drink, and changes in routine. These factors may cause your dog confusion and troubles.

Halloween equals doorbells and knocking. Is your dog reactive to that? The best way to keep your dog safe and calm is to put them in a room with a tv or radio playing, and in their crate if that’s where they feel safe. Don’t give them an opportunity to run out the front door or scare kids by jumping or barking at them because they look different. Keep the candy in a place where the dog can’t get to it.

Then soon enough, Thanksgiving and winter holidays! Are you traveling? Is your dog going with you or boarding? Either option can be stressful for your pet. Unless your dog is an experienced traveler, plane rides and long car rides may cause upset stomachs and increased anxiety. Talk to your vet about any medications that can ease these issues. I personally do not recommend having your dog travel by plane; get her on board or in a cargo hold. Travel by car is a better option, when possible, giving your dog the opportunity to get out, move (take a long line with you), and potty. Also, should you run into any health issue, there are vet clinics in just about every town, and you can use your phone to locate the closest one. Kenneling your dog can be stressful if your dog has not had that experience previously. It’s a good idea to get to know the kennel and staff and introduce your dog to them now. Perhaps a couple days of doggie day care before you leave them there for an extended period of time. Always go tour the facility without your dog before you decide which one is best for your needs. Don’t make an appointment with them, just drop in. This way you can see it “as is.” Look for clean kennels, clean, full water bowls and any play yard activities. Ask about how they group dogs for outdoor exercise.

Next, the guests! Does your dog tend to bolt out the door? Or jump on people as they arrive? Now would be a great time to reinforce basic behaviors such as stay, place, off and sit. Be sure that your dog is well socialized with

Good Dogma Continued on page 18

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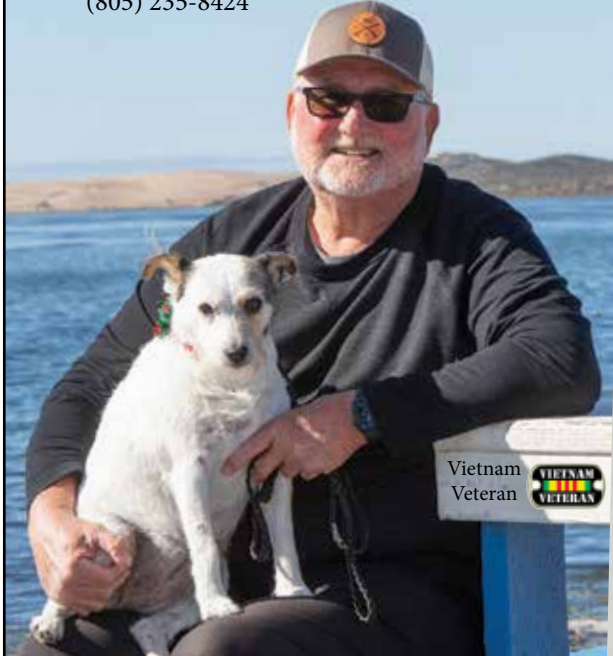
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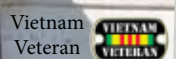
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Charter Member

Community

Good Dogma From page 17

people and provide a safe place for your dog to get away. Just like with humans, your dog may need some “down time.” Put their crate, or bed, in a quiet room, with a toy or two, perhaps a stuffed Kong. Leave soft music on to drown out the activities in the other parts of the house. Be sure that whoever is coming to your home knows that you have a dog and, if they have not met, introduce the dog to them in a calm, quiet manner. Let the people know what your dog does or doesn’t like. For example, where the dog likes to be touched, how to approach your dog. Be sure to let people know if your dog is comfortable, or not, with children and if kids come into your home, ALWAYS have an adult present to monitor the interaction.

Finally, food. Remind your guests not to feed your dog any table scraps, especially sugary or fatty foods. Try to keep your dog on its regular diet and feeding routine. If you’re serving appetizers with toothpicks, be sure to pick them up. Toothpicks on the ground, that smell like food, might be chewed up by your dog and can cause splinters or puncture wounds to the mouth, gums and or GI tract. Fun!

With all the activity, routines will change and this can be stressful for your dog. Dogs love routine and structure. They depend on a certain time every day to eat, go potty and get a walk or go to the dog park. It’s important to try and maintain this schedule. Keep in mind, whether you’re home or not, that unexpected or new, routines may cause changes in your dog’s behavior.

Keep everyone safe and have a “wonderful” time of the year!

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



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Cat Noir CC

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Boris had big plans for his Sunday and as you can see the cable went out. The human tried to entertain him with chase the ball, grab the string and “knock it off—the shelf,” but he had to be one of those guys and try to fix it.

The Mouse Bowl will be over by the time he gets his tools up there, cusses at everything in sight and scratches himself in what should be discrete places.

The reality is that the human left a borrowed ladder out and walked outside and there he was climbing up the darn thing to get on the neighbor’s roof. I decided to “rescue” him.

At about the third or fourth rung up the ladder, I remembered my fear of heights and was sort of frozen there, but not in the let’s sing a song and everything will be fantastic Disney movie way. It was more along the lines of, “I should have packed a lunch because I am going to be standing and shaking in this exact same spot for a very long time” kind of way.

During my stay of terror (which I think is the title for Frozen 13) I discovered that Boris is not a good companion to have in difficult times. He does not grasp basic human emotions and phobias and is rather entitled.

I put my life on the line to rescue him, and what did he do while I clung to the perfectly stable ladder that I was convinced was rapidly dropping in the weight capacity it could safely hold each second I remained on it? Guess.



He sauntered over to me, looked down from the roof to where I was a mere three feet off the ground, glanced at me as if I was at the bottom of the gene pool, and then he walked down the ladder steps right past me with a little flick of his tail.

If you need me, I’m the grumpy one pouting on the couch, and Boris is the one gloating next to me. If he shoves that #1 foam finger in my face one more time, he will be sleeping on the roof, and there will never be another Mouse Bowl again.

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The Sook family enjoys the night sky at a January Dark Skies event promoting the end of light pollution. Photo submitted

change). It also affects the view of the night sky for astronomy and, in some cases, can create glare and light trespass that reduces safety.

“Beautify Cambria’s vision is to protect and enhance the natural beauty of Cambria,” Claudia Harmon Worthen, president and co-founder of Beautify Cambria and The Future of Night, told Estero Bay News. “This includes the beauty of the night sky. About 10 years ago, we met with people who were unhappy with the increase in light pollution. We decided to do something about the ever-increasing problem. We applied to DSI and have been on their list ever since.”

DSI lists Hong Kong as one of the worst light pollution cities in the world. Las Vegas, Nevada is the brightest city seen from outer space. Miami, Florida is also near the top of the list while Flagstaff, Arizona, a dark sky certified community, has the least light pollution in the US.

To be certified Cambria must have a dark sky lighting ordinance, retrofit or build 10 structures using dark sky lighting, host two events per year, monitor light pollution with a sky quality meter and submit a lengthy report each year to maintain certification.”

DSI host two dark sky events and one solar viewing event each year and regularly reports to Dark Skies. But government moves slower than the nonprofit.

Worthen says, “the big obstacle to certification is refusal of County Supervisors to update the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) lighting ordinance to dark sky standards. In our proposed lighting code, we suggest including lighting codes in the North Coast Area Plan, and sections of the CZLUO sign ordinance.”

However, there is some progress on the Supervisors side of things. “The county is planning to make de minimis changes to the CZLUO lighting code the first of the year,” Worthen said. “They will remove the reference to the allowance of 150-watt lighting. It is just about impossible to buy incandescent light bulbs. A 150-watt LED bulb puts out 2600 to 2800 lumens. Dark sky LED lighting uses 7 watts of energy, the color is 2,700K or less and is 470 lumens or less. We are asking to include indoor unshielded lighting that violates the lighting code by trespassing beyond property lines.”

Dark sky certified places are listed on the Dark Sky International website.

“It promotes eco-tourism. People love seeing the stars and astronomers come to enjoy the night sky,” Worthen said. “Less than 20% of the world can see the Milky Way.”

For readers wanting to do their part, there are lighting innovations that can be done such as Circadian Rhythm Lighting, a type of manual or automatic dimmer that emulates natural light by aligning with the natural sleep/wake cycles of the human body. It is said to improve health, productivity and wellbeing. There is a demonstration available at Acropolis Lighting in San Luis Obispo.

The Future of Night offers more than light solutions and talks of pollution.

“People of all ages who attend our events, rave about the things they learn from our outer space professionals, always interesting and thought provoking,” said Worthen. “You would be amazed at what you can see through a high-powered telescope. Seeing the moon and planets up



Excessive light does not enhance security. With the light shielded, the figure at the gate becomes visible.

Photo demonstrates how too much light can be a hindrance to security. Photo submitted

close forever changes our understanding and appreciation of the night sky. It is humbling to realize we are so insignificant in the big picture.”

The keynote speaker at The Future of Night is Dr. Sandy Seale, director of development for Las Cumbres Observatory in Goleta, which owns 25 telescopes around the world that they remotely access to study systems that change over time, such as black holes, exoplanets, pulsars and supernova explosions. She will discuss the deep space discoveries expected from the world’s largest digital camera, which after 20 years of development, is finally operational at the Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile. The camera is expected to collect a quintillion bytes (that’s 18 zeros!) of information over the next 10 years and expand our understanding of dark matter and dark energy.

Jim Bean, an engineer from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) who worked on mobility for Mars Rovers, will also speak about the fascinating but hostile environment of Mars and the inner workings of JPL.

Both the Central Coast and Cal Poly astronomical societies’ members will share their high-powered telescopes.

“We are expecting about five Central Coast Astronomy club members and six to nine Cal Poly telescopes,” Worthen said. “We are pleased to have students bring telescopes for the first time. The church parking lot will be dark, and we plan to ask surrounding businesses to turn off lights during our event. Our sidewalk stargazing event we host at the Cambria Museum on Burton in January is meant to show the problems with light pollution. Even with the sky glow, we can see the brighter stars and planets in Cambria.”

There will be remarkable deep space photos shown on a 135” movie screen and attendees will be updated on changes to the SLO County lighting regulations and the newest in lighting innovations.

DarkSky light bulbs will be on sale and retrofit options will be on display. Folks can participate in a silent auction featuring a variety of celestial-themed gift items. Food and drinks will be available. Admission is a \$15 donation, children 12 and under are free. Pre-registration is available on the at beautifycambria.org/donate/. Profits from the auction will be used to purchase dark sky lightbulbs and help cover electrical costs to install. The nonprofit also plans buy a sky quality meter with weatherproof housing and install on the Cambria library.

For more information, contact Info@beautifycambria.org or call 805-927-1934.

DarkSky has certified more than 200 Places since Flagstaff was named the first International Dark Sky City in 2001. There are now over 160,000 square kilometers of protected land and night skies in 22 countries on six continents, and the list grows every year as new places achieve certification. For more information, check out darksky.org.

Agreement Reached From page 1

Dog Beach, the parcel north of Toro Creek.

All told the connector is just 1.25 miles but has some pretty hefty barriers to overcome.

The first is Toro Creek, where the project will build a bridge. The second is just south of the creek between North Point and the creek. That’s where a large seawall will be built to support the bike lane. North of the creek the

alignment crosses dozens of small wash outs and drainage swales in the dunes but is otherwise wide enough for the lane.

More parking is planned for the north end of the connector, at the end of Studio Drive.

Several people wrote to the City Council before its vote on the agreement, decrying the loss of some of the parking area adjacent to the highway. That’s where many people park their cars to frequent the off-leash, Dog Beach, squeezing through a hole in the highway fence to get to the beach.

“Most people do not ride a bike with their pets ‘in tow’ for a dog walk,” reads a letter from Dr. Margaret Carmen. “And what about the people who just stop and park for a short time to SOAK IN our natural beauty and negative ions?”

“Too often these days we are forgetting the people who are unable to ride bikes and our access is denied. We matter too!!!”

Morro Bay’s Nicole Dorfman wrote, “It appears that the traffic and parking will be driven to the small parking lot at North Point, which can not make up for the loss of parking on Highway One for this well frequented beach. This loss of access was not revealed during the previous public presentation, and it needs to be specifically evaluated for its impact to the beach-going public.”

Estero Bay News sought out clarification on this point from the County Planner, Elizabeth Kavanaugh, who has shepherded this project. Kavanaugh confirmed that some roadside parking will be lost.

“Caltrans prohibits parking along Caltrans’ Right of Way [ROW] at the project site,” she explained. “However, there is currently illegal parking here for access to the beach.”

One of the “areas” where people pull off the highway and park is being eliminated.

“The area in question,” Kavanaugh said, “lies within the Caltrans ROW near Chevron’s Pier Landing, where typically fewer than eight cars park informally.”

That pier landing is by a raised, flat area that at one time had a Clean Seas oil spill response trailer parked on it, at the ready should one of the oil tankers calling on the old oil terminal have an accident. And the Chevron Pier Landing is what’s left of a pier that once jutted out into Estero Bay and had oil tankers tie up to it. That pier was destroyed in a massive storm in 1983 and from then until the terminal closed in 1999, tankers moored out in open water, guided there by tugboats out of Morro Bay. The terminal was in operations 70 years, from 1929-1999.

“The Connector Trail project,” Kavanaugh said, “is required by Caltrans to install a midwestern guardrail here because the trail is within 30 feet of Highway 1’s vehicle clear recovery zone. The guardrail will block car access to the area where these few cars park.”

The main areas off the highway closer to Toro Creek Road aren’t affected.

“Another existing Caltrans ROW area where typically over 60 vehicles can park,” Kavanaugh said, “is located north of Toro Creek and remains untouched by the project.”

But it’s a tenuous situation. “Caltrans does not formally permit parking in this area,” Kavanaugh said. “This trail has several other existing parking locations other than Highway 1 ROW.” Those would be the North Point parking lot on the Morro Bay side and street parking on the north end, at Studio Drive.

“In addition,” Kavanaugh said, “the Connector Trail project will facilitate more efficient parking at the Studio Drive parking area at the trail’s north end.”

The concern about parking is contrary to the idea of a bike and pedestrian path.

“Please remember,” Kavanaugh said, “the trail is intended to promote non-motorized access to the beach and between communities, which should reduce — not increase — the demand for parking.”

The County is well into the design phase of the project, as Kavanaugh confirmed they have a 90% finished design document done by the County’s consultant, Can-

Agreement Reached Continued on page 21



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News

Tax Hike From page 1

increase the sales taxes in SLO County by one-half percent.

The agency is looking at putting the initiative to voters in the 2026 November General Election.

As a tax increase for a specific purpose, under State Law it needs to garner two-thirds majority to pass (66.7%).

SLOCOG has been conducting a series of workshops across SLO County and has added another one to the schedule for North Coast residents and taxpayers.

The community workshop is set for 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29 at the Morro Bay Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St.

According to the SLOCOG website (see: www.localroadsfirst.com), revenue from the tax increase is needed to bridge a funding gap in road maintenance, formally identified in the agency's 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

SLO County will need \$5.4 billion in transportation infrastructure over the next 20 years. However, SLOCOG "only expects \$3.1 billion in available funds [from State and Federal sources]. With a \$2.3 billion projected deficit, basic transportation improvements such as fixing potholes, implementation of Safe Routes to School programs, and road and highway updates cannot be implemented," according to the agency.



The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is looking to pass a sales tax increase to pay for road repairs. Community members can attend a workshop on Oct. 29. Photo courtesy of SLOCOG

"The Local Roads First initiative," SLOCOG said in a news release, "is focused on maintaining and improving roads, enhancing safety, and investing in the long-term transportation needs for San Luis Obispo County's future."

If the initiative passes, Morro Bay's sales tax rate would go from the current 8.75% (including the State's 7.25%) to 9.25%. it would also transform SLO County into a so-called "Self Help County."

"These counties, twenty-five throughout California, have chosen to fund transportation projects and infrastructure improvements within their local communities by implementing local sales tax measures. These counties have taken the initiative to generate additional revenue specifically for transportation-related needs.

"Self Help Counties also gain greater access to grant funds From State and Federal entities."

The half-cent sales tax hike is projected to raise about \$35 million a year, according to James Worthley, the Deputy Director of SLOCOG.

The agency tried to pass a sales tax hike twice before. In 2016, Measure J fell just shy of the needed votes, Worthley explained, getting 66.3%. It needed 66.7% to be approved.

In 2024, they were gearing up to try again but Worthley said when they pitched the notion at the various city councils they got a lot of pushback. Several cities had sales tax hikes of their own they were trying to get passed and didn't support SLOCOG putting another tax increase on the ballot in competition.

Under State Law, a regional agency like SLOCOG must get a majority of cities representing a majority of voters to sign off on the measure, plus County Supervisors' majority, before they can place something on the ballot.

That's the process they're in right now. They go to each city council twice with the proposed ballot measure, he said. First with a draft plan that they then will take comments on; and the second time with a final plan.

Once they've gotten enough of the councils on board, plus Supervisors' approval, then it can go on a ballot for the voters to decide.

This lengthy process is why they aren't trying to make the June Primary ballot, Worthley said.

"We need at least four cities," he explained. That would be a majority of the seven incorporated cities in SLO County. "If the three largest cities said 'No,' we would not have a majority of cities with a majority of voters."

Plus, after each initial visit to the city councils, comments are accepted and will be incorporated into the final document. Also, since the initial draft document that the SLOCOG Board approved, many changes could be made, so SLOCOG gets the final look at the document.

If they don't like it, or want additional changes, the whole process starts over again.

Worthley said they hope to have the final document ready for SLOCOG's approval in February. "That's the lockdown date." It's also too late for the June Primary, so they'll shoot for November, "If it gets through the cities, Supervisors and SLOCOG."

If all goes right, they'll have a final measure to put on the ballot by April (SLOCOG meets every other month). There's a boatload of money on the line. Worthley said

if Measure J had passed in 2016, some \$250 million would have been raised in the ensuing years.

And having a dedicated, local money match makes SLO County more competitive for another kind of grant program.

He explained that there are two avenues for getting these roads monies — by population size and through competitive grants, with the State turning more towards the competitive grants for doling out gas taxes.

All of the neighboring counties — Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Santa Barbara — already have these taxes on the books.

He said that Santa Cruz, similar to SLO County in population, has about \$27 million available every year for matching funds. They've been able to leverage that into \$350 million in competitive grants.

He said in 2022, Santa Cruz and SLO County both went after the same grant program. SLO had \$10 million in matching funds and Santa Cruz had \$30 million. Santa Cruz got another \$115 million.

In fact, he said they've only been able to win two big grants for major work — \$60 million in 2024 for improvements on Hwy 101 through Shell Beach, which is perpetually congested with traffic; and in 1998 they got \$50 million to widen the Cuesta Grade.

He points out that these two big grants came 25-years apart.

After they finish with the workshops, plus get results from polling (of 1,000 voters) being done now, Worthley said, "We'll wrap together a draft plan on how to split the money up and develop a package that will say exactly how the money will be spent."

The ballot measure will have requirements for things like audits to make sure the money is being spent as it should be. Worthley said they don't want to hand a bunch of money over to a city and have them cut back on the local money they normally spend on transportation infrastructure and divert it elsewhere. So the measure will require cities to continue with their normal level of transportation spending.

This idea of raising sales taxes to fix roads or other issues is not new for Morro Bay residents.

Morro Bay, back in 2006 passed Measure Q, a half-percent local sales tax. That money, over \$1 million a year, was to be used on the police and fire departments' needs, streets and sidewalks, and storm drain repairs. It was a major factor in the City being able to secure federal loans to build its new Harbor Street Firehouse and put the fire department back on solid footing, after its old station was damaged in the 2003 San Simeon Earthquake.

In 2020 Morro Bay voters also passed Measure E, a 1% sales tax intended to bolster emergency services (police, fire and harbor patrol).

A half-cent sales tax over the whole county, Worthley said, would raise about \$35 million. Back in 2016 they had it pegged at \$25 million, so had it passed back then, they'd be getting 40% more money now than when first passed.

The meeting on the 29th will not be televised, Worthley explained, so they hope for a good turnout so they can start to make their case for bolstering the pot of transportation gold.

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News

Scarecrow Festival From page 1

bird category.

The festival has more than 200 scarecrows on display in Cambria, San Simeon and reportedly Harmony according to the website cambriascarecrows.com. The website, the Chamber of Commerce and the Friday Farmers' Market have merch for sale as well. The latter are during special dates only, info available at the website.

This photographer took over 700 pictures of the straw figures. Official Cambria Scarecrow photographers have a display of their favorites at the Cambria Center for the Arts Tuesdays through Sundays until the 30th.



Agreement Reached From page 19

non. That design was to be discussed at the Oct. 15 Public Works Advisory Committee (PWAB), the City of Morro Bay's citizen advisory panel that deals with public works projects. Reruns of the meeting will be available online at: slo-span.org.

And some day, the County will have even more parking, when it builds a planned regional park across the highway on the old marine terminal's shore plant parcel. That's the flat area of the facility where the pump house, shop and office building sit with the main entrance directly off Hwy 1.

"The County," Kavanaugh said, "intends to provide dedicated parking for beach access in the future regional park on the east side of Highway 1 from the trail site."

This parcel too was purchased from Chevron by the Cayucos Sanitary District, which needed the land for a

new lift station and to run its discharge pipe to connect with the plant's old oil loading line that runs offshore into Estero Bay. The CSD deeded this property plus another north of Toro Creek Road over to the County for parklands.

Also, Caltrans, which will soon start replacing the southbound Hwy 1 bridge over Toro Creek, will build a pedestrian undercrossing along the creek.

Kavanaugh confirmed, "As part of the Toro Creek Bridge replacement Coastal Development Plan, Caltrans is required to allow pedestrian access under Highway 1 at Toro Creek.

"They are also conditioned to ensure safe pedestrian connectivity between the future regional park and the beach."

The actual condition imposed by the Coastal Com-

mission reads:

"The Permittee [Caltrans] shall partner with San Luis Obispo County, along with any other relevant entities, to ensure that by the time that the area inland of the highway opens to public use [e.g., the planned park on the inland side of the highway], a formalized public coastal access connection exists and/or is developed to provide seamless pedestrian access between inland public park/open space lands and the beach.

"Such a connection may be beneath, across, or over, the northbound and southbound Toro Creek Bridge structures or Highway 1 in the nearby vicinity, to allow for enhanced connectivity for non-motorized access."

But when this will all come together is unclear at this point, though the County plans on beginning work on the Connector Project in early 2027.

Coalesce . . .

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News

Family Day at the Museum

Photos by Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum held its annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, Oct. 11, inviting the community to the museum grounds for some fun activities and to check out all the new exhibits they have on display. The Fire Safe House was on hand with firefighters from Morro Bay manning the trailer to show kids what to do if there's a fire at their house. The Salinan Tribe had displays of cultural artifacts and artworks. The Coast Guard had a booth, so too the National Estuary Program. The Harbor Department had a display, and folks were serenaded with sea shanties by the Morro Bay Shanty Project. Staffed by volunteers and governed by a board of directors, the Maritime Museum has come a long way since it was first incorporated in 1995 as the Central Coast Maritime Museum Assoc. Several restored, historic boats like the tugboat Alma and the submarine, DSRV Avalon, are on display with numerous historic displays inside the museum. The Maritime Museum is located at 1210 Embarcadero across from the South T-Pier, on the Morro Bay waterfront. Open daily and admission is free. In the photos are scenes from Family Fun Day.



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News

No Kings From page 1

corruption, and cruelty. Grow our movement and join us. As part of a nationwide day of action, we're mobilizing to defend democracy and protect fair representation for all Americans. When politicians rig the system to guarantee their victories, democracy itself is under attack."

Organizers say that nearly 7 million demonstrators showed up across the United States — 2 million more than at the previous round of rallies in June.

Several thousand people reportedly attended the No Kings rally outside the SLO County Courthouse where supervisors Bruce Gibson, Jimmy Paulding and Dawn Ortiz-Legg were in attendance. Other smaller demonstrations took place in Cambria, Cayucos, Atascadero, and Arroyo Grande.



The Man From Earth at Cambria Center

The Cambria Center for the Arts presents “The Man From Earth.” What would you ask a man who claims to have been alive for 14,000 years? What begins as a casual farewell to a university professor takes an extraordinary turn when he reveals a shocking secret: he is immortal. He has walked the earth for more than 14,000 years. As his colleagues press for answers, their evening unfolds into a profound exploration of science, history, and faith that builds to an unforgettable climax.

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Pirate Poloist Honored



The Morro Bay High School Athletic Booster's Club has named girls' water polo player, senior Gianna Palmer, as the October Athlete of the Month. Photo courtesy MBHS

The Morro Bay High Athletic Booster's Club has announced its Athlete of the Month for October, dipping into the school pool; with Gianna Palmer, a senior, utility water polo player getting the honors.

“Gianna stands out for her relentless work ethic and determination to be both an outstanding athlete and a supportive teammate.

“She consistently stays after practice to improve her shooting and is always engaged — asking questions and staying focused on growth.”

Palmer had 32 goals on the season as of Oct. 10 according to stats on Max Prep Sports and leads the Pirates who had an 8-9 record as of Oct. 10.

The team is coming off a great season and were ranked No. 16 in the Central Section of CIF, According to Max Prep Sports.

The team is slated to host the CCAA League Prelims on Oct. 27 and the Mountain League Finals Oct. 28. Go Pirates!

Estero Bay News congratulates Gianna Palmer and wishes her and all the MBHS Pirate water poloists success in CIF.

BAY

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10/27

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11/10

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