

Marine Mammal Rescuers Need Rescuing



A response truck is pictured alongside the animal care pens at The Marine Mammal Center's San Luis Obispo Operations in Morro Bay. Photo courtesy The Marine Mammal Center

Photos by Giancarlo Rulli, Story by Neil Farrell

For the past 20 years the Sausalito-based, Marine Mammal Center has rescued harbor seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals that become sick or injured working out of a triage facility located at the Morro Bay Power Plant.

But now, it's the center that needs rescuing, after they were informed by current power plant owners, Vistra, that they need to vacate their home next year.

The Morro Bay triage facility is largely run by volunteers with just a few actual employees — an operations manager and a veterinarian.

The Morro Bay center basically covers all of SLO County's beaches, and when a call comes in to their animal hotline, they respond to locate, evaluate and if necessary, capture the animal and transport it to the Morro Bay center.

There they stabilize them and if they need further care, they transport them to care facilities in Monterey or Sausalito. The goal is to eventually return them to the wild.

It's worked well since the facility opened in 2005, after then-plant owner Duke Energy, leased the MMC an unused portion of the roughly 100-acre plant property.

When Duke Energy decided to partner with the MMC, as well as Pacific Wildlife Care next door, they leased them the sites rent free.

That agreement has been renewed a couple of times in the interim even as the power plant property has repeatedly changed ownership.

The Marine Mammal Center's Chief External Relations Officer and former CEO, Dr. Jeff Boehm, DVM, spoke with Estero Bay News about the situation and their search for a new, and hopefully long-term home.

"We have operations up and down the Coast," Dr. Boehm said. They have a facility similar to Morro Bay up in Moss Landing that is also on an old power plant site, also under Vistra's ownership. That site too will have to move out.

"There have been changes to both Moss Landing and Morro Bay sites," Dr. Boehm said. Vistra, "let us know that we need to find different locations. First in Moss Landing and then about a year later, Morro Bay."

Much has changed at both power plant sites, since Duke Energy owned them. Vistra has continued to operate a combined cycle power plant in Moss Landing and has also built two large Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities, one of which was destroyed by a massive fire last January and is being cleaned up now.

Rescuing Continued on page 18

Butterfly Preserve an Extreme Fire Danger



The Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve is a popular place for riding horses.

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

With the horrors of last January's devastating fires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades and Paradise a few years before fresh in the memory, a Los Osos man and his neighbors have been trying to get the County to alleviate the fire danger from a butterfly preserve that abuts their homes.

Art Lindsay, a board member of the Monarch Grove Homeowners Association, contacted Estero Bay News to relate his frustrating tale of trying to get someone in authority to take responsibility and do something about the butterfly preserve and the extreme fire danger it's devolved into.

Part of the original Monarch Grove Subdivision, an 83-lot housing development that was built in the 1990s, the Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve, covers some 24 acres of a dense eucalyptus grove that spans two sides of the subdivision.

The trees are part of the infamous failed experiment to grow eucalyptus trees for furniture wood like that which is most famously in Montaña de Oro State Park, a short distance down Pecho Valley Road from Monarch Grove.

Designed by Cal Poly professor Dr. Kingston Leong, the preserve was donated by Wayne and Marianela Anastasi of Anastasi Construction, the developers of Monarch Grove and was dedicated in 1999. It was donated as part of the development's permitting and Dr. Leong, a monarch butterfly expert, designed the interior "Monarch Butterfly cathedral" a clearing surrounded by towering eucalyptus trees that hosts the butterflies in winter as they pass through on their epic migration.

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Friends Seek to Save Morro Elementary



Photo shows the original main building at Morro Elementary School with its bell tower and Spanish-style architecture.

Photos and Story by Neil Farrell

A dedicated and determined group of Morro Bay residents have pulled the fire alarm and rung the school bells in an effort to save one of the few historic structures in town and preserve a centralized plot of recreational open space for the future.

The Friends of Morro Elementary, a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers, some with extensive experience preserving historic sites, is working with the City and a City Council subcommittee to save the town's first elementary school, built in the 1930s.

Background

Owned by the San Luis Coastal Unified
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Morro Bay Chamber CEO Choosing Her Next Chapter

By Judy Salamacha



An important, thoughtful, and timely announcement from the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board of Directors Alexis Jacobs reads:

"Dear Friends and Fellow Business Owners: I wanted to share some important news from the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber CEO, Dina Lundquist, will be moving on from her role. We are incredibly grateful for all that she has done for our community and the positive impact she has made

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From Surfboards to Surf Gems County Open Studios Art Tour

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



Surfing the waves of the Central Coast offers a vibrant scene with surfers of all levels hitting beaches in search of their perfect wave, bonding with nature, and immersing in community. For one local, the sport also inspired art that turned into a business celebrating five years and national recognition in retail locations.

Surfer Abby Ahlgrim started Surf Gems, a mission-driven, ocean-inspired jewelry brand, after she was laid off as a chef at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur during the COVID pandemic. That prompted her to return to the Central Coast. Her work is made from upcycled colorful, hardened resin that drips onto the floor

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News

‘Save Sunnyside’ Poll Shows Good Support



A recent poll by Save Sunnyside showed majority support for purchasing the former school site for community use.
By Neil Farrell

Results are in on a poll of Los Osos voters on the question of Sunnyside School and whether it should be purchased for the community’s future uses; and the majority polled are leaning “Yes.”

That’s good news for those working to save Sunnyside, as the Community Services District, which hired the polling company, works on a potential ballot measure for next June to establish a special property tax to pay for it.

According to a staff report on the poll, conducted by FM3 from Aug. 18-31, 76 percent of the 354 total interviewed, see either a great or some need for additional park space, but 20% see “either little or no need for additional park space.”

If a ballot measure is proposed by the CSD, under State Law it would need to get two-thirds majority for approval.

However, if the measure is proposed by citizens through a petition drive it would only need 50% plus one vote. That’s one of the pressing questions that will have to be addressed before the issue is put to voters — who will lead the charge?

The poll asked support for “potential ballot measure lan- guage alone” and 42% said definitely Yes; 16% probably Yes; and undecided but leaning Yes got 5% for a total of 63%, which is close but a little short of a two-thirds majority (66%).

On the other hand, undecided voters leaning No got 4%; probably No was at 7%; and definitely No was at 17% for a total of 29% of those polled at least leaning at voting against a ballot measure. And 8% remained undecided.

Under “General Observations,” the report said, “Supporters cite the need for more park & recreation space,” while “opponents generally object to new taxes.”

FM3 then further explained what the ballot measure would mean, and cost, and support improved, slightly.

Definitely Yes improved to 42%; and probably Yes hit 19%; but undecided voters leaning Yes decreased to 3%.

Opposition remained largely unconvinced, but some did come around. The undecided voters leaning against the measure came in at 3%; probably No was at 7%; and definitely No dropped three points to 16%. The total leaning No fell to 26% and 5% remained undecided.

So, with a majority of those polled willing to pay a tax to save Sunnyside School, the key seems to be “How much?”

“The survey participants,” reads the LOCSD report, “were asked whether they would be very willing, somewhat willing, somewhat unwilling or very unwilling to pay a monthly amount per household.” The levels were:

- \$20/month — 57% very or somewhat willing to pay; 36% somewhat unwilling or very unwilling;
- \$18/month — 59% very or somewhat willing to pay; 37% somewhat unwilling or very unwilling; and,
- \$15/month — 62% very or somewhat willing to pay; 32% somewhat unwilling or very unwilling.

The San Luis Coastal Unified School District, which owns Sunnyside Elementary, is asking \$6.5 million for the property, which sits near the center of the community and features a large grassy playing field, playground, basketball courts and several buildings including a sizable multi-purpose room. It has numerous classroom buildings, as well. That price comes from an appraisal done by the school district.

Sunnyside was closed in the early 2000s after the school district built Monarch Grove Elementary and then experienced falling enrollment. Since then, the District has leased out portions of the school to non-profits and Cal Fire, which until recently had a training program based at the school.

Earlier this spring, the District battled a severe budget short- fall due to a loss of tax monies form the Diablo Canyon Nuclear

Power Plant, which had been scheduled to close this year. A State Law set up a payment plan for Diablo Canyon owner Pacific Gas & Electric to soften the blow for the school district and SLO County, paying millions to each agency.

PG&E was also allowed to devalue the plant down to zero for property tax purposes.

Those payments have been exhausted and with the plant now valued at zero, property taxes, which the school district depends on, have also dried up.

So, the school board decided to put its closed schools — Sun- nyside and Morro Elementary up for possible sale.

However, another State Law requires surplus school prop- erties to first be offered to local governmental agencies to keep them in public ownership. If no government agencies step up to purchase the properties, the district is free to put them on the open market, but with the restriction that they must be redevelop- ed into affordable housing.

SLO County Supervisors have already passed on trying to buy Sunnyside, leaving it up to the LOCSD.

The school district had both schools appraised and came up with \$10.2 million for Morro Elementary and \$6 million for Sunnyside.

A similar effort is also underway in Morro Bay led by a group of citizens in conjunction with the City of Morro Bay, to raise the funds needed to purchase Morro Elementary (see related story).

The LOCSD report delves into a series of conclusions, including speculation on what could happen if the CSD lets the citizens take over and place a measure on the ballot.

“A citizen’s initiative measure to create a new park and active recreation space in Los Osos is viable in a future election,” reads the report, “with the support of a strong, positive and local cam- paign, and steady economic conditions.”

The report adds that a majority of those polled see the need for more park and recreation space in town and almost two-thirds supported the ballot language, sans the costs. And after the expla- nation was given, the number rose above two-thirds.

But while a large number of those polled would definitely support it, the big obstacle isn’t related to the issue at all.

“The measure’s chief challenge is voters’ concern about the cost of living,” the report said.

Los Osos residents are indeed facing rising costs, particularly with the special fire tax, which may soon have to be increased after Cal Fire reached a new employee contract and the cost of water too is likely to jump when the CSD finishes preliminary work on building a water pipeline down South Bay Boulevard to connect with the Chorro Valley Pipeline and bring in some 200 acre feet a year of drinking water purchased from the State Water Project.

But if Los Osos residents want something bad enough they rise to the occasion, witness the recent completion of a fund- raising effort to purchase the Cuesta Inlet, a small tidal inlet in Cuesta-by-the-Sea where people like to store kayaks and canoes for exploring the back bay.

In the end FM3 concluded that messaging is key. “Voters’ top priorities for measure spending include ‘preserving open space in the heart of Los Osos,’ adding trees, an all-abilities playground,” reads the report, “you may consider revising the measure language to highlight these projects.”

Los Osos, as usual, seems to be worried about the future, as well. “The opportunity to protect land at the heart of town as the community grows is a highly persuasive message in favor. Messag- ing should also focus on the benefits for children and families.”

One of the leaders in the effort to Save Sunnyside School, Gary Freiberg is focused and optimistic.

“The next step is in progress,” Freiberg told Estero Bay News, “and that is arranging to discuss with the County Record- er’s Office what are the requirements to bring a citizen initiative to the ballot.

“There can be no outside participation, the Los Osos CSD cannot be a part of anything in order to preserve the indepen- dence of the citizen group, and its ability to get the measure on the ballot with 50% plus one rather than 66% approval if it were a government proposal.”

He added that they will need at least 1,400 signatures on a petition to get it to the June 2026 ballot, which could be in com- petition with a LOCSD fire tax increase. He doesn’t want to waste any time.

“An important part,” Freiberg said, “will be having vol- unteers to sit in front of Ralph’s or wherever after training to collect signatures. Getting volunteers needs to happen now and anyone interested in gathering signatures, or doing Improvement Research can contact LOCAC.info or Buysunnysideschool@gmail. com.”

While they know what must be done to get something on the ballot, there are a couple of potential stumbling blocks that he sees.

“First,” he said, “are the negotiations. A deal has not been signed. No one has shook hands on the price and the terms. A lawyer for the CSD is going to be talking with the school board’s

lawyer and hopefully will come up with a deal.”

Under State Law the school district has some wiggle room to discount the appraised price if it’s being sold to an agency like the CSD, City or County and being used as park or open space.

“The second point,” he added, “is in the 63% approval find- ings; 22% of that includes ‘Probably Yes’ and ‘Undecided, leaning Yes.’ It’s critical Los Osos knows the ‘why’ behind the push to buy the school.”

This first poll focused on the idea of open space. “Twelve acres of park in the middle of town is huge,” he said. “It’s defini- tive of what our town is. The other option is knocking everything down and putting in a hotel and condos and a parking garage — literally the Joni Mitchell song.”

So, it seems Los Osos voters could face this “Joni Mitchell” choice in June. Will they allow developers to pave paradise and put up a parking lot?

“If we want to continue to live in the place we live in,” Freiberg said, “we have to buy the property for now, and future generations, as past leaders did for us. That message needs to be clear; there are distinct differences in the choice the community makes.”

Sheriff Seeks Missing Woman

The County Sheriff’s Department is asking for the public’s help in locating a missing Coalinga woman, who disappeared under suspicious circumstances while in SLO County.

According to a news re- lease from Sheriff’s spokesman, Tony Cipolla, Isabel Lucas Velasco of Coalinga, was known to be in SLO County as of Sept. 12, and she was reported missing on the 13th.

“Isabel is described as a 50-year-old female,” Cipolla said, “approximately 5-feet 1-inch tall and weighing 145 pounds.”

In photos released by the Sheriff’s Department, she is pic- tured with streaky blonde hair and possibly hazel eyes.

Lucas Velasco “has ties to the City of Coalinga and the City



The County Sheriff’s Department is investigating the suspicious disappearance of Isabel Lucas Velasco, 50 of Coalinga. Photo courtesy SLO Sheriff’s Department



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Quiet neighborhood with curbs and streetlights flanked by a cul-de-sac on either end of the street. Vaulted ceilings frame the custom-made stained-glass windows by local artist, Sandra Kay Johnson are featured throughout the home are beautiful any time of the day as sunlight moves. Carmel Valley tile artist Diane Swift created the address marker at the arched front entry gate. Just beyond the gate is a pond for fish and plants to add drama and interest. Enter through double doors to the upper level where the primary bedroom, living room and kitchen are located. There is a large deck off the front accessed from the dining area. Notice the arched doorways, stained-glass and skylight in the unique primary bathroom. The kitchen has plenty of cupboard space with a Jenn-Air grill and a moveable butchers block. The lower level has three bedrooms, one full bathroom, laundry room and a bonus room used as an office or studio. The backyard is gently sloped, with beautiful live oak trees. The private back deck has a pergola with blooming wisteria, and room for a small garden.

News

of Visalia,” Cipolla said. “The Sheriff’s Office Detective Division is currently investigating Isabel’s disappearance, under suspicious circumstances.”

Anyone with information is urged to contact SLO County Sheriff’s Office Detectives at: (805) 781-4500. Or you can also provide an anonymous tip via CrimeStoppers at: (805) 549-7867 or on the website at: slotips.org.

Boat vs. Dock?
The Dock Lost



Photo shows the destroyed floating dock at Mariner’s Park, as people standing atop the damaged pier look on. Photo courtesy Michael Mandis

By Neil Farrell

A large motor yacht had a mechanical failure while transiting the Morro Bay Harbor and rammed backwards into a public dock and pier, destroying the dock and severely damaging the pier.

On Sept. 10 the 90-foot yacht, Souvenir, was reportedly heading down the bay to the Tidelands Park dock when according to a Harbor Patrol report, it “lost control of its shifting system, which had to be reset.”

The ship hit the floating dock below the observation pier at Mariner’s Park, crushing it against the outer pier pilings and detaching two of three supporting the end of the pier.

The pier was left cantilevered over the water held up by just one of three piles.

The collision also damaged the metal gangway leading down to the floating dock from the park.

In photos provided to Estero Bay News by Michael Mandis of Estero Adventures, which is next door to Mariner’s Park at the Estero Inn, shows the immediate aftermath of the collision as the Souvenir motors away.

In some of the photos, there are people standing on the damaged pier, apparently oblivious that there was nothing underneath supporting it.

The Harbor Patrol responded to the scene. “For public safety,” the report to the Harbor Advisory Board said, “the dock and pier were immediately closed, and it was determined that the gangway and dock needed to be removed as soon as possible.”

They were concerned about a strong tide that was slated to



The 90-foot motor yacht, Souvenir, is shown after hitting a floating dock at Mariner’s Park. Photo courtesy Michael Mandis

come in later that day but luckily, there is a marine engineering yard right next door.

“Harbor Patrol quickly barricaded the area and posted signage to restrict public access,” the report said. “The gangway and dock were later removed by Associated Pacific Constructors and [temporary] chain link fencing and signage was installed to fully secure the site.”



Members of the Harbor Patrol pick up debris from the departments destroyed floating dock at Mariner’s park. Photo courtesy Michael Mandis

The Harbor Patrol escorted the Souvenir, which didn’t appear to have been damaged in the collision, safely back to its dock, “without any further incident. A repair plan is now being formulated to restore this dock and reopen this public space.”

Boats often bump into docks and pier piles, which is why they have bumpers attached to the structures, or bumper balls hanging over the sides. Boats don’t typically have these on the stern of a vessel, as backing into something is rare.

Boats the size of Souvenir, which is among the largest vessels in the harbor, don’t often crash into docks, though it has happened before.

Years ago, a fishing boat’s throttle got stuck while leaving the Fishermen’s Wharf and it crashed into floating docks next door at what used to be Virg’s Landing, but has since been rebuilt into Morro Bay Landing, complete with new docks and slips.

Morro Bay has several of these short observation piers along the water’s edge, most also have gangways and floating docks for people to access the water. People tie up skiffs to them and fish off them too. They are also used by kayakers and paddle boarders to launch off. Luckily, it appears that no one was on this dock when the crash happened.

County Health Dept.,
‘Flu Vaccines
Available Now’

The County Health Department is reminding everyone that flu season is here and flu shots are now available at pharmacies, County Health Clinics and at a number of pop-up vaccinations sites, unfortunately none are planned on the North Coast.

Dr. Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, said, “Getting your annual flu vaccine helps protect your health and the community during the fall and winter months.

“The goal is to reduce spread and severe illness — the kind that can lead to hospitalization or even loss of life. This not only protects individual health but also helps keep hospital capacity available for emergencies and other medical needs, benefiting our whole community.”

The Health Department is recommending a flu vaccine for anyone 6-months and older. Most health insurance plans cover the costs including Medi-Cal and Covered California, and programs are available to help cover the cost for those without insurance.

Contact your local pharmacy for an appointment; go online to: VaccineFinder.org; or call 805-781-5500 to schedule at a County Public Health clinic. SLO County Health Clinics in Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo will have the vaccines available.

Free flu shots will also be available at pop-up events through Nov. 5. There are no requirements related to residency, income, insurance, or immigration status, and no appointment is needed, the Health Department said.

The next pop-up vaccination clinic and nearest to the Estero Bay Area is set for 3-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17 at Atascadero Middle School, 6501 Lewis Ave. The clinic will be in the school cafeteria on campus (located behind City Hall).

Next will be at the SLO Veterans Hall from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. SLO Vets Hall is at 801 Grand Ave.

For more information, see: slocounty.gov/freefluvaccines or call 805-781-5500.

Also, “As it relates to COVID-19 vaccination, San Luis Obispo County Public Health is fully aligned with the West Coast Health Alliance’s vaccine recommendations. The County will ensure fair and efficient vaccine distribution once details are finalized and will share timely updates on availability with the community.”

The “West Coast Health Alliance” is an arrangement between the Governors of California, Oregon and Washington, and soon to include Hawaii, to form an alliance that would give its own recommendations on health issues apart from the Federal Centers for Disease Control’s guidelines. According to the California government website on the Alliance, they will soon develop rules under which the Alliance will study health issues and base their recommendations.

The Governors have said this is in response to the recent changes by the CDC on vaccine recommendations, which they claim are being made for political reasons and not based in science. They also claim that recent firings at the CDC and other health agencies have destroyed the CDC’s credibility.

HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr., has denied that allega-

Vaccines Available Continued on page 4

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News

Electrifying Rebates Offered



A couple of happy young ladies and their dog pose with a home heat pump installed at their family home through 3CE's 'Electrify Your Home Program' which has been renewed. Photo courtesy 3CE
By Neil Farrell

Need a new stove or home heating unit and want to switch over to all electric appliances? The local community energy company has re-launched a rebate program to help out financially. Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) on Sept. 29 announced the launch of an updated "Electrify Your Home Program" (EYH), "designed to help homeowners and renters replace gas-powered appliances with clean, all-electric options," the company said in a news release.

The program offers "post-installation" rebates for heat-pump heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and heat-pump water heaters. And this year, 3CE added rebates for "induction cooktops and ranges, and portable heat-pump space conditioners — a renter-friendly and non-permanent way to heat and cool a home."

If your home needs an electrician to switch over to all electric they can help with that too.

"For projects that require additional electrical work," 3CE said, "a 'Pre-Wiring' rebate is also available. Rebate amounts range from \$150 to \$3,000, with higher incentives for customers

Vaccines Available From page 3

tion, and stated repeatedly that the CDC is following good science, and re-examining recommendations that have been unduly influenced over time by pharmaceutical companies. He has also asked for studies to determine if childhood vaccinations, as they are currently done, are linked the rise in autism among children.

In any event, it appears the SLO County Health Department plans to follow the recommendations of the Alliance instead of the CDC.

enrolled in the CARE or FERA bill-assistance programs, as well as for multifamily income-qualified housing projects.

"Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and applications can be submitted once installation is complete." For full details and requirements, see 3cenrgy.org.

Chris Cook, Director of Energy Programs at 3CE, said, "Electric and heat-pump appliances are a key part of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They also make homes healthier and more energy efficient.

"Our updated Electrify Your Home Program makes it easier for families across the Central Coast to make these upgrades while keeping energy dollars in the local economy."

Started in 2022, the EYH Program has given out more than 1,500 rebates to customers in 3CE's territory, which spans five counties on the Central Coast — Monterey, San Benito, SLO, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties — and most incorporated cities within that area, including Morro Bay.

The company was formed in 2018 and "Member agencies are the 35 cities and counties that have joined the Central Coast Community Energy Joint Powers Authority," reads an entry on the company's website, "and have been approved by the Policy Board of Directors."

Morro Bay Mayor Carla Wixom currently sits on that Policy Board, and SLO County Dist. 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg is the vice chair. Other Policy Board members from this area are Atascadero's Charles Bourbeau, and Jim Guthrie of Arroyo Grande.

On the Operations Board are Atascadero's Jim Lewis as vice chair, Matthew Downing of Arroyo Grande, Morro Bay Interim City Manager Andrea Lueker, and Matt Pontes from SLO County.

"3CE," reads a statement on the company website, "is governed by a Policy Board and an Operations Board comprised of elected officials, city managers, and city administrators as a public agency. This governing structure assures that the voices from each city and county served by 3CE will have a seat at the table when important decisions regarding 3CE policies and operations are being made."

One of the promises 3CE made when they first proposed what was called "Community Choice," was to only purchase energy from clean, renewable sources — mainly solar and wind — and have that energy transmitted through Pacific Gas & Electric's existing distribution system to the end customers. Energy customers pay 3CE for the electricity, and PG&E a delivery fee.

The idea was to jumpstart the switch to emissions-free energy, and everyone was automatically switched over after their town or county's governing board voted to join. However, people also have a choice to opt out of the 3CE if they wish and go back to receiving their electricity directly from PG&E.

The company said it now has 1.1 million customers across its territory and has signed \$4.6 billion worth of renewable energy and energy storage contracts since 2018.

They also say they have allocated \$26 million to local energy programs since 2018 and secured \$19 million for electric vehicle charging stations through the State's CALeVIP and 3CE's programs.

What's next? "3CE is developing a virtual home-energy assessment pilot, set to launch in 2026," the company said. "This new tool will provide customers with personalized insights into their home's energy use, recommend potential upgrades, and outline available rebates — all completed online.

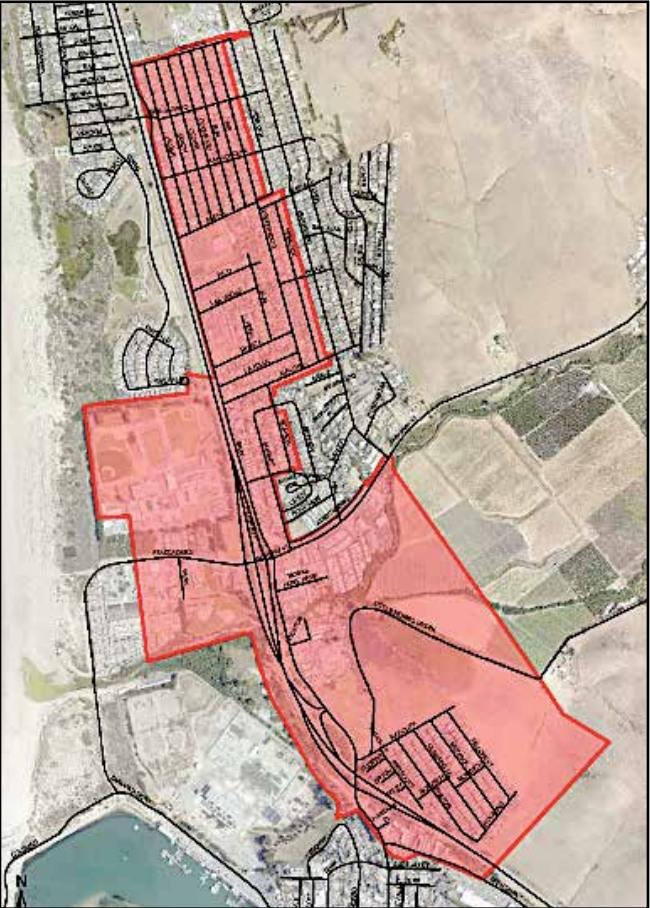
"Along with the revamped EYH Program, these updates will help more Central Coast families save money, improve home comfort, and reduce their carbon footprint."

It should be noted that the community choice energy movement was one of several factors that led PG&E to agree to close the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and drop its bid to renew the operating licenses for the plant's two nuclear reactors.

But that plan collapsed after the State asked the company to keep the plant operating for at least five more years, after its two operating licenses were slated to expire in 2024 and 2025. They did this after a summer of rolling brown outs shut down electric service to various areas of the State amidst heat waves.

PG&E is still undergoing the process for a license renewal from the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the NRC voted to allow the plant to continue to run while the process goes forward on a 20-year license, not five years.

City Issues 'Boil Water' Notice



Light colored areas of this map show the areas of town affected by the Oct. 6 water main break. Map courtesy City of Morro Bay

Much of the City of Morro Bay came under a warning from the City this week, when a water main got broken.

On Monday, Oct. 6, Public Works Director Greg Kwolek issued a "precautionary boil water" notice to mostly North Morro Bay residents and businesses, "following a water main break caused by a contractor."

"Some customers in the affected area," the notice said, "may have experienced low water pressure or a temporary loss of water earlier today."

He added that, "at this time there is no evidence that the water is unsafe to drink. However, out of an abundance of caution, and under direction from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, the City of Morro Bay is issuing this notice while water quality testing is underway."

Boil Water Notice Continued on page 23

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4 October 9, 2025 - October 22, 2025 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Register for Nov. 4 Election

Vote-by-mail ballots for the November 4 election were sent to all active registered voters in early October and the deadline to register to vote is October 20. Now is the time to make sure your voter registration is up to date. To change your registration information, or to register to vote if you are new to San Luis Obispo County, go to <https://cavotes.org>.

This will be a short ballot with only one question. Voters are asked to vote yes or no on Proposition 50 which authorizes temporary changes to California's Congressional District maps. The temporary maps will be used through 2030, and the Citizens Redistricting Commission will resume enacting congressional district maps in 2031. If approved, the measure will also establish state policy to encourage the use of independent commissions to draw voting maps nationwide.

For more information on the November 4 election and for unbiased information on Proposition 50, see the League of Women Voters Easy Voter Guide available at cavotes.org. To see how Proposition 50 will change electoral district maps go to the Statewide Database at statewidedatabase.org.

The Future of South Bay Boulevard Workshop

Take part in the Future of South Bay Boulevard Morro Bay Estuary Climate Resiliency Transportation Plan on Wednesday, October 22, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at El Morro Church of the Nazarene, 1480 Santa Ysabel Ave, Los Osos.

Attendees are asked to continue a meaningful conversation about the future of South Bay Boulevard, the critical link between Morro Bay and Los Osos. Organizers, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, say, the 2.5-mile stretch is already vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise, and without action, conditions are expected to worsen.

At the interactive community workshop:

- Review the latest findings on sea level rise vulnerability and transportation impacts in Los Osos and Morro Bay.
- Compare nature-based and engineering options for protecting the Estuary, State Parks, and nearby habitats.
- Experience virtual reality simulations of the adaptation alternatives developed by Virtual Planet.
- Help shape a preferred alternative conceptual design by sharing your priorities for safer bike/pedestrian connections, including the missing segment of the California Coastal Trail.

Learn more at sbbclimateplan.org.
Parking available behind the building. RSVP is optional, but helpful. Register at forms.gle/e1Z5pnBgDtTxfeX9

Poly Names New Director of Athletics

Cal Poly has named Carter Henderson as the university's new director of athletics, effective Oct. 13.

Henderson, currently deputy athletics director for external relations at Stanford University, brings to his new role deep experience in inter-collegiate athletics from around the country. He succeeds retiring Athletic Director Don Oberhelman and was appointed after a national search.

Since joining Stanford in 2021, Henderson has held several senior leadership roles, including executive associate athletics director for external relations and chief communications officer. He has directed teams of more than 50 staff, led all marketing and communications strategy for the department, and managed external units spanning branding, fan engagement, and digital media.

Cal Poly Athletics comprises 19 NCAA teams, competing mainly in the Big West Conference, playing football in the Big Sky Conference, and focusing on developing and supporting more



than 500 student-athletes to be their best in competition and in the classroom.

Henderson earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Florida in 2004. Henderson, his wife Lindsey, and their two children are looking forward to making the Central Coast their new home.

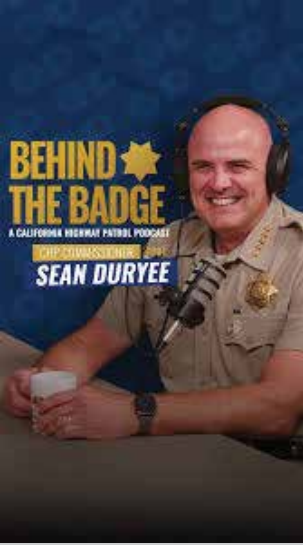
CHP Goes Behind the Badge

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) launched a new podcast, "Behind the Badge," giving listeners an inside look at the people and programs that make the CHP one of the nation's leading law enforcement agencies.

The podcast provides an in-depth look at the department by sharing stories of CHP personnel, their work experiences and the impact they have on California communities.

"Behind the Badge is more than just a podcast; it's a direct line to the public who deserve to know how their state law enforcement agency is working to protect and serve," said Commissioner Sean Duryee in a news release. "Through this project, we can highlight our efforts and dedication to keeping California safe, beyond just roadway safety. Our goal is to connect with more people on a deeper level and showcase our commitment to being leaders in law enforcement."

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



Shellfish Advisory Lifted

By Neil Farrell

The State's public health warning against eating recreationally harvested bi-valve shellfish in San Luis Obispo County has been lifted, so too a recent warning of unhealthy ocean waters in the South County.

"Recent testing," reads an advisory from the SLO County Public Health Department, "shows paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins have decreased to safe levels in mussels in this area. The annual mussel quarantine for recreationally harvested mussels along the entire California Coast remains in effect through at least Oct. 31.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), "The safety notification for San Luis Obispo County was issued on Aug. 29, due to dangerous levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins in mussels."

Paralytic shellfish poisoning or PSP is caused by high concentrations of domoic acid found in certain algae (Pseudo-nitzschia) that accumulates in filter feeders like clams, oysters and mussels, as well as baitfish like anchovies and sardines. These algae blooms can also cause "red tides."

The shellfish filter the water for food bits and the domoic acid accumulates in their tissue, same as fish. It's this red tide bacteria that harms so many marine mammals, and if humans eat contaminated shellfish it harms them too.

"These naturally occurring toxins," the CDPH said, "can cause illness or death in humans. Recent testing shows paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins have decreased to safe levels in mussels in this area."

These warnings do not apply to commercially sold mussels, clams, scallops, or oysters from approved sources. "State Law," the CDPH said, "permits only state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell these products. Shellfish sold by certified harvesters and dealers are subject to frequent mandatory testing to monitor for toxins.

Also, the water at Pismo Beach had also been issued a public health warning due to high levels of bacteria and that too has been lifted.

In addition, the Health Advisory issued for ocean waters near Pismo Beach (338 yards north of the Pismo Pier (to Wadsworth Ave.) has been lifted. The results of the ocean water samples and re-samples taken Sept. 29 were within the state bacteriological limits.

With these advisories, the main culprit is E. coli bacteria, which normally flushes down creeks and rivers that empty onto the beach and mix with seawater.

Such elevated levels are normally associated with rainstorms, especially the first big storm of a rainy season, when accumulated bacteria from town is flushed by runoff.

E. coli comes from the digestive tracts of mammals. However, the bacteria spike that caused the recent advisory in Pismo came before the recent thunder-lightning storm that blew through SLO County.

Estero Bay News readers who regularly venture into the ocean to swim or surf and want to check on ocean water quality can find information online at: www.surfsafeslo.org.

SLO Named 'Clean California Community'

The City of San Luis Obispo has cleaned up their act and is now one of only 32 communities in California to be named as an official "Clean California Community" by the state.

"Congratulations on the City of San Luis Obispo being named a Clean California Community!" wrote Assemblymember Dawn Addis in a letter to the San Luis Obispo Mayor Erica Stewart. "Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your community and the state as a whole. I appreciate the example you have set for other communities within the Central Coast."

The City earned this designation by demonstrating its commitment to reducing litter, improving public spaces, and fostering community pride. Through its Sustainable SLO initiative, the City focuses its efforts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste, and reducing litter that ends up in our shared spaces, creeks and watersheds each year.

To earn the Clean California designation, the City partnered with ECOSLO and will complete at least 10 of 15 criteria to clean up and beautify San Luis Obispo. This includes:

- Signing the pledge
- Creating an advisory body
- Receiving community input
- Hosting cleanups in the community
- Conducting litter assessments
- Using anti-litter infrastructure
- Measuring progress
- Educating the community
- Hosting collection drives for bulky items and e-waste
- Enforcing anti-litter policy and management
- Long-term planning to reduce litter
- Placing cigarette waste receptacles in the city, and
- Creating and maintaining programs that beautify and keep the community green.

"The City of San Luis Obispo's designation as a Clean California Community is a proud milestone that reflects the dedication of our volunteers and partners," said Kendra Paulding, Executive Director of ECOSLO. "Together, we are proving that when a community unites around zero-litter goals, we can keep our city, and all of California, clean, healthy, and beautiful."

The Clean California Community Designation Program is part of Governor Gavin Newsom's \$1.2 billion Clean California initiative, which was launched in 2021 by Caltrans to clean up, reclaim, transform, and beautify public spaces statewide. The program was developed in partnership with Caltrans, Keep America Beautiful and Keep California Beautiful.

Last month, Newsom announced more than 3.4 million cubic yards of litter had been cleared from state highways and communities in the four years of the Newsom administration's Clean California effort. That's the equivalent of more than 136,000 garbage trucks filled, enough to line over 500 miles of I-5 from Sacramento to San Diego, and then some.

Along with the designation, the City will receive Clean California Community signs, educational resources, automatic membership with Keep California Beautiful, and recognition in statewide news releases and cross-promotional Clean California materials.

The City and ECOSLO encourage other communities in the region to join the program and continue to clean up and transform California. For more information about the program and to take the pledge, visit CleanCA.com/Designation.



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From the Desk of Councilwoman Cyndee Edwards

Citizen participation in our local governmental process is fundamental to the health of any full-service city. One way citizens can help assist their city council in the decision-making process is by serving on an advisory board. Other than being an elected official, it is the most effective way for a community member to impact local decisions. Members of any of the five committees —planning, harbor, recreation & parks, citizens finance advisory, and public works — make recommendations on the matters that come before that body. Advisors work closely with city staff to ensure the issues or projects that come before them are discussed and any recommendations made on items are rooted in the desires and needs of the community as set forth in council's goals and policies. If you have the appropriate experience, are open-minded, able to listen, collaborate well with others, and are excited to be a voice in the governance process, I encourage you to apply and become a part of one of these dedicated and diverse boards.

An example of how the work of an advisory board can impact the decision-making process is taking place on October 21 at 3 p.m. at the Veterans Hall in Morro Bay in a joint meeting between Council and the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) to discuss revenue opportunities for the city. At the request of Council, the members of this committee, whose assigned responsibility is that of advising the finance department with budget and fund-related issues, were asked to generate some opportunities for the city to make money. This is particularly important in a time with high inflation and rising staff costs. Most money made in the city comes from three areas: taxes on visitors staying in hotels (TOT), sales tax, and property taxes. At this meeting, the mem-

bers of CFAC will get the opportunity to discuss their recommendations with the Council, and the public will get the chance to weigh in. The city's fiscal state impacts its ability to deliver the services it provides, including public safety, infrastructure, and recreation, making this discussion a high priority that can directly impact the city's future.

If serving your community, working with staff, and assisting council in the decision making process interests you, please visit the city website under Employment Opportunities or contact the city clerk at cityclerk@morrobayca.gov, for more information on this unique and valuable opportunity.

Cyndee Edwards has served on the Morro Bay City Council since 2022. She can be reached at: cedwards@morrobayca.gov or 805-459-9319.

Bradley Man Dies in Fiery Crash

The Highway Patrol is investigating a fiery, single vehicle crash that killed the driver up in the foothills above Paso Robles. According to a news release from Lt. Darren Gennusa, the CHP was notified of the crash at 2:05 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22 on Nacimiento Lake Drive, west of Reservoir Road, in the unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County.

Gennusa, who is out of the CHP's Templeton Office, said when officers arrived they determined that a 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan had been eastbound on Nacimiento Lake Drive "at an unknown speed. For unknown reasons the Dodge traveled off the north road edge and collided with a wooden fence."

Lt. Gennusa said the vehicle caught fire. Emergency responders were able to extricate the driver and tried to revive him but he died at the scene.

The driver was identified as David Upham, 62 of Bradley, a tiny community in Southern Monterey County near Camp Roberts with a population of just 69.

There was no one else in the Caravan when the accident happened. Lt. Gennusa said alcohol and/or drugs are not suspected to have been a factor in the accident, and Templeton CHP's investigators are continuing to look into the crash.

Sex Traffickers Sentenced to Prison



From left: Heather Hunt, Joshua Murphy and Tremaine Jones have been sentenced to State Prison after being found guilty of sex trafficking of a teenage girl.

Three people — two men and a woman — have been sentenced to State Prison after being convicted in the sex trafficking of a teenage girl.

District Attorney Dan Dow's office announced Oct. 2 that Tremaine Quincy Tejon Jones, 32; Joshua Diante Murphy 31; and Heather Lynne Hunt, 32, were sentenced prison for their part in the 2021 sex trafficking of a minor.

Judge Timothy S. Covello sentenced Jones to 16 years; Murphy to 14 years and 4 months; and Hunt to eight years in State Prison. All three are required to register as convicted sex offenders for the rest of their lives.

Murphy was also found guilty of possession and distribution of child pornography and committing sex acts on a 15-year old. Hunt was found to have trafficked the young survivor under

"force, fear, threats, menace, duress, or coercion."

During the trial it was revealed that defendant Hunt had also been trafficked as a minor.

The prosecutor in the cases, Dep. D.A. Kimberly R. Dittrich said each of the defendants sexually exploited a teenage girl and praised the victim's courage.

"This remarkable young survivor," Dep. D.A. Dittrich said, "was brave enough to come to court and testify over several days before three juries. Because of her courage these criminals were held accountable. She told the terrible truth of her victimization and the juries listened. We are grateful." The trial was held for the trio in July.

D.A. Dow said, "Trafficking a juvenile for commercial sexual exploitation is outrageous criminal conduct that devastates its victims leaving wounds for a lifetime and that's why we work so hard to combat it here in San Luis Obispo County. "We honor this young survivor who demonstrated strength, courage and resilience during the lengthy process. We are deeply grateful to the jurors and the Superior Court staff who ensured that this historic three defendant trial was completed in a timely and professional manner."

The County Sheriff's Office and the D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation investigated the case. Prosecutor Dittrich works in the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit. Victim and witness assistance was provided by Victim Advocate Divina Diaz and Witness Coordinator Kellie Navarro.

The D.A.'s Office added, "We are grateful for the contributions from the following agencies: San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit, the San Luis Obispo Area California Highway Patrol ISU Team, San Luis Obispo County Probation Department, the FBI Santa Maria Office, and the Reno Nevada Police Department HEAT Team.

"Finally, we want to specifically recognize and thank two non-governmental organizations that provided exceptional assistance to this effort: DeliverFund and Freedom Calling.

The case originated in Nevada and during the two-month trial three juries — one for each defendant — heard evidence that "Murphy, Hunt, and Jones lured the 15-year-old victim from Nevada and trafficked her for 16 days through various cities in California, ending with her rescue by law enforcement in Pismo Beach in January 2021," the D.A. said after the guilty verdicts.

The arrests came during a special enforcement period. "The arrests in this case were made during the January 2021 Sixth Annual Southern California Operation Reclaim and Rebuild anti-human trafficking enforcement operation."

Santa Maria Man Arrested on Gun Charges

A Santa Maria man was arrested on weapons charges after someone reported hearing shots fired out on Indian Knob Road, which is east of San Luis Bay Drive in rural San Luis Obispo.

According to Sheriff's spokeswoman, Grace Norris, at 12:22 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 dispatch got a report of shots fired in the 400 block of Indian Knob Rd.

Responding deputies arrived on scene and quickly spotted the vehicle described by the reporting party.

The man driving "was uncooperative with deputies and was ultimately detained after failing to comply with commands," Norris said. "A firearm was located inside the vehicle and deputies also recovered spent shell casings at the scene."

The driver, identified as Miguel Andy Martinez, 24 of Santa Maria, was arrested on suspicion of resisting arrest or delaying a peace officer, carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, and carrying a loaded firearm in public.

Norris said no one was injured in the incident and deputies "acted swiftly to secure the area, and there is no ongoing threat to public safety." The incident was under investigation. She did not say what Martinez was allegedly shooting at.



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COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker



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Sports

Pirates' golfer honored



The Morro Bay High School Athletic Booster's Club has named girls' golf team player, Peighton Lopez, as the September Athlete of the Month. Photo courtesy MBHS

The Morro Bay High Athletic Booster's Club has announced its Athlete of the Month for September; the first of the new school year and this time a golfer has been honored.

"In her first season as a varsity player," reads a news release from the Boosters, "Peighton Lopez, has quickly made a name for herself with back-to-back personal bests."

A junior, Lopez opened the Ocean League season shooting a personal best at Dairy Creek Golf Course, helping her team secure first place at the league opener.

She then followed up the next week by beating that score by a stroke at the challenging Monarch Dunes Course.

Head Coach Mimi Black said, "Peighton puts in extra work on weekends and after practice. That extra effort is really starting to pay off, and I'm especially proud of her commitment. I'm excited to see how the rest of the season unfolds for her."

"Peighton Lopez is proving that she's a rising star in Morro Bay golf—and one to watch as the season continues."

Estero Bay News congratulates Peighton Lopez and wishes her and all the MBHS Pirate golfers continued success this season.

Photos by Neil Farrell

The first surf meet of the Scholastic Surf Series Sept. 28 at Morro Rock is in the books and the team from Morro Bay High topped Arroyo Grande H.S. 35-21.

Morro Bay's Surf Team is a club team and competes in the Scholastic Surf Series against other high school teams from Ventura to Morro Bay.

In the recent meet, two teams each from Ventura and Dos Pueblos H.S. also competed.

For Morro Bay, Lola Weatherly placing fourth in short board; Adrina Asuncion was second in long board; Reese Kelly took third in long board; and Ezra Bariel placed fourth in body board.

Photos show the MBHS Surf Team after the meet and some of the surfing action during the girls' short board and boys' long board heats.

The MBHS Surf Team can be followed on Facebook, see: www.facebook.com/morrobay-surfteam.

Their next meet is set for Oct. 19 at Emma Wood State Park in Ventura. They surf at the Pismo Pier Nov. 2.

Pirate Surfers Shred A.G.



Viewpoint

Benefits of Offshore Wind Energy — How Big Oil Tries to Pull the Plug

By Ava Curtis
Former offshore wind energy educator,
San Luis Obispo

Most of us can recognize a time when we were impacted by the climate catastrophe, and we all bear witness to the horrors of extreme weather events across the globe. We've long understood that humanity's dependence on fossil fuels is the cause of global warming and climate change. We know that humanity still needs energy so we must find renewable solutions to our dependence on fossil fuels. But the fossil fuel industry does not want to be left

behind, and they've found ways to mobilize the public against green solutions.

Astroturfs (groups which mimic grassroots organizations but serve the interests of massive corporations) are one of Big Oil's tools to undermine policy designed to fight the climate crisis. They accomplish this by creating rhetoric meant to mislead and polarize the populace, often disguising themselves as environmental movements.

A study by Brown University created a map of individuals, groups, and climate denial organizations associated with astroturfs that focus on undermining the legitimacy of renewable energy developments and connects a local group with CFACT - a climate denial organization. In fact, the president of a Morro Bay group just wrote an op-ed about some funding that has just been revoked. Let's look at some of their talking points and explore how they mirror fossil fuel interests.

Biodiversity Concerns:

Opponents express concern that offshore wind could harm marine ecosystems. However, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has strict guidelines to ensure that marine

animals are minimally impacted. For example, they require that before acoustic testing begins, no sound-sensitive marine animals are present.

Furthermore, this type of testing is similar to what research vessels from institutions like Scripps and the Monterey Bay Aquarium conduct — very different from the testing done for oil and gas exploration.

Economic Concerns:

The opponents also claim that the offshore wind farm would industrialize the Central Coast, ruin our tourist-based economy, and threaten the fishing industry. The idea of "industrializing" the coast is a myth, as we do not have enough details to even know if Port San Luis is a feasible site for an operations and maintenance port. Moreover, the image recently circulated does not reflect the potential design.

Tourism also will not be negatively impacted by the addition of offshore wind energy to our coast. Tourists in Block Island are actually more inclined to visit after they learn about Block

Viewpoint Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **Sept. 21:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 11:49 p.m. down by the beach in the 100 block of Azure St. Logs indicated the model citizen had a felony warrant from out of town and was checked into the Parkinson Plaza to await his trip back home. He also apparently didn't come along quietly and was also arrested for resisting arrest.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 2:23 p.m. to Motel 6 in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., where someone was reported missing.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 11:50 a.m. to City Park for a disturbance. Logs indicated the call was related to a mentally disturbed and out of control person.

• **Sept. 21:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the highly suspect time of 12:06 a.m. in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the driver had a license suspended because of a previous drunk driving conviction, which the judge will no doubt be overjoyed to hear.

• **Sept. 20:** Police responded at 1 pm. to a disturbance at the den of knaves — City Park. Logs indicated they nabbed some citizen of the year for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and paraphernalia. He or she was apparently issued a disappearance ticket, as the charges were misdemeanors.

• **Sept. 20:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle on Atascadero Road at Ironwood Avenue at 12:02 a.m. which is exactly the wrong time to be out and about in Mayberry. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of driving schwasted.

• **Sept. 19:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 6:11 p.m. in the 1100 block of Embarcadero. The wharf rat had a warrant and was issued another scrap to ignore and released.



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• **Sept. 19:** Police responded at 6:11 p.m. to Morro Rock for a disturbance. Logs indicated the call involved some fruit loop dingus allegedly committing aggravated assault via exhibiting a fake firearm in public, as gun control enters a new high in Califreakornia.

• **Sept. 19:** Police cited a vehicle parked at the public library for an expired registration, as they can now study the DMV booklet.

• **Sept. 18:** police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:18 p.m. in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd. Logs indicated the driver had a suspended license and a bench warrant from out of town, another possible case of arrive on vacation and leave on probation.

• **Sept. 18:** Police responded to a disturbance at 1:38 p.m. at City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated someone apparently drank his lunch and was actin' a fooligan.

• **Sept. 18:** Police responded at 9:19 a.m. to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Rennel. Apparently some crankypated bounder was trying to pick a fight in public.

• **Sept. 17:** Police responded at 11:35 p.m. to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Main. Logs indicated some choleric fool had violated a stay-the-hell-away court order and battered his or her spouse.

• **Sept. 17:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 11:28 p.m. at Pacific and Morro who had a bench warrant. And earlier at 4:40 p.m. they ran into a fellow with a felony warrant in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd.

• **Sept. 17:** At 1:18 p.m. at Elena and Cedar police contacted an old friend who was apparently acting suspicious. Logs indicated the slapdash Idjit was allegedly caught with drugs and drug paraphernalia and has two or more prior arrests for the same feculent behavior.

• **Sept. 17:** Police responded at 11:59 a.m. to Hwy 1 at Yerba Buena for a traffic collision. No word on the extent of the damage. They responded to an earlier car crash at 10:16 a.m. at Harbor and Main.

• **Sept. 16:** Police cited a vehicle in the 1100 block of Quintana for being parked in one place too long, a possible death sentence for another infernal combustion engine.

• **Sept. 16:** Police cited a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Estero because the driver owed the DMV its annual pint of blood money.

• **Sept. 16:** Police cited a vehicle on Sierra Court at Piney Way apparently for being parked in one place too long.

• **Sept. 16:** Police contacted an urban camper at 10:43 a.m. in the North Pitt parking lot by Morro Creek for violating the City's sleeping where they can't collect a bed tax law.

• **Sept. 15:** The police registration task force was out in force swooping in like ICE to cite hooligan car owners with

expired registrations. Tickets were written in the 2900 block of Fir, the 900 block of Shasta, and 600 block of Monterey, 'cause the State's out of money don't you know.

• **Sept. 14:** Police responded at 9:39 a.m. to the Morro Bay Recovery Center on North Main to take some sort of information report, step 15 on the recovery ladder.

• **Sept. 13:** Police responded at 1:13 p.m. to a traffic collision at an undisclosed location in town, nor do we know the extent of the carnage.

• **Sept. 12:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:18 p.m. at yet another undisclosed location. The logs indicated some Bacchanalian driver got tossed into the hoosegow and put out of our misery.

• **Sept. 12:** At 2:51 p.m. somewhere in town police went through the aggravating task of responding to an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, but not a firearm. No word on whether they arrested the aggravating gaggle head.

• **Sept. 12:** Some lost soul came to the police department at 12:19 p.m. to take care of a misdemeanor bench warrant. He was likely cited and released with a new court date to ignore.

• **Sept. 12:** Police responded at 1:43 p.m. to a reported motor vehicle burglary at Chuck's Towing on Quintana Road, no doubt adding insult to the injury of losing one's vehicle.

• **Sept. 11:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 12:48 p.m. somewhere in town and nicked the tick for being thick in public.

• **Sept. 10:** At 1:25 p.m. police stopped another suspicious vehicle at an undisclosed location. The driver was cited for suspicion of driving three sheets to the wind.

• **Sept. 10:** At 1:25 p.m. police at the high school cited some foul mouthed Schmoe for alleged battery and for using offensive words within a school campus, as no doubt that's never happened before.

• **Sept. 10:** Police responded at 9:19 a.m. to a disturbance in City Park. Logs indicated some ninny was allegedly discovered to be in possession of drugs, and also had at least two prior arrests for the same nincompoopery, which logs said was a felony, so he's in real trouble now.

• **Sept. 10:** Someone found something somewhere in City Park sometime about 10 a.m. and called some police officer to come fetch whatever it was.

• **Sept. 8:** At 4:07 p.m. police were sent to Anytime Fitness on Quintana Road where they contacted some squat with a bench warrant who was apparently also in possession of stolen items.

• **Sept. 8:** At 2:42 p.m. police noted a case of felony vandalism and defacement of property, which was declared a felony, so the graffidiots are in for it now.

Cat Noir CC

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Hi, it's Boris. I wanted to give you an update on my latest self-sacrificing, heroic act.

Virgil: I did it. ME, not you. I'm telling the story.

Boris: Fine. I'll make coffee so no one falls asleep during your humdrum account of events.

Virgil: Anymew, remember the creature living under the fridge that somehow made it into the craft room.

Boris: On your watch.

Virgil: About 11 p.m. Furless was on the bed and Daisy and I chased the mouse into the bathroom. THEN Boris ran in after and shoved us all out of the way. The human came with a bowl and a newspaper and shoved him out of the way to catch the critter, probably to prepare a proper meal for us.

Human: I had the newspaper under the bowl to keep the little mouse in there and got to the front door, and the door was closed and locked. With both hands holding the mouse "cage" I was stuck. I decided to set the whole contraption on the ground to open the door, but when I did the bowl raised a little and the mouse escaped and ran under the bookshelf. I wasn't about to move the huge shelf, so I decided it would stay under there all night with three cats positioned like sentries.

Virgil: At about 4 a.m. I caught the uninvited guest and wanted to share it with Furless, so I jumped on the bed, past Boris snoring away, and threw it on her arm.

Human: I bolted awake when something wet hit me. I jumped out of bed. Let me rephrase that, I got one leg on the floor and my bad knee locked up preventing me from

straightening my other leg. There I was half asleep with a rodent in bed; in my head it was now as big as a capybara and rabid. I was able to stand on one leg and grab the bathroom door holding on like a life raft on the Titanic until my knee straightened. As it turns out the poor mouse was dead on my sheets. Virgil was as proud as could be with Daisy cheering him on.

Boris: Have we all forgotten how I guarded the fridge day and night when it was under there.

Virgil: So brave of you guarding cheese.

Boris: I know, right?

Human: It's going to be a long day.



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Community

Viewpoint From page 7

Island’s offshore wind energy farm which is associated with an increase of 20 million dollars in revenue from tourism.

Additionally, there is no evidence that local fisheries will be impacted in the long term by offshore wind. There are local groups working to ensure that project labor agreements will support any short-term fishing losses. BOEM is also currently working with local fishery advocacy groups in efforts to plan for a seamless transition once the projects are complete.

Aesthetic Concerns:

Lastly, the aesthetic concerns about the offshore wind energy farms are unrealistic. Opponents claim that the turbines—standing 820-1,000 feet tall—will be an eyesore. The turbines will be located 25-50 miles offshore and, due to the curvature of the Earth, they will be barely visible on a clear day and completely invisible when it’s overcast.

How the Opposition Aligns Itself with Fossil Fuels:

An op-ed in Cal-Coast news refers to the retraction of a \$426.7 million Department of Transportation grant to the Humboldt Bay terminal which would aid in the building and maintenance of California’s offshore wind industry. This act is lauded by Sean Duffy, Trump’s Secretary of Transportation who is favorable to Big Oil. Duffy states that “wasteful wind projects are using resources that could otherwise go to revitalizing America’s maritime industry,” his reasoning being that “Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg bent over backwards to use transportation dollars for their Green New Scam agenda while ignoring the dire needs of our ship building industry.” This is very similar to the opposition’s claim that, “These [offshore wind] projects frequently aim to fulfill arbitrary objectives and serve as veiled attempts at financial gain...”

Why this is problematic:

Meanwhile, environmentalists are grieving the loss of this funding. Groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council state, “The administration has it entirely backwards. It’s trying to prop up clunky polluting coal plants while doing all it can to halt the fastest growing energy sources of the future - solar and wind power.”

This reversal of funds should serve as a cautionary tale of how the fossil fuels industry can manipulate well-meaning environmental activists into promoting the industry they would traditionally abhor. It shows why fact checking and digging deeper into a story is so necessary in our polarized world and highlights the magnitude of the threat that humanity is facing.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MORRO BAY

Seashells of the World Have Come to Morro Bay

The Shell Shop is a Morro Bay institutio prized by residents and visitors alike. It’s alive and well and continues to be in operation as a family business as it has since 1955.

Proprietor David Thomas started selling shells from his father’s commercial fishing hauls at the budding age of ten.

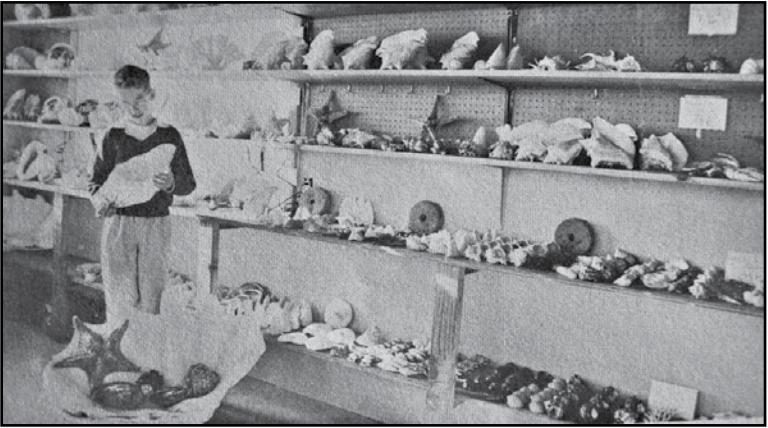
The elder Mr. Thomas, Lawrence, was a skilled diver and fisherman, working with Joe Giannini and other local fishermen. He also worked with Dean Tyler and Ernie Porter to retrieve and preserve items from US Navy ships which sank off Point Honda in tragic circumstances. The one-ton anchor in front of the shop is from the salvage project. The Shell Shop has donated other artifacts to the Maritime Museum and other historical preservation institutes.

The shells in the Shell Shop collection come from places all over the world, including Pacific islands, Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Zanzibar, and India. Most of the shells ofered for sale at the Shell Shop are byproducts of commercial fishing.

Purchasing the shells helps to support fishermen around the world while providing the opportunity for people to have wider access to oceanic treasures through the beauty of seashells.

Acquiring thousands of shells from all over the world has led to unique finds. One of the rarest shells in the shop is a cypraea fultoni, which is highly sought after by specialty collectors. Desired less for its beauty, the fultoni’s attraction is that it is randomly found in the stomach of a tasty deepwater fish from Africa called a mussel cracker, and it must be removed before stomach acid ruins the shell.

The coral selection in the shop was purchased



over 30 years ago in a remarkable turn of events. A supplier in the Philippines contacted Thomas with news of an impending embargo. However, a one-time permit to export coral that had already been harvested would be ofered. As Thomas recalls, “We literally communicated via air mail letters which took two weeks. I told my supplier that yes, go ahead and ship whatever he had, no need to ask my permission in advance. When the supplier received his permit, he sent all of his and other exporters’ stock to Morro Bay — nine 40- foot containers worth!” All the coral for sale in the shop is from that collection; no more coral will be purchased.

The Shell Shop customers’ most popular purchase is a shell from our own local waters, the iridescent shell of the red abalone. This abalone was harvested in large quantity along our coastline until the 1960s. The shells came from abalone processing plants which also operated here in Morro Bay.

The Thomas family has been and will continue to be good stewards of the environment while being a wonderful asset to Morro Bay.

Source: photo of young Dave is from <https://www.morrobayshell-shop.com/>. If you have questions, comments or a photo to share, contact us at info@historicalmorrobay.org.

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October 9, 2025 - October 22, 2025 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 9

Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

DreamQuest Fitness in partnership with the Squibb Houses presents “The Spirits of The Squibb Houses,” on Sat., Oct 11 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Squibb Houses, 4063 Burton Drive in Cambria. Back by popular demand, for one night only, Join the enchanted tour guides through the historical Squibb House and Gardens meeting the spirits of Cambria’s colorful past and previous owners as they share their stories and messages of hope for the future. All proceeds from the 2025 event will go to Greenspace-The Cambria Land Trust.

Tickets are \$25 dollars presale only at the shop next door 4063 Burton Drive Cambria or call 805 990-9183 for details. Tour times, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.



The community is invited to celebrate National Fire Prevention Week at the Downtown SLO Farmers’ Market on Thursday, October 9, from 6–9 p.m. Hosted in partnership with the City of San Luis Obispo and sponsored by Sun Day Carwash, the event features fire departments from all over San Luis Obispo County showing off their latest fire safety equipment, giving tours of their vehicles, and educating the public on fire prevention.

This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public. Participating fire agencies include the City of SLO Fire Department, CAL Fire, Diablo Canyon Fire, and Templeton Burn Relay.

Fire Prevention Night coincides with the normally scheduled Downtown SLO Farmers’ Market, taking place along five blocks of Higuera Street, every Thursday starting at 6 PM. Pets are not allowed in the Farmers’ Market.

The American Association of University Women, Morro Bay Branch welcomes Brynn Albanese to their Saturday, October 11, beginning at 10 a.m. at Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, 545 Shasta, Morro Bay. Brynn will play her captivating violin and tell of her musical journey which ranged from international concert mistress to hospice care musician.

They welcome everyone to attend their meetings, especially those who are interested in the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For membership information, contact Sarah Miric at miric.sarah@icloud.com.



The Call Poly Arab Music Ensemble’s fall concert is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, in the Performing Arts Center. It features a tribute to Ziad Rahbani, and a new composition “Ahabna Al-Rahilin” (Our Departed Loved Ones), by ensemble director Ken Habib.

The Arab Music Ensemble is an orchestra and choir with vocal and instrumental soloists and with a membership that represents a wide range of majors on campus and professions off campus. Instrumentation includes the oud, qanun, nay, accordion, violin, viola, cello, double bass, riqq, daff, darabukka and more. Habib will perform the piece on oud with guest artists who will play throughout the concert: Ishmael, qanun; Fathi Aljarah, kamanja; Rafid Yalda, nay; and Faisal Zedan, riqq, daff and darabukka. Another special feature of the program will be the presentation of a series of chamber ensembles featuring advanced members. San Luis Obispo dance director Jenna Mitchell will lead the dance troupe in original choreography that dialogues with the music in an ongoing collaboration that began shortly after the founding of the Arab Music Ensemble in 2006. Tickets are \$17 and \$22 for general admission and \$12 for students. They are available at pac slo.org

Estero Bay United Methodist Church presents “For the Love of Music.” Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music featuring Peter Girardot, tenor from the San Francisco Opera Beverly Arnold; harpist and accompanist Nancy Nagano; cellist Jim Riccardio; and special guests on Sunday, October 12 at 2:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church of San Luis Obispo, 1515 Fredericks Steet, San Luis Obispo. A good will offering benefits the Morro Bay United Methodist Children’s Center. A reception follows the concert. For more information go to www.morrobayumc.org or call Beverly Arnold at 805-550-3529.

ARTober returns to San Luis Obispo this October for its third year to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month.

Throughout the month, residents and visitors are invited to enjoy as many arts and culture experiences and offerings as they can: stroll through Mission Plaza to hear an impromptu Piano in the Plaza performance, appreciate the over 150 unique pieces of public art, enjoy live performance art, watch a movie at a local movie theater, or explore an art or history museum.

Each week in October, a different nonprofit will be spot-



lighted for the meaningful work they do and the value they bring to our community. Featured organizations include the SLO Symphony, Opera SLO, Central Coast Comedy Theater and the Civic Ballet of SLO.

The month will be packed with engaging events and experiences for all ages. Highlights from featured organizations include Opera SLO’s production of Hansel & Gretel on October 18 and 19, Central Coast Comedy Theater’s Improv show on October 10, and much more.

The City will also bring back the beloved Piano in the Plaza program. Community members are invited to stop by Mission Plaza daily between 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and fill the space with music at the hand-painted piano stationed there.

A calendar of events for the month can be found online at visitslo.com. Learn more about ARTober at slocity.org/ARTober.

Fee youth programs in October at the Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394.

- Costume Exchange - Tuesday, October 21 through Saturday October 25
- Come pick up some new to you costume supplies. And bring good condition past costumes to donate if you want (not required). It’s totally free!
- Nintendo Switch - Wednesday, October 22, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch! We will provide one Switch for up to 4 players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros, and Just Dance.
- Dia de los Muertos Art Party - Wednesday, October 29, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Use your imagination to make unique foam sugar skulls, masks, and more using paper, pens, pencils, scissors, glue and anything else you want.

Woods Humane Society invites the community—including leashed and friendly dogs—to its San Luis Obispo campus for the biggest local pet celebration of the year, the Wiggle Waggle Fall Festival, on Saturday, October 25, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Generously sponsored by Subaru of San Luis Obispo as part of the Subaru Loves Pets initiative, the free, fall-themed pet celebration expects to welcome more than 800 guests. Activities include kids’ and canine costume contests, photos with Santa Paws by Kelcy Rourke Photography, trick-for-treat training challenges, canine carnival activities such as a stuffed-animal pull, and the Woods Pup-kin Patch.

The festival’s Pet Fair features local, pet-themed vendors and food trucks including Old SLO BBQ Taco Truck, The Grinning Bear, Paradise Shaved Ice, Waffle on a Stick, The Caffeinated Cat Café, face painting, and more. Woods Humane Society will also host a half-off dog and cat adoption promotion during the event to help dogs and cats find loving homes. This year, the first 80 entrants to RSVP for the Costume Contest will receive pup-party-favors, and there will be prizes for the winner in each contest category: Kids, Big Dogs, Little Dogs, and 2 Peas in a Pod.

To RSVP, visit bit.ly/4gTMxWo. For more event information, visit www.WoodsHumane.org/FallFestival or call (805) 543-9316.



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Community

The Pismo Beach Clam Festival celebrates its 79th year this fall, welcoming generations of families, friends, and visitors to experience one of the long-running tradition. Since 1946, the Clam Festival has been a hallmark of Pismo Beach's history and honors its roots while offering entertainment and activities for all. The festivities kick off on Saturday, October 18, at 10 a.m. with the parade along Price Street. Colorful floats, local organizations, and performances bring the heart of the community together. Throughout the weekend, festivalgoers can enjoy the rest of the festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with live music performances from a variety of local groups, local vendors, food trucks, a beer and wine garden open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a free kids zone with bounce houses, inflatables and stewardship program activities.

Get ready to laugh until your cheeks hurt! San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre presents Paul Slade Smith's outrageously funny comedy "Unnecessary Farce" running October 24 through November 9, at the SLO REP theatre in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Directed by Lawrence Leshner, whose past SLO REP credits include audience favorites "Around the World in 80 Days" and "Misery," this wildly popular farce promises fast-paced hilarity, quick-witted dialogue, and some of the funniest scenes ever staged at SLO REP.

In a cheap motel room, two rookie cops set up a sting operation on a crooked mayor. But with bungling officers, mistaken identities, and an ever-escalating series of misunderstandings, the case quickly spirals into comic chaos. Featuring eight doors, two videotapes, and one bagpipe-playing hitman, Unnecessary Farce is a laugh-a-minute ride that has delighted audiences across the country.

Showtimes: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. at 888 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo. Tickets are \$27-\$42, available now at www.sloreporp.org

Cuesta College presents "James and the Giant Peach" in the CPAC Experimental Theater on the SLO campus through October 19. After James Henry Trotter's parents are tragically eaten by a rhinoceros, he goes to live with his two horrible aunts, Spiker and Sponge. Life there is no fun until James accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree and strange things start to happen. The peach at the top of the tree begins to grow and, before long, it's as big as a house. Inside, James meets a bunch of oversized friends: Miss Spider, Old-Green-Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybug, and Earthworm. With a snip of the stem, the peach starts rolling away, and the great adventure begins! Tickets range in price and are available at <https://cuesta.universitytickets.com/>.

The Cal Poly Music Department will host Alba Franco Cancel for a Latin American art song recital at 11:10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, in Room 218 of the Davidson Music Center. The program will feature works from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Puerto Rico. She is co-founder of Duo Matrices, an ensemble committed to promoting Latin American art song and serves as director of vocal studies at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music.

A soprano from Puerto Rico, Franco-Cancel will present a program with works from Argentina ("Milonga de dos hermanos" and "La rosa y el sauce" by Carlos Guastavino), Brazil ("Capim di Pranta" and "Engenho Novo" by Ernani Braga), Cuba ("Mírame" by Así Eduardo Sanchez de Fuentes"), Mexico ("Por ti mi corazón" by Manuel Ponce, and "Alma Mia" and "Te quiero, dijiste" by María Grever), Peru ("Huiracocha" by Clotilde Arias) and Puerto Rico ("Amanecer" and "Nostalgia" by Monsita Ferrer). She will be accompanied by Paul Woodring on piano. Admission is free, but a parking permit is required.



Morro Coast Audubon Society's next Zoom Community Program, Dragonflies and How to Attract Them with a Wildlife Pond" is presented by Kathy Biggs Monday, October 20, at 7 p.m.

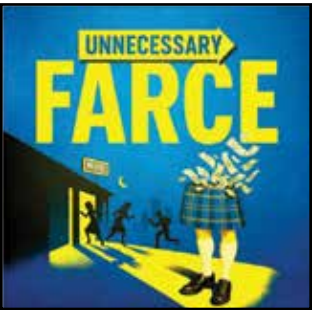
For Zoom Information, see the MCAS Events Calendar at <https://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/calendar>. All MCAS Zoom Community Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. No signup/registration required to attend.

This program will introduce the fascinating biology of the Odonates - the dragonflies and damselflies. Attendees will learn about the dragonfly's life cycle which includes an under-water nymph stage, much like a butterfly's caterpillar stage. The different families of dragonflies will be introduced and the most common species to be attracted to a pond in the Morro Bay area will be presented.

The use of ponds to attract dragonflies, the ideal size and depths, the best plant species to use and maintenance techniques will be explored along with positioning the pond on your property. Dragonflies are beautiful, ponds are peaceful and having both is a true joy!

Kathy Biggs has been a nature lover all her life. When she built a wildlife pond in her backyard in 1996, dragonflies arrived, and she found her true passion. She then created several websites and wrote many books on dragonflies and wildlife ponds. She hopes she can inspire you to get to know the dragonflies and possibly to build a habitat that supports them.

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.



Free programs at the Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave

- **Costume Exchange** – October 14 – 18, all day
A weeklong costume exchange for all families! Come pick up some new to you costume supplies. And bring good condition past costumes to donate if you want (not required).

- **Bears Book Club** – Tuesday, October 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
"James" by Percival Everett. Drop in. Adults.

- **Hexbugs** – Friday, October 17, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Create mazes for these motorized bugs, race them and more! All ages welcome.

- **Teen Advisory Board** – Saturday, October 18, 3 – 4 p.m.

Looking for volunteer or community service hours? Help Librarian Emily run the Teen Advisory Board. Participation can be listed on job, scholarship and college applications. Snacks provided. Tweens and teens.

- **Nintendo** – Friday, October 24, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch.

School age, tween, teen
Dia de los Muertos – Friday, October 31, 2:30 – 4:30pm
This month's art party is a special all ages Dia de los Muertos craft. Use your imagination to make unique foam sugar skulls, masks, and more using paper, pens, pencils, scissors, glue and anything else you want.

Preschool, school age, tween.

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City Serves Up Tennis Court Resurfacing

Local tennis players have two brand new courts to rally on, after the City of Morro Bay's Maintenance Crew finished re-finish-ing the courts at Monte Young Park.

Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, shared photos of the work as it progressed, and finished up on Sept. 26.

Maintenance Supervisor Carlos Mendoza explained the process they followed for the job.

"The first step is to clean the courts and sand with 16 grit paper," he said. "Sanding of the top layers allows for the new surface to adhere properly. It is not sanded down to the concrete.

“Cracks and joints are filled with Silkaflex Urethane caulking. The first layer is a heavy coat of black re-surfacer. No slurry is applied.”

They used a special paint to remark the courts and boundary lines.

"The paint is from Sport Master Surfaces," Mendoza said. "It is specifically designed for tennis courts and contains sand."

Monte Young tennis courts also had part of the high Cyclone fence surrounding it repaired after it blew down in a big wind-storm.

The change in the courts is dramatic, as seen in before and after photos from the City. Mendoza said they should be good for 10 years, depending on how much use they get.

Monte Young Park is located at 550 South St. (the corner of Shasta Avenue and South Street) in the Heights neighborhood of south Morro Bay. It features a large grassy area, playground, restrooms and the two tennis courts.

Use of the courts is on a first-come first-served basis, and they can also be reserved through the City Recreation Department, see: www.morrobay.org/directory/monte-young-park. There is also a group of regular players that plays at Monte Young Park from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Cost is \$1.

And for the more dedicated players, there's the Surfside Tennis Club, which plays at Morro Bay High School on Saturdays, serving Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cambria and Cayucos.

Members of Surfside are among the regulars who play at Monte Young, including 100-year-old Bill Newman, said Keith Crowfoot of the STC. "We are all loving the new courts," he added. See: www.surfsidetennisclub.com for more information.

EBN asked Mendoza what's next on the City's list of maintenance projects?

“We are currently working on sidewalk improvements,” he said. “City Council allocated \$300,000 in fiscal year 2025/26 for sidewalk improvements.

“Earlier this year we had Precision Concrete Cutting perform an assessment of the sidewalks on Main Street and Downtown.”

That assessment uncovered a lot of potential trip hazards. "A little under 1,500 hazards were identified," Mendoza said. "These ranged from uplifts, cracks and panels that need complete replacement. Precision Concrete will be able to grind 999 of those hazards."

That work is underway now. They began working last Monday and are expected to finish work in two weeks."

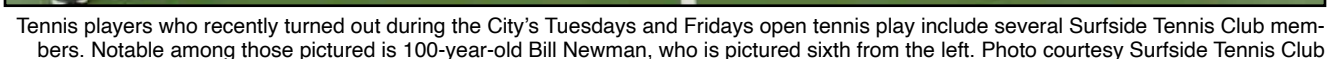
They had another contractor doing sidewalk repairs and replacement. "The City also contracted with Sosa Construction to work on replacement or new sidewalks. That work has been completed," he said.



An up-close look at the surface of the Monte Young Park tennis courts after being sanded.



Photo shows some of the cracks in the surface of the Monte Young Park tennis courts before City maintenance crew resurfaced them.



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Community

Bay-Osos Kiwanis Hold Installation Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Bay-Osos held its annual Installation Dinner on Monday, September 29 at the Morro Bay Community Center, where Ed Gallardo was promoted as the new president of the club. Dinner was served by club member, Jim Delmore of old Jimmy Bump's fame. Morro Bay High School Key Club and Los Osos Middle School Builders Club members volunteered their time to help with the occasion.

Other esteemed guests included Division 29 Lieutenant Governor Julie Posada, who promoted officers and installed the 2025-2026 Board of Directors, and Past CA-NV-HI District Governor and International Trustee Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer, who led a surprise induction of two new members Jason Hayes and Michael Glavan.

Of special note, last year saw the creation of the 20-year service award to recognize its long-term members, and their commitment to community and its youth. In 2025 this award was named after Al Strunk, who passed away in November of last year and



Pictured are Ed Gallardo, President Annie Wahler, Immediate Past President Elizabeth Denny, Vice President Deanna Sweeney, Board Members JJ Bright and Cynthia Rozamus, Treasurer Warren Lilly, and President-Elect Peter Starlings. Not pictured are Secretary Heidi Smith, Recording Secretary and Board Member Olivia Martinez, and Board Member Steve Auslander. Photo by Dean Sullivan

was instrumental in the vitality the group now showcases. Warren Lilly was the second recipient of the award, for his dedication to the club's mission of "serving the children of the world." For more information, go to kiwanisbayosos.org/calendar/, or join them for an informational program and lunch on Wednesdays at 12 p.m.at Sea Pines Golf Resort.

with a wide selection of spooky, cozy, and fall books; literary-inspired costumes; fun crafts; and a few special guests from Pacific Wildlife Care. A portion of proceeds will be donated back to the wildlife center.

"Our last bookfair was such a success, we decided to put together another one," The Cove founder Kalyn Josephson said. "We're excited to be teaming up with Pacific Wildlife Care and local artist, Katelyn, from Book and Bottlecrafts."

The Cove is an online bookstore owned by local New York Times bestselling author, Josephson, which sells signed copies and special editions of books by local authors and bestsellers alike in addition to hosting pop-up events like the bookfair throughout San Luis Obispo county.

Can't make it? The next author event is already scheduled. Join The Cove at the Atascadero library on Saturday, October 25 at 10 a.m. for a Spooktacular Author Talk. Local thriller and horror author, Nicholas Belardes, will discuss eco-anxieties and other terrors. The Cove will give away 13 free books to attendees and host a special guest from Pacific Wildlife Care. Learn more at thecovebooks.myshopify.com/pages/upcoming-events.

South Bay Community Center Wine Raffle

It's time for the South Bay Community Center's 2025 Wine Raffle. All proceeds go the support of the SBCC. The winner will receive a big selection of wines worth over \$500. Drawing takes place at Oktoberfest October on 26, winner need not be present. Buy tickets (\$10 each or five for \$40) at <http://bit.ly/3KvNGrq>.

Cambria Nursery Debuts 'Whimsical Winter Wonderland'



Cambria Nursery announced the grand opening of its Whimsical Winter Wonderland shopping experience, a seasonal tradition.

Step through the doors and into a twinkling wonderland filled with themed holiday displays, sparkling Christmas trees, and curated gifts that capture the spirit of the season. Whether you're hunting for a one-of-a-kind glass ornament or an heirloom-quality collectible from brands like MacKenzie-Childs, Heartfully Yours, Department 56, RAZ, Old World Christmas, and Christopher Radko.

"This is more than shopping, it's a holiday tradition in the making," said Beverly Bruce, lead designer at Cambria Nursery in a press release. "Our Winter Wonderland is an experience meant to delight the senses and celebrate the spirit of the holidays in a

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**The Cove Books to
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Join locally owned, online bookstore, The Cove, for a Spooky Bookfair for adults on Friday, October 24th at Two Broads Ciderworks in San Luis Obispo at 5 p.m. Enjoy a free evening of books, games, wildlife, and more.

This event will evoke the nostalgia of Scholastic bookfairs

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With more than 35 years of experience in holiday design and buying, Beverly brings expertise and flair to every detail. Before joining Cambria Nursery, she owned a series of specialty Christmas stores in Southern California, known for offering unique holiday décor and timeless collectibles. Her passion for all things festive is the magic behind Cambria’s signature Christmas experience.

With festive décor; customer-favorite holiday products; hand-crafted German collectibles, including traditional smokers and nutcrackers from Mueller and DWU; plus plenty of photo-ready backdrops, guests are encouraged to visit early for the best selection and to make the most of the festive cheer while it lasts.

To learn more about seasonal events at the Nursery, go to cambrianursery.com

AI for Board Support at Spokes

Learn AI tools to simplify administrative board tasks, including Agendas, minutes, board reports and more on Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. via a Zoom meeting with Spokes for Nonprofits.

Board administration — from agendas and minutes to by-laws and board packets — can eat up hours that could be better spent advancing your mission and driving impact. This webinar shows how AI can cut through those inefficiencies and make board support faster, easier, and more effective. Designed for anyone involved in board support, including board officers and directors, executive directors and CEOs and administrative or operations staff, this class will provide the practical tools, templates, and strategies to immediately enhance board efficiency and reclaim valuable time. No prior AI experience is required. This class is online; link will be sent with registration acknowledgement. This class may be recorded. Tickets are \$45 for general admission and \$25 for members. They can be purchased at spokesfor nonprofits.org.

PG&E Supports Regional Food Programs

The PG&E Corporation Foundation provided \$1.12 million to regional 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.

“The California Association of Food Banks is incredibly grateful for PG&E Corporation’s ongoing partnership in our mission to end hunger in California,” said Stacia Levenfeld, CEO California Association of Food Banks. “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 recent contribution will provide the equivalent of approximately 3.13 million meals for individuals and families in need. The funding will support more than 50 Central and Northern California organizations. This includes:

Monterey County

- Food Bank for Monterey County - \$29,500
- Meals on Wheels of Monterey Peninsula - \$7,500

San Benito County

- Community Food Bank of San Benito County - \$14,300
- Santa Cruz County
- Second Harvest Food Bank Serving Santa Cruz - \$16,500

San Luis Obispo County

- Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County - \$20,400
- Senior Nutrition Program of San Luis Obispo County, aka Meals that Connect - \$7,500

Santa Barbara County

- Foodbank of Santa Barbara County - \$26,000

Together the seven Central Coast food banks and food distribution organizations received nearly \$122,000 in charitable funding. Grant amounts consider county poverty and unemployment levels, using the California Department of Social Services’ formula, to promote equity among counties with higher need. Funding comes from PG&E shareholders, not customers.

According to the California Association of Food Banks, while California produces nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables, 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.

Poly Names Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

Cal Poly has named Al Liddicoat as provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs, the senior-most academic officer at the university. He has served as interim provost since April 2025.

“Following consultation with student and university leaders and at the urging of many department chairs, I have appointed Al Liddicoat as provost and executive vice president,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong in a news release. “I am confident that in the coming years, Al will continue his great work to enhance Learn by Doing, expand access to a Cal Poly degree for more California students and foster partnerships across colleges and campuses.”

As provost, Liddicoat will collaborate with deans from Cal Poly’s six colleges, Kennedy Library, Graduate Education, and Extended and Continuing Education, along with faculty and staff across the university. His portfolio also includes oversight of Academic Innovations and Programs, Student Success, the Office of Research, and the academic enterprise of the Cal Poly Maritime Academy on the Cal Poly Solano campus.

“Cal Poly has been part of my life since I first arrived as an undergraduate engineering student. To now serve as provost is both humbling and energizing,” Liddicoat said.

Liddicoat earned his bachelor’s degree in electronic engineering from Cal Poly. He also holds a doctorate and a master’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s degree in industrial engineering and engineering management, all from Stanford University.

At Cal Poly, Liddicoat has held a wide range of leadership roles, including vice president for University Personnel and chief



human resources officer, vice provost for Academic Affairs and Personnel, interim dean of the Orfalea College of Business, and director of the Computer Engineering Program. He began his administrative career in 2006 as assistant vice president for Academic Personnel after joining the faculty in 2002.

As an academic, he earned and holds tenured status as the Forbes professor of computer and electrical engineering and has built a record of service spanning both academic and operational leadership at the university.

He also served as interim vice chancellor for human resources at the California State University Chancellor’s Office, gaining all-important systemwide understanding that provides the broader perspective required to navigate the complexities of today’s higher education system.

Liddicoat and his wife, Silvia (also a Cal Poly alum), first met as classmates in the College of Engineering. Now empty nesters, they enjoy golf, hiking, traveling and staying connected with their three grown children.

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Released in 1963, and set in the bucolic seaside fishing village (sound familiar?) of Bodega Bay, The Birds stars newcomer Tippi Hedron, Rod Taylor and Jessica Tandy and tells the tale of a series of sudden and unexplained violent bird attacks on the good citizens of Bodega Bay, which some blame on Hedron, a controversial socialite from San Francisco wrapped up in a scandal and the new arrival in town.

The Birds is one of Hitchcock’s masterpieces though it took a while for audiences to warm up to the frightening events in the film when first released.

The Rock, 97.3 FM in the Estero Bay Area and 107.9 FM in Paso Robles, is an all-volunteer community radio station based in Morro Bay. The non-profit station features a diverse lineup of citizen DJs, playing a wide variety of music genres, broadcasting local emergency information and on Friday nights, Morro Bay High School home football games. See: www.esterobayradio.org for information and to listen online.

The Birds is part of a series of special film screenings at The Bay Theater benefitting the station. Past films have included The Big Lebowski, Pulp Fiction and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Each has also featured a costume contest and loads of fun.

The historic 1940s-era Bay Theater is located at 484 Morro Bay Blvd. See: www.morrobaymovie.com for current films and coming attractions.

Open Gym in Cayucos

Hoops players will have a chance to bounce their basketballs on the hardwoods at Cayucos Elementary School when the school’s “new” gym opens for community members in October, November and December.

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council announced open gym nights from 5-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 15 and 22; Nov. 5 and 12; and Dec. 3; with more dates to be announced for January.

The open gym nights are for all ages, but those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The recreational, pick-up games are free to attend and sponsored by the Cayucos Elementary School District and SLO County. Players should dress for playing hoops to include proper shoes; and are encouraged to bring their own basketball, too. The open gym nights will be in the school’s multi-purpose room, which triples as a cafeteria, gymnasium and performing arts theater, as well as the site where most public meetings are held (including the CCAC). Call 805-995-3694 with questions.

White Caps Band Hits a High Note



The Morro Bay White Caps Community Band is making waves in the local music scene, doubling in size and sound over the past three years. What began as a modest ensemble has blossomed into a vibrant musical force, now boasting enough members to fill concert halls and captivate audiences across the Central Coast.

This year alone, the band has hosted two indoor concerts, a milestone that reflects its remarkable growth. The most recent performance took place at the Morro Bay High School Theatre where the ensemble showcased its expanded repertoire and dynamic energy to a very enthusiastic audience.

Fueling this momentum is a generous grant from the James Irvine Foundation, which has provided vital support for needed equipment, sheet music, and outreach efforts.

The White Caps are far from slowing down. Their next performance will be at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum’s Family Fun event on Saturday, October 11, from 11 a.m. to 1p.m., promising a lively mix of nautical tunes and family-friendly favorites.

Later in the month, the band will bring spooky spirit to the streets with a Halloween-themed performance during the Morro Bay Farmers’ Market on October 25. The band enjoys dressing up in costumes and handing out treats to kids walking by.

Looking ahead, the White Caps will join forces with the San Luis Obispo County Band for a Veterans Day tribute honoring those who have served with a stirring musical salute. December brings even more excitement, with performances during the Annual

Morro Bay Lighted Boat Parade on December 6, followed by a festive concert at the Farmers’ Market on December 13.

You can find out more about the White Caps by going to www.morrobaywhitecaps.com.

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

Walking the Golden Gate Bridge



Golden Gate Bridge

By Susan Vasquez

It has been suspended over the San Francisco Bay my entire life, a familiar sight from earliest childhood until now. I remember visiting Great Aunt Bess in The City. Me, small and young, dressed out-of-character in a cream-colored coat with pearl-buttoned white gloves holding on to my mother’s hand, a toddler walking within view of this icon. I am not so young now, but still small compared to the structure that has spanned the bay and posed for viewing by millions of visitors. I’m no stranger to the Bridge, but today, I will walk the Golden Gate for the first time in my life.

I arrive on a birthday of the several-week period from when the Bridge was completed until when it opened. If I had been here two days before, I would not have been able to walk, because others were running across in a footrace. If I had come the next weekend, I would have walked among a crowd of Girl Scouts in one of their planned events crossing the Bridge. It is a busy place; I am glad for this calmer Tuesday morning visit, because heights scare the bejesus out of me and crowds make my elbows defensive.

The approach to the Bridge from the Marina neighborhood of the city gives a familiar view. Today, the classic postcard photo travels alongside me, step-by-step closer to one of the world’s treasures. Slips and cut-off portions of the old Army Presidio lay to my left and its WW2 air strip, Crissy Field, stretches to my right. The San Francisco Bay is beyond that, lapping against a shore of beaches interrupted by two or three public wharves. A brown sign directs me up a hill between old military buildings that appear to

Out & About Continued on page 22

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News

Rescuing From page 1



Trained volunteer responders from The Marine Mammal Center rescue a sick California sea lion suffering from domoic acid poisoning at Avila Beach on August 6, 2024. Photo courtesy The Marine Mammal Center

Also, Pacific Gas & Electric has a big BESS facility at Moss Landing. PG&E built both Moss Landing and Morro Bay Power Plants in the 1950s and ‘60s and sold them to Duke in 1999, under the State’s failed experiment with deregulation of the energy industry.

Vista has been proposing a large BESS on its Morro Bay property as well, though the future of that project is uncertain at best, especially after the Moss Landing fire. The Morro Bay plant hasn’t produced energy since being shut down in 2014.

Dr. Boehm said the clock is ticking for them to find a new home. “We have 15 months — by the end of 2026,” he said.

There is little question that the MMC needs to remain in SLO County, as their facility in Morro Bay is quite busy.

Associate Director of Public Relations, Giancarlo Rulli, told EBN “They regularly have over 100 individuals in San Luis Obispo County [but with high variability year to year depending on ocean conditions] with primary species being California sea lions, southern sea otters, northern elephant seals, harbor seals, Guadalupe fur seals, and northern fur seals.

“For example, last year, the Center’s operations in the county responded to more than 200 marine mammals in a three-month span alone [July-September], mostly California sea lions, impacted by a severe outbreak of domoic acid poisoning.”

Domoic acid is the toxin produced by certain species of algae. When baitfish like anchovies and sardines, eat the algae or eat other planktonic critters that eat the algae, the poison builds up.

And when a marine mammal, near the top of the food chain, catches and eats these poison fish, they get very sick.

Once fairly rare, the domoic acid episodes seem to be coming more frequently and are more widespread. So, while the need to care for these animals grows, the MMC finds itself in search of a cure for its own ailment.

“It’s been hard for sure,” Dr. Boehm said of their search. “We’ve been at it for over a year.”

Given the peculiarities of their work, they have certain needs that they have to pay attention to, like geography. “We’ve found that the ‘sweet spot’ is Morro Bay,” he said. Morro Bay is centrally located for their response to sick animal calls, as volunteers can more easily travel to the north or the south from here.

“Where we’re located matters,” Dr. Boehm said. “Morro Bay is wonderfully centralized.”

Another factor is the weather, and Morro Bay’s cooler temps are good for the animals. They haven’t looked inland for a new home, because “with the heat in the summer it becomes inappro-



Aliah Meza (front left), operations manager at The Marine Mammal Center's San Luis Obispo operations in Morro Bay, and Shayla Zink (front right) Operations Coordinator, with an assist from some volunteers, carry a sick California sea lion into a response vehicle with help from some volunteers during an outbreak of domoic acid poisoning last summer. Photo courtesy The Marine Mammal Center

priate” for the animals. They do after all, live in the chilly ocean.

He said they’ve had discussions with the County Board of Supervisors and Morro Bay officials, and while both have been very supportive of their work and in keeping them here, they haven’t found a spot. They did talk to the City about the former Teen Center on Atascadero Road, located in front of the high school.

The City acquired that property, which had been developed into an arcade and golf business, in a bankruptcy sale. The City Council’s intent was to turn it into a teen center, which it operated for several years. But the COVID pandemic response, which closed the schools, pretty much killed the teen center. The City Council had agreed to lease it the Boys & Girls Club, but that too

fell through. It now sits largely unused.

Dr. Boehm said they had some zoning issues with that site, and the City was non-committal. So, they’ve looked elsewhere, most recently to Cayucos.

In August a team from the MMC approached the Cayucos Sanitary District Board to see about leasing a piece of their treatment plant property on Toro Creek Road.

Dr. Boehm said the CSD Board presentation was “encouraging.”

“They said ‘Tell us more,’” he explained. Officially, the Board directed the CSD staff to check into this.

“The Board directed staff to assist in The Center’s efforts in evaluating the feasibility of the site,” reads the CSD’s official minutes from that August meeting.

The CSD Board, though generally in support, did have some concerns, like would it interfere with the operations at the treatment plant? No, according to the plant’s operations manager.

One member wanted to make sure any new buildings that might go up be designed to match the treatment plant’s “ranch-style” architecture and fit in with the other farms and ranches on Toro Creek Road.

The MMC staffers wanted to see if it was even feasible before delving too far into designs.

CSD Interim General Manager, Will Clemens, told EBN the ball is mostly in the Marine Mammal Center’s court.

“Most of the follow through has been on the shoulders of the Marine Mammal Center so far,” Clemens said. “Our Board is supportive of their efforts and believes this could be a great long-term partnership as we both care for the long-term health of the Estero Bay and the life that inhabits it.”

He added that the MMC is looking at a portion of the CSD’s property that currently has a solar farm, used to power the treatment plant.

“The section of property under consideration is east of the solar field on the south side of Toro Creek Road,” Clemens said.

Dr. Boehm said the triage facility has basic needs — a fresh water source, sewer service, electricity and room for a building and outdoor holding pens, about an acre total. Oddly enough, the facility that treats marine mammals doesn’t need saltwater.

They are also open to working with a private landowner on a site, and while the current facility at the power plant is rent-free, and they hope to get another arrangement like that, they are capable of paying reasonable rent.

“Absolutely,” Dr. Boehm said, “we’re looking for another free place. But we’re anticipating we might have to pay rent.”

As for the water needs, Dr. Boehm said fresh water is all they

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News

need. “People assume we’ll have pools [for the animals]. This would be a stabilization center. They don’t need to be in the water. We do need water to mist them and keep them cool, but there would be no pools in this facility.”

Cayucos’ treatment plant triple treats the effluent and disinfects it. While the ultimate goal is to store that highly treated wastewater in Whale Rock Reservoir someday, it could be used at a marine mammal center.

“It should be feasible for the new facility to tie into the existing potable water system and sewer system at the WRRF [treatment plant],” the CSD’s Clemens said, “which would eliminate the need for drilling another well.

“It also may be feasible to utilize recycled water for much of the MMC operational needs.”

In their slide show presentation to the CSD Board, the center folks estimated they’d need about 18 units of potable water a month, this would presumably be for both the ailing animals and the humans working there. A normal “unit” of water is 750 gallons, so about 13,500 gallons or so a month would be needed.

If EBN readers have a piece of property located somewhere near the coast and would like to see about helping the Marine Mammal Center, email Aliah Meza the San Luis Obispo operations manager in Morro Bay, at: MezaA@TMMC.org.

The Morro Bay center’s situation is not unlike the fix that Pacific Wildlife Care, which is located next door to the Morro Bay triage center, found itself in.

That wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organization also was told by Vistra they had to move out.

PWC was gifted a plot of land out by the County Airport in SLO by a generous supporter and is currently building a new facility there.

Both non-profit organizations are working to care for the creatures that inhabit the ocean and our wild lands that help make SLO County such a great place to live.

Fire Danger From page 1

The preserve also has numerous walking trails that are popular with horse riders.

It truly is a remarkable slice of nature within an urban community, eerily quiet and a bit spooky. But Lindsay said little maintenance work has ever been done there, and now it’s a fire disaster waiting for a spark.

Over a year ago, Lindsay told Estero Bay News while starting off on a walking tour of the grove, he saw the same sort of conditions here as in the L.A. fires. He says he asked himself, ‘Who is responsible for maintaining the Preserve?’

His journey, wading through a sea of bureaucracy has been frustrating but eventually, after pestering Cal Fire/County Fire and County Parks officials, as well as his County Supervisor, and taking several on walking tours of the preserve, he might be emerging from the cocoon of silence into a potential solution.

He said County Parks is supposed to be in charge, witness that it’s their workers who come weekly and empty the trash cans, filled mainly with Mutt Mitt dog poop bags.

And they acknowledge this, but point to the Habitat Conservation Plan, he says, a federal document that basically declares all of Los Osos to be essential habitat for banded dune snails and sets the price for mitigation to allow development.

The HCP, which took about three decades to finalize, was



A look into the butterfly cathedral at the heart of the Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve.

adopted over a year ago, Lindsay points out, so that excuse doesn’t fly with him and the HOA board.

The County Parks folks then told him Cal Fire/County Fire “has to acknowledge there’s a problem,” Lindsay explains as we walk down a wide, dirt access road that separates the houses from the preserve and leads from a paved street to the main entrance of the preserve.

A year ago, he recalls, he stood right there with a Cal Fire battalion Chief (and former chief of the Los Osos fire station) and someone from the Fire Safe Council — both forestry rangers — “and both were aghast,” he says. “They both said we need to address this as soon as possible.”

The issue is the detritus from the eucalyptus trees and the underbrush that has grown thick underneath the canopy.

Also, numerous trees have been blown down — there was a tornado that ripped through the site last winter — snapping them off close to the ground and touching the trunks of other still standing trees.

Though Los Osos overall has a pretty damp climate due to frequent marine layers that blanket the area, indeed the air and ground were moist this day, when it’s hot, Lindsay says the preserve is bone dry.

Some work was done about five years ago, Lindsay points out. About 200 yards into the preserve, one can plainly see where a California Conservation Corps crew came in and cut off low hanging branches, stripping the trunks up about 20 feet on the trees and cleared away the debris on the ground.

But the point where the crew stopped working is also plain to see, as the from there on, the trees are shaggy with branches hanging nearly down to the ground.

“What we need is fire mitigation,” Lindsay explains. “We need the undergrowth cut and thinned out.”

It should just be cut and left where it falls, “that’s” what the rangers said,” Lindsay says. “That would keep the flames from reaching the tops of the trees.”

Once a ground fire gets into the upper reaches of a forest, it jumps quickly along the treetops and can spread like, well, wildfire.



The bronze dedication plaque for the Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve, est. 1999.

Along the edges of the preserve, the branches of the very tall trees reach out almost overhanging the roofs of the homes on the subdivision’s edge. This negates much of the setback that was originally established.

The preserve sees a lot of people, mostly visitors, as it’s listed in the registry of butterfly preserves, and the second most popular site after the area’s most famous Monarch butterfly preserve in Pismo Beach, which is run by State Parks.

“Five years ago,” Lindsay says, “there were tens of thousands of butterflies” mainly fluttering about in that center clearing. “The last few years, they’ve declined. Last year there were maybe a thousand if even that.”

He feels the preserve is in decline and in need of maintenance to open up the canopy more and make more of the site better suited for the butterflies.

They also have been getting homeless people camping in the grove, lighting campfires to keep warm, and that’s a problem, too.

Lindsay says he and his neighbors have had to run the homeless folks out of the grove and extinguish the campfires themselves.

The whole situation became even more serious earlier this year when Cal Fire came out with new fire hazard maps, and the Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve got listed as “extreme fire danger.”

That’s sent shockwaves through he and his neighbors who are having trouble getting fire insurance now, a situation much of California is going through.

Within Los Osos’ Urban Reserve Line — the area that could be serviced by the Community Services District — the butterfly grove is the only area marked as extreme fire danger.

There are other areas outside the URL like above Cabrillo Estates high on the hillside also marked as extreme fire danger.

“This fire hazard zone,” Lindsay says, “is as red as red can be. All of Monarch Grove is marked red on the map and there’s nothing we can do about it.”

Recently, he said the fire chief at Los Osos’ lone firehouse, one of the two men that toured the site with Lindsay, said he’s

Fire Danger Continued on page 20

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To ensure there is space for everyone, photos should be no larger than 5”x7” and include a brief statement telling visitors a little bit about your loved ones. Photos can be brought to the store at 1016 Los Osos Valley Road as soon as Oct 15 but no later than Wednesday, October 29. To make sure photos can be returned, write your name, the name of your loved one, and your phone number on the back of all photos.

Readers with questions should call the bookstore at 805-528-5565. Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe is located at 1016 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos.

In Print & Online

esterobaynews.com



Morro Elementary From page 1



The inner courtyard between classrooms built in 1961. School District for many decades, the District decided in the face of a tight budget crunch to declare Morro and Sunnyside School in Los Osos as “surplus property” and put them up for sale.

Appraised values came in at \$10 million for Morro and \$6 million for Sunnyside, according to the District. Normally governmental agencies and schools can’t sell property or equipment below appraised value, but schools are different, as there are special rules that apply, including giving local agencies first crack at buying them and keeping them in public ownership.

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.

A similar effort to the Friends group’s is also underway in Los Osos (see related story).

Who Are The Friends?

Estero Bay News sat down with four women leading the Friends group — President D’Arcy Castro, Board Members Betty

Fire Danger From page 19

developed a plan for going in and doing fire mitigation. Lindsay says he was told it would only cost about \$40,000, too.

Estero Bay News tried to contact the County Fire Chief, after being told by the LOCSD General Manager that the Los Osos Station chief, the man with the plan, had transferred to another station.

But the County Fire Chief never responded to our request for comment, and we were unable to get a copy of this plan.

Lindsay says he spoke with the former battalion chief who told him the plan was internal and just shared among the staff at the County and not a public document.

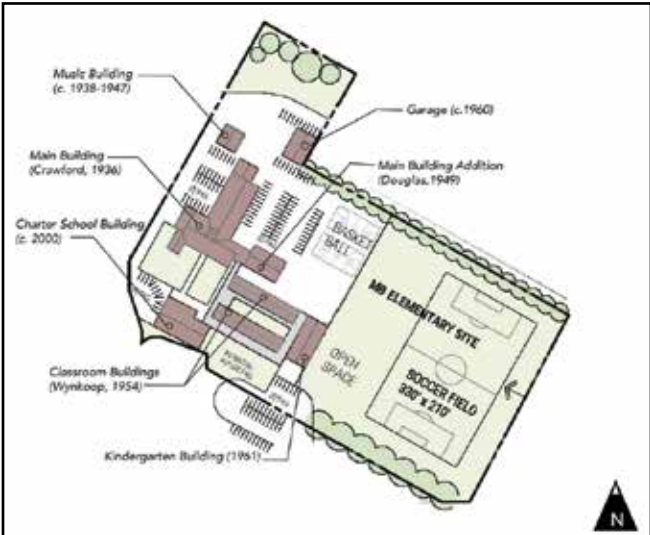
“He said he had a plan and cost estimates,” Lindsay says, “and was supposed to present it to the Fire Safe Council. That was 9-months ago, and it’s stuck in funding.”

He adds that when he contacted the Fire Safe Council, which was supposedly going to provide funding, they told him they were no longer funding projects by Cal Fire on public lands.

EBN tried to contact the Fire Safe Council as well to confirm this, again with no luck. Lindsay hopes that while the wheels of government famously grind slowly, they are moving and eventually they should see this extreme fire hazard taken care of.

“We can’t get insurance,” Lindsay explains. “Our property values are declining... It’s like living next to a dynamite factory.”

So, while having 24 acres of wonderful forest and open space next door to your home could be seen as a blessing, should the Monarch Grove Butterfly Preserve ever catch fire, it stands in real danger of becoming the next Paradise to be destroyed.



Site map of the 10-acre Morro Elementary School site. Map courtesy Friends of Morro Elementary

Winholtz and Christy Van Cleve, and Treasurer Linda Donnelly. Sitting in the school’s 1960s-era courtyard between classroom buildings, they explained the group’s origins, vision, work done so far and next steps.

The setting was eerily quiet, no doubt very different from the gleeful chaos of the past, when the town’s first-eighth grade children occupied the space.

EBN asked how they got started on this quest? Castro said they formed the group last December after the City refused the School District’s offer to buy the school. She says a group of parents came back to the District’s January meeting and said, “No, no, no.” The core group of people included alumni, and representatives from a Montessori school from the Santa Maria School District, that still operates at Morro Elementary.

That school is the sole remaining tenant; all other buildings sit unused. But many had been used by several entities, including the Shoreline Calvary Chapel, a pre-school, and special education programs by the District, Castro says. Another program at the school, Outside Now, serves as an outdoor nature educational program serving kids from all over SLO County.

Each meeting the crowds grew, Castro explains, and the Friends group was formed at the end of April.

Castro says they “engaged with the school district to encourage them to work with the City,” adding slyly that they were “working both sides.”

City Gets Involved

With public sentiment high, the City Council formed a subcommittee with Councilwoman Zara Landrum and Councilman Bill Luffee, and had the Community Development Director, Airlin Swearingen, serving as staff.

They’ve since held town hall meetings where they showed a couple of videos on the school’s history and rallied community support for saving the school.

Last month, perhaps the school’s most famous alumnus, renowned Conductor and Grammy Award winner, Kent Nagano, organized an orchestra of fellow musicians, who came from all over, to put on a benefit classical music concert at Cuesta College that drew 350 people and raised some \$36,000.

A Bigger Effort

Raising money was only part of the Friends’ efforts; they also have a public relations aspect to address. Van Cleve, who has been working on historic preservation for 40 years, says, “We decided there was not enough information available.”



The Friends of Morro Elementary include form left: Betty Winholtz, Linda Donnelly, Christy Van Cleve, and D’Arcy Castro, sitting on the front steps at Morro Elementary, which still bears the sign for Shoreline Calvary Chapel.

The Friends enlisted a historic preservation consultant, Chattel Inc., to delve into the architecture and history of the site, as a first step towards trying to get the school registered as a protected historic site.

That report, which is posted on the website, friendsofmorro-elementary.org, analyzed each building at the school determining things like when it was built, the architect who designed it, and architectural style, as well as historical significance.

And then they compared each to criteria found in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.

Many of the buildings, built at different times and designed by different people, met many of the qualifications.

The report justifies saving the site using criteria found in Morro Bay’s official documents, like the General Plan.

It also notes that the City, if it wants to participate in such endeavors in the future needs to pass ordinances that recognize and take steps to protect historic structures.

“Become a Certified Local Government (CLG),” reads one of Chattel’s recommendations, “by developing a historic preservation ordinance, establishing a historic preservation committee, and maintaining a system to regularly update cultural resources.”

So while the Friends are focused on Morro Elementary, their work, if it is successful would set up a system for future buildings that the citizens might want preserved.

“The ‘state-of-the-art’ now,” Van Cleve says, “is to reuse historic buildings.”

A Rich History

The school first consisted of the main building with a bell tower, an auditorium, kitchen, office and classrooms, in a Spanish-style construction designed by a famous California architect, Louis N. Crawford.

Some 45% was funded by the Depression-era Work Projects Administration (WPA) and the rest by Morro Bay residents.

The WPA was busy in Morro Bay having constructed the Morro Bay State Park Campground and its rock storm gutters, as well the stairs leading to the top of Morro Rock.

Van Cleve explains the importance of Crawford, who. Crawford, she said, designed the Santa Maria City Hall, San Luis Obis-

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News

po High’s original gym, and the original Cayucos Elementary, and was noted for designing schools and public buildings.

Other famed architects who designed parts of the school were Harland B. Douglas and Frank Wynkoop. Douglas designed the first additional classrooms in 1949 mimicking the original Spanish architecture in a Mission Revival style.

Wynkoop, in 1954, designed more classrooms in a Mid-Century Modern style that makes use of numerous windows to maximize the sunlight. It’s a “Finger-plan school design with bilateral lighting for classrooms,” according to Chattel’s report.

Historical Preservation

Van Cleve is a professional architectural historian who has worked on gaining special historical value designations before, so she has personal knowledge as well as connections in that world.

That’s a main direction the Friends are taking, to get the school registered under historic preservation programs. If they can do that, it opens up a whole world of potential funding sources, grant monies.

“Crawford was well known on the Central Coast,” Van Cleve says. “They chose him; they really wanted him.”

City Council’s Role

City Council Subcommittee members, Landrum and Luffee, were asked by EBN about the City’s stance? In July, the City notified the school district it was interested in obtaining the property, just meeting a deadline that had been set to receive an official answer.

Landrum, who said she attended kindergarten at Morro before moving over to Del Mar Elementary, says, “The Morro Elementary property is a unique opportunity to regain a catalyst property in our city. The rich history involved speaks to how important it was for early residents of our community to build the beautiful school.

“These buildings were mainly paid for by Morro Bay residents during a time when money was scarce and then was somehow absorbed by SLCSO.”

She acknowledges the large grassy area is well used by residents; Castro said the Recreation Department relies on it for its youth sports leagues.

“The fields,” Landrum says, “show a current and historic high use by all types of residents and residents of surrounding communities.”

Luffee says, “This is a once in lifetime opportunity and somehow we need to make happen. This is the reason we formed a subcommittee and along with my colleague Zara are very passionate about this.”

But the City Council’s vote on buying the property was somewhat vague and seemed to indicate it was more interested in the playing fields than the school.

Luffee says, “The City has made an offer for the entire property not just the playing fields. Yes we did put in a offer only for the playing fields but also conveyed the intent to purchase the additional acres.

“As of today, we also put in an offer for the entire site. It is my opinion and desire to make this happen.”

Landrum agrees the Council is interested in the entire property.

A New City Hall?

Winholtz believes the school is the logical place for the City to move City Hall, which has maxed out its carrying capacity.

“Yes,” Luffee says, “the City Council has discussed this and other thoughts. The thing you have to understand is we are in very early negotiations and this is a fluid project with al of moving parts. A lot cannot be discussed currently due to the sensitive nature and until a offer is accepted everything is really speculation.”

Landrum says, “A new City Hall is an idea that has been suggested many times. City Hall currently is at capacity and will,

at some point, need to be improved. I would expect that a workshop would be necessary to hear suggestions and ideas from the community. There are lots of exciting possibilities.”

The City many years ago bought up homes in the block where City Hall and the Public Works Department sit with a plan to eventually redevelop it with a new City Hall, Public Works, fire station and police station.

They no longer need a new firehouse, but the Public Works Department is in a portable building and the police station is getting old too.

Winholtz feels that block is where affordable housing ought to be located, if they move City Hall out to the school.

Don’t We Need Housing?

One question begs to be asked — What does Morro Bay need more, an historic school that needs a lot of work (according to the school district), or affordable housing?

Van Cleve says you can have both. She points to a plot plan they had drawn up that shows how up to 100 units of affordable housing could fit on the school property and still save the buildings and playing field.

“Yes,” Castro says, “we do need housing and yes we need community space. There’s nowhere else for non-profits to go. There’s just no space.

“We can have community space, have soccer space and we need housing.”

Winholtz adds that if a developer were to eventually buy the site, they could put in as many as 450 units, but only 10% would be required to be “affordable.”

Van Cleve says “You can do both here.”

“There are a lot of ideas floating about with no set plan in place,” Luffee says. “City Hall is one of them. The one common thread is preserving the original school site and accompanying structures. In the Escrow phase we would have community input and detailed plans.”

“Yes there is room for actually 100-150 units of some kind,” Luffee adds, “and I think this component is the key to making everything happen along with other elements. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity and we are grateful for the school district’s willingness to work with us.”

Conductor Sums it Up

Most folks seem to be in favor of saving the old school, its most famous alumnus, Nagano, summed up why it should be done. Van Cleve shared a statement from Nagano on why the school should be saved.

“Losing or compromising such a unique, beautiful, historic architectural icon would be an irreplaceable loss of Morro Bay’s heritage and integrity as a community,” Nagano writes. “But perhaps even greater concern would be the risk that a developer would construct that which would add nothing to Morro Bay’s identity, value, nor its relevance as a town.”

That sums up the feelings of the Friends pretty well. They’re concerned about would be lost.

What’s Next?

The Friends say they will continue their work on convincing the City and the citizens that the school should be saved. They are looking also, at another Nagano concert possibly in December when he takes a break and comes home for the holidays.

Winholtz sys they are looking into doing a living history project, interviewing alumni on video about their experiences at the school, as well as former teachers and administrators.

Two of the school’s most famous former educators — Principal, Wilmar Tognazzini and music teacher, Botso Korisheli — are now gone but alumni abound, as the school only closed in 2001.

For more information on the efforts to save Morro Elementary School, see the Friends of Morro Elementary website at: www.friendsofmorroelementary.org.

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during her time here. Please join me in wishing her the very best as she begins her next chapter.

“I want to reassure you that the Chamber is strong, and so is our business community. As Chair of the Chamber and as a local business owner myself (Morro Bay Boat Rentals), I see firsthand the resilience, creativity, and passion that makes Morro Bay such a special place.

“We are already in the process of searching for a new CEO, someone who can continue building on what has been accomplished and help us move forward into an even brighter future. The Chamber team and Board are committed to ensuring this transition is smooth, and that the Chamber continues to be a strong partner for your business.

“We have exciting things ahead, and I’m confident that together we will keep Morro Bay moving forward. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of what makes our community so unique. “

And on Thursday morning, October 2, CEO Dina shared the following equally important, thoughtful, and timely interview with this columnist. She shared, “I wanted to let you know that I’ll be stepping down as Chief Executive Officer of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce at the end of December.” Her words were fully intended not only for the Chamber’s membership she has served since this past August, but also Morro Bay’s elected officials, city staff and the many friends she has made along the way.

“I’m humbled to have been given this opportunity and will always be grateful for this experience, but now it is time for the next chapter of my life. I’ve decided to move in a new direction, both personally and professionally, and pursue other opportunities. The Chamber is in a strong position, and I’m committed to helping ensure a smooth transition. I’ll be here to support the next person who steps into this role to keeping the momentum going.

“I originally accepted this position to understand the myriad ways a Chamber supports its business owners and community members. I believed then and sincerely hope now that my many years of professional experiences allowed me to provide a positive impact on the City of Morro Bay, a city I’ve grown to love. Community members instantly and graciously welcomed me, a new face in Morro Bay. I was allowed full access and sage insight to help me guide our Chamber’s activities.

“I am proud of the strides we have made with our small staff, Jody Hollier and Lynsey Hansen, augmented by numerous committee volunteers. We managed to successfully produce 21 signature events while navigating politics and shepherding previously scheduled programs. I’d like to mention just a few produced by this very busy office: a sold-out City of Morro Bay Leadership Summit; our popular business showcase event for Downtown and the Embarcadero - Shop, Sip & Stroll; a sold-out Gala evening recognizing some very deserving individuals in our community; repositioning the Government Affairs Committee to an action-oriented Business Advocacy Committee; and last, but hardly least, our monthly all-community inclusive breakfast programs intended to introduce, prepare and network those who got up and out early in the morning to challenge themselves with current best practices and opportunities available to help foster a



Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce CEO Dina Lundquist. Photo courtesy of the MBCC

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Jems From page 1



Abby Ahlgrim, the founder of Surf Gems.
Photo courtesy of Acacia Productions

from surfboard construction materials known as surf rocks.

“During COVID I got really into surfing and spent a lot of time at a surfboard shop in Morro Bay learning how boards are made,” Ahlgrim told Estero Bay News. “When I saw the layers of resin building up on the shop floor, I was inspired to do something creative with it, and the guys at the shop encouraged me. No one expected me to take it as far as I did, but in hindsight it makes perfect sense. I studied sustainability in college, I’ve always been an artist, and I love surfing. Surf Gems came from following those passions, and there’s nothing I’d rather be doing.”

Today, Ahlgrim has a workshop in Morro Bay, a studio in Los Osos, and she lives in West Templeton on a ranch community property with her fiancé and 10 others.

Ahlgrim works with every surf shop in SLO County, plus a few in Southern California and beyond.

“Last year I even brought back a 49.5-pound brick of resin from Hawaii as my checked bag,” she said. “Not all Surf Rocks are usable — some contain razor blades, fiberglass, or layers of dust — so I look for ‘clean’ material with minimal debris. I especially love working with shops that use a lot of color, since those make the most vibrant Surf Gems.”

Each piece or recovered surf rock is shaped and polished by hand, transforming colorful offcuts into vibrant, one-of-a-kind adornment. The Morro Bay workshop is where all the “dirty work” is done such as storing raw material, cutting, grinding, drilling, and sanding. The rough-cut pieces then go to her home studio in Los Osos, in the back of her dad’s house.

“In the workshop we cut large slabs into workable chunks, slice them into pairs, then sand and drill,” Ahlgrim explained. “They’re then taken to our home studio, which we call GQ (Gem-Quarters), where they’re polished in a machine we nicknamed the “Gembot.” After polishing, each piece is re-paired and “Gemssembled” — with earwires added — before being placed on hang cards and sorted for retail, pop-ups, or the online store. My mom, our GM (“GemMama”), runs Gemssembly and shipping, keeping GQ running smoothly.”

Now carried in over 70 retailers nationwide, Surf Gems has been featured in the coveted San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) gift shop, and — after winning the 2024 Title Nine Pitchfest — is available in all Title Nine retail stores and



A selection of bolo ties available at SurfGems.com.
Photo courtesy of Surf Gems

online.

“Getting into SFMOMA was a dream from year one,” Ahlgrim said. “I’d emailed the buyer multiple times, but the real connection happened when she stumbled upon my booth at West Coast Craft this past June. Not only has SFMOMA quickly become our best independent retailer, but the encouragement I’ve received from the buyer has been incredibly meaningful. Having Surf Gems in their shop feels like a full-circle moment — the art world feels like home, and I’m honored to be included.”



Earrings made by Abby Ahlgrim, of Surf Gems, created using recycled surfboard resin. Photo courtesy of Surf Gems

What does she want the buyers of her work to embrace?

“Surf Gems are lightweight, one-of-a-kind, and endlessly varied,” Ahlgrim said. “I want people to feel excited to style their Gems knowing no one else will ever have the same piece. In a world of mass-produced products, I want Surf Gems to feel special.”

Surf Gems also stresses sustainability as part of their mission.

“I’m the first to admit Surf Gems aren’t ‘saving the planet,’” Ahlgrim said. “While we’ve rescued hundreds of pounds of resin from landfills, our impact is small compared to the scale of global waste. My goal is for Surf Gems to spark curiosity and conversation about sustainability, inspiring people to think about waste differently and imagine more creative futures.”

In addition to national retailers, Surf Gems is available through its online store, and regularly appears at local pop-ups, festivals, and art events across the Central Coast. The full event calendar and product line is available at www.surfgems.com.

As for the future of Surf Gems, the goal is to keep the company small and sustainable while providing fulltime work for Ahlgrim’s mother, Jennifer. After five years the excitement of the work is still there for all involved.

“We’ve made over 10,000 pairs of earrings, which still blows my mind,” Ahlgrim said. “Every piece is unique, so when I see them out in the world, I get to relive the moment of making them. It feels surreal and deeply rewarding—like a little time capsule. It makes me blush every time.”

Readers will have a chance to view Ahlgrim’s work up close during the SLO County Open Studios Art Tour when she will open her Los Osos workspace to the public. Visitors can see the tools and materials behind each piece, hear the story, and shop the

newest collection in person.

“We’ll transform our home studio into a showroom showcasing our entire inventory, including unreleased collections, samples, and experiments,” Ahlgrim said. “Two dear friends will join me, Sylvi Lyster with her dreamy hand-dyed goods, and Adriana Lemus with artful ceramics centered on the female form. There will be live music by my dad, a full snack spread, and refreshments all day. It’s truly like a party, and everyone is welcome.”

The San Luis Obispo County Open Studios Art Tour takes place on October 11–12 and October 18–19, during National Arts and Humanities Month. During the two weekends, 140 fine artists and crafters open their studios to showcase their art and share their processes. Fifteen cities within the county participate, and artwork spans over 20 mediums. Visitors can create self-guided tours visiting wineries, restaurants, beaches, and hikes amidst the artist studios using the Open Studios Art Tour Catalog complete with maps and artist profiles. See the digital list of artists and locations at slocountyarts.org/osat. Physical copies are available for free while supplies last at Art Center Morro Bay, The Gallery AG in Arroyo Grande, Studios in the Park in Paso Robles, and Art Central in San Luis Obispo.

Organizers say that while the tour showcases artistic talent, it also raises an essential question: Why support local art? The answer is deeply woven into the fabric of our community. Supporting local art is not just about appreciating beauty — it’s about fostering creativity, building connections, and fueling economic growth.

Out & About From page 17

be rented out to private businesses — a bike rental company, a car repair garage, a yoga studio.

Up the hillside, I disappear into temperate forest. Ferns and nasturtium tangle with gnarled pine trees dripping with moss. I am presented a choice: an easy path or a low tunnel with a steep incline. I choose the tunnel, and am surprised when the incline is so steep I get a bit dizzy. This is a feeling I am trying to put-off. I didn’t expect to face dizziness until I put my foot on the Bridge. I look up.

The Golden Gate Bridge seems to be sitting on my nose, straight ahead. So big and so high off the water, my toes already tingle and want to curl away from the task I am electing to accomplish. I walk on.

An unceremonious step onto a broad sidewalk sets walkers along that famous path. No welcome sign, no archway, no photo stop. One moment, I am off the Bridge, the next I am heading toward an iconic moment. Views all around, the bustle of work-day traffic, the sturdiness of the structure, one step, then another, then another. It doesn’t seem like such a big deal, and I am glad to feel a relaxed sense of enjoyment take over.

Half-way across, I notice the cloud cover, which brings milder temperatures and means there is little wind. For the 1.701 miles of its length, I never once fear heights. The path is wide, and I share it with few other walkers this early in the morning. My real danger is the occasional fast bike that whips by, the sound of its approach drowned-out by the traffic noise. Even with the misty clouds, I can see the cityscape in the distance, the Island of Alcatraz straight ahead to the east, the sister Bay Bridge and the Oakland-Berkeley cities in a morning haze. I see the Sausalito area to the north, looking rural in contrast to the maze of architecture in San Francisco itself.

The walk is over sooner than seems possible. I know going back will be as long, and am glad to have a second chance to relish the experience, to feel the transit, to test my fears.

Before now, I had flown over the Golden Gate, sailed under the Bridge, and crossed the expanse in a car. Today, I put my simple feet onto a dream, and turn it into reality.

Visit Susan Vasquez and her walking stories at <https://susan-vasquez.com/>.

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healthy workplace and vibrant economy.

“When I started last August, the Chamber was ready for some rebuilding and reengaging after several months of capable guidance from San Luis Obispo’s dedicated consultant, Joselyn Brennan. And due to the Board’s focus and collaborated efforts the Chamber has experienced a rebirth of purpose to move forward. This mission restates its foundation to remain based on its original core values: networking, advocacy, and resources. Also, due to profitable fund-raising efforts produced by the Chamber’s Foundation, scholarships will be available for higher education and training programs for our local businesses’ employees and the development of Morro Bay’s future leaders.

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“My plans are to honor my contract through the end of 2025 because it is the right thing to do for the future health of this chamber. I look forward to opening these same community doors once graciously offered to me for our next CEO as well as newly elected 2026 Board of Directors installed to serve the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce.”

And a respectful message from this EBN columnist since I had the opportunity to work side-by-side with CEO Dina Lundquist, although I now cycled off the Board of Directors, it was an honor to work with you, Dina, and we wish you all the best during your next adventure. Indeed, you did impact the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce and our Morro Bay community.

22 October 9, 2025 - October 22, 2025 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

Open Studios Art Tour Returns this October

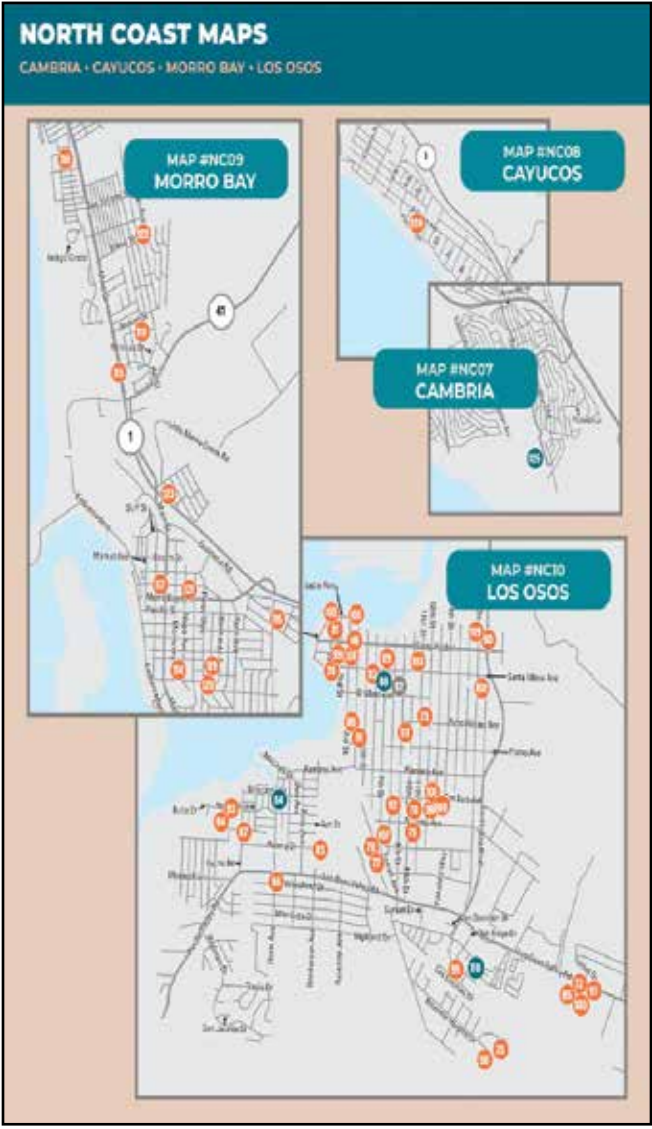
The SLO County Arts Council presents the Open Studios Art Tour on October 11/12 and 18/19 throughout San Luis Obispo County during National Arts and Humanities Month. About 140 fine artists and crafters open their studios to showcase their art and share their processes; 15 cities in the county participate, and artwork spans over 20 mediums. Visitors create self-guided tours – visiting wineries, restaurants, beaches, and hikes amidst the artist studios – using the Open Studios Art Tour Catalog complete with maps and artist profiles.

While the tour showcases artistic talent, it also raises an essential question: Why support local art? “The answer is deeply woven into the fabric of our community,” organizers said. “Supporting local art is not just about appreciating beauty — it’s about fostering creativity, building connections, and fueling economic growth.”

Julie Dunn, owner of Park Street Gallery, emphasizes that the Open Studios Art Tour is a unique opportunity for emerging artists to share their work with the public. “The beauty of Open Studios is that artists in Paso Robles, even those just starting out, can participate. They need to get their art out there.”

This interaction between artists and the community fosters a culture of mutual support and creative growth. “Open Studios connects artists like myself with the local community and the community with artists in a very personal way,” said OSAT artist Tricia Reichart. “It is always a really positive experience for both parties. I don’t know of another art event that has this lasting dual impact.”

For more information, contact: Jordan Chesnut, executive director, at jordan.chesnut@slocountyarts.org or Summer Truschke, programs coordinator at summer.truschke@slocountyarts.org.



Senator Laird Presents Lifetime Achievement Award



Senator John Laird (17th District) presented the John Laird Lifetime Achievement Award to conservationist Kaila Dettman, the executive director of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

The award is made by the Central Coast State Parks Association at its annual Butterfly Ball. This year’s gala will directly fund the educational, interpretive and volunteer programs that inspire the current and future generations of environmental stewards, such as:

- Education Program Support: Providing free school field trips, guided hikes, school supplies and supporting volunteer programs to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.
- Community Engagement: Enhancing local events, intern programs and nature stores to deepen connections between the community and our environment.
- Park Maintenance & Signage: Supporting museum exhibit

upgrades and maintaining trail signage to improve access and visitor experiences.

- Western Monarch Conservation Programs: Expanding efforts by staffing the Monarch Trailer, maintaining brochures, and creating educational signage to protect the western monarch butterfly. school group field trips, interpretation materials, maintenance and signage, and of course western monarch conservation education programs.

St. Benedict’s Celebrates New Solar Panels on SunDay



St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church in Los Osos joined 500 events across the country and around the world on September 21 to celebrate SunDay. The events highlighted how solar panels have become the easiest and most affordable way to generate electricity. Pictured are the members of the congregation emphasizing the themes of “SunDay Now” and “The Light Won’t Die.”

The celebration included prayers from Reverend Linzi Stahlecker consecrating the solar panels. As St. Benedict’s Earth-care Team member Don Maruska explained, “Even in dark times of federal resistance to renewable energy, we can take action in our homes, businesses, and places of worship to provide a cleaner and brighter future.”

St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church is located at 2220 Snowy Egret Ln, Los Osos.

Los Osos Cares Welcomes New Executive Director!



Los Osos Cares, a local non profit organization serving the needs of residents in Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos and Cambria welcomes Mary Meserve-Miller, as their new executive director.

Mary has lived in SLO County since 1976, was a graduate of Arroyo Grande High School and Cal Poly and has more than 35 years experience with local non profit organizations.

She brings decades of experience, specializing in fundraising, donor cultivation and special event coordination, with hopes to build upon Los Osos Cares’ foundation and excellent reputation in assisting locals with a variety of needs.

LOC is hosting its Annual “Ball Drop” fundraiser this Saturday afternoon, October 11 at Sea Pines Golf Resort.

Mary invites you all to join her on Saturday for a little October “festing”, for a great cause!

Boil Water Notice From page 4

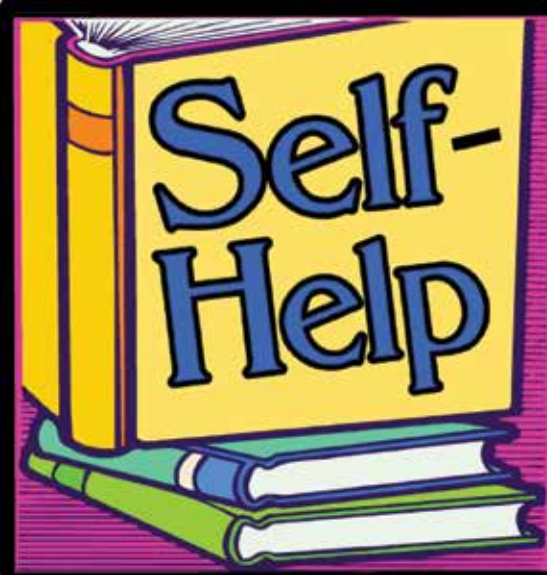
The affected area goes from Sequoia Street to the north, including the “tree streets” down to Avalon.

From there it stretched down both sides of Hwy 1 from the high school to Morro Creek on the west and on the East from Avalon down past the Radcliff neighborhood.

Residents in that area were advised to boil water form the tap before drinking or cooking with it, or use bottled water.

Kwolek’s notice said City crews had already fixed the broken pipe and were working with the State on testing the water. “Once results confirm that the water is safe,” said the notice, “the City will notify customers immediately and lift the advisory.” They expected to get the “all clear” signal sometime Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Accidental breaks in water lines do happen occasionally, affecting the water supply to areas of the City. Water quality issues come into play because a leak is a break in what is normally a closed system, and could allow contaminants in the groundwater to enter the potable supply.



October 3-19

A Comedy by **Norm Foster** Directed by **Lisa Woske**

Two "relationship experts" try to save their marriage, hide a dead body, and maintain their famous image. What could possibly go wrong?

By the Sea Productions Live Theater

545 Shasta Ave. Morro Bay
bytheseaproductions.org 805-776-3287

Friday/Saturday 7pm
Sunday 3pm

Sustaining Sponsor Sherman & Katherine Starr Trust
Season Sponsors Anju & Anil Pasari in memory of Manu Singhal



MAIN EVENTS AT THE BAY THEATRE
PLAYING DAILY MON.-WED. & FRI.-SAT.
CLOSED THURSDAYS
SHOW TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



10/10 - 10/22
ROOFMAN
(R) 2 hr. 5 min.
Fri.-Sat. & Tue.-Wed.: 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sun.: 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

MONDAY SPECIALS * ONE SHOWING ONLY AT 5:30 P.M.



10/13
LITTLE BIG MAN
(1970)(PG-13) | 2 hr. 19 min.



10/20
RE-ANIMATOR
(1985)(NR) | 1 hr. 24 min.

464 MORRO BAY BLVD. | (805) 772-2444 | MORROBAYMOVIE.COM



LOS OSOS/BAYWOOD PARK



SUNDAY • OCTOBER 26, 2025 • 9AM-5:30PM
2ND STREET • BAYWOOD PARK

STAGE LINE-UP

9 AM TO 10:30 AM - RAS DANNY

10:45 AM TO 11:45 AM COMMUNITY HOUR

Morro Bay High School Cheerleaders - German Folk Dance Demonstration

12 PM TO 1:30 PM - ULTRA BAND

1:45PM TO 2 PM - CAR SHOW WINNERS

2PM TO 3PM - KIDS, PETS & ADULT COSTUME CONTEST

3:15PM TO 5 PM - SANTA CRUZ FAMILY BAND

**FREE
ENTRY**

FUN RUN • 9AM 4.0 mile race • Race-day registration will be from 7:00 - 8:45am • \$30 • Benefits MBHS athletics • lots of prizes. *Starts near the Baywood Pier*



KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST • 9AM

18TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW • 9AM - 2PM



VENDORS food, art & crafts, jewelry & clothing, & more!

KID'S ZONE • 12 PM TO 4 PM

BIERGARTEN Local Breweries and Wineries



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Rotary



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Your Community • Your News



VENDOR SIGN UPS

For more information: www.lobpchamber.org

Presented by: LOS OSOS/BAYWOOD PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & BAY-OSOS KIWANIS