

Become a Part of Los Osos History



Celebrate Los Osos is raising funds to restore the La Cañada de Los Osos mural on the corner of LOVR and 10th Street to its original beauty. Photo Submitted

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

More than three decades ago a local artist, Janice Sharman-Hand, and about 150 people armed with paintbrushes and community pride created a historical mural in tribute to Los Osos.

Since 1989, the La Cañada de Los Osos mural, on the corner of LOVR and 10th Street at the Bay Osos Village Center, has stood as a marker of the first European expedition into Alta California (led by Gaspar de Portolá in 1769). Historically, our valley was named “ravine of the bears” because of the soldiers’ memorable encounters here with the California grizzly. The “ferocious” bears were huge, and the standing grizzly depicted in the mural is life-sized.

Today, the mural is peeling, in parts down to the original cement color, and it is faded. Celebrate Los Osos, a community benefit non-profit, wants to restore the mural to its original glory and is asking for financial help.

The total cost for the mural artist, materials, equipment and paint is \$16,435 — CLO is about \$7,000 shy of that goal. During research, CLO discovered the average

cost for a professional mural is between \$50 to \$100 per square foot. They found muralist Manuel Cruz, of Pittsburgh, California, who offered a price substantially below the average cost, checked out his work, and brought him on board.

“We wanted to go with a local artist, but we couldn’t afford it,” CLO President Pandora Nash-Karner told Estero Bay News, noting some bids were more than twice what Cruz is asking. “Our goal was to find somebody who would restore it without completely changing it. Some of it’s in such bad shape that by the time you clean it off, there’s not going to be much left.

“Public art, whether a statue or a mural, serves as a visual narrative of a community’s shared history, values, and culture. Proper maintenance preserves this tangible cultural heritage for future generations. Manual is going to try to duplicate it as it was originally, but he can’t do it 100 percent, and Janice is okay with that.”

Once the money is raised, the mural paint job will begin shortly after the owner of the building makes repairs he has planned, which will add to the longevity and overall appearance of the project. The weeds and old plant materi-

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Shooting Range Goes Out for Bids



The front gate of the SLO Sportsmen's Association shooting range off Hwy 1 has been locked since Jan. 1 after the Department of Fish & Wildlife declined to renew a contract with the SLO Sportsmen's Association. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

Silenced for over eight months, the gun blasts at the Hwy 1 shooting range could soon return, now that the State has gone out for bids to find someone to operate the facility.

The San Luis Obispo Sportsmen's Association had operated the shooting range, which sits inside the San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area and is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), for decades. But it's been a rocky arrangement for some time, as the CDFW's officials have over the past several years found little problems with how the Association was running the facility.

In spring of 2024, the department sent a letter outlining several issues it had with the Association over how it was operating, non-pre-approved improvements that had been made; and allowing some people to live on the property in trailers, among other things.

The department issued an ultimatum on fixing the issues but was unsatisfied with the progress, so when the

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Diablo Canyon Running into Overtime



Aerial view of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant that is now continuing to operate past its original license expiration dates. Photo courtesy PG&E

By Neil Farrell

California's sole remaining operational nuclear power plant is now on life support.

Pacific Gas & Electric owners of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in Avi-

la Beach announced last week that they are now officially operating past their original planned expiration date.

“Diablo Canyon Power Plant,” reads the news release of Aug. 26, “has officially entered extended operations, continuing to safely serve 4 million Californians with

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City Lets Coleman Park Design Contract

By Neil Farrell



The City of Morro Bay is moving forward with the redesign of one of its waterfront parks.

The City Council was slated to approve hiring RRM Design of San Luis Obispo for Phase 1 of the Coleman Park Improvement project, issuing a contract for up to \$182,000 for the work.

That contract broke down into \$152,000 for the “base tasks” and another \$25,000 for “optional tasks.”

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DOT Cancels Humboldt's Wind Farm Windfall

By Neil Farrell



The Federal Department of Transportation handed opponents of offshore wind farms a major victory when it cancelled over \$675 million in grants the previous administration awarded to help the offshore wind industry with one of its biggest obstacles — having ports and harbors built to build and service the massive turbines.

The withdrawing or out-right cancellation of the grants included a huge one that was to fund a makeover of Humboldt Bay in Northern California.

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Congressional Medicare Forum Held
at Cuesta College

By Keith Pendleton

A Medicare forum hosted by U.S. Congress Representative Salud Carbajal, Dem. CA-24, and Jimmy Panetta, Dem. CA-19, was held at Cuesta college on Aug. 22.

During the forum, Carbajal, disclosed that a childcare provision he helped author and support through bi-partisan efforts “surprisingly” made it into House Resolution 1 (HR-1), better known by the president’s nickname for it: One Big Beautiful Bill Act July 2025.

The measures will permanently change three tax policies that help working parents afford childcare with the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC); supports employers who help with childcare via the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit (45F); and also includes tax credits with Dependent Care Assistance Plans (DCAPs) for adult/senior care. Republicans from the bi-partisan Problem Solvers Caucus shocked Carbajal by getting the provisions into HR-1. He said he was chagrinned yet pleasantly surprised by that aspect of what he otherwise calls the “Big Ugly Bill.”

Forum co-chair, Panetta remarked he can’t even say the ironic name of the bill because of the damage it has done to so many government services like healthcare, libraries and museums supported or provided by the federal government.

Several panelists presented dire, yet realistic warnings about the future of healthcare access.

“Even in the HR1 OBBBA [One Big Beautiful Bill Act] that was recently passed they said that there was a 2.5% increase to physician reimbursement payments, but that’s actually on top of a planned 2.8% decrease due to inflation,” said Dr. Tim Auran, CEO Radiology Associates. “So, you’re making a big deal about how they gave us a raise, but we’re still actually behind from last year. There’s one short fix for one year and then we have to redo all of the work all over again and try to convince everybody that we actually need to keep up with inflation on an ongoing basis. We need a permanent fix.”

Meanwhile, Ryan Ashlock CEO of Adventist Health said other cuts to healthcare reimbursements were triggered by ballooning the national debt: “You know, the piece that’s in this Big Beautiful Bill that I don’t think is being talked about is that HR-1 actually increased the federal deficit by \$2 trillion dollars. Increasing the debt triggers something called ‘Paygo’ the Pay-as-you-go Act. And with-in that, unless Congress Acts, there’s an additional \$500 billion of cuts to Medicare over the next 10 years.”

Sue Anderson, CEO of Dignity Health said, “I can tell you for our hospitals, we’re looking at possibly upwards of \$20 million a year in reduced reimbursements. So, we’re not talking small dollars here. This is a large reimbursement gap. And what that’s going to mean is hospitals all over our county and other care providers are going to be looking at how they can survive. So, you will see smaller hospitals probably close, or you’ll see hospitals reducing the services” she added.

Auran said that not getting adjustments for inflation that most other partners with Medicare get, causes physicians to fall behind. “If you account for the lack of adjustments over the past 20 years, physicians have actually taken a 30% pay cut.”

The problem expresses itself by endangering patient access to healthcare, not just in San Luis Obispo, but nationwide. Lack of an inflation mitigating component to Medicare reimbursements means a lack of health care doctors, nurses and physician assistants. “CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services] has [done] some surveys



The Medicare Forum Panel at Cuesta College included Rep. Salud Carbajal Dem. CA-24; Rep. Jimmy Panetta Dem. CA-19; Sue Anderson, president, CEO Dignity Health; Dr. Tim Auran, CEO Radiology Associates; Dr. Penny Borenstein, SLO County Public Health director; Dr. Steve Clarke, medical director Community Health Centers, (CHC) of the Central Coast; Ryan Ashlock, president and CEO of Adventist Health; and Dr. Jason Sanders, Movement For Life Physical Therapy. Photo by Keith Pendleton

from physicians within California: about 30% are planning on closing to Medicare patients shortly, within the next year or two, about 50% are planning on retiring early,” Auran explained. “And we already have a physician crunch. We have a number of issues that need to be addressed with position staffing and provider staffing throughout the entire nation, but specifically on the Central Coast as well.”

Rep. Panetta talking about Medicare reimbursements causing long wait-times to see a doctor, said, “When a doctor’s office can’t afford to hire new staff, when it takes weeks to get an appointment, when the emergency room is overcrowded, because there aren’t enough primary care providers, that’s a community-wide issue.”

During that remark a corresponding episode occurred in the audience of the forum. A Cuesta Campus Police Department officer approached a woman attendee leaning against the wall. The officer asked the woman to sit in a nearby chair. She explained that she had a special disability which caused excruciating pain when she sits upright for more than ten or fifteen minutes. She explained the specialist medical appointment she made in July was not available until September 6. She had several medical conditions with referral wait-times three to six months out.

Dr. Steve Clarke, Community Health Centers, localized the payment cuts problem: “When I moved to the Central Coast, I found out about the paradise tax, which is kind of the local term for what the cost is to live in such a wonderful place. When I became the medical director for Community Health Medical Centers, the recruiting, the hiring and retention of physicians and their nurse practitioners and physicians’ assistants [became my job]. If medical providers cannot pay their bills because of Medicare shortfalls they will also decide to stop seeing those patients.”

SLO County Public Health Director Dr. Penny Borenstein says that many healthcare professionals are saying, “I can only make ends meet if I get a set payment from my patients, and I limit my patients to pay-as-you-go care. So, individuals in our community are having a very hard time finding a doctor.”

She said the county is working on this problem: “We are trying to address this at a local level... not only is our population growing, but we know that seniors are the most in need of healthcare services, who are most vulnerable and have complexities of health care. We’re trying to deal with bringing along career pathways for all the different healthcare careers.

Dr. Jason Sanders of Movement For Life Physical Therapy said, “You’ve got Cuesta College, Alan Hancock College, the school in Santa Maria training PAs and adding satellites; we’re working with other schools to open physical therapy and physical therapy assistant programs. Supporting those things in your local community is how you get people here. It’s how you get people to pay the paradise tax. So, support these programs that are training our local medical professionals, that’s how we grow.”

In Panetta’s words: “We cannot keep asking our providers to do more with less, while seniors wait longer and

travel farther for care. Yes, we need real solutions. That’s why I’ve introduced the bipartisan Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act. It’s a bipartisan bill that would, one, stop the harmful cuts to Medicare, two, finally tie reimbursement to inflation just like Social Security and Veterans benefits are. And, three, it would make sure that our seniors have access to the doctors they know and trust. Now, the good news is, despite the noise and the chaos, that we’re feeling in Washington, D.C., there is a majority of members on both sides of the aisle that actually want to see this type of change. Just last year, in the height of the contentious election, I led 232 fellow U.S. representatives to call the Speaker to take up our bill. And we’re going to keep pushing for results. This is about making sure that Medicare is sustainable for patients, and for the providers who care for them. It’s about keeping our promise to the seniors, not just here in San Luis Obispo County, but to our seniors all across America.”

HR-1 is a budget bill with the dual-purpose of adding requirements limiting how government agencies operate and also limiting pay-outs for services rendered. One new provision is limiting reimbursements for government services for immigrant communities, which further restricts money available for healthcare reimbursements. Carbajal clarified that the United States Supreme Court ruled decades ago that if anyone showing up to a hospital will receive care, but “that cost has to be absorbed by someone. That someone is the hospital or other provider.”

City Out for Bids on
Street Work Design

The City of Morro Bay has gone out for bids to find a consultant to do the preliminary design work on next year’s street paving project.

The City sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) in late August seeking a firm to do design and engineering services for the FY 25/26 pavement Management Project, that’s the City annual slate of street repairs paid for largely by local sales tax measures. The notice didn’t have a cost estimate or an available budget but is instead a professional service



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COMING SOON

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

contract meaning they want the best qualified company not necessarily the lowest bidder.

The City of Morro Bay is requesting technical and coast proposals from qualified firms, consultants, or individuals for design and engineering services, reads the RFP out of the Engineering Department in Public Works.

Deadline for submitting bids is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18. A staff panel will evaluate the bids and a recommendation made to the City Council, which must approve the contract. That’s when we should get an idea of the costs.

The design work is slated to start Nov. 5 and be completed in 120 days, pushing the final design work out to next February. The actual street repairs would likely go out for bids soon after that and actual repair work starts either next summer or fall.

Repairs have run from simply slurry sealing on streets that are in decent shape, to full dig out and repaving, sometimes in patches and occasionally along full stretches of roadway.

The City has a list of approved streets that will get attention this next time around and the design consultant must inspect each roadway and determine what needs to be done to bring it back to snuff or preserve it in the case of streets that aren’t too badly deteriorated. The City has about 33 miles of surface streets it maintains within the City Limits.

“The review,” reads the RFP document prepared by City Engineer Cindy Cecil, “will confirm the next maintenance treatment for each street. As part of the review, Consultant shall produce an estimate of the level of dig-out repairs needed.”

As part of the testing of the pavement, some streets will have cores drilled from them to determine the thickness of the asphalt. These cores are to be done every 500 feet on each segment of each street, with a minimum of two per street.

The winning bidder will also have to do a lot of surveying as the contract calls for researching and inventorying “all RECORD monuments within projects limits,” the document said. They expect some monuments will be found that they do not know about, too and the design firm will be required to note all of them.

The budget for all this work has not been released yet, and by next spring, when they get to the point of seeking bids from paving companies, it should be nailed down.

How much money the City has will determine which and how many of the streets they can work on.

Most of the money for these projects comes from the City’s two sales taxes — Measure Q at one-half percent, and Measure E at a full 1 percent. The City can also throw in grant monies from sources like SB 1 to bolster the amount of work.

The City in good economic years has in the past had a couple of million dollars for the work.

How much money they piece together will determine which streets get worked on.

Cayucos to Celebrate 150th Birthday



No town on the Central Coast knows how to throw a party better than Cayucos, and the Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for a three-day celebration of the “Town That Time Forgot’s” 150th birthday, set for Sept. 19-21.

The celebration kicks off on Friday, Sept. 19 with a community dance held at the historic Borradori Garage, located at 455 N. Ocean Ave.

The dance is from 5-9 p.m. and tickets are on sale now and going fast. Tickets are \$10 a person and available online, see: <https://my805tix.com/e/cayucos-150th-birthday>.

Country Western music band, Longstraw, will get the party started with the legendary Monte Mills and the Lucky Horseshoe Band to follow.

A variety of food vendors will offer refreshments for all ages. This is a 21-over only ticketed event, and no dogs are allowed. Seating is limited, so arrive early and dress warmly, because coastal evenings can be chilly.

On Saturday, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. there will be a street faire along Ocean Avenue, transforming the Downtown into a lively all-day community celebration.

Festivities will feature live music a beer and wine garden, a Kids’ Zone, and a clam chowder cook-off. There will be food vendors, entertainment and fun for all ages.

If you’re a street vendor and want to take part, applications are available (see: www.cayucoschamber.com/cayucos-150th-birthday-celebration and click on the link for applications).

Then on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there’s a Champagne Toast in the newly reopened Cayucos Landing Event Center (Cayucos Vet’s Hall) located next to the iconic Cayucos Pier.

Interested in volunteering? Email the Chamber at: cayucoschamber@gmail.com.

911 System Fails Again

Emergency communications in San Luis Obispo County suffered its second major failure in just a couple of weeks, after the State notified the County Sheriff’s Department of a glitch that lasted just a few hours.

SLO County Sheriff’s spokesman Tony Cipolla sent out a news release at 5:55 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25.

“The Sheriff’s Office,” reads the notice, “has just been notified of an issue affecting all incoming 9-1-1 calls in San Luis Obispo County. The state 9-1-1 system is reporting a problem with its network.”

According to Cipolla the State’s system would not automatically display where an emergency call was coming from.

The calls were coming into dispatch but the phone number and location of the callers “are not being generated automatically. This means dispatchers do not have access to a call back number or the location of the caller and are unable to send help to where it’s needed.”

The notice indicated callers would have to give dispatch their locations and phone numbers during the call.

The issue affected calls throughout the Central California region, including several counties like SLO, Kern and Fresno, among others. The notice promised to notify everyone when they had the problem solved, which didn’t take too long.

A second notice came out at 8:11 p.m. the same day. “The Sheriff’s Office has just been notified by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) that the issue affecting all incoming 9-1-1 calls in San Luis Obispo County has now been fixed. All 9-1-1 service is back to normal and functioning.”

It was the second 9-1-1 problem in the past month, as back on Tuesday, July 22, the local system had a failure as well.

That incident involved customers of Frontier Communications, Verizon, and AT&T who were unable to get through to emergency dispatchers on cell and landlines.

The areas hit with that outage here were in San Miguel, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo, as well as some parts of Santa Barbara County.

Callers were getting a busy signal or having their calls dropped. The Sheriff’s Department asked folks to spread the word about the outage to friends and neighbors. They were told to try to call again using a different phone or to call the non-emergency line at 805-781-4550, Option 3.

By the next morning, the hiccup had been fixed and the system fully restored. No explanation was given for the problem.

EBN readers can take heed from these two issues with emergency communications and put the Sheriff’s non-emergency phone number (805-781-4550 Option 3) into their cell’s contact list in case it should happen again.



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From the Desk of
Councilmember
Cyndee Edwards

As a member of the Morro Bay City Council, I’ve recognized that one of any city’s challenges is communicating with its citizens. Many larger cities have staff dedicated to this. Although it’s not entirely the job I got hired to do, I believe it’s critical to the foundation we create together to navigate the issues and our ability to shape a successful path forward for the future of Morro Bay.

For the past two and half years I have seen and experienced how government can connect and divide a community. Connect, by bringing us together to explore our vision for the Morro Bay of tomorrow in the planning process. Conversely, how policy and differences of opinion on the “how” can impede progress let alone implementation.

As a community there’s no doubt that the thought of keeping our character is a shared desire and our once vibrant fishing industry now crippled by state regulations a concern. Our history is a proud one. But it doesn’t have to paralyze us from becoming who we can be in the future because we can honor it in our actions and deliverables. This is the importance that open and consistent communication can provide, especially in a small town like Morro Bay.

A few months ago, we began the review of our 1996 Waterfront Master Plan. A group of stakeholders representing our diverse community began a two-year journey led by staff with the 2017 Downtown Waterfront Strategic Plan and Economic Roadmap at its foundation. This endeavor will include several public opportunities to weigh in as did the aforementioned documents. This process will require patience in the interim, being prepared to get the ball rolling upon completion, ensuring the budget aligns with the plan, and the procurement of funding.

I also want to note the incredible importance of an issue the council is currently considering and how it may fit into the overall plans: the purchase of the Morro Bay Elementary School. The site identified as a potential economic driver and community hub in 2017 presents a unique opportunity for meeting a variety of housing needs while maintaining one of the community’s longest standing structures. There may be many proposals for acquisition and development of the site, including partial historical preservation. All proposals presented during this process should be given careful consideration with both community needs and desires and fiscal realities in mind.

Lastly, we are conducting what is arguably one of the most important jobs a council is responsible for the hiring of a city manager. This is one thing the council must come together on to ensure we have the best person to guide and assist staff to carry out our goals. We’ve enlisted the com-

munity in the process by providing a QR code in this publication for citizens to click on to participate. I encourage the community to click away and be an active participant in this critical priority.

Finally, I encourage my fellow neighbors and business owners to stay engaged, share with each other, and seek the facts. Thank you.

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

Tiny Motel Project Appealed to Coastal Commission



Artist rendering of the proposed Donaldson Motel, a 2-unit vacation rental development with one caretaker unit proposed for a vacant lot in Downtown Cayucos.

By Neil Farrell

An appeal of a tiny motel proposed for a vacant lot on Ocean Avenue in Downtown Cayucos will be heard by the Coastal Commission at its regular meeting Friday, Sept. 12.

The continuing appeal was made by three Cayucos residents and businesspeople — Vicki Tamoush, Harley Dubois, and Ann Sturges — after the County Planning Department’s initial approval for the so-called Donaldson Motel Project, located on South Ocean Avenue near the intersection with Third Street.

The project originally consisted of a two-story building of approximately 4,210 square feet with three, vacation rental units and one caretaker’s unit. It would disturb the entire 7,514 s.f. lot with a building and parking.

The project proposed seven “standard” parking spaces for the guests and the Donaldson Family, which would occupy the caretaker unit. The applicant is listed as Uriah Donaldson.

Zoning wasn’t an issue as it sits in a commercial visitor serving zoning area and is within the Coastal Zone. The project needed a Minor Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit, which the County Planning Department was set to routinely approve by an administrative hearing officer.

But three people requested a hearing on the project, so it was pulled from the Oct. 4, 2024, consent agenda and put to a full hearing.

After that was approved, the project was further appealed on Oct. 17, 2024, by Tamoush, Dubois, and Sturges to the Board of Supervisors.

The issue was parking and the request for a parking modification authorizing reduced parking lot landscaping. The modification was needed to make enough room for all the required parking spaces, as street parking, which is also available on Ocean Avenue, could not be considered for the project.

The opponents argued that compact spaces, such as was being planned, were not proper because few people who visit Cayucos come in sedans but rather drive full size trucks.

Also, two parking spaces per unit was also not enough, as vacation rentals often have multiple families sharing the space, each with their own vehicles.

County Supervisors heard the appeal last April and sent the project back to be reworked to either increase the parking or rework the project.

County Planner, Andy Knighton, told Estero Bay News that the Donaldson’s decided to “reduce the intensity” of the use, in other words, to reduce the motel portion from three to just two units.

On July 8, Supervisors approved the smaller project but it was then appealed to the Coastal Commission.

“It met the standards with three units,” Knighton told EBN, “but the Board felt the parking was not enough for the use.”

In its staff report, the Coastal Commission staff is recommending the Commissioners find “no substantial issue” with the project and allow the Supervisors’ approval to stand.

“The Appellants,” reads the Commission’s report, “contend that the County’s approval of the project is inconsistent with County LCP provisions related to parking requirements and standards, storm water runoff and drainage, and previous approvals at the site. After reviewing the local record, staff recommends that the Commission find that the County’s CDP approval does not raise a substantial issue with respect to the project’s conformance with the County LCP.”

The report discusses a previous CDP that had been approved for the property along with another project next door. But that part of the project never got built and the CDP has since expired, so it doesn’t count anymore.

The location is also well away from the actual beach and is “in an urban infill area and does not raise any sort of adverse coastal resource impacts,” according to the Coastal Commission report.

At the Sept. 12 hearing, Commissioners will be asked to decide if there is “substantial issue,” with the project.

Should they say “Yes,” then it would come back for a full appeal hearing at a future date. If they do not find substantial issue, the appeal would effectively end there.

One of the appellants, Vicki Tamoush, who lives in the neighborhood behind the property, said they would make their case to the Commissioners and acknowledged that was their highest level for appeal, outside of the courts.

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Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Cuesta Inlet is Saved



What began three years ago as a grassroots effort to protect the Cuesta inlet in Los Osos from development became a powerful and impressive example of community action. Escrow on the property will close October 1.

Neighbors, families, businesses, and supporters from near and far rallied together to raise the \$735,000 required to purchase the land and to ensure that Cuesta Inlet would remain wild, open, and accessible to all.

“This is a victory for our community and for everyone who values access to open space,” said Margarete Schmidt, volunteer executive director of Save Cuesta Inlet. “The generosity and commitment of our neighbors and local businesses made this possible. We are profoundly grateful—and proud—that, together, our community secured the future of Cuesta Inlet for generations to come.”

In early 2026, the nonprofit will invite the community to share input as it begins the next phase of ensuring the Inlet’s long-term care and vitality. Donations will continue to be welcomed in support of this next chapter.

Schmidt said that from the beginning, the campaign’s theme line, “Peace, Love, and Public Access,” reflected the distinctive, passionate, and environmentally committed character of Los Osos. “It captured the spirit of a community that values both its natural surroundings and its strong sense of togetherness. The 100% volunteer team of local citizens worked tirelessly for more than three years to raise awareness and raise the necessary funds to purchase the Inlet.

“Thanks to the generosity, determination, and unity of this special community, Cuesta Inlet will remain forever open and welcome for kayaking, dog walking, birders, and watching sunsets.”

Kick Off Spooky Season

Get ready to have a frightful time dressed in your best ghouls and goblins costumes.

Now celebrating its second year, the annual Haunting at the SLO Film Center invites locals and its supporters alike to get their costumes ready and be prepared to navigate the haunted hallways of the Palm Theatre.

The celebration offers food, drinks, cinema-centric fun, and frightful activities along with live music from local horror fans, the alt-rock Ghost / Monster duo. All three theaters at the venue will be part of the action on Wednesday, October 1 from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the Haunting are priced at \$15 and “Palmie” members receive a discount. For more information and tickets, go to www.thepalmtheatre.com/

Poly, Again, Named One of Nation’s Top 25 Public Schools by Forbes

Cal Poly is again one of Forbes’ Top 25 Public Colleges, as part of the magazine’s 2025-26 list of America’s Top Colleges.

Overall, Cal Poly was 55th in the nation — up from 57th in 2024 and No. 83 in 2023 — among the 500 ranked public and private not-for-profit universities in the U.S.

The rankings, released Aug. 26, looked far beyond the Ivy League. Its top school was Massachusetts Institute of Technology of Boston. Also in the top five were Columbia University in New York; Princeton University of New Jersey; and the Golden State’s Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley.

Among public and private institutions in California, Cal Poly was 12th overall for the second consecutive year and again seventh among public schools, behind University of California campuses at Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Diego, Irvine, Santa Barbara and Davis (all doctorate-level institutions).

In the Top 25 Public Colleges rankings, Cal Poly again joined seven other California schools, all UC campuses. Cal Poly moved up one spot to 17th overall among public institutions nationally.

“These 25 public schools,” the magazine reported, “give the private elites a run for their money. Their students have strong academic outcomes, high salaries and less debt. As public universities brace for the impact of slashed research funding and future enrollment declines, they’re

still doing the bulk of the work of educating America’s students and doing it at a lower price than their private counterparts.”

Forbes’ annual list showcases schools that produce successful, high-earning and influential graduates from all economic backgrounds, with less student debt. It includes doctoral research universities, master’s universities and colleges and baccalaureate colleges, as well as colleges that offer specialized programs in engineering, business and art.

The methodology included: alumni salary; student debt; graduation rate; Forbes American Leaders List (an assessment of the leadership and entrepreneurship of a school’s graduates); return on investment; retention rate; and academic success.

To see the full Forbes Best Colleges list, visit:www.forbes.com/top-colleges/.

EV Station Opens at Sea Pines



In an effort to provide amenities for local residents as well as the traveling public, Sea Pines Golf Resort has added EV Charging stations located in the Golf Pro Shop parking lot at 1930 Solano Street in Los Osos.

“It has been a 3 year journey to complete and offer this new service to the traveling public as well as our local residents,” said Sea Pines owner Rocky Setting. “Eight charging stations are available for use, four Level 2 Fast chargers and four Level 3 chargers. The Level 2 Fast chargers are state of the art and capable of fully charging your vehicle in less than 45 minutes.

“The chargers will provide a convenient new service to charge all types of EV’s while our customers spend the night at the Lodge, play a round of golf or enjoy a meal at The Clubhouse Bar and Grill.

“We look forward to offering this new service.”

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

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LEARN ABOUT THE FUTURE DECOMMISSIONING OF DIABLO CANYON.

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel, in cooperation with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, invite you to an in-person/online meeting to discuss the current status of California's energy grid resilience and Diablo Canyon Power Plant's (DCPP) role.

The meeting will include a presentation from the California Energy Commission (CEC) on its annual report regarding grid reliability and the role that DCPP may play in that, now and into the future.

In 2022, California Senate Bill 846 authorized the extended operation of DCPP up to 2030. Understanding the need for DCPP's electricity and the likelihood of continued operation to 2030 is necessary to responsibly plan for the eventual decommissioning of DCPP.

Date: Sept. 24, 2025 from 6pm-8pm online and at San Luis Obispo County Government Center. Light refreshments and beverages begin at 5:15pm with a chance to speak with Panel members and PG&E staff.

To see the agenda, attend online and submit questions or comments in advance, visit www.diablocanyonpanel.org.

DIABLO CANYON

Decommissioning Engagement Panel

State Warns of
Poisonous Shellfish

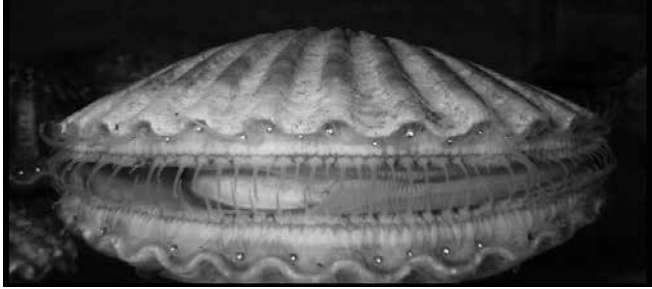


Photo of a live scallop and the colorful feelers it uses to filter food from seawater.

By Neil Farrell

The State health department is warning people not to eat shellfish they’ve dug out of the sand themselves after testing in Avila showed dangerously high levels of a potentially deadly toxin.

On Aug. 26, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a warning about the shellfish off the Central Coast.

“CDPH,” reads the warning notice, “warns consumers not to eat recreationally harvested mussels, clams, scallops or oysters from San Luis Obispo County due to dangerous levels of paralytic shellfish poisoning [PSP] toxins detected in mussels from San Luis Obispo County.”

The warning doesn’t include oysters grown in aquaculture operations, like those in Morro Bay, because those are regularly tested.

“This warning does not apply to commercially sold mussels, clams, scallops, and oysters from approved sources,” the CDPH said. “State Law 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.”

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning is a very serious illness. PSP toxins, “affect the nervous system, producing a tingling around the mouth and fingertips within a few minutes to a few hours after eating toxic shellfish. These symptoms are typically followed by loss of balance, lack of muscular coordination, slurred speech and difficulty swallowing.

“In severe poisonings, complete muscular paralysis and death from asphyxiation can occur.” And, cooking the shellfish “does not destroy the toxin.”

Where does this poison come from? According to CDPH, “Biotoxins are produced by certain species of microscopic algae, also called ‘phytoplankton.’

“The biotoxins can concentrate in filter-feeding bivalve shellfish and crustaceans that feed on shellfish. Human illness or death can occur from consuming toxic bivalve shellfish [mussels, clams, scallops, oysters] or crustaceans [crabs, lobster].”

There are certain algae that are major concerns here. “The biotoxins of concern in California are saxitoxins, which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, and domoic acid, which can cause Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP).”

It’s this domoic acid that strikes thousands of seals and sea lions seemingly every year.

According to SLO County Environmental Health Department, “The latest biotoxin monitoring results show an increase in PSP among bivalve shellfish harvested on Aug. 26, 2025. The collected sample from the Cal Poly Pier [located in Avila Beach] contained increased levels of 256 ug/100 g [micrograms per 100 grams] PSP toxins, well over the 80 ug/100 g alert limit.”

So, this sampling of shellfish from the Cal Poly Pier, which is the school’s marine research facility, was over three times the upper limits for these toxins.

This warning is on top of the State’s annual mussel quarantine, which is imposed every summer. “The annual quarantine,” the CDPH said, “prohibits the sport-harvest of mussels for human consumption and applies to all species of mussels harvested for human consumption along the California Coast, as well as all bays and estuaries, and will

continue through at least Oct. 31.”

For more information about shellfish safety, see the CDPH webpage at: <http://bit.ly/4mP3cN7> or call the California Shellfish Telephone Hotline at 1-800-553-4133.

Paddle Boarder Arrested
in Surfing Attack

A Morro Bay man, accused of attacking a female surfer while paddle boarding off Morro Strand, has pled “Not Guilty” in the case.

According to a State Parks Department news release, the incident happened about 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, when 9-1-1 dispatch received a report of a violent attack that occurred in the surf near the entrance to Morro Strand State Beach.

According to news accounts, the suspect, a 59-year-old Morro Bay man, was paddle boarding in small surf near a group of women surfers, when one of the women dropped into a wave ahead of him, cutting him off.

According to witnesses, the man allegedly paddled his board towards the surfer, screamed at her and then allegedly hit her with his paddle and rammed her board with his.

He reportedly then allegedly jumped onto the surfer’s board and pulled her underwater by the hair holding her under for some time. The woman was reportedly visibly shaken by the incident but did not require medical attention.

The incident occurred just south of the entrance to Morro Strand State Beach (The Pitt). Two State Park Rangers responded to the scene and based on the victim’s and witnesses’ statements they arrested the man on the spot.

Eric W. Hjelstrom, State Parks’ Superintendent III of the San Luis Obispo Coast District said the suspect was initially charged with suspicion of felony attempted murder and felony assault and booked into County Jail. His bail was initially set at \$550,000.

At an Aug. 27 arraignment, the suspect, identified as Andrew Eric Gustafson, 59 of Morro Bay, had the charges

changed by prosecutors to suspicion of felony assault with a deadly weapon (the paddle), and felony assault with a deadly weapon that could cause great bodily injury. His bail was reduced to \$25,000 with the change. He was no longer in jail custody as of Sept. 2, and had a second hearing scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Janitorial Contract
Awarded for Vet’s Hall

Just recently re-opened, the Cayucos Vet’s Hall has a janitorial service under contract for the next several years.

Supervisors on Aug. 19 approved a three-year contract for “custodial services” with Arroyo Janitorial of Morro Bay for up to \$50,000 a year for 3 years, with two, 1-year extensions possible.

The contract will alleviate the Parks and Recreation Department and County Public Works from having to do the custodial work on the new, Cayucos Landing Event Center, as the Vet’s Hall has been re-christened after the County spent over \$11 million rebuilding it.

But County Supervisors had to first approve a finding that it was OK to contract this work out, as the union representing County custodial employees had to first be consulted.

“The County,” reads a report from Parks & Rec Director Tanya Richardson, “may contract for special services including maintenance or custodial services, if the Board of Supervisors finds the site is remote from available County employee resources and contracting these services serves the County’s economic interests rather than incurring additional travel and subsistence expenses for existing employees.”

Since the custodial work at the Vet’s Hall will often be at odd hours — outside the normal Monday-Friday, 9-5 County work schedule — the union didn’t object.

“To generate revenue sufficient to cover bond pay-

Vet’s Hall Continued on page 22

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Community

Bioneers Conference Tickets Available



The popular Central Coast Bioneers Conference, a Bioneers Pollinator event hosted by Ecologistics, Inc., is returning to San Luis Obispo on Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4 at the Octagon Barn. The conference will focus on inspiring environmental and climate-related topics on Friday and on social justice topics on Saturday. “There is so much negative news in the media about the environment,” said conference organizer and Ecologistics CEO Stacey Hunt. “If you are ready for some exciting and upbeat stories, come check us out.”

Selected keynote talks from the 2025 National Bioneers Conference will be shown, featuring Bill McKibben on Sun Day 2025, a national day of action, Jenine Benyus on biomimicry and the art of generous design, Native American activist and attorney Amy Bowers Cordalis on the removal of four dams on the Klamath River and the return of salmon after 100 years and many more.

Local speakers include author Tom Bowman on his book “What if Solving the Climate Crisis is Simple?”, Don Chartrand of Creek Lands Conservation on conservation efforts on the Central Coast, and environmental lawyer and Lieutenant Governor candidate Janelle Kellman on the connection between California’s economy and climate resilience. Panels on the importance of the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary and immigration, community and grassroots organizing on the Central Coast will also be featured.

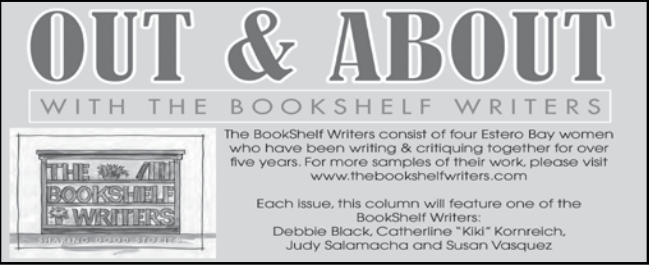
A pre-conference field trip on October 2 offers a tour of the beaver dam analogs created by Nature’s Engineers on Dry Creek in the City of San Luis Obispo’s Johnson Ranch Open Space.

New this year are a post-conference mixer with 805 Bartenders and a performance by Improv for Good on Friday evening, and a presentation by Rhizome Theater entitled “The Nipomo Plot” on Saturday afternoon.

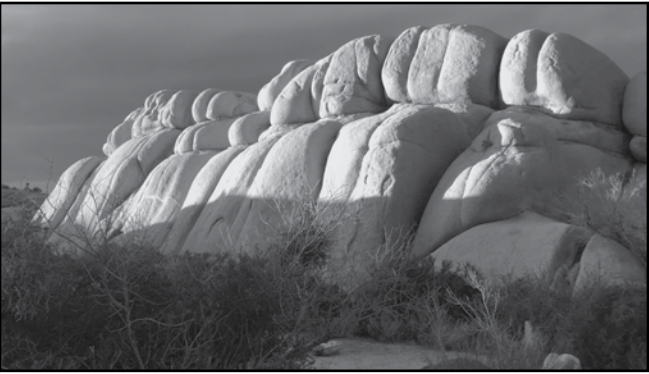
The Green Marketplace and the free Repair Café will return. Breakfast will be provided by Coastal Peaks Coffee and lunch will be provided by Wandering Eats. Thanks to dishes, cups, and cutlery provided by Tableware Share, the conference will be no-waste.

One day or two-day tickets can be purchased at adult and student rates. The pre-conference field trip is \$25. Go to <https://ecologistics.org/ccb-conference-2025/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Central Coast Bioneers is a local, self-organized Bioneers Pollinator Event. To learn more about Bioneers visit www.bioneers.org.



RV Camping in Your Own Backyard Jumbo Rocks Campground



Sunset at Jumbo Rocks Campground in Joshua Tree National Park.

By Debbie Black

We’ve been to a lot of spectacular places. But we had never experienced a place like Jumbo Rocks.

Driving into Jumbo Rocks Campground at sunset was like entering a prehistoric desert world just in time for the cosmic light show. An intense orange light illuminated massive, sculpted boulders against a dark backdrop of twilight sky. We quickly parked our little motorhome at our site—one of many tucked among these movie-set rocks—then we clambered to the top to watch the rest of the show.

There’s a reason why Jumbo Rocks is the most coveted of the eight campgrounds in Joshua Tree National Park. It’s downright magical. Other worldly. A Triceratops could emerge from behind that boulder, or the crew of the Enterprise could beam down right in front of you.

This was Stop #1 on our month-long Circle of the Southwest in April. It immediately set the tone for what was to become one of our all-time favorite trips—where each day brought experiences as fantastical as the day before—Bryce, Zion, Arches, Grand Canyon... It was a trip that deeply impressed us. We felt both exhilarated and overwhelmed by the striking grandeur of Mother Nature’s geological artwork. From the artificial shelter of our motorhome, we witnessed the harsh demands she extracts from her desert creatures and plants, but also the unique rewards found only here: red flowering torches of Ocotillo, twisted sculptures of ancient Joshua trees, blue-black night skies glittered with more stars than you’ve ever seen, and the serene desert silence interrupted only by far-off coyote

yips. Consider booking your own exploration of some of the most magnificent places on your planet. We suggest April for wildflowers.

Stop #1 – Jumbo Rocks Campground

Jumbo Rocks Campground offers 124 flat, sandy sites—some tucked between gigantic, rounded granite boulders, some at the edge of the desert. Only 63 accommodate RVs. Prepare for that high desert wilderness experience.

- No hookups or dump station. Embrace frugality!
- No cell service. Time to unplug!
- No drinking water. Bring your own!
- Vault toilets only. Clean, non-smelly!
- No showers. Pretend you’re a pioneer!
- No shade. Good for your solar panels! Take a pop-up.

Pets: Leashed dogs allowed in camp and on dirt roads—not on trails. Please don’t leave pets in vehicles that can get HOT.

Hiking: Starting in camp, Skull Rock Nature Trail is an easy, family-friendly 1.7 mile loop through flowering desert, boulder fields, and rock canyons. Nearby tougher hikes: Split Rock and Ryan Mountain.

Kids’ Play : Exploring; climbing boulders; biking around camp; Ranger programs; seeing the Milky Way, satellites, shooting stars; mimicking coyotes.

Take Care: Jumping Cholla, and other armed desert plants, will protect themselves against loose kids and dogs! Bees have been reported in August.

Jumbo Rocks sits at 4,380’. High season is Oct.-May (daytime 70°-90°). Low season is June-Sept., attracting folks who enjoy punishing heat well over 100°. Not this coastal sissy. I like 68°.

Ready to book Jumbo Rocks? I guarantee you’ll never forget it. NOTE: reservations required year-round, made during a 6-month window at www.recreation.gov. Fees just \$25/night (2025) plus \$30 park entrance fee. Check for fire restrictions. Sites we recommend: 26, 78, 97, 117, 120, and 121 (first choice). For large rigs, try sites 82-94. Check www.campsitephotos.com to see photos.

Out & About Continued on page 9

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Police Blotter



• **Aug. 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:18 p.m. in the 1400 block of Main, also called No man’s land at that time of night. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of driving gassed.

• **Aug. 24:** Police contacted a suspicious fellow at 6:26 p.m. in the 7800 block of Quintana who had a warrant. He or she was issued a fresh disappearance ticket and released to catch again another day.

• **Aug. 24:** Police responded to a disturbance at 9:43 a.m. in the 1200 block of Main. Logs indicated the trouble involved violation of a court stay-away order.

• **Aug. 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:51 p.m. in the 900 block of Carmel. Logs indicated the driver was nailed for suspicion of driving hammered.

• **Aug. 24:** Police were called at 6:20 p.m. to the 2400 block of Greenwood where someone had passed away.

• **Aug. 23:** At 10:45 a.m. police responded to the Round-about on Morro Bay Boulevard for yet another car crash.

• **Aug. 22:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 10:02 p.m. in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated the citizen of the year was allegedly smacked up on dope and on probation, so naturally he or she went to the hoose-gow, where they hit double-trouble when they reportedly discovered more drugs in their possession, which is a felony.

• **Aug. 22:** Graffidiots struck in the 1300 block of Main.

• **Aug. 21:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9 p.m. in the 300 block of Surf. The driver had a suspended license and was sentenced to languish in DMV purgatory.

• **Aug. 21:** Police responded to a car crash at 10 p.m. at Pacific and Shasta.

• **Aug. 21:** Someone found something that somebody lost someplace by Lemos Pet Supply store in the 1300 block of Main.

• **Aug. 21:** Police responded at 12:34 p.m. to the 1000 block of Las Tunas where some petty thief committed petty theft.

• **Aug. 20:** Police responded at 10:54 p.m. to Albertson’s after they tried to tell some loafer to beat it but he apparently wouldn’t go. Officers advised the fool to amscray.

• **Aug. 20:** Police responded at 3:11 p.m. to a disturbance in the 300 block of Arbutus. Logs indicated the call was for a misdemeanor domestic battery and abuse, though it no doubt felt felonious.

• **Aug. 20:** Someone found an undisclosed item at Coleman Park and handed it over to police. Someone else found something else someplace else and brought it to the police station.

• **Aug. 19:** Police responded at 1:35 p.m. to the 800 block of Quintana where a citizen said his or her car had been taken without their permission, also called grand theft auto,

and we don’t mean the video game. Logs indicated the apparent perp had also violated parole with the dirty deed.

• **Aug. 19:** Police ticketed a parked vehicle in the 800 block of Marina because the driver had failed to pay the State’s registration ransom.

• **Aug. 19:** Police in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., started for a report involving a charge of simple assault, though it’s no doubt a complex story.

• **Aug. 19:** At 10:56 a.m. in the 400 block of Rennell, police issued another ticket for a parked car with expired registration, ‘cause you know the government’s broke.

• **Aug. 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 6:31 p.m. at Main and Dunes after the vehicle apparently blew through a stop sign. The driver was cited for suspicion of driving zonked and it’s a safe bet they stop at the next Stop sign, about a year from now.

• **Aug. 18:** Police stopped a suspicious car at 2 p.m. in the 1700 block of Main at Taco Bell. The driver turned out to have a suspended license that was taken away because of a DUI and was cited. No word on if his car was arrested.

• **Aug. 18:** Police at 11:05 a.m. came across an urban camper apparently bedded down at Coleman Park on the Embarcadero. Logs indicated the cited the apparent slug-abed for illegal camping, a violation of the City’s sleeping where they can’t collect a tax law.

• **Aug. 17:** Police responded to Albertson’s on Quintana at 9:25 p.m. after they apparently caught a help-yourself shopper pinching the merchandise.

• **Aug. 17:** At 9:25 p.m. officers contacted a suspicious fellow in City Park on Harbor Street. They cited the mope for possession of dope.

• **Aug. 17:** Police responded at 9:20 a.m. to the 400 block of Bonita where someone said his or her vehicle had been boosted without their permission.

• **Aug. 16:** At 4:17 p.m. police espied another suspicious character at Harbor and Napa. Logs indicated the model citizen had a bench warrant and was issued a 1-way ticket to Palooka-ville.

• **Aug. 16:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the suspect time of midnight in the 900 block of Allesandro. Logs indicated the driver was cited for suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and driving loaded, too.

• **Aug. 15:** Police responded to the 800 block of Monterey where some graffidiot had left his mark.

• **Aug. 15:** Police responded at 1:09 p.m. to a disturbance

in the 3300 block of Panorama Dr., where some mulish person had violated a keep-the-hell-away domestic violence court order.

• **Aug. 15:** Police responded to a business in the 700 block of Embarcadero for a reported case of grand theft, and jolly well started a crime report.

• **Aug. 14:** Police responded at 7:50 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Main. Logs indicated the call involved some maniac brandishing a firearm in a threatening manner, aka aggravated assault.

• **Aug. 13:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4 p.m. in the 400 block of Piney Way. Logs indicated the driver was an apparent disciple of Bacchus as he or she was nicked for driving deep in their cups.

• **Aug. 14:** Someone found an undisclosed treasure in City Park and gave it to police, and someone else found some other valuable bauble and took it to the police station.

• **Aug. 13:** At 1 p.m. police got a report of some unknown person stealing an undisclosed thingamajig at an unknown location, needless to say clues are a mite thin.

• **Aug. 13:** At 10:34 a.m. police responded to a car crash at Main and Dunes, one of the more treacherous intersections in the Downtown. No injuries reported.

• **Aug. 12:** Police responded at 4:11 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2000 block of Seaview. Logs indicated the case involved a felony for infliction of corporal punishment on a spouse or cohabitant.

• **Aug. 12:** Someone found something somewhere in the 800 block of Main and gave it to police for safekeeping.

• **Aug. 12:** At 4:13 p.m. there was another car crash, this time in the 800 block of Main. No injuries reported.

• **Aug. 12:** Two cars tried to occupy the same space at the same time with expected results, at 1:11 p.m. in the 500 block of Atascadero Rd.

• **Aug. 12:** Police caught up to another scofflaw with a bench warrant at 8:49 a.m. at Beach and Monterey.

• Aug. 11: Police were called at 5:13 p.m. regarding a case of rape of an unconscious person that apparently happened on Napa Avenue.

• **Aug. 11:** At 2:49 p.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow on the southbound side of Hwy 1 at Main Street who had an out of county warrant.

• **Aug. 11:** Police were called at 10:48 a.m. regarding a missing person from the 500 block of Main.

Cat Noir CC

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Psssst. Hey. Meoooooow. Paw, paw, paw, it’s me, Boris, your humble, loyal, angel of a panther. Due to crimes committed that I was framed for, it has been suggested that I skip town for a few sleeps.

At first, I protested because we all know I have never caused a problem for anyone; never woke a sleeping human; never fell off the windowsill onto the reading human; and never chased my little brother up and over the couch, under the bed and through the litter box the human was cleaning. My little sister thinks I am the cat’s-meow. Sure, she is in catnip rehab, but ...

I was in the midst of defending myself to the human with a chorus of yowls, a modicum of growls and one bite — my teeth jumped right out of my mouth and crash landed onto Furless’s arm — when genius came calling.

As I was forging evidence indicating Virgil in the afore mentioned crimes, (I keep a mold of his teeth for this type of thing), it hit me that summer is almost over, and I have not had a vacation. I flipped through my brochures of dream cat-aways, and the answer hit me over the head like a bird on a string. I will vacay at the greatest place on Earth, Chewy Headquarters.

In this picture, I had found this Amazon box the human got. Sure, I look cute, downright sublime, but this is the squalor I am forced to deal with. A Prime box? What am I a peasant? These things are everywhere. I am not a commoner that should be dis-



played with something that formerly housed razors or toilet paper or 40 tubes of toothpaste.

With your postage donations, I will arrive at the new Chewy corporate offices in Washington in this hand-me-down box and leave in style tricked out in a box filled with love. That’s right I said it, LOVE.

Anynew, anyone who donates to this heartfelt cause will get a t-shirt that says, “My cat went to Chewy, and all I got was this stupid t-shirt with treat stains.” Love your pal, Boris.

Human: Sigh.

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Community

Mourning The Loss of John Weiss



John Roland Weiss
1959 - 2025

John Roland Weiss was born February 2, 1959, in Glendale, CA, and grew up all over California, going to high school in the Bay Area. While still in high school, he managed an A&W Root Beer.

John first married in 1977, and, in total, had three children: Melissa, Stuart, and Jessica. He was a member of various Churches of Christ in his lifetime, and, most recently, the Morro Bay Church of Christ where he helped preach, teach classes, lead prayers, and lead singing as much as he could.

In 1978, he opened Coast Electronics Radioshack in Morro Bay with the help of his parents (Richard and Barbara Weiss) and wife, Rebecca. He received a business degree from Cuesta College, and managing and sales came naturally to him. His Morro Bay store is still open, and he ran a number of other Radioshack stores in the area with the help of loyal employees who stayed with his company for years — especially Jon “Woody” Wordsworth, who continues to manage the stores.

John Weiss and his wife, Christine, in 2017

John loved Morro Bay and worked to serve it in multiple ways. In 2001, he joined Rotary in the Rotary Club of Morro Bay and started serving the community. In 2003, he joined the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce board, and was board president from 2006-2008. In 2018 and 2020, he also ran for mayor so he could serve everyone in the community and help Morro Bay. In his time in Rotary, he was president three times, started the Eco-Rotary Club of Morro Bay, helped start the Interact Club at Morro Bay High School, served as district governor of District 5240 in 2017-2018, brought in 75 members to various clubs, and won many awards for his service. He believed in Service Above Self, and always stepped up to help every chance he got.

In 2008, he married the new love of his life, Christine, and rounded out the family with her children, Sophia and Paul. In 2017, he was diagnosed with a rare and incurable form of cancer, stage 4 adrenal cortical carcinoma, just months before serving as Rotary district governor. Since then, he has been an inspiration to many, persevering with hope through it all, and never ceasing to serve and help others. After going through ten surgeries, chemo, radiation, enduring a painful spinal fracture from one of his tumors, and 8 years of cancer, his pain ended on September 4 next to his loving wife, Christine. He also leaves behind his brother Eric Weiss, niece Jessica, grandchildren Calvin, Jack, Brandt, and Lyra, and cousins.

Out & About From page 7

When you leave, drive east through the park on scenic Pinto Basin Road. Stop to walk the Barker Dam Trail (easy 1.1 mile) to the small historic dam, continuing on to some cool petroglyphs. You'll see amazing desert wildflowers in April and maybe some bighorn sheep.

Next, stop at the Cholla Cactus Garden for a ¼ mile stroll through the deceiving Jumping Cholla plants that look like fuzzy white teddy bears but beware—they have nasty spines that will “jump” onto/into you! The valley is wall-to-wall Cholla—several feet apart in true desert fashion. They've all agreed to share the skimpy rainfall.

Continuing on, stop at the Ocotillo Patch pullout to see one of my now-favorite plants. Talk about desert adaptation! When it's dry, the Ocotillo loses all its tiny green leaves to resemble a 10' tall bundle of spiny dead sticks. With rain, it immediately refoiliates in green leaves, then tubular red flowers. Hummingbirds go crazy. When rain stops, the cycle repeats—several times per year.

So far, our Circle of the Southwest has showered us with new experiences. On to Stop #2, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West.

For extended articles and further adventures, visit the tab: “RV Camping in Your Own Backyard” at www.debbienobleblack.com.



By Theresa- Marie Wilson

San Luis Ambulance Celebrates 80 Years of Service



San Luis Ambulance is celebrating a monumental milestone: 80 years of providing emergency medical services to the Central Coast. What started in 1945 as a small, family-owned operation has grown into a respected leader in emergency care, with a reputation for delivering compassionate and high-quality service.

Still proudly owned and run by the Kelton family, San Luis Ambulance has kept pace with the ever-evolving

world of emergency medicine. The company has embraced cutting-edge technology, trained its staff with the latest medical practices, and invested in state-of-the-art tools to ensure that every call for help gets the very best care possible. But even as the technology and equipment evolve, the company's mission remains the same: To care for the people of San Luis Obispo County like family.

In celebration of 80 years of service, San Luis Ambulance is proud to give back to the community that has supported it for so long. The company will be donating 80 life-saving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to locations such as:

- Grocery stores
- Health clubs
- Shopping centers
- And other facilities across SLO County

Early CPR and defibrillation can make all the difference in a cardiac emergency, and these AEDs will help ensure that more lives are saved in critical moments. Whether it's helping with public health education or participating in local safety initiatives, San Luis Ambulance is deeply invested in making the Central Coast a safer, healthier place for everyone.

For questions, contact the San Luis Ambulance business office at 805-543-2626.

SLO Gets Risky

The City of San Luis Obispo was recently recognized with a 2025 Risk Management Award from the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) for Best Overall Performance in the Liability Program among cities with police departments.

“This award is a testament to the hard work and diligence of our team behind the scenes to keep the public safe, reduce liability, and protect community resources,” said City Manager Whitney McDonald. “Our staff and policy makers have long prioritized safety and accountability, and this award is just one indicator of that commitment.”

The award highlights the City's efforts to reduce risk, improve public safety, and manage taxpayer dollars responsibly. The recognition reflects San Luis Obispo's commitment to preventing costly claims and lawsuits through proactive policies, staff training, and strong internal procedures, especially in high-risk fields like law enforcement.

More than 77 other public agencies across California were eligible for the award. Winners were selected based on several factors, including low claims rates, improvements over time, responsiveness to safety recommendations, and participation in risk management training and programs.

Writers' Conference Announces Master Classes

The 41st annual Cuesta College Central Coast Writers' Conference returns Sept. 26–27 with its largest program to date, featuring 45 presenters, more than 50 workshops, eight master classes, two keynotes, a teen program, a bookstore, vendors, and networking opportunities.

“Our master classes give writers the chance to work closely with industry-leading authors and professionals,” said Meagan Friberg, CCWC director. “They're designed to sharpen skills, provide insider insights, and inspire participants to take their work to the next level.”

Master classes will be held Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, covering topics including AI tools, self-publishing, launching a novel, character development, screenwriting, editing, author website design, and nonprofit storytelling. Registration is separate from the main conference and limited to 20 participants per class.

Hollywood director, screenwriter and producer Rob Edwards will teach a screenwriting master class, Everything They Never Taught Me About Screenwriting in Film School. In addition, plans are underway for him to host a film screening with a question and answer session in down-

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 10

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Central Coast Public Radio

Central Coast Bioneers is a local, self-organized Bioneers Pollinators Event. To learn more about Bioneers, visit www.bioneers.org

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Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 7

town San Luis Obispo leading up to the conference.

Brenna Humphreys, another master class instructor, will teach: Storytelling for Impact: Transforming Nonprofit Narratives with former CCWC Director Teri Bayus. "Great stories can make or break whether a nonprofit gets a grant, donation or sponsorship," she said.

The conference officially opens Friday afternoon with motivational and interactive group sessions, writing workshops, a bookstore, and vendors. The teen writing program "Dream it, Draw it, Draft it!" runs from 3 to 6 p.m. with teens invited back to attend Saturday workshops.

Following a Friday evening social hour, the opening keynote features Brooke Warner, author, publisher and memoir coach, who will present "Now or Never: Why the World Needs Your Words."

Saturday sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., followed by Edwards' closing keynote, "A Tankful of Inspiration for Your Drive Home." The day will be broken into five time blocks, with sessions in genres ranging from fiction, nonfiction and memoir to poetry, screenwriting, publishing, business writing and more.

"This year's schedule is packed with diverse breakout sessions and dynamic panel discussions," Friberg said. "Writers will leave CCWC with new tools, inspiration and connections to fuel their creative life."

Conference registration costs \$300 in advance and \$325 at the door. Registration includes Saturday lunch. Workshop descriptions and conference details are available at centralcoastwritersconference.com.

45th Woodcarving Show, Sept. 20-21

The Central Coast Woodcarver's 45th Annual Woodcarving Show is set for Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 20-21 in Cambria.

Attendees can see some of the finest wood carvers any-

where displaying their creations — anything from Christmas figurines, bark houses, wood burning scenes, carved spoons, bowls birds and much more.

The show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Vet's Hall is located at 1000 Main St., Cambria. Admission is a \$2 donation and kids 12-under are free.

On Saturday at 1 p.m. they'll have an open whittling contest and will be holding raffles throughout the day. There will be hand-carved gifts for sale and demonstrations by the carvers. Attendees will vote on their favorite carvings.

On Sunday at 1, is the Best of the Best Carving Contest and raffles will be pulled at 3:30 p.m. and winners announced for the carving contest.

French Medical Scores, Again



Dignity Health French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC) has once again received a coveted 5-Star overall hospital quality rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It's the only hospital in San Luis Obispo County to earn a 5-star CMS rating

during this rating period. "I'm so proud of the exceptional team at French," says Sue Andersen, President and Chief Executive Officer at French Hospital. "I'm honored to lead such a brilliant group of nurses, doctors, and staff – they are, without a doubt, the true stars here." The CMS 5-Star rating is considered the highest mark of excellence in hospital quality. It is based on a comprehensive assessment of how well a hospital performs across 46 quality measures and in five critical areas, including the effective treatment of conditions like heart attacks and pneumonia, managing readmission rates, and ensuring the paramount safety of care. Ranging from 1 to 5 stars, this rigorous evaluation provides patients with transparent information to make informed healthcare decisions.

"To once again be recognized by CMS with a five-star rating is not merely an accolade; it is an affirmation of our dedication to the health and well-being of every life entrusted to our care here at French Hospital," said Dr. Thomas Vendegna, chief medical officer at French Hospital Medical Center. "This distinguished honor is a direct reflection of the tireless commitment and expertise of our entire team, who prioritize quality and safety at every turn, ensuring excellence in all we do."

French Hospital has consistently received 4 or 5 stars since 2020. This achievement reflects the hospital's steadfast mission to deliver the highest standard of compassionate and effective healthcare to the community we serve.

The star ratings of all the nation's hospitals are listed on CMS's Hospital Compare website at www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare.

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Obituaries

Myra Irene Strunk
1951 to 2025



Myra Irene Strunk was born on September 13, 1951, in Signal Mountain, Tennessee. As a child, Myra loved to read and write. She longed for something different than what her rural upbringing offered and saw education as her ticket out. Myra began college in Tennessee, but she was an adventurer, so she quickly found her way to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Myra said that New Orleans is where her life truly began. She lived in the French Quarter, immersed in art and culture. After discovering her first love, theater, Myra returned to college at the University of New Orleans, where she graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts in 1979. Professionally, Myra was a freelance theater technician, working productions ranging from rock and roll shows, touring Broadway musicals, the 1989 World’s Fair and Exposition, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. She toured internationally with the musical “One Mo’ Time” and worked on a cruise ship. Myra’s resume always included the line, “Have passport, will travel.”

New Orleans is where Myra met the second love of her life, Al Strunk. Myra and Al were married on her family farm in October 1984. Soon after, the couple moved to Al’s adopted home state of California. In March 1987, Myra welcomed her 14-year-old step-daughter, Erin, into the home she shared with Al. The three went on to live in Salinas, California, where they joined their new theater family at The Western Stage.

Alas, it’s hard to build a retirement as an artist. Al took his first “straight job,” which led to a stint in Indianapolis, Indiana. There, Myra worked as a kid wrangler during annual productions of “A Christmas Carol” and as a seamstress in a costume shop. Eventually, home called, and Myra and Al returned to California, finally settling in their true paradise, Los Osos, in June of 2005.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Myra knew

she was a spitfire. As a young adult, Myra was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. The doctor who diagnosed her said she wouldn’t live past 40, to which Myra said, “Every year on my birthday, I give that doctor the middle finger!” Myra lived through diabetes, kidney failure (twice), dialysis (twice), a kidney transplant, leukemia, and a broken femur (twice). If she was feisty, she had several good reasons for it. Al described her as the bravest person he knew.

Above all, Myra was kind and generous. She believed in justice and uplifting others. She lived her beliefs, and the world is a better place because of her.

Myra passed away peacefully in her sleep, with her cat, Miss Odette, by her side, on August 10, 2025. She is back by Al’s side, right where she belongs.

Myra leaves behind her step-daughter, Erin Dal Porto (Strunk), granddaughter, Ella Dal Porto, and her cat, Miss Odette, who loved her dearly. She also leaves behind a vast community of friends and extended family.

A celebration of life will be held at Sea Pines Golf Resort on her earthly birthday, September 13, 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. All who loved her are welcome. Arrive prepared for the party that Myra requested!

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local Kiwanis Club.

Roger Evey
1951 - 2025



Roger A. Evey, 73, of Morro Bay, California, a devoted husband, father, and pastor passed away peacefully after a brief battle with cancer on August 21, 2025. Affectionately known as “The Miracle Man,” Roger endured many health struggles over the years, including Polycystic Kidney Disease (dialysis for 22 years), a stroke, and heart surgeries.

Born in 1951, Roger grew up in Corvallis, OR and graduated from Portland State University. One of his most cherished college experiences was singing with the Oregon State University Choralaires in a six-week European tour.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lynn Meek, in June 1972. Together, they worked at the Portland Four-square Church until 1987.

Roger and Lynn felt a calling to leave Portland to found Morro Bay Foursquare Church, “The Gathering Place,” where all people are welcome and can find the love of God. Roger led this congregation for over three decades. Music was a large part of Roger’s ministry where he often led worship on his guitar.

Beyond the walls of his own church, Pastor Evey was active in uniting Christians across different congregations. He led the local pastors prayer group and organized the community Easter Sunrise service and the annual Blessing of the Fleet. Roger had a unique ability to bridge gaps between different parts of the community. He was widely beloved and in 2005 was named Morro Bay Citizen of the Year.

Roger was known for his generous heart, gardening prowess, musical gifts, and his large, loving family. Although he called himself an introvert, every person he met became part of his circle of friends.

At the heart of Roger’s life was God, whom he served together with his family by singing in church, organizing youth camps, and helping neighbors in need. Roger is survived by his wife Lynn, their six children Rebecca, Joel, Kristen, Jonathan, Matthew, and Tricia, and his siblings John, Sue Hoyt, and Jane Teater. He also leaves a church community that he shepherded from its humble beginnings.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the PKD Foundation (pkdcure.org) or Samaritan’s Purse (samaritanaspurse.org).



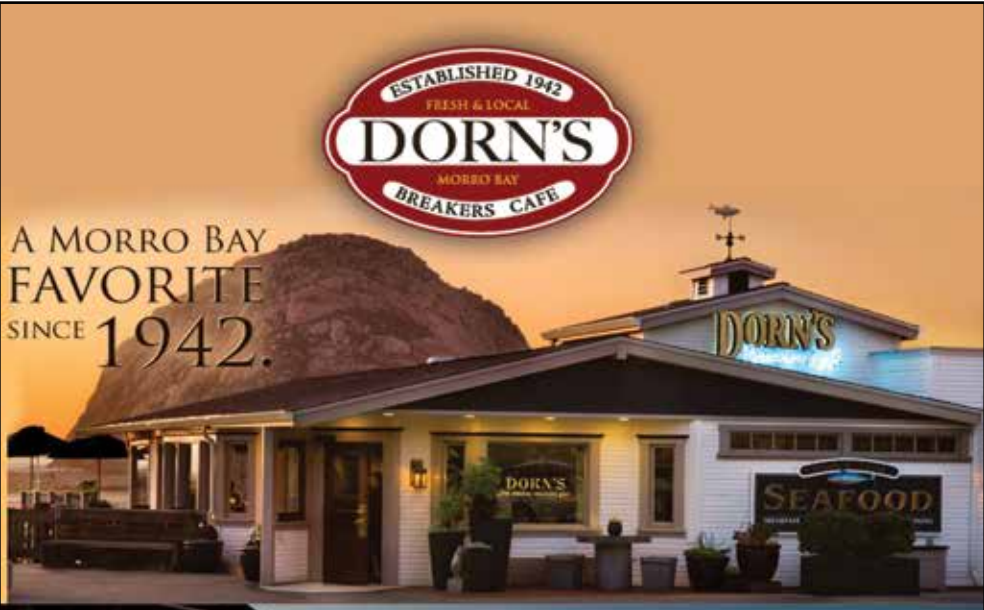
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Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



By the Sea Productions Presents “Miracle on South Division Street” by Tom Dudzick, about the Nowak family in Buffalo, NY. Matriarch Clara tends to their shrine to the Virgin Mary, commemorating the day she miraculously appeared in the family’s barber shop. A deathbed confession by Clara’s mother unravels the legend, with heartfelt and hilarious results.

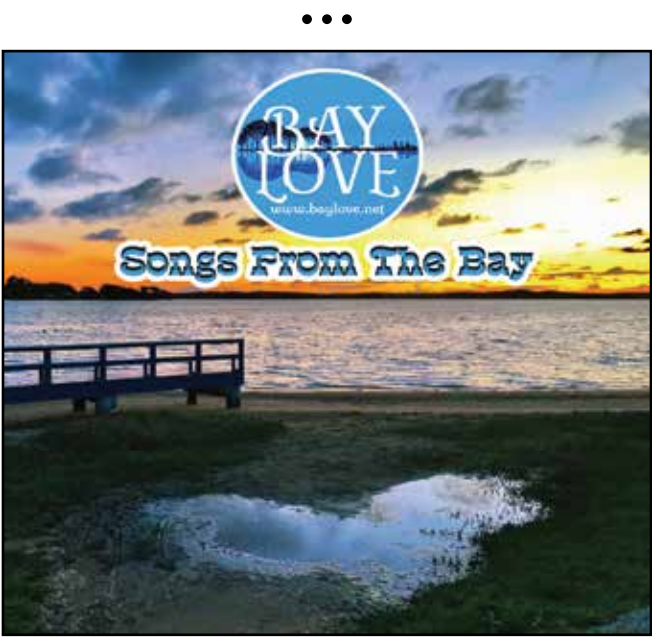
Directed by Nicolette Tempesta, this comedy features Janice Peters as Clara, with Elizabeth Bolyard, Andrea Bowers and Topher Lyons as her adult children.

Miracle plays for one weekend, September 12-14, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay. Tickets are \$15. Reservations at bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287.

Upcoming free youth programs in, 625 Harbor St. They can be reached at (805) 772-6394.

- **Sensory Playtime** - Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Let your little ones lead the way in this open-ended playtime! Babies and toddlers can use their senses to explore our play stations. Parents and caregivers: we also have early literacy tips for you! For ages 0-5.
- **Games on the Patio** – Wednesday, September 17, 3 – 5 p.m. Craft beautiful handmade notebooks from recycled materials. All supplies provided! All ages welcome.
- **Nintendo Switch** - Wednesday, September 24, 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.

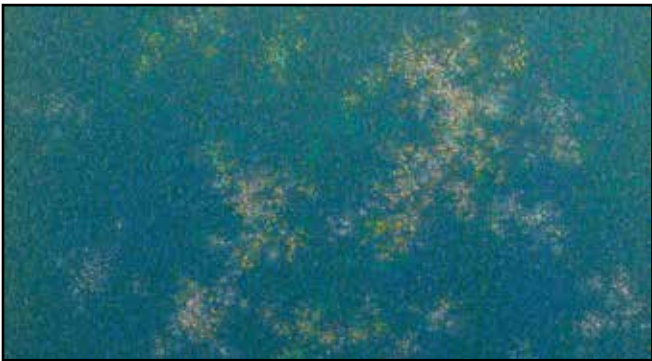
****All libraries will be closed Friday, September 26, for Native American Day.**



The duo Bay Love is releasing their first all original CD, “Songs From The Bay!” This collaboration is a musical tribute to the Central Coast, to the planet, and to humanity.

There will be a celebratory concert on Sunday, September 28 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cambria Center for the Arts Theater. Some musical friends will play along with the duo to help recreate their studio sound. All songs are currently free to download at www.baylove.net, and CD’s will be available for purchase at the venue.

Tickets are \$25 for reserved and \$20 for CCAT members. They are available at www.my805tix.com/e/baylovesftb.



The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery at Cuesta College presents “Inner Landscape, a solo exhibition by multi-disciplinary artist Sung Won Yun through Oct. 17.

The exhibition explores the connections between memory, nature, and time through graphite, ink, watercolor, acrylic, and photography.

“Inspired by geological formations and plant growth, Yun’s detailed, layered compositions merge the cosmic and the microscopic,” said Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery

Coordinator Tim Stark. “Influenced by traditional Korean aesthetics and Buddhist philosophy, her art balances control and spontaneity with layers that suggest the passage of time, inviting viewers to reflect on the unseen ecological, temporal, and emotional forces shaping their experiences.”

Sung Won Yun is a New York City–based visual artist born in Seoul, Korea, in 1977. After completing her bachelors and Master of Fine Arts in painting in Korea, she earned a second Master of Fine Arts at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2010.

Her artistic achievements include the Traveling Scholarship from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2012), an Artist Fellowship from the Terra Foundation for American Art (2010), and first prize in the Yousuf Karsh Prize in Photography (2010). She has also been awarded residencies at PLAYA, The Cooper Union School of Art, Helen Wurlitzer Foundation, Terra Summer Residency, and more.

The Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery is in Room 7170 on the San Luis Obispo campus of Cuesta College. Admission is free, and parking is complimentary in Lot 2 during gallery events. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. For more information, visit the Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery webpage or contact Miossi Art Gallery Coordinator Tim Stark at timothy_stark@cuesta.edu or (805) 546-3202.



If you like jigsaw puzzles, the Morro Bay Odd Fellows has solutions for you. The Bay-Rock Lodge, I.O.O.F. is holding a “Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange” fundraiser set for 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Odd Fellows Hall, 710 Harbor St., Morro Bay.

Cost is a \$10 entry fee, and they will have over 100 puzzles of varying sizes and by various manufacturers to peruse. Bring your old puzzles and take home new puzzles while helping the non-profit organization raise money for its many community programs.

Manufacturers include: Springbok, Ravensburger, Willow Creek and many more. Sizes range from 300 pieces to over 1,000.

Themes include holidays, animals, shaped puzzles, Americana, nostalgia and more.



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Community

Events From page 13

The Howling Faith is a female-fronted band currently performing as a duo. Although hard to pigeonhole a definitive style, their music is Western Rock, with jangly/surf/garagey guitars, bass-driven hooks, sultry and fiery female vocals, with a bit of overall twang thrown in for good measure. Their sound has drawn comparisons to Shocking Blue, Chrissie Hynde, X, and they draw influences from R.E.M., Neil Young & Crazy Horse, PJ Harvey, The Ventures, and Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers to name a few. They are Los Angeles natives, which surely has a huge influence on their musical tastes and unusual outlooks in general. Maybe being from L.A. also makes them yearn for the open spaces, letting their music take them there when gridlock is the rule.

The Howling Faith is Laura Ishida on lead vocals and bass, and Danny Rodarte on guitar and vocals. Photo credit: Piero F. Giunti

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The American Association of University Women, Morro Bay Branch welcomes Tech Trek campers and their families to the September 13 meeting beginning at 10 a.m. at Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, 545 Shasta, Morro Bay. The club’s Annual Garden Tour Fundraiser allows them to send four campers each year from Los Osos and Morro Bay. They were also able to send two girls from Cayucos, sponsored by the Cayucos Lioness club. The campers will share their summer experiences at a STEM camp for girls. They welcome anyone to attend the meetings who is 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.

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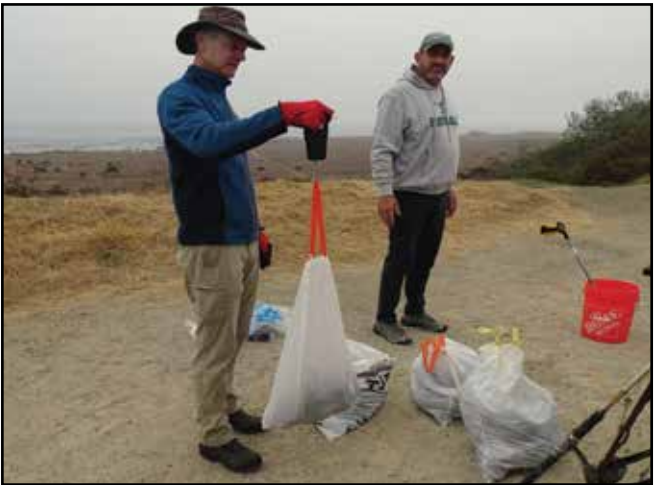


Costa Gallery owner and photojournalist Michael J Costa just launched his new photography exhibit, “Learning to Breathe, Trekking in Nepal.” The impressive series includes images of Costa’s 2016 trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp and his 2017 climb to Annapurna. The show will be on view through Sunday, October 26, at Costa Gallery at 2087 10th Street, Los Osos. They are open Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Original and print images are available for purchase. This showcase is in conjunction with Costa’s third pilgrimage to Nepal and Bhutan near the Tibetan border beginning September 6. The Los Osos artist has been physically and emotionally preparing for his demanding journey for months. “It takes a lot of endurance and mental focus to climb those incredible elevations,” he said. “At this point in my life, I’m eager to experience the people, culture and beautiful Himalayan vistas again. My camera will help me record new memories.” Local residents have supported Costa’s fundraiser “Change 4 Change Nepal” by donating over \$1000 for student programs at the Pinal Preschool in Kapan, Kathmandu.

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Casa de Flores is holding carwash fundraiser to raise money for their adopt a senior holiday gift program. The staff adopts a resident to get a gift for them, but there are always residents left over and some that do not have any family. They also have extra field trips, arts and crafts plus other special surprises throughout the year, over what is budgeted for, so that we provide the quality of life they deserve. The car wash is Sept 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1405 Teresa Dr. in Morro Bay. The cost is \$10 per car, external clean only. All proceeds benefit the senior residents. For more information, call (805) 772-7372. Volunteers around the world will be cleaning up coastlines and creeks on Saturday September 20. A global program of the Ocean Conservancy, this effort is coordinated locally by ECOSLO; and Cayucos Land Conservancy has sponsored the Estero Bluffs site for many years. Volunteer to help with the event itself or join us Saturday to collect trash. Refreshments will be served and prizes awarded! Send an email to hello@cayucoslandconservancy.org if you can help with setup, sign up trash-collectors, weigh and

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document trash and/or help close the site. Here are the specific tasks for the cleanup: • Walk the bluffs before Sept. 20, looking for large or problematic trash, and let us know. • Donate a small gift card from a local business as a prize for a volunteer. • Contribute a snack for volunteers arriving in the morning. • Help set up tables and materials at 8:30 a.m. • Help signup volunteers as they arrive at 8:45. • Help sort, weigh and document collected trash at 11:30. • Help take down the tables, etc. at noon. For those of you who’d like to collect and document trash, no reservation is required, just arrive by 9 a.m. at the Fig Tree Parking area. Look for the Cayucos Land Conservancy banner. Bring gloves, a bucket or bags and a ‘grabber’ if you have one. Every volunteer who brings their own bucket, bags and/or grabber will be entered in a raffle for a thank you gift.

...

There is so much amazing wine history in SLO County, and the History Center of San Luis Obispo County couldn’t be prouder to put that history in the spotlight at their Pouring Through Time event. On Friday, September 12, starting at 5:30 p.m. they will spend time in the Dallidet Adobe gardens, the home of Pierre Dallidet - San Luis Obispo’s first commercial winemaker. Wine tastings, appetizers, and a talk from Mike Sinor of Sinor Lavalee and Clay Thompson of Claiborne & Churchill. On Saturday, September 13, starting at 5:30 p.m. they will have silent and live auctions, a garden-to-table Gala dinner catered by Debbie Collins, and a keynote by Bill Greenough celebrating the history of Saucelito Canyon Vineyard, one of the oldest vineyards in operation in this county. This event takes place at the Octagon Barn in SLO. Tickets at <http://bit.ly/463xFzS>. 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.

Edward Jones

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Community

Pops by the Sea – A Magical Afternoon in Avila

Photos by Dean Sullivan

More than 1500 people came out to enjoy the annual SLO Symphony’s “Pops by the Sea” bringing together music lovers of all ages for an unforgettable celebration under the open sky. The event was filled with joy, community spirit, and plenty of memorable moments.

Families enjoyed face painting, and children (and quite a few grown-ups!) were delighted to meet characters from Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter roaming the crowd. The raffle had everyone hoping to take home one of the exciting prize packages. Emcee, Marisa Waddell, and guest conductor, Chris Woodruff, kept the fun going for the entire program. Plus, the SLO Symphony highlighted 18-year-old Finnegan Lewis of Los Osos, a true cheerleader for the arts! And, of course, the musicians delivered a spectacular performance that kept toes tapping and spirits high until the final note.

“We were thrilled to welcome Finnegan Lewis, 16, from Los Osos, CA, as this year’s special youth conductor. Finn conducted the SLO Symphony performing ‘The Stars and Stripes Forever,’ said event organizers. “A regular attendee at concerts, Finn had been active in marching band, school musicals, and local community theater. His nominator said, ‘It never mattered to Finn, or his peers, that he needed extra support ... He supported his peers whenever he could.’”



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Calling all car enthusiasts!

Join fellow classic car lovers for Geerwood at Beerwood, a fun community event held twice a year — once in May and again in September.

No sign-up or registration required — just come down to Baywood and show off your ride!

Saturday, September 20
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Santa Maria St. bewtween 2nd and 3rd in front of Beerwood.

If you plan to display your vehicle, please arrive by 10:45 a.m. to park.
For questions, email: ccwagons@gmail.com

Letters

To The Editor

Friends of Morro Elementary Gratitude

An outpouring of gratitude to all those in the community who facilitated and attended the benefit concert for Morro Elementary School. Of course, first thanks go to alum Kent Nagano who suggested the fundraiser, offering to conduct an orchestral ensemble put together by his cousin Nancy Nagano. Various alumni donated their time, musicianship, and/or money to make the event successful. Community businesses, individuals, and families were sponsors. Thank-yous to Cuesta College and school district employees who worked patiently with us utilizing their facilities for practices and performance.

Consider this the first of many activities Friends of Morro Elementary will present to secure our history and culture.

Sincerely, D'Arcy Castro
President

'Yes' on Prop 50 to Hold on to our Democracy

RE: "No on Election Rigging" (EBN August 28-September 11). The letter writer is operating under the assumption that we're still living in a democracy. But we are not. The "rules" that the letter writer refers to have already been thrown out. The current administration is flouting the constitution every week, court orders are ignored, and republican seats are being "found" in Texas and other states. At this point, resistance to the

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rigging happening in Texas and other Republican states falls to California and a very few other states. Prop 50 is what it looks like when our leaders fight back instead of watching our democracy slip away. I will vote YES on Prop 50, the Election Rigging Response Act.

Lois Boulgarides
Morro Bay

California Offshore Wind Terminally Ill

On August 29 a crucial decision and action on the part of the federal DOT (Department of Transportation) was handed down that had more than significant impacts on the future of offshore wind in California ... you could say that the minimally heralded action not only threw a huge monkey wrench into our governor's favorite pie-in-the-sky project, but literally dealt a death blow to the industry itself in our state. Floating offshore wind is officially in hospice ... terminally ill with no possibility of recovery. What was that action and how did it come about?

First let's talk about what is necessary for the behemoth and outrageously expensive industry of floating offshore wind to exist in the first place. Most of us are now familiar with the wind "farms" themselves...huge wind turbines floating out in 4,000-foot-deep outer continental waters that are proposed to be built with their requisite floating substations and thousands of miles of buried subsea high voltage cable coming into shore. These "farms" are the source of output, but what is just as crucial to the industry are the industrial ports to build, stage and service the installations. If these ports do not exist, the industry is doomed. To date there are three sites being seriously considered for OSW industrial port buildout, Long Beach for building and manufacturing, Port San Luis for operations and maintenance and Humboldt for staging and integration. All three of these types of facilities are needed for a functioning floating offshore wind industry.

It is with this knowledge and understanding that REACT Alliance has taken their cue and has been working behind the scenes to communicate with the federal agencies (DOT, DOI, DOE, EPA) involved with the proliferation of offshore wind to end federal monies slated to bolster port infrastructure buildout and to effectively end floating offshore wind in our state. On June 4, 2025 REACT Alliance drafted a letter to the Department of Transportation in reference to their allocation of close to a half billion dollars of INFRA Grant money for a heavy lift terminal in Humboldt County crucial to the operation of the offshore wind area leases and buildout. After careful analysis, we determined The INFRA Grant to be outside DOT sited grant parameters and a blatant misappropriation of federal funds encouraged by California politicians and pushed by a complicit Biden administration. In other words, the grant never should have been issued, and all monies should be returned to the DOT. On August 15 we followed up with a demand for an immediate end to the grant and a complete rescission of funds.

On August 29 the response we were waiting for became a reality., the INFRA Grant was rescinded leaving the Humboldt Heavy Lift Terminal high and dry and without the funding necessary to build the slated project that was absolutely crucial to OSW operations....a blow to a failing industry that never should have been considered to begin with: an inefficient, expensive and environmentally destructive technology whos insufficiencies are now being realized all over the world.

REACT Alliance will continue to fight the proposed industrial port projects in both Port San Luis and Long Beach to ensure the absolute failure of the industry...but make no mistake, California cannot afford to fund the multibillion-dollar boondoggle on its own, and the Humboldt project failure just put floating offshore wind in Hospice; struggling to catch its breath. on insufficient life support and lacking the lifeblood to survive. If Gavin Newsome were wise and compassionate, he would just pull the plug, put an end to watching the death throes and lay offshore wind in its waiting grave

Mandy Davis
President REACT Alliance

The League of Women Voters has no Position on Prop 50

Voters may have received a mailer from "Protect Voters First" about the ballot initiative which wrongly implies that the League of Women Voters endorses the information in the flyer. Be clear, the League does not support this coalition or its message.

Before the ballot language was written, the League, along with other good government groups, issued statements opposing mid-cycle redistricting as contrary to our long standing positions on gerrymandering and fair representation.

Since then, and on the heels of Texas' decision to implement mid-cycle redistricting, Governor Newsom and the legislature have moved to put Proposition 50 on the ballot for a special election in November.

We will not take a position on the ballot measure. On the proposed maps themselves, we believe it is now up to the people most affected by the proposed maps to decide if those maps are fair. We urge everyone, especially those in constituencies where the maps will change, to educate themselves about the maps, make sure they are registered, and vote on November 4. We stand ready to provide the non-partisan, factual information voters need to cast an informed vote.

For more information or to request a presentation on Proposition 50 for your organization contact Voter Service Director Ed Cabrera at voterservice@lwvslo.org.
Janice Langley, Joanne Schultz, Wendy Brown, Jacquie Canfield
League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

Unfortunately, one of our local realtors has stooped to a new low to make a buck. At the busy corner of Pine and Ramona, mere steps away from a memorial to a local pastor tragically killed while walking this very spot, one of those ubiquitous metal signs announcing an open house was completely blocking the shoulder of the road. To make matters worse, at the other end of Pine, another of the same realtor's signs was completely blocking the sidewalk of our town's busiest street, Los Osos Valley Road.

A number of years ago I first became aware of this selfish and unsafe practice when I saw a young, very pregnant, mother pushing a stroller down Pine near Henrietta, where these signs are often placed. She had to walk in the middle of the busy traffic lane to avoid a sign that completely blocked the newly installed bike lane. Seeing this from my nearby home, I immediately went over and threw the sign off to the side of the road. I continue to do this to this day. If the offending realtor doesn't take the hint, the sign winds up in my trashcan. I would encourage others to do the same in their own neighborhoods. While some may label this as vandalism or theft, I consider it a public service to my neighbors. I encourage the signs owners to complain to the sheriff or county, who will then explain to them what the law has to say on this matter.

Tom Monroe
Los Osos

Letters Continued on page 19

16

September 11, 2025 - September 24, 2025 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News

This is the fifth and final article in the History of the Morro Bay Power Plant Series.

However, local opposition to the planned upgrade grew, and Duke sold the plant to Dynegy in 2007. Eventually the bulk of these plans were abandoned, in part because of the plant's impact on local sea life. Seawater

In 2018, Vistra Energy Corp, another Texas-based



The closure of the plant during Morro Bay's 50th anniversary year marks the end of an era.
Photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Morro Bay

Do you have an amazing photo-story to share? We'd love to hear from you about that or anything else about our shared history: info@historicalmorrobay.org.

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Cheyne Jackson aims a Ruger .308 rifle during target practice at the SLO Sportsmen's Association shooting range off Hwy 1, from a previous EBN story in 2020. Photo by Neil Farrell

Association's contract ran out at the end of 2024, it ended the contact and shuttered the facility.

That's left gun enthusiasts without their local facility and its various ranges for things like pistol shooting competitions, archery, action and quick draw shooting, skeet, and target practice.

It also ended gun safety courses taught by the Association, as well as hunter safety courses needed to get a California hunting license.

"The California Department of Fish and Wildlife," CDFW Information Officer, Krysten Kellum told Estero Bay News, "values the role and importance of public shooting ranges and previously contracted with the San Luis Obispo Sportsmen's Association to manage the shooting ranges on CDFW's San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area.

"SLOSA violated its contract with CDFW in several ways, including charging members unauthorized discounted rates and allowing people to live on the SLOWA without CDFW consent.

"Despite CDFW's best efforts and regular communication, the San Luis Obispo Sportsmen's Association failed to correct some of these violations."

CDFW said their findings of violations came out of various inspections and audits conducted from January 2018 to the end of February 2024.

But according to Kellum, those issues are separate from the end of the contract and ultimately the closure of the facility.

"SLOSA was in violation of its contract," she said, "but that is unrelated to the expiration of their contract to operate the shooting range. With or without contract violations, the contract would have expired Dec. 31, 2024."

The 448-acre property is mostly hilly open grasslands, with few trees outside a creek that runs down the middle of the property.

It was given to the State for use as a public shooting area/range, according to information on the CDFW website, and "is closed to all other visitor uses.

"The portion of the property not used for the public shooting and related facility development serves as both a

buffer zone to adjacent lands and as open space for the protection and enhancement of resident wildlife populations."

The wildlife area is under the supervision of the CDFW's Fresno District and the State insists on being informed of literally all improvements made or changes to the management, including whether they let anyone stay on the property for security reasons. That was another thing CDFW charged the Association with — letting someone park a trailer and stay by the Old West-themed shooting range.

Under the Association, the facility is divided into two main parts a public shooting area and club range area. The public shooting area includes a rifle/pistol range, trap skeet shooting, and archery, plus an educational building where safety courses were held.

The club ranges were used by the SLO Muzzleloaders, the Central Coast Long Range Shooters, SLO Small Bore shooters and the Chorro Valley Regulators, a colorful group that built the Old West façade, frontier town and hosted pistol, shotgun and rifle shooting competitions wearing period costumes.

All of that went silent when the State closed it all down in January.

Some of the ranges were also used by local law enforcement including guards from the California Men's Colony prison. Ironically, allowing them to use the pistol range was one of the things the Association got into trouble over.

In the notice of contract violations from March 2024, CDFW said they were supposed to close the whole place every Tuesday to allow for safe maintenance work to be done without any shooting going on.

However, "On Tuesday, October 12, 2021, CDFW staff (Dave Hacker) discovered that California Department of Corrections (CDCR) staff were shooting at the action pistol range on SLOWA."

They concluded that it was "clear SLOSA had been allowing CDCR to use the public range on Tuesdays in violation of Title 14 CCR Section 551(v)(3)(C) and the contract."

The State isn't making it easy for anyone to get the contract, as the list of requirements under various state laws and executive orders seem to greatly limit who will be able to take over the range management. The RFP runs 37-pages long.

Among the requirements is that bidders must be registered non-profits and the deadline to bid is 4 p.m. Oct. 6.

And there's a clause in the RFP that might make it tough for the SLO Sportsmen's Association to get the contract again should they decide to bid.

"The awarded Proposer," reads a clause under the heading 'Minimum Qualifications,' "must not have any history of failed State audits or significant adverse findings related to organizational or facility operations. Any past audit findings, if present, must be fully resolved with documentation demonstrating corrective actions taken and compliance restored."

Given the normal length of time needed to go through the government's leasing process — first at CDFW and then the General Services Department, which has to approve a new lease — it could be January before it might open again.



A bear that shows the wear and tear that can happen to an outdoor mural painted more than three decades ago. Photo submitted

als will be removed soon and later replaced.

How to Donate

• Send a check to Celebrate Los Osos: 350 Mitchell Drive, Los Osos, CA 93402

• Donate through the Zeffy app at <https://www.celebratelososos.org/donate>. Zeffy allows the ability to track, report and subdivide campaigns better than any other program. CLO says it also allows our donors to know 100% of their donations go to support the mission of Celebrate Los Osos.

• Donate through PayPal at <http://bit.ly/4gj00Hi> Unless otherwise requested, donors' names will be included on the CLO website Honor Roll.

Money raised over the cost of the mural will go towards maintenance and updates of existing jobs such as paying the water bill for the Los Osos Valley Road Median project.

"We have ongoing expenses for signs, equipment, and material," Nash-Karner said.

As for the future, CLO is looking at updating the town's other murals and exploring new projects with the hopes of making it on SLO Cal Mural Trail's self-guided map. Los Osos has two additional murals by Sharman-Hand and one done by Barbara Rosenthal, which is located at Los Osos Rexall Drug and Gift at 989 Los Osos Valley Road.

"We have plans for at least two, and we even have a couple places, including an owner who's willing," Nash-Karner said. Mums the word for now on that location and design. Future murals will likely depict different historical periods of Los Osos.

The nonprofit is also looking for highly energized, new board members to bring additional ideas to the group's efforts. Information on previous projects including the median landscaping and design on LOVR by the Ralph's shopping center, restoring The Red Barn and acquiring new chairs and tables to fill the building for events, the annual boat creep cleanup at Cuesta Inlet, various historic sign repairs, the cow bear in Baywood, and ridding most of the community of the dreaded invasive Sahara mustard plants, among others, can be found at [celebratelososos.org](https://www.celebratelososos.org).

Of course, they are always looking for new realistically doable projects to beautify Los Osos and Baywood.

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BROOKE WARNER

OPENING KEYNOTE

ROB EDWARDS

CLOSING KEYNOTE

News

“We are looking for what we can do that makes a difference,” Nash-Karner said. “Something people go, ‘Wow, look at that.’ People who live here, who love this place, are making that happen. And this place makes a difference in their lives. We want to honor that.”

The next project in line is to unify the lighting post designs on 2nd Street in Baywood, to get them all in working order with LED bulbs, and have some sort of lamp post banner options for events, celebrations or artistic continuity.

“Our goal is to do the banners very graphically,” Nash-Karner said. “They will have some sketches, but it’ll be like a kayak into a sunset with Morro Rock in the background. It might be like a real stylized bear or a beautiful heron in the reeds, or something like that.”

Janice Sharman - Hand Sharman-Hand currently lives in Eureka, California and continues to be an active artist, painting with watercolor, reflecting her love for nature. She no longer paints murals.

Prior to moving to Los Osos in the mid-1980s, she completed well over a dozen murals statewide. She believed that producing art is not an inherent talent in only a few special people but that instead art is teachable skill available to all. She put that belief into practice in and brought that idea to the Bear Committee of the Los Osos-Baywood Chamber of Commerce when it first began to consider the possibility of creating historically themed murals in the Los Osos and Baywood Park area, CLO said in a news release.

Under Janice’s guidance and using the markings of the basic scene she created in August of 1989, painters carefully filled in the outlines on the wall. Janice then continued



Paint on parts of the mural is peeling off to the cement. Photo submitted

the same philosophy and technique of public art via public participation for the next two historical murals, “Chumash Bear Dance Community Mural,” at the intersection of 9th Street and Los Olivos Avenue, and “Portola’s Sacred Expedition Community Mural,” at the intersection of Los Osos Valley Road and 9th Street.

In Janice’s own words: “As an artist who painted murals my primary goal has been to combine my love of painting with my devotion to public service programs that create a sense of community. I was inspired by the muralist and activist, Judy Baca who created the communal mural project; the Great Wall of Los Angeles where she painted the history of LA and involved the people of the community to participate in the painting of the mural.

“After my time in the California Conservation Corps [where she was a supervisor by day and an art teacher by night], I went on working with children, teens, and adults from diverse backgrounds designing and supervising public service murals. I have worked with schools, churches, local chamber of commerce, city and state conservation programs and work and education programs for at risk teens in California as well as in Arizona.

“Murals have provided the means for me to create civic pride and an awareness of local heritage through the vehicle of public art. As a visual artist I see murals as a tool for community development by helping organizations to depict their history, self-image, and cultural identities and common backgrounds.”

Letters From page 16

Offshore Wind: Powering Jobs, Protecting Our Kids, Securing Our Future

When opponents attack offshore wind, they’re not just blocking clean energy — they’re threatening good-paying jobs and the future we owe our kids. They’re also giving China an edge in the global clean energy race and handing dirty energy a big win. The Trump Administration has vowed to restore U.S.

“energy dominance” by doubling down on coal, oil, and gas—the very fuels driving global warming. But while the Federal Administration looks backward, the rest of the world is racing ahead. China and Europe are investing billions in wind, solar, and battery technologies, creating millions of jobs and securing their economic future. If America clings to the past, we risk not only worsening the climate crisis but also surrendering the clean energy race — and the economic opportunities that come with it — to our competitors.

Claims that offshore wind is “a failing industry... inefficient, expensive, and environmentally destructive” are simply false. Offshore wind is efficient and delivers power at capacity factors as high or higher than new build natural gas and is growing worldwide. It requires no fuel to create electricity, making its price more stable than volatile fossil fuels. It delivers its strongest benefits domestically to help us avoid the skyrocketing future costs of destructive wildfires, droughts, and floods.

As our need for energy grows with new technology, we have three options: rolling blackouts, more fossil fuels, or renewables and a modern grid. The compassionate, forward-looking choice is clear. Offshore wind isn’t just about powering our homes—it’s about protecting our children and grandchildren from the worst impacts of climate change and securing America’s place in the clean energy economy. It will enable us to keep California’s lights on.

Susan Callery, SLO, Marlys McPherson, Morro Bay and Glenn Silloway, Morro Bay

Letter Policy

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

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Overtime From page 1



A look inside the control of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Photo by Neil Farrell

clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.”

Aug. 26 had been the date that the plant’s Unit 2 reactor’s original license was set to expire and would have been the end of nuclear power in California. Unit 1’s original license expired in November 2024.

PG&E had reached agreement with several environmental and anti-nuclear organizations nearly a decade ago to drop the company’s attempts to renew its licenses before the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the agency that oversees and permits nuclear facilities in the U.S. and close Diablo Canyon for good.

But in 2022, under Senate Bill 846, the State asked PG&E to keep the plant operating for another 5 years. This

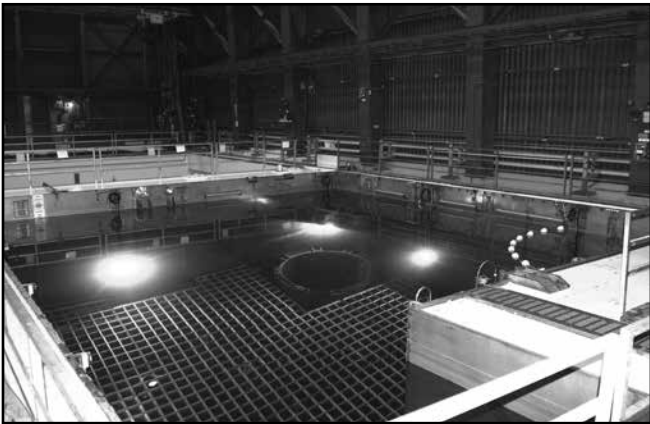


Photo shows the indoor pool of water where spent nuclear fuel rods are stored to cool. Photo by Neil Farrell

meant going back to the NRC to renew its license renewal efforts. But instead of picking up the license renewal where it had stopped, the NRC required PG&E to start the lengthy process all over again.

The NRC also denied the request for just a five-year renewal and instead processed a 20-year license.

The State stepped into the already agreed upon closure schedule after a summer of rolling blackouts “to stabilize the grid in the wake of an energy shortage,” according to PG&E.

Diablo Canyon produces some 17% of the state’s so-called “clean energy” output and about 9% of the overall power, according to PG&E.

Now the plant is officially running on overtime.

Diablo Canyon’s Chief Nuclear Officer and Senior Vice President Paula Gerfen, said, “We are honored to continue to serve millions of Californians with clean, reliable energy.”

“Safety is at the forefront of everything we do, which is why, year after year, Diablo Canyon is included among the highest performing nuclear power plants in the nation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We understand we earn the right to operate every day and we do this with our friends, neighbors, local communities and fellow Californians in mind as we safely generate electricity.”

The plant has a capacity of some 2,200 megawatts (2.2 gigawatts) and employs more than 1,300 full time workers. They add another 1,000 part time workers that come in during outages for refueling.

Refueling outages are regularly scheduled shutdowns of one of the units at a time for maintenance and installing new fuel rods. About one-third of the fuel rods — assemblies of radioactive pellets inside a metal tube and immersed in water to regulate temperatures — get replaced at a time. Exposure of the rods radiates heat and creates steam

that turns steam turbine generators and produces the electricity. In essence the plant is powered by steam but instead of burning natural gas or coal, the uranium core produces the necessary heat.

The plant is now licensed for another 20 years but that’s no guarantee it will run that long. The State is intending to switch over the power grid to so-called renewable energy sources — solar and wind for the most part — and once they hit the desired levels that could once again clear the way to shut the plant down permanently.

Critics of the license extensions have argued that the equipment is old and tired and unsafe, among other claims. They have also continued to point to offshore earthquake faults as endangering the plant.

Meanwhile, PG&E is moving ahead with a Decommissioning Panel working on what will be the ultimate disposition of the roughly 12,000 acres of coastal lands surrounding the plant when it finally closes for good.

Those lands are made up of oak woodlands, coastal terraces and old ranchlands, and are also considered as traditional homelands for local Native Americans.

PG&E believes the plant will continue to be needed. “Overall,” the company said, “the California Energy Commission expects peak electricity demand to grow by 21 gigawatts by 2040. That is equal to the energy of 10 Diablo Canyons.”

“PG&E estimates electricity use from data centers alone will grow by 10 gigawatts by 2035, equal to the power from nearly five Diablo Canyons.”

With the plant’s continued operations, one major issue remains for SLO County and the San Luis Coastal Unified School District — property taxes or rather the lack thereof.

When the State asked PG&E to continue operations, part of the deal was to allow the devaluation of the plant for property tax purposes down to zero, a process that took away millions in tax revenues from the County and school district.

PG&E did pay millions to the agencies to make up for the lost revenue, but those payments have since run out.

The result for the school district was that it faced a large budget shortfall this fiscal year and into the future.

The District response included budget cuts, and the decision to declare as surplus two elementary schools in the Estero Bay Area — Sunnyside in Los Osos and Morro Elementary in Morro Bay — and move towards selling them off.

Sunnyside is valued at \$6.5 million and Morro at \$10M. The two communities are working on buying the school sites for their use. Should those efforts fail, the District would be free to seek private buyers who would only be allowed under State Law to build affordable housing.



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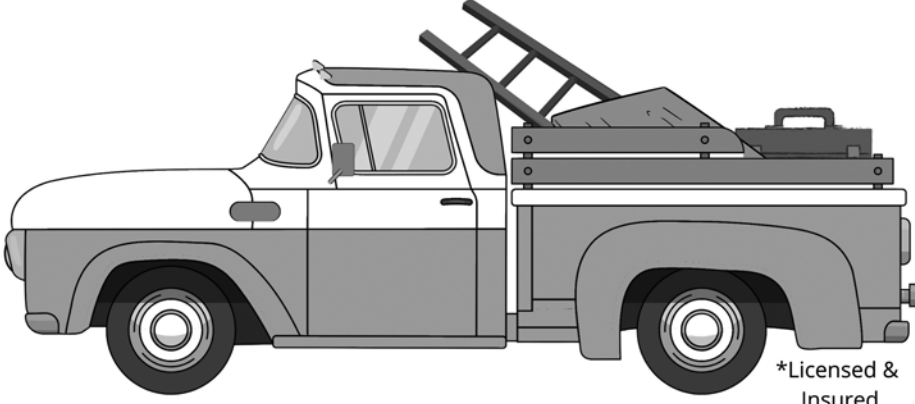




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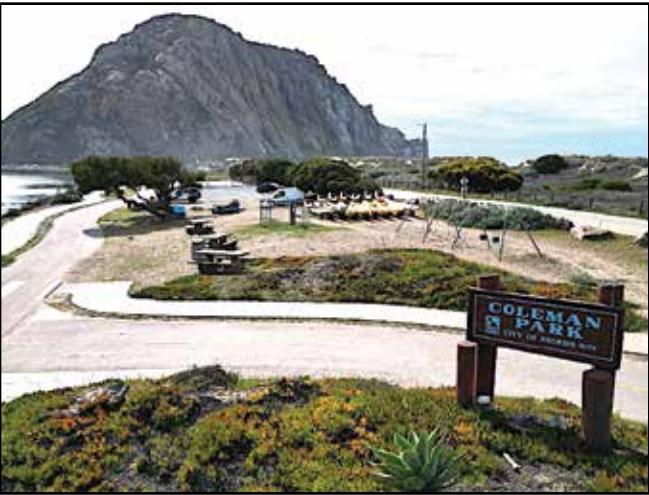
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Illustration shows the concept plan for the rebuilding of Coleman Park. Rendering courtesy City of Morro Bay

The overall project is estimated to cost over \$918,000. The project has been ongoing for over four years now, having been born out of a series of community meetings in 2021 to discuss what to do with Coleman park, which sits adjacent to the harbor and right now isn't much to look at. It has a swing set, a picnic table and a fenced basketball court, dirt parking areas, and is covered in sand. Perhaps its greatest value is the small, calm water Coleman Beach, where people like to launch kayaks and paddle boards, and also serves as an access spot for scuba divers exploring the kelp forest along the riprap. There used to also be a public restroom but block that structure was condemned several years ago and removed by the City. Public Works Director Greg Kwolek's report to Council said they had received a \$600,000 grant from State Parks through its Rural Recreation & Tourism Program. "This grant," he said, "included scope to build a number of park amenities including construction of a public restroom, ADA parking, connecting pathways, playground and exercise equipment, a plaza, and cultural installations." But time hasn't been kind to the project. "Since then," the report adds, "significant increases in costs to construct as well as relatively high inflation on goods and services have rendered some of the amenities originally envisioned for the project infeasible from a budgetary standpoint." State Parks has indicated they have other agencies who got these grants experiencing the same issues and has been letting them "de-scope" some of the amenities in their original concept plans. Kwolek said they plan "to pursue this process as well, starting with a presentation to the Morro Bay Recreation and Parks Commission, which will review park amenities originally proposed and considered which can be de-scoped by State Parks. The Commission's recommendations will be a critical step in facilitating the request through State Parks to de-scope amenities currently included in the grant." The City is also currently underway with an update of the Waterfront Master Plan, which is expected to include Coleman Park. So while that happens, Kwolek said they wanted to go ahead with designing and building Phase 1 — a new restroom. "Staff proposes to proceed with Phase 1 of the project," the report said, "that will include design and construction of a restroom, ADA [handicap accessible] parking,



Coleman Park as it is now.

and pathways to connect the parking and restroom to the Harborwalk and bike path." RRM's contract will include the design of the amenities, permitting support, as the City will need a Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission, and engineering services during construction. He said they hope finish these improvements "before Memorial Day 2026." The overall concept plan for Coleman Park, which was put together by City staff after several meetings with City boards, would remove the basketball court and put parking there, and add an ADA accessible playground, a small stage, more seating, a second playground, areas for a public artworks and cultural and history displays, and an exercise area among other things. Coleman Park has an interesting history in the City. This is at least the third time it's been considered for a complete remodel. Past attempts have included turning it into a boat haul out area and boatyard. A group of Cal Poly architecture students once did a study of the park as part of the project that brought the bronze, Fishermen's Family Sculpture titled, "Those Who Wait," by the Central Coast Women for Fisheries. That iteration included a sand volleyball court among other things. Perhaps the biggest addition to that area of the waterfront was the installation of the Harborwalk and dedicated bike lane, which has become among the City's most popular amenities.

COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker

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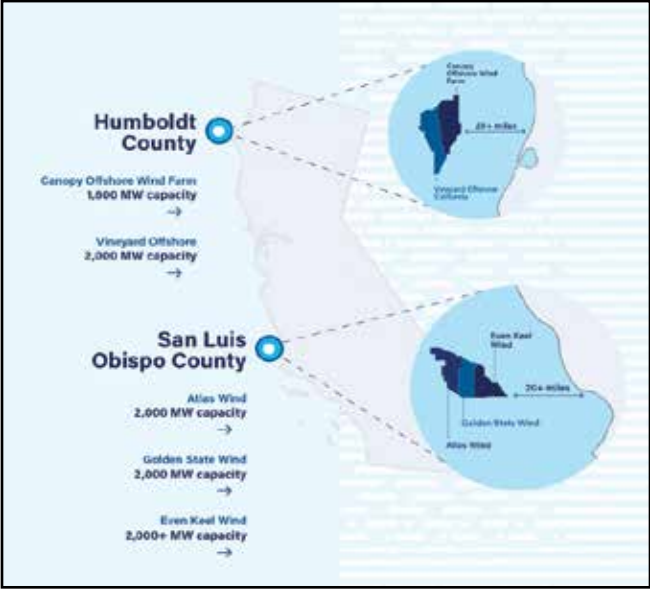
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Map shows the locations of the five offshore floating wind energy lease sites auctioned off by the Federal Government. On top are two off the Coast of Humboldt, and the lower spot is the trio of sites off the Coast of San Simeon. Map courtesy ACP-California

"Wasteful, wind projects," Transportation Sec. Sean Duffy said in the Aug. 29 announcement, "are using resources that could otherwise go towards revitalizing America's maritime industry. "[Former President] Joe Biden and [former DOT Secretary] Pete Buttigieg bent over backwards to use transportation dollars for their Green New Scam agenda while ignoring the dire needs of our shipbuilding industry. Thanks to President Trump, we are prioritizing real infrastructure improvements over fantasy wind projects that cost much and offer little." All together a dozen projects had funding pulled. "As part of the Department of Transportation's review of all discretionary grant programs with obligated and unobligated projects," reads the DOT's announcement, "USDOT identified 12 offshore wind grants and project selections that were not aligned with the goals and priorities of the administration." Among the projects was the rebuilding of the Humboldt Harbor — officially, the "Humboldt Bay Heavy Lift Marine Terminal Project" — to service floating offshore wind energy projects off the California Coast, which had in January 2024, been granted over \$426.7 million out of the DOT's so-called "Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program" or INFRA. The cancelation of the Humboldt project comes as good news for the REACT Alliance, the local opponents of offshore wind. "REACT Alliance," Alliance president Mandy Davis said, "has been working behind the scenes to communicate with the federal agencies [DOT, DOI, DOE, EPA] involved with the proliferation of offshore wind to end federal monies slated to bolster port infrastructure buildout and to effectively end floating offshore wind in our state. "On June 4,

Windfall Continued on page 22

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75th Annual Pinedorado Parade

Photos by Neil Farrell

The 75th Annual Pinedorado Parade kicked off Cambria’s annual celebration Aug. 30, as over 50 parade entries marched down Main Street to a cheering crowd of several thousand. Local businesses, community organizations and service clubs, and agencies like the Sheriff’s Posse and Grizzly Academy, took part in the parade. Among the entrants were three with horses, including the magnificent Clydesdales from the Covell Ranch. Three local high school marching bands — from Atascadero, San Luis Obispo and Templeton — also took part. The parade is the kickoff to the 3-day celebration on Labor Day Weekend that includes a fair, and a car show held at the Pinedorado Fairgrounds and the Cambria Vet’s Hall.



Chamber of Commerce Welcomes San Luis Ambulance to Los Osos



Kris Strommen, Nate Otter, Serena Genusso, Nick Drake, Dawn Rodden, Jim Stanfill, Justin Kelton, Billy Burke, Chris Javine, Colleen Vecchetti, Thomas Moore, Karen Sweeny, Annie Wahler and Abigail Davis. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce welcomed San Luis Ambulance to the Los Osos community with a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony at their newest response station located in the heart of town at 950 Los Osos Valley Road. Owner Justin Kelton and his staff were joined by members of the Chamber board, Colleen Vecchetti, president; Jim Stanfill, past president; Annie

Wahler, secretary; Billy Burke, treasurer; Karen Sweeny, board member; Dawn Rodden, board administrator; and Abigail Davis, intern.

Founded in 1945, San Luis Ambulance has a long-standing reputation for delivering high-quality emergency medical care throughout San Luis Obispo County. The new Los Osos station reflects the company’s contin-

ued commitment to enhancing emergency response times and expanding access to life-saving care in the communities it serves.

“We are excited to welcome San Luis Ambulance to Los Osos,” said Dawn Rodden, Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber board administrator and membership chair. “Their presence brings not only peace of mind to our residents but also strengthens our healthcare infrastructure.”

San Luis Ambulance’s investment in a Los Osos station underscores their mission to provide fast, compassionate, and professional care when seconds matter most.

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