

Cuesta Inlet — Past, Present, and Future



The Cuesta Inlet in 2025, shows the artificial land fingers that were made in the 1950-1960s. Photo courtesy of Save Cuesta Inlet
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Until the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Cuesta Inlet that borders the southeast end of the Morro Bay estuary at 1745 Doris Ave. was a tidal marsh that flooded and drained by the ebb and flow of ocean tides.

It was a group of businessmen that originally purchased the 13-acre site, which crosses three parcels of land, and created what exists today. Through extensive bulldozing and dredging artificial land fingers were made.

“They blocked off the water, and they took a bulldozer and scooped up the bottom, and they created the fingers of land that that are out there now,” Margarete Schmidt, Save Cuesta Inlet (SCI) treasurer-secretary, told Estero Bay News. “It was a more of a swamp. They created the channel that you come in on, and then the spurs. With the dirt that they took out of the bottom, they created the land fingers. This formation would never occur naturally. If you think about it, when you first enter the inlet on the north, it’s just a straight shot, there’s no little coves on the north side of it.

All the little cove areas are on the south side.”

The Present

In April of this year a buyer for the property was in place but later dropped out allowing SCI to move forward with their goal of purchasing the site to ensure it remained accessible to the public for passive recreation. In 90 days, thanks to community financial and volunteer support, funds were raised beyond the needed \$600,000 of the \$735,000 price tag to purchase the property. Escrow closes on October 1.

“The amount of outpouring has been amazing,” Schmidt said. “It was just huge from the community at all levels. It is truly remarkable. And it speaks to the fact that people love the inlet, and they want the inlet to be a public space.”

Fundraising methods included small gatherings and events, such as a pop-up photo booth that some fourth graders organized raising \$125, a garden club gathering raised \$34,000, a wine and cheese gathering brought in \$55,000, and the Natural Estuary Program gifted \$60,000.

Erosion Issue No Bluff at Bayshore Bluffs



Looking down from the top of the stairs at Bayshore Bluffs Park shows the many kayaks people store there and how close the bay has encroached to the stairs.
Story and photos by Neil Farrell

As Morro Bay continues to uncover damage caused by fierce winter storms, among the latest revelations was erosion to a beach access way at one of the town’s smallest, yet more popular access points.

Morro Bay resident, David Rose, recently sent a letter to the City Council and shared it with Estero Bay News, pointing out extensive erosion that he believes threatens the access to the water at Bayshore Bluffs Park, which is located at 178 Bayshore Dr.

“After the last storm in February of this year,” Rose wrote, “I had the occasion to go to the park and saw that there was severe erosion near the base of the stairs.”

Rose said he notified Public Works of the situation, and the City did put some orange pylons out to warn users of the steep drop off. He worries that future storms could make matters even worse.

“A combination of a King tide and a Pacific Gale could undermine the bottom of these stairs with one storm,” he wrote.

The park, which was built as part of a condominium project in the early 1980s, features a small grassy area, circular picnic table, walking path that runs underneath an arched cypress tree, public restrooms and a viewing platform with a spectacular view of the Bay, Sandspit and Morro Rock.

It also has a wooden staircase that leads down to a very small “beach” where numerous kayaks and skiffs are stored, presumably by residents.

That narrow little beach was once an old dumping

LCOSD Awaits Word on 2023 Mudslide Disaster Repairs



A 2023 mudslide was caused when a storm water basin failed and sent a cascade of mud and debris down into the Vista Court neighborhood in Los Osos. Photo courtesy Bob Crizer
By Neil Farrell

With another winter fast approaching, the Los Osos Community Services District is confident repairs made to a stormwater basin that failed in January 2023 will hold as they continue working on funding a permanent fix.

In a report to the LCOSD Board in August, Executive Director Ron Munds

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Harbor Board Looks at Sidewalk Vendor Licenses

By Neil Farrell



The Morro Bay Harbor area isn’t like other waterfronts. While it has a great variety of restaurants and gift shops, as well as some spectacular scenery, it lacks something most others have — small sidewalk vendors selling things like tacos, lobster rolls, fish & chips, hot dogs, gifts and more.

That could all be changing.

The Morro Bay Harbor Department is working on an

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Fishermen Making Big Investment in Wharf Repairs

By Neil Farrell



Local Commercial Fishermen are still alive and well, Even if many people don’t realize it, and will be making a significant donation to help the City fix up one of their key pieces of infrastructure.

Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization, President Bill Blue and Vice-President Jeremiah O’Brien contacted Estero Bay News to talk about a huge donation local fishermen will be making to help the City with repairs to the Fishermen’s Wharf, the unloading dock located adja-

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Cayucos Turns 150 Page 23

November Election
Registration Deadline



Eligible voters, who want to cast a ballot in the upcoming special re-districting election, have a deadline they must meet if they want to have their wishes counted.

The County Elections Office announced that new voters or anyone who has moved since the last election must register for the November Special Election by Monday, Oct. 20 or they'll have to do so in person.

"The registration deadline for the upcoming special election is [Monday] Oct. 20," said SLO County Clerk-Recorder Elaina Cano. "After that, anyone who needs to register must do it in person at the Elections Office or a polling place."

The Elections Office is located in the County Government Center at the corner of Monterey and Santa Rosa Streets in SLO.

The County recently celebrated "National Voter Registration Day," on Sept. 16, marking 49 days before the Nov. 4 Election.

Since its founding in 2012, the Elections Office said in a news release, the civic holiday has served as the largest nonpartisan day of action nationally and has helped over 6 million Americans register to vote. "Locally, it also serves as a reminder that voters in California must re-register in the event of a change in name, address, or political party affiliation."

If readers need to register and want to do so online, go to the Secretary of State's website at: RegisterToVote.ca.gov. Voters who want to check the current status of their registration can go to: MyVoterStatus.sos.ca.gov.

Information on the special election, which was called by the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom in order to redraw some Congressional District lines in an effort to take over Republican held Congressional seats, will be arriving by mail soon.

"Ballots and voter information guides for the Nov. 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election," the County said, "will be mailed to all registered voters by Oct. 6. For information about this election, visit: SloVote.com/November2025."

Gov. Newsom has argued that overriding the State's voter enacted Redistricting Commission and resetting just some of the Congressional District boundaries is necessary to counter redistricting that was done in Texas, after a court ruled that state's boundaries Unconstitutional and ordered them be redrawn. Congressional Districts are reapportioned to the States following the U.S. Census, which happens every 10 years. Texas' new map, approved after the 2020 Census, came under scrutiny by the Biden Administration, which sued the State over its map drawn by the Legislature.

But California does things differently than Texas. California voters enacted the Voters First Act in 2008 and established the Redistricting Commission to handle State Legislative District boundaries (Assembly and Senate). The act was revised to include Congressional Districts in 2010, so any changes by the Legislature and Governor must win approval by voters, essentially overturning their previous vote. The redistricting issue is the only issue on the ballot in November.

The new Congressional District map that the Governor and Legislature are pushing does not change the boundaries for SLO County, which has been represented in Congress by Democrats for nearly 30 years.

Supervisors to
Continue Immunization
Program



County Supervisors approved some cleanup paperwork to ensure the County Health Department can continue with a State funded child immunization program and try to keep the county's children up to date on their shots.

Supervisors were asked to re-authorize the County Health Agency Director to sign necessary paperwork for the California Immunization Program and accept some \$489,000 towards the County's immunization program. It's been going on for over 30 years.

"Since fiscal year 1993-94," reads a report from County Health Agency Director, Nicholas Drews, "the California Department of Public Health [CDPH] has provided counties with funding to improve the immunization rates in their community. Immunizations are a key, preventative measure that safeguard the health of residents as well as the overall community."

The most recent immunization grant from the State started in July 2022 and runs through June 2027. Supervisors had approved delegating the Health Agency Director to sign the paperwork for this money back in December 2021, but in June 2024, that authorization apparently ran out.

"This grant requires an annual signature on certain standardized forms," Drews' report said, "to acknowledge Federal Compliance Requirements and update sub-recipient information. When these forms were received, they were signed by the Health Agency Director believing they would fall under the prior delegation, as they pertained to the same grant term." The boss decided otherwise.

"The Health Agency was advised by County Administration that since the Dec. 7, 2021 delegation of authority had expired, that the Health Agency Director was not authorized to sign the forms and the Health Agency must return to the Board for retroactive approval of the grant and to delegate authority back to the Health Agency Director."

Now the director will be able to deal with the necessary red tape and any amendments that come along for the grant program, so long as it doesn't require the County General Fund to dole out any additional money.

If that happens, they will have to come back to the Supervisors for another round of permission and approval of any increased spending.

The report lists some eye-opening national statistics from the Centers for Disease Control (2024) to justify continuing with the immunization program.

"Childhood immunization programs," Drews' report said, "provide a very high return on investment. Among approximately 117 million children born in the United States during 1994-2023; routine childhood immunization was estimated to prevent 508 million lifetime cases of illness [averaging four per child] and 32 million hospitalizations [0.3 per child] and to avert 1,129,000 premature deaths from vaccine-preventable illnesses."

"The cumulative number of illnesses prevented ranged from 5,000 for tetanus to approximately 100 million for measles and varicella [chickenpox]. The highest estimated cumulative number of hospitalizations and deaths prevented were 13.2 million hospitalizations for measles vaccinations and 752,800 deaths for diphtheria vaccination."

The report delved into the economics of immuni-

zations. "Vaccination for the 1994–2023 birth cohorts will potentially avert \$780 billion in direct costs and \$2.9 trillion in societal costs by preventing illnesses and deaths. After accounting for \$240 billion in direct costs and \$268 billion in societal costs of routine childhood immunization, the net savings for routine childhood immunization from the payer and societal perspectives were \$540 billion and \$2.7 trillion, respectively."

It should be noted that the Trump Administration and current leadership at the Health and Human Services Department is re-examining the nation's vaccination programs and protocols and given the administrations mantra has so far been to cut government spending where it can, changes could very well be on the horizon.

The County Health Department does six basic functions in this immunization program:

- Participate in promotional campaigns — National Infant Immunization Week, Preteen Vaccine Week, equity

Correction

Last issue's story, "Paddle Boarder Arrested in Surfing Attack," contained an incorrect detail of this disturbing incident.

Our story reported: "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 a reader who said she was among the trio of lady surfers who were there that day and witnessed what happened, "The woman was at least 30 yards or more and did take off on the same wave but was off the wave by the time the paddle boarder got to her and he purposely collided with her. She did not cut him off."

The reader protested our description of "cutting him off."

"In surfing terms when someone cuts someone else off in the line up it is egregious and against surfing etiquette."



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News

focused community health fairs, and other public awareness activities;

- Promote continuity of care and support the use of a medical home among medically underserved children, adolescents and adults for all health care services including immunizations;
- Conduct immunization related training for staff, health centers and private medical offices to provide updated vaccine information, and promote consistent use of the California Immunization Registry;
- Collaborate with interested school districts to offer State-purchased flu vaccine to their students, families, and staff;
- Perform quality assurance reviews of immunization services provided in the County public health clinics biannually through chart audits; and,
- Promote and administer immunizations.

The County will use the money to do three main things — maintain immunization services at the County public health clinics; continue to register 98-100 percent of the county’s immunizations into the State immunization registry database; and “post immunization messages on Facebook and/or website quarterly.”

“Acceptance of this grant allocation,” Director Drews said, “has and continues to support necessary programs and resources that keep community members healthy and safe throughout San Luis Obispo County.”

SLO Airport to Get Explosive Sniffer Device



Photo is of a Leidos brand, H150-E handheld explosive trace detector and identifies trace amounts of explosives.

By Neil Farrell

Twenty-four years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the San Luis Obispo County Airport is getting new equip-

ment to sniff out explosive devices.

County Supervisors approved a request from Airport Manager Courtney Johnson to buy an explosive trace detector for use at the County Airport in SLO and to satisfy new federal airport safety requirements.

The device is only \$25,000 and money to pay for it was taken out of the Airport Enterprise Fund and its Designated Net Asset Equipment Replacement Fund, according to Johnson’s report to County Supervisors.

She said the device is being mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and is in conjunction with the “Aviation Worker Screening Program.” The matter is being funneled through the Transportation Safety Administration or TSA.

The intent is to safeguard the flying public from nefarious airport workers.

“TSA,” Johnson said, “established the Aviation Worker Screening Program, applicable to airports throughout the country, to address insider threats and strengthen security in airport operations. Unlike passengers, aviation workers often require regular access to secure areas such as baggage facilities, ramps, and aircraft.

“These employees are vetted through background checks and credentialing, but don’t receive the same physical screening upon entry into these areas like passengers do.”

TSA works with airport security to “implement enhanced measures, including random physical screening of workers at access points ensuring that secure areas of the airport are protected by layers of unpredictable and visible security.”

Airport security measures started taking giant leaps forward after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when Islamic terrorists hijacked four airliners, crashing two into the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and one crashed in a Pennsylvania field after passengers fought the hijackers for control of the airplane.

Numerous steps have been instituted since that fateful day to increase security and screening of passengers. And in 2024, the TSA upped the game.

“As one of the requirements of the program,” Johnson said, “TSA mandates the Airport to use Explosive Trace Detectors as part of the screening process. This is a security device that identifies tiny amounts (or “traces”) of explosive materials and provides an important additional layer of aviation security.”

Explosive Trace Detectors or ETDs are handheld or stationary devices that identify microscopic traces of explosive materials or residues on surfaces, to analyze tiny particles and vapors collected by a special swab. These devices are used in airport security, law enforcement, and

military applications, and enable rapid screening of passengers, baggage, vehicles, and cargo. They identify threats by detecting the chemical signatures of commercial, military, and even homemade explosives.

Some models can also detect trace amounts of narcotics and are used by customs agents and law enforcement agencies to combat drug smuggling.

State Parks has Free Passes for 4th Graders, Families

By Neil Farrell

Saying it wants to expand nature experiences for children and their families, California State Parks has expanded a program that gives free entry to some of California’s state parks.

“Any public school fourth grader,” reads a notice from State Parks, “can download the California State Park Adventure Pass right now to enjoy a full year of access to 54 participating state parks for free.”

Unfortunately, the only State Park facility in San Luis Obispo County that falls under the free program is the Natural History Museum at Morro Bay State Park. However, there are several parks and museums, recreation areas and even forests that do come under the program in Monterey, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara Counties (see list at: <http://bit.ly/4nedZRI>) if your family is planning a road trip.

State Parks is partnering in the program with “First Partner” Jennifer Siebel Newsom (the Governor’s wife) and the California Natural Resources Agency.

The pass for this school year’s fourth graders is valid until Aug. 31, 2026.

Mrs. Newsom said, “The California State Park Adventure Pass has opened the door for more kids and families to experience the joy and benefits of our beautiful state parks. I encourage all public school fourth graders and their families to take advantage of this opportunity, and to explore all the incredible natural treasures California has to offer!”

Natural Resources Agency Secretary, Wade Crowfoot, said, “By opening our parks to public school fourth graders at no cost, we’re investing in healthier kids, stronger communities, and the next generation of stewards who will care for the Golden State’s wealth of natural and cultural resources.”

To get a free California State Park Adventure Pass online have a parent or guardian at: www.parks.ca.gov/AdventurePass or call (800) 444-7275 (Spanish-speaking customer service available).

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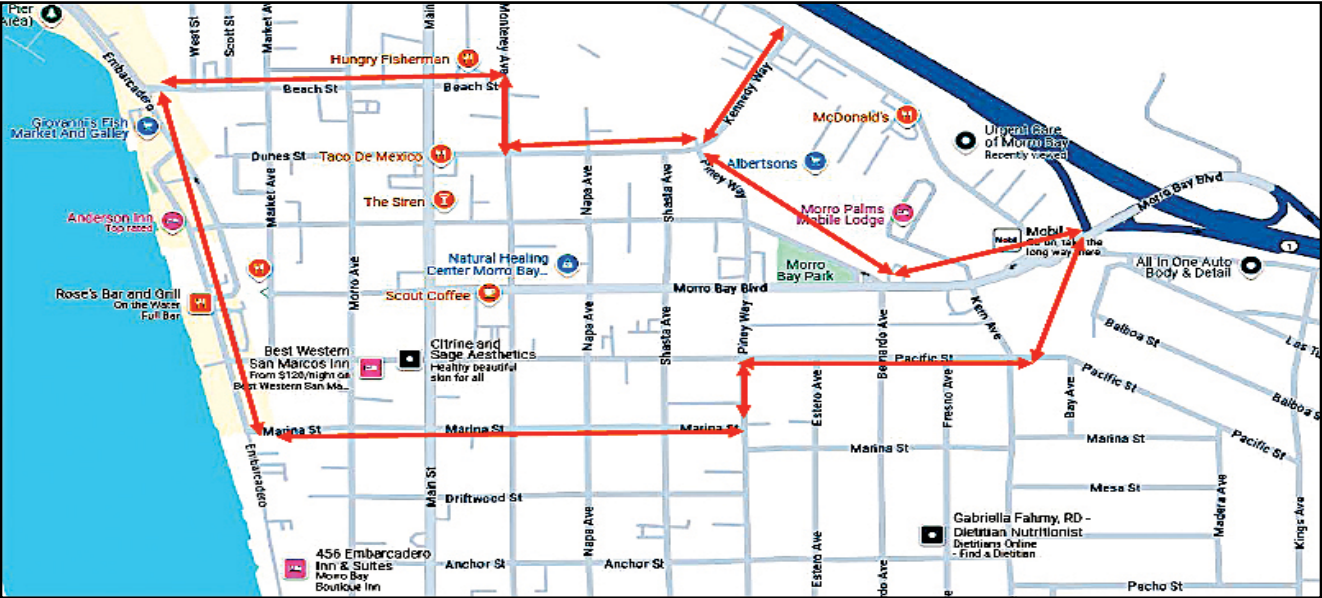
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City Doing Sidewalk Work



A map shows some of the streets in the Downtown Morro Bay area that will have sidewalks fixed to eliminate trip hazards. Map courtesy City of Morro Bay

By Neil Farrell

Have you tripped over an upturned sidewalk in Morro Bay lately? The City has embarked on a project to address the problem.

Starting Sept. 22, the City’s contractor Precision Concrete Cutting, began fixing trip hazards, caused mainly by street trees’ root systems.

The project, which will last for several weeks will, “identify and eliminate sidewalk tripping hazards by cutting them off at a gradual angle,” reads a news release on the matter.

The work will be citywide, the announcement said and start at the northwest City Limits and work easterly through the City.

Though there are many streets that have no sidewalk at all, mainly in residential areas in both North Morro Bay and the Heights on the south side, most of the city’s main streets do have them, as well as curbs, gutters and storm drains.

The work will be done from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and take the weekends and holidays off. “This is a mobile operation,” the City said, “so it will cover the complete area along the affected sidewalks and walkways.”

Normally with sidewalk repairs like this, the company will block off the sidewalk and several street parking spots in the work area, as it did recently with a big repair on Napa Avenue in front of Village Center Dry Cleaners. In that job, a huge tree was also removed and the sidewalk broken out and completely replaced anew for about 40 feet or so. Then a new sapling was planted in the tree well.

The City said to expect “some dust and noise during the cutting operation. Efforts are made to minimize and contain the dust as much as possible.

“When crews are in front of your residence or in the

path of travel, please close your doors and/windows or walk clear of the work marked by caution cones. Park cars in driveways, garages, and off the street where work is underway.”

You can also expect to see “No Parking” signs and traffic cones put out in the work areas.

Morro Bay has long suffered a spate of trip-falls because of the sidewalks.

Some have said the City planted the wrong trees, and that red flowering eucalyptus, which are the majority of the Downtown’s street trees, have too shallow of a root system for sidewalks.

Many of these trees, which are quite beautiful when in bloom, have grown enormous despite being planted in tree wells surrounded by concrete and asphalt. The eucalyptus also drop a lot of seedpods, which also can also cause potential tripping issues, and can even sprain your ankle if stepped on wrong.

Over the years, the City has tried several things to lessen the risk to pedestrians, including replacing sidewalk segments with rubber mats and painting the edges of the upturned sidewalks bright orange apparently as a warning signal.

In some cases, they’ve removed trees, fixed the sidewalk and replanted a more suitable species of tree.

“The City of Morro Bay,” the notice said, “is conducting this work as part of a sidewalk maintenance and rehabilitation program to improve and maintain the quality of the city’s infrastructure and to provide a safe area for residents and customers to walk.

“We appreciate your cooperation during this process.” If readers have questions about this project, call: 805-771-1803.

Or contact Precision Concrete’s representative, Garrett Petrula at: 805-990-0840.

Cal Poly Kennedy Library Reopens



A rendering shows the re-imagined Kennedy Library on Cal Poly campus. Photo courtesy of Cal Poly

Cal Poly’s Kennedy Library reopened to the campus and community on Sept. 15, marking the successful completion of the university’s first major project delivered using Collaborative Design-Build — an innovative approach that kept the \$78 million transformation on time and on budget.

The Collaborative Design-Build process brings architects, builders and campus partners together from the start, fostering shared responsibility and problem-solving throughout the project. Kennedy Library is the first Cal Poly project to use this method, setting a new standard for future campus construction. Tackling this first Collaborative Design-Build project with Cal Poly was design-builder Hensel Phelps and architect The Miller Hull Partnership.

“This project spearheaded a new way of delivering projects at Cal Poly,” said Carla Brown, program manager for the Kennedy Library transformation, in a news release. “By working side by side from day one, our teams anticipated challenges, streamlined decisions and delivered a building that meets the team’s vision without delays.”

Interim Dean of Library Services Katherine O’Clair said the transformation will have an immediate and lasting effect on students.

“These changes will give our students a more welcoming, flexible and inspiring environment to study, collaborate and create,” O’Clair said. “The renovated library will be a place where the entire campus community can come together to learn, connect and thrive.”

The two-year transformation has reimagined Kennedy Library. Key upgrades include:

- A welcoming entry experience with expanded lobby and integration of new artwork.
- Clear wayfinding with a new main stair, streamlined service points and signage.
- A vibrant first floor with relocated and expanded Julian’s Café.
- Unlocked potential with an improved and accessible courtyard.
- Inclusive and equitable design with ADA improvements and all-gender restrooms on every floor.
- New dedicated galleries for public exhibitions and additional high-density storage for Special Collections and

Library Reopens Continued on page 6

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Estero Bay News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Sunnyside School Update



Community members engaged in the purchase of the Sunnyside School site attended a recent town-hall meeting held by the Los Osos Community Service District (LOCSD) and LOCAC (Los Osos Community Advisory Council).

The meeting revealed that 68% of the those questioned in a phone survey were in favor of purchasing the 12-acre property for potential uses that include playing fields, playgrounds, open spaces, and other park amenities.

The goal is to get the decision of whether to assess property owners to cover the purchase and the upkeep of the property of the site on the ballot for an upcoming election. At least 1400 signatures from Los Osos voters are needed. In October, readers might see volunteers asking for signatures.

Should it make it to the ballot, a tax measure for general purposes only needs a simple majority (50% plus one). The cost is anticipated to be \$15 per parcel of land per month for 15 years to pay off the purchase price then \$8 a month after that for maintenance and improvements.

Dignity Heath offers Prostrate Cancer Screenings

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness month. Dignity Health Mission Hope Cancer Center in Santa

Maria, 1325 Church Street, is offering free prostate cancer screenings on September 27 from 9-11 a.m. for men who don't have health insurance and who are between the ages of 45-70. Participants must have a reservation in advance because spaces are limited. Call (805)219-HOPE (4673) to reserve a space.

"Every year, prostate cancer silently threatens hundreds of thousands of men, stealing lives and impacting families," organizers said in a press release. "It's a stark reality: 1 in 8 men will face this diagnosis in their lifetime, and tragically, tens of thousands will succumb to it annually. This silent epidemic demands our immediate attention and proactive action."

Cuesta Foundation Awards \$777,640 in Scholarships

The Cuesta College Foundation awarded a record-breaking \$777,640 in scholarships for the 2025-26 academic year, marking the largest scholarship total in the Foundation's history. This milestone was celebrated at the Foundation's annual Scholarship Reception on Friday, Sept. 5, at Cuesta College's San Luis Obispo Campus, where donors, students, and community members gathered to honor the transformative impact of philanthropy.

In addition to scholarships, the Foundation provides over \$600,000 in supplementary student support, which includes the Cuesta Promise, student awards, and emergency grants, totaling over \$1.4 million in direct aid to students this year.

"This record-breaking year reflects the remarkable generosity of our donors and the determination of our students," said Executive Director of the Cuesta College Foundation Katie Osman in a news release. "At a time when the cost of living is high and basic needs are pressing, every scholarship, award, and grant serves as a powerful reminder that we believe in our students. We're not just funding education; we're funding futures and investing in a stronger, more hopeful community."

The Cuesta College Foundation remains committed to making higher education accessible to all. With the support of individual donors, local businesses, and community partners, it ensures that students from all backgrounds have access to the resources they need to succeed.

For more information about the Cuesta College Foundation or to learn more about giving opportunities, go to cuesta.edu/give/ or call (805) 546-3279.

Clean-Up Week Sept. 29 – Oct. 3



Mission Country Disposal holds their bi-annual Clean-Up Week in Los Osos the week of September 29 through October 3.

Clean-up Week is a community service program offering free collection of extra trash bags for single-family residential customers, along with discount scheduled pick-up of a bulky or large item for both single-family and multi-family customers. Additional scheduled bulky item pickup is available for a discounted rate during this week.

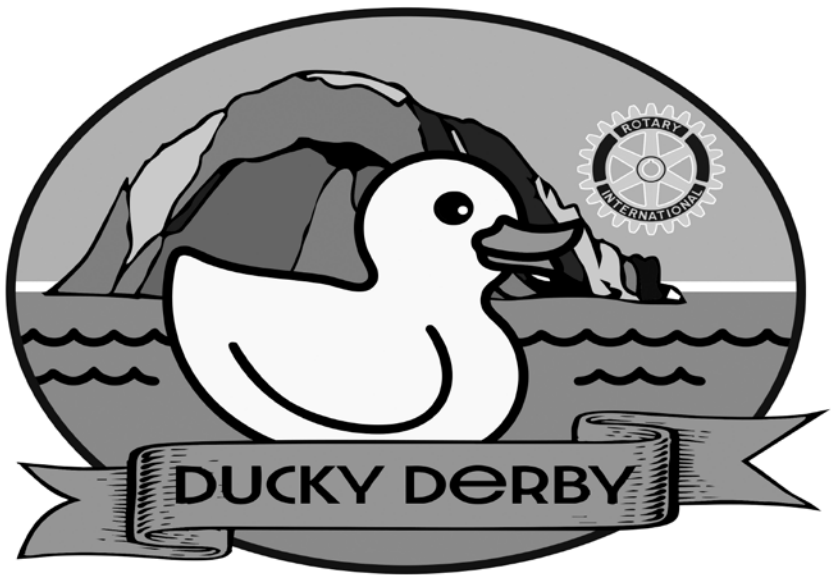
Patrons may set out up to six 32-gallon trash bags with a maximum weight of 75 pounds and length of 4 feet per bag for no additional cost.

Place your trash bags at the curb by 6 a.m. on your regular collection day. Reminder: Be sure not to block your containers, as automated trucks will still be in operation. If you have scrap metal, e-waste, or bulky/large items, you can schedule a special pick-up at a discounted rate during Clean-Up Week.

The cost varies per item. Call the office at 805-543-0875 at least 5 days before your collection day to schedule the pickup. Items will not be picked up unless scheduled in advance and leaving items on the curb without a scheduled pickup is prohibited.

For more information, go to sanluisgarbage.com/residential or call 805-543-0875.

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News

Wrong-way Driver Convicted; Faces Life in Prison

A San Luis Obispo man has been convicted in a 2023 wrong-way, drug-induced injury crash on Hwy 101 that severely injured two others and now faces a potential life sentence.

According to a news release from District Attorney Dan Dow's Office, a jury on Sept. 18 convicted Ryan James Johnson, 48 of SLO of felony DUI with great bodily injury while under the influence of drugs; reckless driving causing great bodily injury; hit and run with great bodily injury; and driving on a suspended license.



Ryan James Johnson, 48 of San Luis Obispo, faces a possible life sentence after being convicted in a 2023 injury crash on Hwy 101.

A further court hearing determined that Johnson's previous criminal convictions put him under the State's: Three Strikes" law and he now faces a possible life sentence in prison.

The crime happened on Dec. 27, 2023, when Johnson was driving south on Hwy 101 through SLO, and under the influence of methamphetamine and marijuana.

"At the time of the crime," the release said, "Johnson was driving the vehicle without a valid driver's license because it had been suspended years earlier for a prior DUI conviction."

When he neared the exit at Marsh Street, Johnson decided to go the other direction, but on the same side of the highway.

"Johnson abruptly turned his car around and began driving northbound against traffic," the news release said. Traffic was heavy, as it almost always is on that stretch of highway and Johnson didn't get far.

"He drove in the emergency lane, reaching speeds of over 70 mph in heavy traffic," the release said. "When he reached the Broad Street exit, he slammed head-on into

another motorist, causing Johnson's car to go airborne and strike a second vehicle."

The driver of the first car suffered serious injuries and the second driver's car was badly damaged but apparently they were not seriously hurt. Johnson, whose car was totaled, decided to flee the scene of carnage.

"Johnson exited his disabled car," the D.A. said, "discarded two methamphetamine smoking pipes from his pockets, and attempted to flee the scene."

Witnesses notified Highway Patrol officers who responded to the scene of where Johnson had gone and they were able to soon catch him and take him into custody. But he wasn't done, and while being treated at the hospital before going to jail, Johnson escaped.

"While awaiting medical clearance, and when officers were not in his immediate presence, Johnson left the hospital on foot. CHP officers arrested Johnson at his home the following day."

Blood samples had apparently already been drawn from Johnson before he ran off. "A DUI investigation and forensic blood draw revealed Johnson was under the influence of methamphetamine and marijuana."

Johnson, having been convicted and facing a potential long prison sentence, will be back before Judge Crystal Tindell Seiler on Monday, Nov. 3 for sentencing. He faces a possible maximum sentence of 31-years and 4-months to life in prison, according to the D.A., and comes under the Three Strikes Law.

His prior convictions include two counts of robbery where a co-defendant was armed with a firearm, the D.A. said, residential burglary, and conspiracy to commit robbery.

This latest case was investigated by the CHP with the help from the CHP Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team.

Dep. D.A. Hunter Starr prosecuted the case. Victim and witness assistance were provided by Victim Advocate, Aracely Maldonado and Witness Coordinators Eloiza Basinger and Kellie Navarro.

Hot Wheels



The Morro Bay Fire Department extinguished a car fire Aug. 24 in the Albertson's Market parking lot. Fire Chief Dan McCrain said the vehicle was a Mercedes SUV with a gas engine and not a hybrid or electric vehicle.

"The fire," Chief McCrain said, "is believed to be caused by an electrical problem with the vehicle. There were two other vehicles damaged that were parked in close proximity to the car involved."

No injuries were reported in the fire, however, the vehicle sustained extensive damage and is likely totaled. In the photo, firefighters look over the fire damaged Mercedes.

Photo courtesy SLO County News

Three Suffer Major Injuries in Hwy 101 Crash

Three senior citizens suffered major injuries when a Mercedes van crossed in front of them on Hwy 101 causing a T-bone collision.

According to Highway Patrol Lt. Darren Gennuso of the CHP Templeton Office, at about 6:20 p.m. Sunday,

101 Crash Continued on page 8

Library Reopens From page 4

Archives.

- Prioritizing students with additional study and classroom seating, including two new seminar rooms.
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A pre-conference field trip on October 2 will offer 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.

The teen selected by the Governor will receive a \$10,000 stipend and will be responsible for providing a minimum of six public readings. In addition, the teen will develop a poetry-specific project in collaboration with the California Poet Laureate that will bring literary arts to California students with limited poetry exposure. Check out the requirements for the applications at capoetlaureate.org/tpl-application.

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Police Blotter



• **Sept. 7:** Police contacted some scalawag at 11:48 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the juiced weasel was issued a one-way ticket to Palooka-ville for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **Sept. 7:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:53 p.m. someplace in town and issued the driver a citation for a suspended license and put a hold on the car so it cannot be released to the owner until he or she produces a valid driver's license, also called the vehicle kiss of death law.

• **Sept. 6:** Police stopped another suspicious vehicle at 10:56 p.m. near the start of the witching hour in these parts. Logs indicated the driver was cited for misdemeanor driving under the influence of panther sweat.

• **Sept. 6:** Police responded at 4:11 p.m. to Albertson's Market on Quintana for a disturbance of some kind. Logs indicated the matter involved a trespasser obstructing the conducting of public business, or in other words some squit was refusing to skedaddle.

• **Sept. 6:** Police responded to a minor hit-n-split at 3:16 p.m. someplace in town.

• **Sept. 5:** Police responded at 10:33 p.m. to a disturbance at the Pizza Port Restaurant corner of Main and Morro Bay Boulevard. Some pepperoni apparently had a few drafts too many and was causing a row with his or her spouse.

• **Sept. 5:** At 7:10 p.m. at another lucky location in town, police responded to yet another whet whistle who was blowing up a disturbance. Logs indicated the moron also started an arson fire, which logs said was a felony.

• **Sept. 5:** Police responded to an unknown location in town at 2:40 p.m. where someone had died of apparent natural causes.

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• **Sept. 4:** Police responded at 10:44 p.m. to Anytime Fitness on Quintana apparently after the fire department had already gone there on some type of medical aid. Logs indicated they contacted somebody who allegedly had obstructed EMTs trying to do their jobs. The genius also had a bench warrant and his anytime became now.

• **Sept. 4:** Police responded at 6:40 p.m. to Albertson's for a reported case of felony identity theft through some kind of confidence game.

• **Sept. 4:** Police contacted some apparent urban camper at 2:04 p.m. someplace where he shouldn't have been and cited the skint for a muni code violation.

• **Sept. 4:** Police responded at 9:34 a.m. to some undisclosed location where someone said his or her car had been burgled. It was the second such case reported within an hour. Police started felony crime reports, and a posse was no doubt formed to hunt down the varmints.

• **Sept. 4:** Police took a report at Del Mar Elementary of suspected child abuse.

• **Sept. 3:** Police responded at 11:20 p.m. to a disturbance at Burger King on Quintana. Logs indicated the apparent whopper responsible was nicked for suspicion of possessing drugs and paraphernalia, and he won't have it his way where he's going.

• **Sept. 3:** Police responded to another disturbance at 5:22 p.m. somewhere in town. Logs indicated the incident involved a greased flesh monkey who'd had too much tarantula juice and was unable to not go to jail.

• **Sept. 3:** At 2:22. Police towed off a car with expired registration; in case you wondered where your vehicle went.

• **Sept. 2:** Police are investigating a reported case of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of 18.

• **Sept. 2:** Police responded at 7 a.m. to the 1200 block of Embarcadero for a reported vandalism at Crill's SaltWater Taffy store.

• **Sept. 3:** Police responded at 3:50 a.m. to North Main Street for a reported vandalism at the USA Gasoline station. Logs indicated the rascal allegedly resisted arrest and received an attitude adjustment.

• **Sept. 2:** Police responded at 1:50 a.m. to a disturbance at an undisclosed location in town. According to logs, the Scamboogah was arrested on several charges including two counts of assaulting a child, one count of threatening someone with the intent to terrorize, a parole violation, and of course being fitshaced on drugs.

• **Sept. 1:** Police responded to City Park at 10:30 p.m. for another disturbance. This one was listed as threatening to terrorize, assault, possession of paraphernalia and of drugs with more than two priors, in an apparent case of drug induced cranial-rectal inversion disease.

• **Sept. 1:** Police responded to a store at 6 p.m. for a secret shopper apparently using the help-yourself aisle.

• **Sept. 1:** Police responded at 12:20 p.m. to a reported fight at Giovanni's Fish Market on the Embarcadero. The matter was deemed a misdemeanor and no doubt declared a draw.

• **Aug. 31:** Police responded at 8:55 p.m. to Lila Keiser Park where some larceny was afoot. A crime report was written and the manhunt begun.

• **Aug. 30:** Police responded at 10:22 p.m. to a car crash at an undisclosed location in town. Let's hope it was nothing serious.

• **Aug. 30:** Police responded at 12:21 p.m. to the Harbor Hut on the Embarcadero for a reported smash-n-dash crash.

101 Crash From page 6

Sept. 14 a 2024 Mercedes Sprinter Van, driven by Alvaro Rojas, 54, was going north on Hwy 101 at Exline Road and moved into the left turn lane, presumably getting ready to make a left turn across the northbound lanes of the highway onto Exline Road, one of several uncontrolled turns off the highway between Paso Robles and San Miguel.

Meanwhile, a 2006 Lincoln Town Car, driven by Louie Carreon, 81, was traveling 65 mph south on Hwy 101 with two senior lady passengers on board. The Mercedes van turned in front of the Town Car and Carreon was unable to avoid the collision and slammed into the side of the van.

Lt. Gennuso said Carreon and both passengers suf-

fered major injuries and were taken by ambulance to Sierra Vista Hospital. One of the passengers was in the back seat and was not wearing a seatbelt and was "ejected from the rear seat into the driver's front seat."

Rojas in the van suffered a minor seatbelt abrasion in the crash.

Lt. Gennuso said, "Alcohol and/or drugs were not believed to be a factor in this crash." The Templeton CHP Office is further investigating the crash.

Several severe and eerily similar crashes have occurred along that stretch of highway. Major injury collisions have occurred at this intersection as well as at Wellsona, Stockdale, and Monterey Roads.

• **Aug. 30:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle that apparently blew through a stop sign at the suspect time of 1:23 a.m. when decent law-abiding folks are home in bed. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of driving hosed.

• **Aug. 29:** At 7:24 p.m. police responded to another hit-n-split crash somewhere in town.

• **Aug. 29:** Police responded to an undisclosed location in town at 6:53 p.m. to deal with a reported battery but didn't say who zoomed who.

• **Aug. 29:** Police were called to a disturbance at 12:41 p.m. at the Sinclair Gas Station in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Logs indicated some juiced-up groom of the stool was causing a ruckus.

• **Aug. 29:** Police responded to a reported fire at 11 a.m. at an undisclosed location in town. Logs indicated they started a crime report for felony arson.

• **Aug. 29:** Police responded at 8:46 a.m. to a report of some illuminasty person soliciting a lewd act in public (yuck!). Logs did not say where this happened nor if an arrest was made for what's listed as a misdemeanor, as the solicitation was apparently no big thing.

• **Aug. 29:** Police responded to a report of illegal dumping, apparently of trash, somewhere in town. The dastardly deed was deemed an infraction.

• **Aug. 28:** Police responded at 7:57 p.m. to Distassio's on the Bay on Morro Bay Boulevard, where they encountered a fellow with a felony warrant and took him away, ha-ha, hee-hee...

• **Aug. 28:** Police responded at 3:47 p.m. to the Morro Bay Recovery Center on North Main for a reported petty theft, as somebody's recovery apparently isn't taking too well.

• **Aug. 28:** Police are investigating a felony case of identity theft reported by some unidentified citizen at an unknown location.

• **Aug. 28:** Police cited a car apparently parked on a City street that hasn't given the DMV its annual bloodletting for over 6 months.

• **Aug. 27:** Police contacted a regular customer at 6:33 p.m. in City Park and cited the scofflaw. The naughty fellow was apparently also allegedly in possession of drugs and paraphernalia, compounding his woes considerably.

• **Aug. 24:** Another report of a crash-n-dash came in that according to logs occurred Aug. 24, but apparently took a while to realize.

• **Aug. 27:** Police discovered yet another delinquent vehicle with expired registration and cited the four wheeled fiend.

• **Aug. 27:** Police responded to a disturbance at 9:06 a.m. at an undisclosed location in town. Logs indicated some mulish person was refusing to leave private property and therefore allegedly trespassing, for which there is no forgiveness.

• **Aug. 25:** Police responded at 7:37 p.m. to another trespasser report this time at the Family Partnership Charter School at the old Morro Elementary.

• **Aug. 25:** Police responded at 1:31 p.m. to the North Pit parking lot adjacent to Morro Creek, for a report of indecent exposure in a public place. Logs indicated they also got the dude for suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia, though didn't say where he was hiding it.

• **Aug. 25:** Police responded at 10:44 p.m. somewhere in town for some apparent Snallygaster allegedly making terrorist threats, exhibiting a deadly weapon, not a firearm, assault and having mental health issues, which explains a lot.

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Community

Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa- Marie Wilson

Los Osos Chamber Opens New Office



The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce’s new office located at 2141 Bush Drive, Suite D, is open and ready for business after shuttering their previous location in 2020.

“This new office is a reflection of where we’re headed as a Chamber and as a community,” said Chamber President Colleen Vecchetti. “It gives us the space and tools to better serve our members, foster stronger connections, and support local businesses in meaningful ways. We’re excited to create a welcoming place where ideas can grow and partnerships can thrive right here in Los Osos and Baywood Park.”

The new location provides tourism information and space for hosting meetings, networking events, workshops, and one-on-one business support.

“Our mission has always been to support and elevate the local business landscape and the people behind our businesses,” Vecchetti said. “Our Chamber is also unique in our role in providing community events. This move is a tangible step forward and will continue to allow us to serve our community. We look forward to welcoming our community into this next chapter with us.”

Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed. For details and updates, visit <https://lobpchamber.org> or contact the Chamber at (805) 528-4884 or info@lobpchamber.org.

Women Making Waves Sept. 28



Join Women Making Waves for a fun meetup on Sunday Sept 28 at Making SLO, 751 Higuera St. in SLO from 5 to 7 p.m. This is an open invite to all women who are making waves in their lives, businesses, and communities — connect, unwind, and have some fun!

Things start off with a casual hangout at Making SLO where attendees sip, shop and savor the incredible creations of local makers.

The gathering includes sparkling drinks by Root Elixirs and delicious bites from vendors that are featured in the store, a custom silk scarf making, a Blend Bar to make your own bath salts, a private shopping experience, and a curated gift bag with all locally made gifts.

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members and are available on My805tix.com. Those who want to keep the good vibes going are invited to head out downtown, grab dinner, take a walk around and enjoy the SLO life.

Mural Mile and Beach Pail Project Debuts

A new compilation of Morro Bay’s painted public art by Morro Bay in Bloom is viewable on mobile phones and computers.

The “Mural Mile and Beach Project” features 102 pieces of art that can be seen during a ninety-minute stroll of the waterfront and downtown.

“Morro Bay’s painted public art depicts the history and culture of Morro Bay and how these elements shape our community’s values and interests today,” said Walter Heath, president of Morro Bay in Bloom, in a press release. “The tour is an homage to Morro Bay Public Art Foundation, who sponsored many of the murals on the self-guided tour.”

The downloadable tour, designed by Morro Bay resident John O’Brien of Artministry.com, features a map and an exhibit guide with photos and information about every piece. The map traces a casual walking path with the Maritime Museum and 810 Morro Bay Boulevard (Bamboo Bamboo Restaurant) as the endpoints. Murals at 530 Quin-

tana Road (Catch A Wave Beauty Salon) and 20 State Park Road (Morro Bay Museum of Natural History) can be seen on excursions separate from the main route. The tour can be downloaded to a mobile phone via QR code (see the ad in this edition of Estero Bay News). Businesses and entities that serve the public are encouraged to clip the QR code and share it.

“We chose to go 100 percent electronic because the tour can be updated easily, it’s accessible to folks of limited mobility, and it saves paper,” said Heath.

Viewers on computers can go to morrobayinbloom.org and click the button on the home page to take a remote tour.

Good News About Bad News Bears

A team of lovable losers could make local kids big winners when the classic baseball comedy, “Bad News Bears,” plays the Bay Theater.

Set for 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, “Bad News Bears,” stars Tatum O’Neal, Walter Matthau and Vic Morrow. The screening is a benefit for the Community Foundation of Estero Bay, a non-profit foundation that awards scholarships to kids in the Estero Bay communities — Morro Bay, Los Osos and Cayucos — so they can participate in City and youth sports leagues, recreational and other en-



Tatum O’Neal and Walter Matthau star in the 1976 baseball comedy, Bad News Bears, which will be shown Monday, Oct. 6 at The Bay Theater, a benefit for the Community Foundation of Estero Bay.

Bad News Bears Continued on page 23



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Community

Baywood Lighted Boat Parade



Photos by Dean Sullivan

A local SLO County waterfront recently lit up in more ways than one. Nearly 100 illuminated boats took to the water at the 2nd Street pier for the 4th Baywood Lighted Boat Parade.

A crowd of hundreds gathered for the return of the event that had been paused during the pandemic.

The parade drew participants of all ages with a wide range of floating, illuminated water crafts. Decorations ranged from string lights to glowing mannequins to a light-up farmers’ market and a couple of viking ships.

The sweet sounds of music by the Cimo Brothers filled the air as enthusiastic attendees danced for hours on the mud and on the water.

Beautiful glass trophies from Emerick Studios were awarded to the most creative boat, Bob Rice’s illuminated dragon head viking ship, and the people’s choice award, for the crew of glowing jellyfish on stand up paddle boards (featuring organizers from the local witches’ paddle).

The event organizers presented a Local Luminary award to Volumes of Pleasure Bookshop for their decades of serving our neighbors as a thriving independent bookstore and a supportive hub and resource for our community. They also honored local artist, journalist, and historian Joan Sullivan, who recently passed just months before her 100th birthday, for her decades of meaningful contributions to our community.



A Dose of Good Dogma



Junkyard/Backyard Dog

By Lisa Ellman

Now we can start to understand why so called “junkyard” dogs always seem so vicious.

It’s not because they were ever specifically trained to protect or guard the property, that would be way too expensive; it’s because they were never socialized to people or raised to be part of the family pack. I doubt those dogs ever had much interaction involving play or bonding with their owner in any way. That wasn’t their purpose. Their fierce aggressiveness was likely borne out of fear, deriving from a lack of socialization.

In my years as a trainer, fear aggression is one of the most common behaviors I see. I mention all this because, although not necessarily only in junkyards, there are still people who think that letting their family dog live in the yard night and day is just fine. It’s not.

Domesticated dogs did not evolve as solitary creatures. More than any other domesticated species, dogs are pack animals that thrive on the companionship of others. As companion animals to us hairless apes, they rely on the bond and trust for their survival.

One way that bond is developed is by sharing a den. Unfortunately, through no fault or choice of their own, there are still dogs that are relegated to living outside; alone and separated from the pack.

You can find these dogs in almost every neighborhood, perhaps tethered to a stake or tree in the backyard, or left in the garage while people are away for the day. Maybe the dog is attached to a long line that can move across the yard from above. Maybe there’s shelter, maybe not. Food and water may be absent or just beyond the dog’s reach. Isolated and captive, the backyard dog suffers. Think of the barking, whining or the destructive behavior you’ve heard or seen in people’s backyards. That dog is trying its hardest to attract attention, of any kind! Even getting someone to come outside and yell at them offers the reward of contact.

People that consistently keep their dogs outside often rationalize, saying they spend time with the dog while working in the yard, taking the occasional walk or spending a few minutes throwing a ball when they have a chance. It’s possible that someone may be providing food, water and some engagement on a regular basis, but the dog remains alone and isolated for most of the time. Alone and aban-

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Community

done outside the pack, dogs become stressed, anxious, bored and frustrated, contributing to behaviors like fear and escape. These components are what lead directly to aggressive, destructive and inappropriate behaviors and destroy two of the dog's strongest instincts — denning and human sociability. And, as with humans, a dog that is constantly stressed, anxious and agitated, is more likely to develop serious health issues.

All this is not to say that one must spend every minute devoted to catering and entertaining their dog. Training and socializing will allow the dog to learn the rules of being indoors. Play, exercise and enrichment activities will burn up energy so that once indoors, the dog can enjoy a chew toy and calmly be with you as you watch TV or read a book. Often, your dog will happily curl up under your feet and sleep.

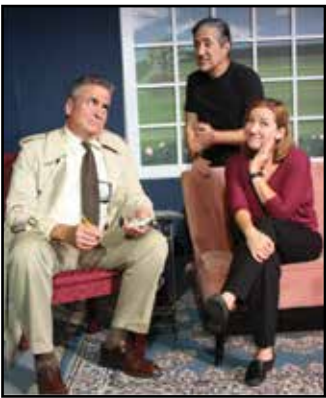
The essential thing to remember is that being incorporated into the family pack is vital for both the physical and mental well-being of your dog.

Good Dogma has been helping dogs with people problems since 1996. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@hotmail.com. Contact information for all services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

By the Sea Productions presents "Self-Help" by Norm Foster, about a married, second-rate acting couple who decide to cast themselves as self-help gurus. To their surprise, they become wildly revered, nationally recognized relationship role models. Unfortunately, with the pressures of success, these "experts" find themselves trying to save their own failing marriage and lucrative image. And then there's the dead lover in their study!



Lisa Woske directs this comedy, running October 3-19, with performances Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at 545 Shasta Ave. in Morro Bay. Reservations and tickets at bytheseaproductions.org or 805-776-3287.

The 41st Annual Central Coast Writers' Conference is in the books for Friday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo. Tickets: \$300 regular conference/\$150 Master Classes/\$75 Teen Program CCWC 2025, for writers of all levels and genres, fea-

tures more than 45 presenters, breakout sessions, Master Classes, Teen Program, keynote speakers, bookstore, vendors, and networking opportunities. They can be reached at (805) 610-4252 or centralcoastwritersconference@gmail.com.

A Celebration of World Music & Cultures takes place Sunday October 12 at 2 p.m. at the Red Barn in Los Osos, 2180 Palisades Avenue. This event is a chance to enjoy and learn about world music and dance forms that have become part of North American culture.



La Gitane (the Gypsy), is a Central Coast-based flamenco dancer and teacher. She descends from Gypsy and Sephardic ancestry, which is fully embodied in her art. In the Los Angeles area, La Gitane (aka Jamie Hanley) has performed extensively including engagements at the Getty Museum, El Cid, and the House of Blues Hollywood. La Gitane will be accompanied by renowned Bay Area guitarist Ricardo Diaz, who has studied with several of Spain's top guitar masters. Diaz performs internationally, appears at flamenco festivals, and collaborates regularly with leading dance companies and guitarists.

The concert also features Ken Habib, composer, multi-instrumentalist, recording artist & Cal Poly ethnomusicology professor. Habib, who is the director of the Arab Music Ensemble at Cal Poly, will perform selections of Arab art and popular music, including classics, originals and improvisations. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students) and must be reserved by contacting the event organizer Devin Wallace at devinwalla@gmail.com or (805) 709-2227.

Join the French Medical Center Foundation on Saturday, October 18 at 5 p.m. for Gathering for Good at the White Barn, San Luis Obispo. The event is a celebration of the French Hospital Foundation's 20th anniversary benefiting patient programs and services at San Luis Obispo's original nonprofit hospital, French Hospital Medical Center. The event includes live music by Silk Ocean, a gourmet dinner by Ox + Anchor and the 2025 Louis Tedone, MD Humanitarian Award Presentation to brothers Edwin Hayashi, MD and Howard Hayashi, MD, and a live auction. Tickets range in price from \$250 to \$15,000 and can be purchased at http://bit.ly/4pxBne4.

Free programs at the Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave. They can be reached at 805-528-1862. Current Featured Wall Artist: Kim Winberry paintings. Paws to Read – Wednesdays, 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Come and read your favorite book to Berkeley! She's at the Los Osos Library on Wednesday afternoons. School age.

- Storytime - Thursdays, 10:30 – 11 a.m. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.
- Fiber Arts Club - Thursday, October 2, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Join us for our monthly Fiber Arts Club. Bring your project and enjoy camaraderie with like-minded sewers, stitchers, knitters, and anything fiber arts. Adults.
- Button Making Party – Friday, October 3, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker! For ages 8-18.
- Pokemon Card Trading – Saturday, October 4, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Do you wanna be the very best like no one ever was? Then bring your Pokémon cards to meet, compete, and trade with other collectors your age! School age, tween, and teen.
- Marble Run – Friday, October 10, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Come to the library and play with marbles! Build your own creations and have lots of fun. Preschool and school age.



What would you ask a man who claims to have been alive for 14,00 years? What begins as a casual farewell to a university professor takes an extraordinary turn when he reveals a shocking secret: he is immortal. He has walked the earth for more than 14,000 years. As his colleagues press for answers, their evening unfolds into a profound exploration of science, history, and faith that builds to an unforgettable climax. Written by Jerome Bixby, creator of "Star Trek" and "The Twilight Zone" classics, "The Man from Earth" is his final masterpiece. This timeless story challenges how we see humanity, memory, and the meaning of existence. The show, presented by Cambria Center for the Arts runs two weekends, November 7–9 and November 14–16. Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Get tickets at my805tix.com/e/man-earth.

The Foundation at Hearst Castle and The Monday Club of San Luis Obispo are teaming up for two unique fashion shows that blend history, style, and preservation with the Weekend on the Hilltop: a 1935 Fashion Show on Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again at 4 p.m. Hosted at The Monday Club, at 1815 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, the runway will showcase garments from the Hearst Castle Living History Collection alongside rare pieces from private collections —bringing the past to life with dramatic style. Emmy Award-winning journalist Jane Wells and community leader Robin Smith will emcee the events, guiding guests through a celebration that's as glamorous as it is

Events Continued on page 12

Edward Jones

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Community

Events From page 11



meaningful. Guests at the Fashion Show can expect fine wine, and plenty of opportunities to support conservation and education. Tickets and sponsorships are available now at both the Monday Club's and the Foundation's websites, themondayclubslo.org/ and foundationathearstcastle.com/events.

...

Free youth programs in October at the Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St. They can be reached at (805) 772-6394.

- **DIY Button Making** - Wednesday, October 1, 3 – 5 p.m. Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker! For ages 8-18.
- **Freedom to Read Storytime** - Tuesday, October 7, 10:30-11 a.m. We will celebrate every child's freedom to read by sharing picture books that have been banned or challenged around the country.
- **Build a Marble Run** - Wednesday, October 8, 3 – 5 p.m. Play with marbles and build your own creations!
- **Sensory Playtime** - Saturday, October 11, 10 – 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.



Take Watercolor with Jan French at Art Center Morro Bay on Mondays 6-8:30 p.m. There are three sessions:

- Session 1 - October 6, 13, 20 and 27

- Session 2 - November 3, 10, 17 and 24
- Session 3 - December 1, 8, 15, and 22

This is an introduction for beginners to the basics, and a refresher class for more advanced students, to practice the challenge of painting watercolors from a logical approach. Each student will work at his or her own pace and personal style will be encouraged. We'll explore how to get your ideas onto paper, whether you have never used watercolor before, just find watercolor too frustrating (you're not alone), or just want to "loosen up". We'll explore basic techniques that will form your own library of approaches to different effects that you want to explore and combine. Our emphasis will be on your own direction, color choices, subject matter and style preferences. Use your own photos, our occasional still life set-ups, and/or learn by trying to duplicate watercolor paintings of the masters.

Classes limited to 8 students. Some drawing skill is helpful but not mandatory. Register at ArtCenterMorro-Bay.org/workshops or call 805-772-2504.

...



See The Horsenecks in Concert at the Historic Octagon Barn Center on October 1 7 p.m. with an old time jam at 6. Tickets are \$20/\$15 (Under 12) advance / \$25/\$20 (Under 12) door (subject to availability). They are available at Eventbrite.com.

For more information, contact Daniel Bohlman at 805-235-2874.

The Horsenecks are Gabrielle Macrae and Barry Southern. Based in Astoria, Oregon, they are two multi-instrumentalists who have come together from traditional music backgrounds and forged a sound that weaves through early Appalachian fiddle and banjo music, country, classic bluegrass and original folk.

Seating is first come, first served.

...

Join screenwriter Rob Edwards for a reception and exclusive screening of the G-rated 2009 film, "The Princess and the Frog" at the Palm Theatre in San Luis Obispo on Thursday, Sept. 25 beginning at 5 p.m.

"The Princess and the Frog," nominated for three Academy Awards, is an animated musical romantic comedy produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. Edwards

describes it as "a princess movie for people who don't like princess movies." The film was inspired by the novel "The Frog Princess" and is a modern adaptation of the German folk tale "The Frog Prince."

Edwards co-wrote the screenplay with the film's directors, John Musker and Ron Clements.

The event is a partnership between the Cuesta College Central Coast Writers' Conference (CCWC) and the Palm Theatre. Edwards is the closing keynote speaker for the 2025 conference and will teach a master class on screenwriting and lead two break-out sessions. In addition to "The Princess and the Frog," Edwards wrote the Academy Award-nominated "Treasure Planet" and consulted on "Tangled," "Wreck-It Ralph," and "Frozen." In 2025, three of his films were released: "Marvel's Captain America: Brave New World," "Sneaks," and "The King of Kings." He is currently writing projects for Universal, Showtime, and Sony.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for a reception with Edwards. The film screening begins at 6 p.m., followed by an interview and question-and-answer session with Edwards.

Tickets cost \$12 for general admission and \$10 for seniors 60 and older and children 12 and younger. Tickets can be pre-ordered at thepalmtheatre.com/tickets.



...

Film lovers in San Luis Obispo County will join over 100,000 film enthusiasts around the world during the week of Sept 25 - Oct 5 when the 28th Annual Manhattan Short Film Festival screens at select County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries.

Manhattan Short 2025 screens simultaneously across the world during a one-week period, with the Best Film and Best Actor awards determined by ballots cast by the audiences in each participating venue. By virtue of their selection by Manhattan Short, each short film is automatically Oscar-qualified.

The ten Manhattan Short finalists hail from seven countries with films from Spain, Israel, United Kingdom, Norway, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Mexico, alongside three films from the USA. For a complete list of venues taking part in the event, go to <http://bit.ly/46CqNtM>.

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.

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NATURAL
History
NUGGETS

It's Just a Bush



Coyote Bush flowers. Male left, and female right. Photo submitted

By Dean Thompson

Many years ago, while walking along a trail in Montana de Oro State Park, I saw an animal standing on a distant ridge looking down at me. It had long, thin legs and what looked to be a furry body and tail hanging down behind it. A coyote? A little while later, I looked back, and the animal was still standing there. I swung my binoculars up and focused on it and quickly realized it was not a coyote. It wasn't even an animal. It was just a bush with light colored, fuzzy seeds covering the top of it, a coyote bush. This has happened more than once, and not just to me. I've often wondered if that's how that plant got its name.

The coyote bush (also called coyote brush) is a native California shrub that all of us have seen but is so ordinary that sometimes our eyes just glaze over it while looking at the showier ceanothus, sages, lupines, or stately manzanitas and oaks. But the rich green bush is a hardy resident of coastal California and on into Oregon and is worthy of respect for its tenacity.

A botanist friend of mine suggested that the term coyote bush may have come from the disdain the plant had among many farmers and ranchers in the past, as the term coyote was applied to anything that was a pest or worthless. Its wind carried seeds spread easily and far, and once

established, the plant is extremely hard to remove due to its extensive taproot. But it is this taproot that is key to its survival. Sometimes, within weeks after a fire where there's nothing left but smoldering stems, the plant will "crown sprout" out of the base of the soil-insulated taproot, like a phoenix from the ashes.

The big root also helps the plants late in the fall. When the winter rains are a distant memory and all the other chaparral plants have gone dormant, the coyote bush remains green and blooms. Coyote brush is dioecious (Latin meaning two houses), the male plant with its round, little pale yellow flowers and the female plant with its white fuzzy flowers both provide nectar for many insects when there are few other plants in bloom, making it one of the few cafes in town open for bees and ensuring pollination.

But bees aren't the only insect that like coyote bush; over 18 different butterflies and moths have been documented visiting the flowers in the fall. The small, stiff leaves are also attractive as food for some insects. In the spring, the iridescent green coyote brush leaf beetles will lay their eggs on the plant, and soon their equally iridescent larvae will emerge to gorge on the leaves, sometimes skeletonizing the plant.

The plant can also be a favorite of the spittlebug (the adults are commonly called froghoppers due to their great leaping ability). Their larvae are tiny, soft little things that suck the juices of the coyote bush and then, with the help of glandular secretions and air, literally blow foam out their rear ends to create a white bubbly mass/nest that protects them from predators and heat or cold.

So, the next time you are driving down Hwy 101 and you see some scraggly green bush surviving along the roadside or in some abandoned field, that's more than likely our hardy friend, the coyote bush, a pioneer plant, a survivor, a home and café for many other animals. It's pretty remarkable for being just a bush.

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



OUT & ABOUT
WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

Nothing Under the Bed



By Catherine "Kiki" Kornreich

My name is Pearl. And I'm a dog. A golden retriever, to be precise. A blond English cream retriever, to be exact.

I'm five-years-old, and I just lost my best friend. Well, my next-to best friend. Mom gets the top spot. But my kitty brother just died, and he was my favorite buddy.

When I got adopted, Chester already lived with Mom. He was old, but he was funny. I think he was thirteen then, and that was five years ago. He could jump up on everything. Sometimes he'd take his little fingers and tap-tap-tap a toy off the dresser for me.

We'd play hide and seek, but he was so much better at it. He could hide anywhere. I was terrible at the game cuz I'm a lot bigger and slower (both physically and mentally! Ha!). And as I said, Chester could jump.

Out & About Continued on page 14

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Out & About From page 13

He'd always share his toys with me. I got in trouble for chewing some of them up, but Mom taught me, when I was baby, that I had to be gentle with toys. It took me a while to understand, but I got real good at taking care of all our toys, even the little ones with catnip inside.

And can we talk about catnip? Chester turned into a maniac if he played with one of those toys, but when I sniffed it, it just smelled like the stuff Mom uses for cooking.

Chester used to play fetch with my auntie. Margaret would toss him a toy, and Chester would bring it right back to her! And drop it at her feet! I can retrieve a ball, sure. I'm a golden retriever, after all. But I always forget to bring it back to Mom.

Chester used to do this funny thing after he pooped. He'd charge out of his litter box, race through the house and bank off the back of the couch. Seriously! He always made Mom laugh.

I used to get jealous when Chester would run to greet company. That was my job. And he'd steal all the attention, cuz I guess cats don't usually come when you call them.

I also got a little mad at night, cuz Chester got to sleep with Mom, while I had to sleep in a crate. They always spooned each other, and Chester even got to lay on top of her. I knew I was too heavy, but it still stung a little bit.

But boy did I love that little guy. We'd snuggle with Mom while she watched TV. Chester always let me have the couch, and he'd sit on Mom's tummy and knead bread on her bouncy-house belly. We'd sniff each other's nose and try to figure out what the other had eaten for dinner. His food always smelled fishy, but he'd lick my cheek and leave the yummy smell on my face.

He always teased me ... he'd stand in front of me and crouch down, twitching his tail. Of course that bored me to death, but then he'd turn and dart away. Everyone knows that doggies like to chase! So, we'd race through the house, laughing and crashing into things til he'd sneak under Mom's bed where I couldn't reach him.

We both got pretty good at begging for treats. And if we teamed up, Mom could never resist. As Chester got older, Mom gave him more and more of his cookies. Because she always played fair, I got more cookies too. I loved Chester for that.

But then Chester stopped being as frisky. His post-poopie antics slowed waaay down. Our races through the house became strolls, and he didn't play with his toys anymore. He slept in Mom's lap while she worked.

Mom started crying when she'd look at Chester. I tried to clean up his peepee accidents, cuz they would always make Mom cry harder.

He started sleeping in my big doggie beds, even my crate! He never used to do that. I'd go lay down beside him, cuz he seemed sad, and his purr was comforting.

I haven't seen Chester for a few weeks now, and I really miss him. I miss him rubbing against me as he'd walk by.

I keep looking under the bed, but he's never there.

Robert E. "Bob" McCorkle



Robert E. "Bob" McCorkle, professor emeritus agribusiness, Cal Poly, whose commitment to excellence and student success led to a life filled with joy as he saw his students gain pride in accomplishment, passed away peacefully on Aug. 25, 2025. Mary, his wife of 60 years was by his side.

Bob was recruited to Cal Poly in 1956 to play football with John Madden. A fellow player broke his leg during practice, ending his career. He majored in Farm Management.

His passion for agriculture began early in life. He remembered what it was like growing up on the family ranch at the top of Shrittail Canyon near Pinnacles National Park. His father Stanley and mother Muriel McCorkle set an example of hard work and thrift. "We milked cows by hand, had no electricity, no phones, and a wood stove for cooking and heat. We had beef cattle and thousands of turkeys, and we cut and raked hay with our work horses." He remained a partner in the family business, which has evolved and diversified over the years and is now located in the Sacramento Valley.

After graduating from Cal Poly, he attended graduate school at UC Davis. Bob obtained his master's degree in agricultural economics in 1962. He became one of three members of a new department in Agribusiness at Cal Poly. He retired after 54 years.

Bob always had a passion about the role that an agribusiness education has on alumni success. He developed courses and taught 28 different courses.

He was senior advisor of Alpha Zeta Professional fraternity for 35 years. In 1997 he was one of 100 agriculturalists named to the Centennial Honor Roll of Alpha Zeta in recognition of outstanding scholarship, leadership, fellowship and character in service to agriculture.

Bob led a team of seven Cal Poly professors to Zambia where he was Chief Farm Management Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture. His crop and land-use plans are still in use throughout Central Africa.

When Bob returned to Cal Poly, he served as director of international education. He worked on a variety of research projects in Africa, the Middle East, Central America, Asia and the Caribbean and aided formulating international development strategies for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bob obtained grants that enabled Cal Poly to maintain a Peace Corps liaison office for 35 years and earned a Lifetime Contribution Award for his volunteer service. Cal Poly received a coveted Peace Pole, which is located in Mustang Plaza, in recognition of the many Peace Corps volunteers.

He spent the last several years as the agribusiness department internship coordinator, which is one of the most successful programs in the country. Bob said, "What I like students to do is to go out and get some experience in industry and see what it's all about. If they do the light comes on and they say, 'there is a place in this world for me.'"

Bob was a devoted husband to Mary, father and grandfather. He is survived by his daughter Bonnie (Ron) Kraemer and three children, Laura, Emily and Robert and his daughter Robyn (David) Weinstock and son Scott.

Robert and Mary McCorkle Scholarship Endowment may be contributed to through the Cal Poly Foundation for students in agribusiness.

Digital Art Class



Meet digital artist and instructor Fred Ventura and experience the art of digital painting Saturday, October 4 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at Art Center Morro Bay located at 835 Main St. in Morro Bay.

Ventura shares his digital tips and tricks during this free demonstration. All are welcome! No reservations needed. See artcentermorrobay.org or call (805) 772-2504 for details.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* MORRO BAY

Dick Nixon Campaigning in Morro Bay

This image shows two political stars, Richard Nixon and Joe Giannini (left most). Both men went on to achieve great success in politics. Giannini outlived Nixon by 15 years and was universally admired when he died in 2009.

Future U.S. President Richard Nixon visited Morro Bay fishermen during a campaign visit to SLO County in April 1950. Nixon was a member of the House of Representatives at that time and was running as a Republican for a U.S. Senate seat that was not being contested by the incumbent, Democrat Sheridan Downey, who had resigned during the primary campaign. The Democratic candidate was primary winner Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas who was a movie star and political activist.

Nixon was on a campaign swing through the county on April 19 and 20 so the meeting on the dock in Morro Bay was one of many formal and informal events where he tried to engage with voters. In this case, he probably held an impromptu discussion about the problems of the commercial fishing industry. About half the men in the group were Morro Bay fishermen and the other half were part of the crew of the shark-fishing boat Excell out of San Francisco.

From the Morro Bay point of view, Joe Giannini was the most important person on the dock. He owned a fishing supply business and advocated for Morro Bay fishermen. He was one of the forces behind organizing the fishermen, and he worked hard to support the industry. He was very active in Morro Bay politics generally and became the second mayor of newly incorporated Morro Bay in 1968. His family has been prominent in Morro Bay ever since.

The photo catches Nixon explaining important policy matters to the fishermen to get their votes, but they probably already knew all about it.

Nixon did go on to win the senate seat in a landslide. He tarred Douglas with the accusation she was sympathetic to the Communists and, in Russia-phobic 1950, that finished her career. As everyone knows, Nixon went on to be elected president in 1968.

Source: SLO Telegram-Tribune, May 1, 1950. If you have questions, comments or a photo to share, please contact us at info@historicalmorrobay.org.



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News

Vendor Licenses Continued on page 1

Annual Sidewalk Vending Licensing program, developing an application form and establishing requirements, licensing fees and designating where such businesses can set up shop.

“This application,” reads a draft application form recently presented to the Harbor Advisory Board, “is intended to comply with Senate Bill 946 (Chapter 459, Statutes 2018) and City of Morro Bay Sidewalk Vendor Ordinance No. 634. In order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City, sidewalk vendors are limited in some areas in order to prevent undue concentrations of commercial activity and protect the character of the City.”

The draft form was developed by HAB’s Vendor Subcommittee and includes the normal details, like where a vendor proposes to set up; their address and other identification information; employee names; and the proposed days of operation and hours.

It also requires the vendors to indemnify and hold harmless the City, City Council, all employees of the City and City officials, too. The applicants must also pledge to obey all City laws, applicable regulations, and the requirements of the program.

“This indemnification shall include, but not be limited to, damages awarded against the City, if any, costs of suit, attorneys’ fees, and other expenses incurred in connection with such claim, action, or proceeding whether incurred by the permittee, City, and/or the parties initiating or bringing such proceeding.”

The list of requirements is lengthy and includes drawing up a site plan and picking up to three potential locations; a description of the business including whether the vendor also has another store in town; photos of the set up and equipment in use including dimensions — height, width, weight and length; and a description of the merchandise being sold.

If the vendor wants to do food stuff they’ll need to describe the food being sold, and how it will be prepared if they’ll be cooking on site. They need to identify the cooking equipment and power source, and they’ll need to be connected with a brick and mortar licensed food business in town. This is so they have access to a commercial kitchen.

They need a plan for collecting and disposing of all trash they might generate; and have a valid County Health Department permit, if required.

They’ll need \$100,000 in insurance coverage and put the City down as an insured entity.



Map developed by a committee of the Harbor Advisory Board shows potential sites near Morro Rock where sidewalk vendors might set up shop through a licensing program being developed for the waterfront.

They’ll also need proof of a State license from the Tax and Fee Administration plus a Morro Bay City business license.

It won’t be cheap either. The initial processing fee is \$643 with renewal fees of \$321 a year.

And if they are given a license, they also must pay the department rent of \$700 a month and “10% of all sales in every quarter” (every 3 months) due within a month of the end of the quarter. The percentage drops to 5% if the vendor is connected to a current Tidelands brick and mortar sublease. For example, for the third quarter — from July 1 to Sept. 30 — payment would be due by Oct. 31.

And they’ll have to keep meticulous records too. “If any of the above conditions are not met,” the draft application reads, “the permit will be revoked immediately and all future applications denied.”

So where would people be allowed to set up shop? The draft application has several maps of the waterfront. In the first map there are five starred areas, four by Morro Rock — near Target Rock at the Fishermen’s Family Statue; by the public restrooms; on the west side of the parking lot at the base of Morro Rock; and on the north side of the Rock parking lot overlooking the beach. A fifth star is at Coleman Park in the first dirt parking lot.

A second map shows two spots — in the Front Street parking lot near the Maritime Museum; and across the street by the South T-pier at the viewing area above sea otter cove.

A third map, showing Tidelands Park, has four stars — near the park’s playground; in the north parking lot; just south of the restrooms by the fish cleaning station; and oddly enough, one star is on the Sandspit but located well north of Tidelands, and actually across the bay from the South T-pier.

Estero Bay News asked Harbor Vitality Director Chris Munson about this vendor licensing program, which he

said is coming out of the Harbor Advisory Board.

“This has been a goal of the Harbor Department for many years,” Munson said, “and has been done effectively at Avila Beach/Port San Luis. These would be limited to the tidelands areas, which include the harbor, the seaward side of Embarcadero, the Rock parking lot, and launch ramp parking lot.”

Munson came to Morro Bay from Port San Luis Harbor District, so he’s seen this type of program in action before.

Who do they see applying for these licenses? “Types of these license businesses,” he said, “include surf schools, gear rentals on or near the beach [surfboards, kayaks, wetsuits], boat charters that do not pay rent or dockage, beach weddings, and mobile vendors.”

They already have one business out there. “An example of an existing one is the mobile sauna near Coleman Park. It is a currently under a 1-year license as a pilot program. Once the license program is established, they would need to re-apply through it.”

They are trying to expand the business climate on the waterfront and bring more money into a tight Harbor Fund.

“The intent of the license program is to not only provide additional business opportunities, visitor amenities, and sources of tax and Harbor Fund revenue,” Munson said, “but to establish parameters and limitations so that the licenses don’t have an unfair advantage over brick-and-mortar businesses and do not take away from the Morro Bay experience.”

When the City last went looking for a new harbor director the former City Manager changed the job description, adding the “vitality” moniker to change the position’s focus and look for someone with a nose for business and how to grow it. This somewhat ambitious new vendor program would seem to be in that spirit and if it works, would be a new revenue source to an enterprise fund that finds itself with limited income — deriving almost entirely from lease payments and slip and dockage fees — but with rising costs, and mounting infrastructure needs.

Potential locations were hot topics at the September HAB meeting.

“The license committee provided some materials for discussion at the September HAB meeting,” he said. “This was mainly focused on mobile vendors such as food trucks, and some potential locations were provided to consider.”

What about that star on the Sandspit? “The potential location on the Sandspit was quickly declined,” he said. “HAB will continue to discuss options at upcoming meetings.”

In the past, food trucks setting up out by Morro Rock have been a controversial topic, and they apparently still are.

“The HAB did not like the idea of food trucks in the Rock parking lot in general,” Munson said. “Some of the reasons being that they would directly compete with established businesses and would take away from the experience at the Rock.”

This summer there’s been a food truck parked off and

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News

on next to the Sun-n-Buns Bakery on the east side of the Embarcadero, on private property. This Harbor Department licensing program doesn't apply there.

Sun-n-Buns is "Not in [State] tidelands and is on private property," Munson said. "It is not in the Harbor's jurisdiction; you would need to check with City Hall."

There are others who try to scratch out an existence on the Embarcadero — street performers. Would they have to get a license too? "Hasn't really been discussed yet," Munson said.

The City previously had a licensed musician, Capt. Jimmy, who had a one-man band rig that he set up at Anchor Memorial Park for many years, with the blessings of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Another performer, master puppeteer Don Wallace, would also occasionally set up in the courtyard by the Flying Dutchman (now Dutchman's Landing) and draw crowds of children to his Punch & Judy shows, but that too is in the distant past.

So whether Morro Bay's waterfront will become more like others or not, is currently being debated by the licensing subcommittee of the Harbor Advisory Board. If it ever gets beyond the HAB, it would get run up the bureaucratic flagpole.

"After the committee and HAB have concluded providing their recommendations," Munson said, "Harbor Department staff will finalize the framework to be presented to the City Council for adoption."

Given the location where the ordinance would be applied, it's likely the matter would be appealable to the Coastal Commission.

And if it must be added to the Local Coastal Plan, likely as an amendment, it would have to go to the Commission for review and approval, which may or may not find something wrong with it.

In any event, getting sent up to the State agency would add months to any enacting date and delay what would be the first major change to how the Embarcadero does business since the 1990s, when fishermen started selling fresh caught salmon and then albacore tuna off the boats and directly to the public.

Letters To The Editor



'No' to the Rollback of the Roadless Rule

The California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLC-CC) writes in opposition to the proposal to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule") that prohibits new road construction and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas.

The CLCCC consists of ten California state legislators representing Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. We are committed to protecting the Central Coast's natural landscape, communities, and economy, and understand that preserving our wild spaces, coastlines, and working lands is crucial to maintaining our region's identity.

For over two decades, the Roadless Rule has protected over 60 million acres across the United States from road construction and timber harvesting in some of our nation's most pristine and environmentally significant areas. In California, the U.S. Forest Service manages 20 million acres of national forests, including over 3.9 million acres of inventoried roadless areas ("roadless areas"). One of these forests, the Los Padres National Forest, is located on the Central Coast and contains approximately 635,000 acres of roadless areas.

In the Los Padres National Forest, the roadless areas are essential to maintaining and supporting the outdoor recreation economy that draws people from around the world to the Central Coast. Close to a million people visit the forest annually, creating over \$75 million in revenue every year. The forest also generates more than 1,500 jobs and \$103.4 million in yearly income for wage earners and local businesses. Removing these protections for the Los Padres National Forest would be detrimental to our communities' economic and environmental health.

Roadless areas are important for mitigating the effects of extreme weather. Our national forests serve as important carbon sinks, helping remove millions of tons of carbon emissions that would otherwise contribute to extreme heat, atmospheric rivers, and ocean acidification. Opening these ecologically and environmentally important areas up for road development, mining, and logging will not only release the carbon stored, it will also leave our communities vulnerable to the devastating impacts of extreme weather, polluted waterways, fragmented ecosystems, and increased wildfire risks.

At a time when the Central Coast is already grappling with extreme heat, floods, and rising sea levels, defending the Roadless Rule is not just a matter of environmental stewardship, it is also one of public health and fiscal responsibility. Our region, like many others across the nation, cannot afford to expose our forests to the serious consequences that will come with the loss of the Roadless Rule.

For these reasons, the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus strongly opposes the rollback or weakening of any kind of the Roadless Rule. We urge you to uphold the Roadless Rule and preserve these irreplaceable public lands for the health, safety, and prosperity of our communities.

Sincerely,

Dawn Addis
Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 30th District
Gregg Hart
Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 37th District

Constitution Refresher

Educators may retire but we don't stop learning or indulging in a "refresher" course. With the current discourse on the state of the United States Constitution the California Retired Teachers Association, Division 23, SLO County, we see a need for just such a refresher course. Educator and attorney, Howard Gillingham will share the history, structure and the value of our Constitution with the goal of making us a more informed citizen and voter at

Letters Continued on page 19



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Charming Home with Versatile Living Space in the Heart of Los Osos

Nestled in the scenic town of Los Osos, this unique property offers the perfect blend of cozy charm and modern versatility. The main level features a 2-bedroom, 1-bath home with 833 square feet of living space, complete with its own laundry area and charming wood ceilings that evoke the feel of a cozy cabin. New carpet throughout both levels adds a fresh touch to this inviting space. Above, you'll find a permitted 1,164 square foot executive studio with a private entrance. This upper-level retreat includes a spacious kitchen, laundry area, walk in closet, 3/4 bathroom, and a viewing deck where you can take in the views of the surrounding area. Whether you're seeking additional living space for family, guests, or even rental income, this studio offers endless possibilities. Outside, the property features a fenced yard with a patio area, great for relaxing or entertaining. A storage shed in the backyard provides additional space for tools, equipment, or other storage needs. For added convenience, a carport offers covered parking for two cars side by side. Perfectly situated, this home is less than a block away from Baywood Elementary School, a dual-immersion school, and only a few blocks from downtown Baywood, which sits on the beautiful bay. Enjoy bird watching by the bay, kayaking, or taking a stroll along the water's edge. You can also savor breathtaking sunsets over the dunes. With popular eateries, a Monday farmers market, and more just minutes away, this location offers the best of both convenience and natural beauty. Whether you're looking for a cozy home or a property with potential for extra income, this charming residence in Los Osos is a true gem. To view more images, go to: 1455tenth.com



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A group of Save Cuesta Inlet board members and volunteers celebrate at the inlet after they raised funds to purchase the property in Los Osos. Photo by Bob Clover

An art sale brought in \$26,000 and a \$100,000 contribution came from a Baywood family. A little girl sent in \$11 with a note and a 100-year-old in Huntington Beach woman sent in \$100, also with a note, among many others making it truly a community effort with some help from former visitors and residents from across the country.

Donations are still needed for ongoing costs with maintenance and management.

Before deciding to dive deep into purchasing the Inlet, the non-profit reached out to multiple agencies to manage the land, but they would lose the guarantee of keeping it the same place that is enjoyed by kayakers, boaters, walkers, bird watchers, photographers and painters with easels in hand.

“We’re going to keep the ownership right here locally with local control and local input,” Schmidt said. “That way we can guarantee that people will be able to walk their dogs and do all the things that they gave money to do.”

Future Plans

Save Cuesta Inlet will go dark until sometime in early Jan. 26 to take time to regroup and set up plans for the future.

“We have to regroup and start thinking of a way to move forward with ownership and management and how that’s going to work,” Schmidt said, “We will look like and all the tasks that are related to that.”

They will return with the existing board and file a DBA “Friends of the Inlet” to reflect the new focus.

“Our existing board will stay on, because there’s a lot of background knowledge, a lot of institutional knowledge there.” Schmidt said. “We all feel very strongly that when

we raised this money, we talked to people, we heard what they wanted, and we have a commitment to make sure that they get what they wanted as much as humanly possible.”

Issues that need to be ironed out first include the boats, many abandoned, stored on the property as well as what to do with the invasive ice plant in the area to increase the health of the Inlet.

The watercrafts that are kept or left at the Inlet has long been an issue. The owners of the property, now SCI, are responsible for them — they number more than 700.

“That’s a lot of boats that we will have to determine who owns them, see if they want to come get them, see if they are using them, see if they’re seaworthy, see if they’re just abandoned,” Schmidt said.

As for the ice plant, it isn’t as easy as gathering volunteers to take care of the job.

“One thing I’ve learned from going through this process, is that things are not as simple as they sometimes appear,” Schmidt said. “Like getting rid of the ice plants. You would think, get some volunteers out there and pull ice plant. Well, then perhaps you’ve destabilized ground. Perhaps you’ve got into an endangered habitat thing. So, it can be done, but it must be done thoughtfully and in a planned manner. We figured that the biggest mistake we can make is to go to too quickly and not really think things through.”

Perhaps the easiest change the Friends of the Inlet will take on in the early days of ownership is to simply have some sort of signage identifying the Cuesta Inlet, Schmidt said.

“I’ve talked to different people throughout this, and I thought that it was funny that I’d say, ‘Well, you know, it’s



An aerial shot of the Cuesta Inlet in 1949 when it was a natural tidal marsh. Photo courtesy of Save Cuesta Inlet

for quest inlet.” They go, ‘Oh, where’s that?’ They know it as the place with all the boats.”

The community’s input and desires will be considered in the management and ownership of the inlet.

For more information or to donate, go to savecuestainlet.org. They can take PayPal, Venmo, and Zel, but checks are the preferred method of payment. Checks can be made out to Save Cuesta Inlet can be mailed to Save Cuesta Inlet Inc, PO box 6976, Los Osos, CA 92412.

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Bayshore Bluffs From page 1



Looking north from the beach at Bayshore Bluffs shows how close erosion has come to the base of the stairway.

spot for abalone shells during the town’s abalone industry heyday and shell fragments can still be found in the dirt. Over the years there have been cleanups conducted by the Harbor Department. A notice was posted last week advising of a cleanup by the Harbor Department set for Sept. 20, and calling on boat owners to affix contact information to their boats. The notice said any craft left unmarked, deemed unseaworthy, a danger to pollute or trash, would be hauled away. It also asked for volunteers to join in the cleanup, which coincided with Coastal Cleanup Day, sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy along with local environmental



Close-up of strapping that’s been installed to firm up the railing to the wooden piles supporting the stairs.

groups and held statewide. Several were held in the Estero Bay Area. There were dozens of kayaks stacked and strewn about at the base of the stairs with most covered in bird guano, a reminder of the area’s pre-development life when the property was covered in eucalyptus trees and home to a cormorant rookery that was mostly all removed to make way for the condos. Birds still roost and nest in the handful of eucalyptus trees that still grow tall on the bluff edge, and the park carries a faint whiff of their presence. Nevertheless, Bayshore Bluffs Park, with its wonderful view, is a hidden jewel among the City’s numerous parks and from the number of kayaks stored down by the water; the stairs get a lot of use. Rose believes so. “This staircase,” he wrote, “provides critical beach access for one of Morro Bay’s few city waterfront parks. It is commonly used by residents and visitors both to visit the beach and to access their small craft that they keep down at the water’s edge. A number of vessels moored nearby in the bay use this beach for access where they keep skiffs that they use to access their boats. “My concern is that a delayed remediation could lead to a loss of this valuable resource.”

Estero Bay News visited the park and walked down the staircase, which seems fairly sturdy, though it’s weathered and coated with moss. One of the railings was wiggly, and many of them have had metal strapping nailed to them to better attached them to the wooden piles that support the whole structure. It’s showing its age, for sure, and could probably use further strengthening. Overall, though, it seemed pretty sturdy. Rose is concerned that the City won’t fix the stairs and might just abandon them, much as it did with another bluff top stairway at the end of Surf Street by the Vet’s Hall. That long, wooden stair was removed when it became too rickety and was deemed unsafe and the City has not replaced it. At one point, it was estimated to cost some \$600,000 for a new staircase, which would have to be built to modern standards. EBN asked Public Works Director Greg Kwolek about the Bayshore Bluffs situation and whether it was a Parks Department or Public Works Department matter? “It’s a public works thing,” he replied. “We have a fix for the issue and are in the process of identifying funding. The work would have to be done from the water, which adds expense.” If it were a parks issue, the repairs could potentially come under the City’s Parks In-lieu Fund, a surcharge that’s levied on subdivisions of land in town. If a developer wants to create under-10 lots, he can pay a fee; but if a project is over 10, they must donate parkland. That’s how the City ended up with Franklin Riley Park on Morro Avenue. When the Morro Cove 33-lot subdivision was proposed across the street, the developer offered the City what was then called the Morro Avenue Bluff to satisfy his commitment for park space. And when the Bayshore Condos were built, the developers gave the City land for Bayshore Bluffs Park but also formed an assessment district to pay for maintenance of the park, just as the developers of The Cloisters did for their 120-lot project. But property owners protested the Bayshore assessment district and the City Council in the early 2000s, under former Mayor, the late-Bill Yates, dissolved it and the assessments ended. Previously, under former Mayor Rodger Anderson, the Council refused to dissolve the assessment district, worried that it would mean there’d be no money to maintain the park.

Letters From page 17
our general meeting and luncheon. Mr. Gillingham is a former K-12 educator having taught AP Government, AP U.S. History, as well as an adjunct law professor Loyola University, criminal trial lawyer (present cases before the California Supreme Court and US Supreme Court, served as a Federal Public Defender, guest lecturer at USC, CSUN, Pepperdine, Southwestern Law School and served in the US NAVY. Please join us “life-long” learners for this informative, timely presentation and discussion on Thursday, October 9 at the Madonna Inn. For more information and to RSVP contact Laura Tremblay, (805) 748-6853 or letremblay3756@gmail.com. “The future depends on what we do in the present,” Mahatma Ghandi

Susan Huls
CalRTA, Division 23

Missing Joan

I am a regular reader of the Estero Bay News, plus I met You [Dean] at a Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce event at Pizza Port a couple of months ago. I was in Scotland when the issue came out about the passing of your mom, so I picked it up when I returned. I enjoyed reading Joan’s column “Coffee with Joan,” and learning about times past in Los Osos. We have lived in the Estero Bay Area since 1983, so we have also seen a lot of change. Your obituary about your mom was very well written and described someone who overcame many setbacks, yet just pushed on because she had to, for her children. It sounds like she took after her own mom, your grandmother.

Letters Continued on page 21

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Disaster Repairs From page 1



the storm water flows to the west side of the basin, decreasing the height of the overflow pipe and directing water onto Pecho Valley Road.”

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funding mechanism available called the ‘404 Hazard Mitigation Program.’

“The program is funded by the Federal Government but administered by California Office of Emergency Services [Cal OES]. The purpose of the program is to provide funding for projects to reduce or prevent loss from future disasters.”

The LOCSD started working on this grant application in June 2023 and if they get it, it too will cover 75% of the costs. The actual work is estimated at over \$1.41 million and the Cal OES 404 fund would cover \$1.05 million, leaving the District \$352,000 short.

So when it’s all said and done, the overall project estimated costs are over \$2.26 million and if all the reimbursements come through, the LOCSD will have to come up with \$705,000.

Right now, Munds’ report stated, the agency’s Fund 800 — that’s cash on hand — has \$490,000 in it. That fund has an outstanding \$300,000, “interfund” loan it got several years ago from another LOCSD pocket of money, and has been repaying it every year. The remaining balance is \$159,000 and that is slated to be paid off in 2028. The whole matter is on somewhat precarious footing.

“If the outside funding is secured [the 404 & 406 funds], the Board will need to consider options for the project cost differences identified above. Because of the different program funding sources, the project will need to be constructed in two phases.

“If the 404 and 406 funding sources are not approved, staff will need to look for other funding sources including grants and/or loans.”

Corgi Nation Vacation Wraps Up Its Second Year in Pismo Beach



Corgis from around the world joined SoCal Corgi Nation and the Pismo Beach Conference and Visitors

Bureau for the annual Corgi Nation Vacation event. The celebration brought together hundreds of dogs and their owners for coastal shenanigans, including wine tastings and corgi competitions.

The weekend was full of activities. Visitors enjoyed a Friday night cocktail gathering before the Saturday morning beach party, which included corgi races, outfit competitions, and other challenges for the corgis all afternoon long. The evening event on Saturday took place at SeaCrest, in partnership with SLO Coast Wine, offering a beautiful coastal setting and wine tastings from a variety of SLO Coast wineries. The weekend wrapped up with a Sunday brunch at Vespera Resort.

From beach races and costume contests to group photo ops and playful sand sprints, the event transformed the beach into a corgi paradise. Owners dressed their pups in themed outfits, and beachgoers gathered to cheer on the four-legged stars as they dashed through the sand and splashed in the surf.

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Wharf Repairs From page 1

cent to Tognazzini’s Dock-side 2 fish market/ cafe.

The donation, some \$400,000, will be coming from a grant by the Joint Cable-Fisheries Liaison Committee, an organization formed in the 1990s to compensate fishermen for undersea communications cable companies taking away fishing grounds along their cable routes.

Though undersea communications cables might seem old fashioned in today’s world of Star Link satellites and wireless communications, Blue said the companies are still operating them and have even been actively installing new cables.



“They still put in and take out cables,” Blue explained. “There’s more now than 20-years ago.”

Here the cables mainly run out and under the Continental Shelf from landing sites in Montaña de Oro State Park and Grover Beach. Fishermen, who opposed the cables back in the day, compromised with the companies and formed the Liaison Committee.

Under that agreement, the companies pay an annual fee to the committee to compensate them for all the fishing grounds they lost.

The cable companies got assurances that fishermen wouldn’t drag nets across the cables, potentially digging them up and breaking them.

Blue said the initial agreement was between the companies and trawlers, who use nets to fish the deep-water species, dragging them across the seafloor.

He was one of those fishing that method at the time, but now, as the rules and regulations have drastically changed, he uses traps instead of a trawl net.

“When this happened,” he said of the cables being installed, “there was a big blowup. Over time, we reached working agreements and part of that is this committee, which helps fund fishermen’s needs, and now the fishing community’s needs, not just ours [trawlers].”

The Liaison Committee awards grants annually for a variety of causes and needs, including lobbying efforts to try an influence regulators. Increased regulations have been the fishermen’s biggest challenge, as the canceling of salmon season this year, for the third straight year, illustrates, as well the shrunken down crab season.

“The organization recognizes that the harbor needs funds,” O’Brien explained.

The Morro Bay Harbor Department has been worried about its infrastructure for several years now, and recently had a study done looking at its facilities — from the condition of its floating docks to the seawalls that separate the Embarcadero from the bay. It needs tens of millions in repairs including to the Fishermen’s Wharf, which is under relatively new, and local ownership — Morro Bay Seafood Co. — after several years being operated by Santa Monica Seafood.

Another issue has been damage done in fierce storms over the past several years. “There has been a lot of damage to the slips,” Blue said. “The City has applied for FEMA claims, because they couldn’t afford to repair the docks.”

Fishermen already donated \$100,000 to help repair “their” docks. The City’s docks located at the bottom of Beach and Dunes Streets and at the launch ramp, are reserved for commercial fishing boats, though the Harbor Department can sub-lease them out whenever fishermen leave port on extended fishing trips.

In exchange for that donation, Blue explained, the fishermen got a promise not to increase their slip rates for 10 years. And the City has already completed that work.

“The work was already done,” Blue said. “They’re better than what we had but they’re not like new.”

Now they are asking for another agreement in exchange for the \$400,000. The wharf did get some work done while

Santa Monica Seafood had the lease, but they are long gone and the wooden deck needs work as does some of the infrastructure, like fire sprinklers, O’Brien said.

Will \$400,000 cover what needs to be done? Blue said they would like to see a 50:50 split with the City. “The dock is a lease site,” he explained. “The city should be responsible for maintenance.”

They are not even looking at the revetment seawall underneath, which the City’s inspections showed needed a lot of work.

EBN contacted Harbor Vitality Director, Chris Munson about the donation and where they are in the repair work?

“When Santa Monica Seafood vacated the site a few years ago,” he explained, “there were about \$150,000 in minimum repairs identified in this area. The \$400,000 will be used to not only address the minimum repairs previously identified, but additional repairs so that it will not need to be worked on again in a few years’ time.

“Updated estimates still need to be received before the grant is finalized and is received by City Council.”

He thinks the Fishermen’s Wharf repairs are a great way to show the City and fishermen’s cooperation.

“This is a great project for both the commercial fishermen and City of Morro Bay,” he said. “It will ensure that we continue to have facilities to support the commercial fishing industry.

“We are very appreciative of the CCJCFCLC [the Liaison Committee] for their continued support on this and other projects.”

This repair grant isn’t the committee’s only donation this year, nor in the past, as the Committee was also instrumental in the City’s other major improvement to fishing facilities — the purchase and installation of an industrial ice machine, also located on the wharf.

“This year,” Munson said, “they have also continued funding for staff to attend California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conferences [CMANC] in Washington D.C. and within California. CMANC is an important advocate for continued federal funding of dredging at Morro Bay.”

CMANC is the annual conference of California ports and harbors that go to D.C. to lobby the Army Corps of Engineers for maintenance dredging and other funding agencies for help with other needs.

Blue and O’Brien took the occasion to remind EBN readers that fishermen still play a large part in the economics of the waterfront and are willing to pitch in when the facilities they depend on need help.

“The fishing community has not gone away,” said Blue, who is the sole fisherman still working under a catch shares system for what used to be the trawl fishery, at one time the most lucrative and productive fishery here.

That catch shares program, begun by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and State Fish & Wildlife, doled out a certain tonnage of the deep-water fishery, based on measurements — educated guesses really — on how many fish could be harvested annually and still have a sustainable fishery.

Each species of that fishery is given its own quota and

fishermen with permits can’t catch one pound of fish more than they have quota for. The program also requires expensive closed-circuit cameras installed on each boat, and Blue, who pays for those cameras out of his pocket, also must pay an “observer” to stand on the docks and count and document every fish he brings in, sorting them by species to count against his quota share.

Initially, the catch shares program was open, and many fishermen and harbor officials feared larger operators with more money and larger boats would buy up the permits and allocations from smaller fishermen, and the small ports like Morro Bay and Port San Luis would lose their landings. And some of this did occur.

Another blow came when The Nature Conservancy started buying up trawl permits and then trawl boats in an attempt to end the fishery, which they claimed was tearing up the seafloor, damaging reefs and harming the marine environment.

The catch shares and in turn local allocations was the solution the PFMC came up with.

But locally, the few boats that attempted to work the convoluted and expensive new program have or gotten out; until now, only Blue and his specialized boat, The Brita Marie, remains working the quota system. And he doesn’t use a net.

O’Brien also pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21 hurt them badly. When restaurants closed, fishermen lost the biggest buyers of their catch. “We’re still trying to pick up the pieces,” he said.

All this re-emphasizes the importance to the fishermen of keeping their vital facilities in good repair and working order, for the last of the hunter-gatherers.

Cat Noir CC



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Hello friends, it’s Daisy, the smart, tough, stunning leader of BVD. This afternoon at precisely 2:02 p.m. I was woken by the evil force known as Furless. There I was dreaming about tuna melts, string and world domination when she walked in the door like she owns the place.

She was blabbering on and on, as humans do, about sunshine and birds chirping. What the hell? Does she think she is Snow White? First, I sighed thinking any civilized human would know that meant I was disturbed by her glee.

She then started singing “Peggy Sue” but using my name, “pretty, pretty, pretty DasiyLou. Oh Daisy, my DasiyLou. I flashed her the look you see as photographic proof. She still missed the point. She is like a pooper scooper without slats, totally pointless.

I do love her, but when it comes to bending to my every whim, she needs more focus. Maybe I should tip her more. I’ll dream about that. GOT IT FURLESS? I am going to nap. Please put one ice cube in my water bowl and maybe drill a hole in the wall, so the sun can still reach me here.

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Photos by Danna Dykstra-Coy

Cayucos celebrated its 150th birthday in grand style this past weekend, drawing thousands of attendees to a three-day community event that honored the town’s history and showcased its vibrant future.

The festivities began Friday, September 19, with a sold-out Dance at Borradori Garage. More than 500 tickets were purchased in advance, and nearly 400 additional names filled the waitlist. Guests enjoyed live performances from Longstraw and Monte Mills & the Lucky Horseshoe Band at the historic venue, marking a lively kickoff to the sesquicentennial weekend.

On Saturday, September 20, more than 4,000 people filled Ocean Avenue for the Cayucos Street Faire, featuring more than 40 vendors, live music, and a popular Kids Zone. Visitors browsed local artisan goods, enjoyed regional cuisine, and took part in a celebration that transformed downtown into a hub of culture and community.

The weekend concluded Sunday, September 21, with a Champagne Toast at the newly remodeled Cayucos Landing, where more than 350 attendees gathered to honor the town’s milestone. Senator John Laird’s office presented an official certificate commemorating Cayucos’ 150th Anniversary to San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson, a longtime Cayucos resident, who led a toast with a heartfelt speech honoring the town’s legacy.

“Cayucos is built on grit, generosity, and friendship — and that’s exactly what carried this weekend,” said Alicia Van Fleet, director of public relations and event coordinator. “From a sold-out dance to a bustling street faire and a seaside toast, this celebration reflected everything that makes Cayucos extraordinary.”

The Cayucos 150th Anniversary Celebration was made possible through the support of local businesses, service clubs, volunteers, and residents who worked together to create a weekend that will be remembered for generations. About the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce



COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker

Bad News Bears From page 9
richment programs.

The Foundation will have hot dogs and beer and wine for sale (for 21-older), and the Bay Theater’s concession stand will be open and have plenty of warm popcorn. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the curtain goes up at 5:30.

Tickets are \$15 a person and on sale now through the

Community Foundation Website, see: www.communityfoundationesterobay.org/events, or at: MY805Tix.

For more information about the non-profit Community Foundation of Estero Bay see: www.communityfoundationesterobay.org. The Bay Theater is located at 464 Morro Bay Blvd., in Downtown Morro Bay.

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10/10 - 10/22
ROOFMAN
(R) 2 hr. 5 min.
F-S & T-W:
4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
S: 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Sunday 9/21 ONE SHOW ONLY at 1:30 p.m.

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10/6
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