

Where's the Bear? Over There

Residents have been wondering when and where the iconic bear statue at the corner of South Bay Boulevard and Turri Road would be moved as construction begins on the Los Osos Creek Bridge replacement project. Their answer came early Monday morning, June 1, when crews carefully relocated the landmark to a temporary home.

The statue, which weighs approximately 26,000 pounds, was moved to a secure location next to the project's construction trailer, where it will remain during the bridge construction process.

"In this location we will be able to put a security camera on it and keep an eye on it," said a project representative.

The bear is expected to remain at its temporary location until construction of the new bridge is completed, which is currently anticipated in 2027.

Once the project is finished, the statue will be returned to a prominent location near its current site. Plans call for the bear to be placed roughly where the center of the current lanes are located, welcoming motorists as they enter Los Osos.

The bear statues were created by local artist Paula Zima and have become a recognizable symbol of the community. The name "Los Osos" is Spanish for "The Bears," a reference dating back to the 1769 expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá, whose party reportedly encountered numerous grizzly bears in the area.

The bridge replacement project is intended to improve safety and accommodate future transportation needs. The existing bridge, built in 1966, is a three-span concrete structure that has been identified as seismically deficient and vulnerable to collapse during a major earthquake.



A bear statue that has become a favorite of visitors and locals alike was moved on June 1 to allow for the replacement of the South Bay Bridge in Los Osos. Often dressed up for holidays and other occasions, the bear will be back in action when the project is completed.

San Luis Obispo County plans to replace the aging bridge with a new, longer, and wider two-span concrete structure.

The new bridge will be built immediately east of the

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Study Blows Chilly Wind on Wind Energy Port



Offshore Wind Energy support is still a viable, yet expensive, option in Morro Bay Harbor. Photo by Peter Dargatz

By Neil Farrell

Despite numerous constraints having to do with zoning problems, City ordinances and costs, among others, using Morro Bay Harbor as a port to support offshore wind energy is still potentially viable.

But it will not be smooth sailing to overcome the sea of red tape and will cost a boatload of money.

The Morro Bay City Council recently received a report, commissioned by County Supervisors and paid for with a \$1 million State grant, looking into what it would take to turn Morro Bay and Port San Luis into workable facilities to support the proposed floating offshore wind farms that are planned for a large patch of ocean off the Coast of San Simeon.

The so-called Morro Bay Wind Energy Area covers an area of ocean from 20-30 miles due west of San Simeon, and about 57 miles north of Morro Bay, which is the nearest safe harbor to the site.

Three companies purchased leases, each about 180,000 acres, and plans are to install 3 gigawatts and potentially up to 6 GW of wind energy turbines, floating on the surface of the sea.

Water depth in the wind area is from 800 to 1,300 meters deep (from about 2,400 feet to over 4,200 feet).

When this all started in 2016, the standard turbine was just 8 MW capacity, and the hope was that 10 MW turbines would be available by the time they got around to building the wind farm.

Now the standard is 14 MW, and the expectation is 20 MW wind turbines would be eventually installed. So, to get to 3 GW of power, there needs to be 150 turbines and at 6 GW, the number jumps to 300.

The County's harbor study, entitled "Central Coast Offshore

Study Blows Continued on page 25

Celebrating Life's Little Luxuries in Cayucos

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

In the digital age, mass-produced and near instant access from around the world has taken over much of the way consumers shop. A recently opened business in Cayucos wants customers to slow down, connect with nature and discover the personal touch in each item they sell — a fresh alternative to cookie-cutter retail.

Artistry by the Sea, 146 N Ocean Ave, B, opened in January of 2026. The store features handcrafted coastal-inspired jewelry; small-batch, clean-burning candles; and goods from independent makers. Their collection includes pottery, textiles, art, body care, and home goods.

"We want to delight people, to give them a beautiful experience from the moment they step inside," co-owner Meagan Gittins told Estero Bay News. "We really hope Artistry By The Sea becomes more than just a shop.



Artistry by the Sea owners, husband and wife, Micah and Meagan Gittins. Photo submitted

We want it to feel like an experience — a place where people slow down, feel inspired, discover meaningful handmade work, and connect with

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Our Stories: A Salute to Jim Clinton, a WWII Veteran

By Judy Salamacha



Americans have always celebrated Memorial Day in a variety of ways. The holiday has passed, but I hope we all took a few moments or longer to reflect on the holiday's original intent — remembering those we've lost in battles. Some of us also take time to think about those who served or are currently serving during these tenuous times of global insecurity. All efforts to continue to protect our liberties whether abroad or here at home are always sincerely appreciated.

As far back as 431 B.C. cultures set aside time to honor their

Our Stories Continued on page 26

Second Morro Elementary Meeting Set for June 24

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay City officials have set a time and date for the second public meeting to discuss their attempts to purchase the closed Morro Elementary School.

City Manager John Craig said they've set up the second due diligence informational meeting for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St.

The first meeting was held April 29 and was more of a listening session, Craig said. Their goal was to go through the steps

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2026
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News

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary News



A pod of long-beaked common dolphins surfacing in the sanctuary. Photo: Chad King/NOAA

By Christine Heinrichs

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is working up the criteria to define the representation for a new seat on the council, to represent the Maritime Industry and Ocean Energy.

The SAC held its quarterly meeting in Cambria in May, meeting at the southern end of the sanctuary for the first time in two years. Meetings are open to the public.

Council members concurred that having a maritime representative, with priority given to commercial shipping, would add a valuable perspective from “on the water” experiences to council discussions and recommendations. Shipping is a major legally authorized industry operating within the sanctuary.

“Representation of the shipping industry is long overdue,” said Brandon Southall, research member.

Public-private partnerships such as Blue Whales Blue Skies can reduce ship strikes on whales, reduce underwater noise, and reduce air pollution.

Other SACs, such as Greater Farallones NMS Advisory Council, have maritime representatives. The subject came up when a retired oil company executive with seagoing background as a master mariner, and experience with oil spill cleanup, applied to the MBNMS Advisory Council.

The subcommittee working on that will bring more information to the June meeting, which will be in Salinas. Remote, Zoom, attendance, is available.

National marine sanctuary advisory council members represent a variety of interests, from fishing to science to conservation. MBNMS Advisory Council is a community-based group that provides advice and recommendations to the MBNMS superintendent. The council also serves as liaison between the community and the sanctuary. Sanctuary advisory councils provide advice about sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/>

Ocean Guardian School Program
Morro Bay Montessori Family Partnership Charter School in Morro Bay participates in the Ocean Guardian School Program. The program provides seed money to help schools develop their own programs.

“The Montessori school got extremely creative,” said Deputy Superintendent Dawn Hayes. Their program focused on the fashion industry. They held Climate Action Clothing Swaps, to keep clothing out of waste sites. Seniors came in and taught students how to repair clothes. “it was positive climate action and saved money,” Hayes said.

Morro Bay Montessori got a \$4,000 grant to get their program started. Other schools have focused on replacing plastic cafeteria utensils with reusable ones, mapped local watersheds, identified invasive species, and created more green space around their schools.

The NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program engages K-12 students (public, private or charter schools) in the protection and conservation of local watersheds, the ocean and special ocean areas like national marine sanctuaries. Find more information at https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/

Thanks to Dawn Hayes

The Cambria meeting was the last one for Hayes, who is retiring in July. Members got emotional thanking her for her service. This writer has been on the SAC a year, and Dawn has helped me learn about the many sanctuary services and responsibilities.

For a smooth transition, Seaberry Nachbar has been shadowing Hayes, and will step into her responsibilities. Nachbar



Thousands of vessels steam through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary each year. They bring shipments of crude oil, and other products to the ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Photo by Kip Evans

has worked for NOAA for more than 20 years and is currently education coordinator with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in Monterey.

MBNMS Extends South to Cambria

NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary encompasses a remarkably productive marine environment, ranging from its kelp forests to rocky shores, sandy beaches, estuaries, the Davidson Seamount, and Monterey Canyon. Its coastline stretches 276 miles and 6,094 square miles of ocean. The sanctuary was designated in 1992 to protect these marine ecosystems and cultural and maritime resources while promoting sustainable use. The sanctuary allows for recreational and commercial activities while conserving natural resources, water quality, habitats, and bountiful resident and migratory marine life. Find out more at <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/>

Christine Heinrichs is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council SLO At-Large member. Follow her on Facebook, Bluesky, LinkedIn and Substack.

Cayucos Jeweler Burgled



Still photo taken from surveillance video at McLean Jewelry in Cayucos shows one of two men who burglarized the store on May 15, rummaging through a drawer and stuffing items into a plastic bag. Submitted photo.

By Neil Farrell

A Cayucos jewelry store was recently the victim of a smash and grab burglary, leaving the owner to clean up the pieces of a shattered sense of security.

McLean Jewelry, located in an historic little shop at 180 N. Ocean Ave., was burglarized on Friday, May 15.

The front glass door was shattered and two men wearing (COVID) masks entered the store and stole about \$5,000 worth of jewelry and materials. The shattered glass door cost another \$500.

According to the time stamp on the video from the store's security system that captured the crime in progress, it happened at 9:54 p.m.

Downtown Cayucos, at that time, is usually quiet but not deserted, as there are restaurants and a busy bar open across the street. It's possible that someone may have seen or heard something on that Friday night.

The two men are seen entering the store and the back area where Tim McLean creates his jewelry pieces. Both are wearing baseball caps, hoodies, jeans and running shoes. One is wear-

ing dark clothing, and has black shoes with white soles. The other is wearing lighter clothing.

The video is in color but lighting is poor and actual colors are difficult to make out, but the lighter clothing appears to be either light blue or gray.

Both men are wearing gloves and the one in dark clothing is shown opening drawers and stuffing items into what looks like a large plastic bag, possibly a freezer bag.

McLean found the damage and loss the next morning and spent hours cleaning up the shattered glass and fixing the door.

Cayucos is normally a very quiet little town, and serious crimes like this are rare. And for a small business like McLean Jewelry, it's heart breaking.

The McLean burglary happened about two weeks after a burglary in Downtown Templeton at the end of April.

According to a news release from the Sheriff's Department, a burglar alarm went off at 3:15 a.m. April 30 at the Upscale Resale store, located at 590 S. Main St., Templeton.

Arriving deputies said the store's front entrance double doors had been forced open. The owner soon arrived, and surveillance video showed the suspect was wearing a black baseball cap, zip-up gray hooded sweater, black jeans and a black ski mask and gloves.

The suspect, who has not been identified, was captured on camera rummaging through the business, holding several articles of clothing taken off racks, opening drawers and taking purses off the walls.

The suspect left in a white truck that appeared to be a newer, GMC Canyon with running boards.

If readers have any information about the McLean Jewelry burglary or the burglary at Upscale Resale call Crime Stoppers at 805-549-7867.



Photo shows the front of McLean Jewelry in Cayucos that was burglarized May 15. Submitted photo



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PType	St#	St Name	City	Area	L/C Price
Land	0	Pasadena	OSOS	OSOS	\$475,000
Land	1406	5th	OSOS	OSOS	\$213,000
Land	1334	17th	OSOS	OSOS	\$160,000
Land	1738	7th	OSOS	OSOS	\$145,000
Land	0	3rd ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$125,000
Land	1924	Nevada CT	OSOS	OSOS	\$295,000↓
Land	1120	Pasadena	OSOS	OSOS	\$395,000↓
Land	2050	9th	OSOS	OSOS	\$149,000
Land	200	Madera ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$750,000↓
Land	0	Pasadena	OSOS	OSOS	\$475,000↓
Land	1434	5th	OSOS	OSOS	\$175,000
Land	1412	5th ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$213,000↓
Land	1420	5th ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$175,000↓
Land	1455	13th ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$179,000
Land	1107	Pasadena DB	OSOS	OSOS	\$699,000
Land	2021	9th ST	OSOS	OSOS	\$159,000

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County to Buy High-Tech Radios

The County Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office are planning to buy over 100 new, high-tech radios to meet new State and Federal safety mandates.

County Supervisors approved some \$245,000 in "unanticipated Probation Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) revenue" and another \$167,000 from the Proposition 172 Trust Fund out of the Probation Department.

On the D.A.'s side, they took \$237,000 from Prop. 172, for a total of over \$649,000.

The plan is to buy 90 handheld radios and 18 car-mounted radios that are equipped with "modern encryption capabilities," according to a report.

The County will buy the equipment from Motorola and will also need software licenses, a recurring cost.

What exactly is an "encrypted radio?" Encrypted radios scramble voice and data transmissions so only receivers with the correct matching security "key" can understand the signal. Anyone else listening who doesn't have the same key will only hear static, digital noise, or silence.

Chief Probation Officer, Thomas Milder, said, "Current handheld and in-car radios utilized by both the Probation Department and District Attorney's Investigators cannot transmit unique device identification data to encrypted radio channels."

The purchase is the idea of the State Department of Justice. "This is a significant issue," Milder said, "as in 2020, the California Department of Justice issued a memo regarding broadcasting personally identifiable information over unencrypted radio channels, mandating that such communications be encrypted."

"Lacking this capability prevents officers from having direct communication with allied agency personnel during mutual aid operations and negatively impacts their safety and that of the public. Purchasing these handheld and in-car radios will aid in the continuous effort to ensure our community's safety is taken as the highest priority."

Milder lists two mandates that buying the new radios will satisfy:

- The California Department of Justice mandates the protection of Criminal Justice Information (CJI) and Personal Identifying Information (PII) during transmission. Encryption is required to ensure this information is not exposed over unsecured channels.

- Federal standards under the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy require encrypted transmission of sensitive data. Upgrading to encryption-capable radios ensures full compliance with these federal regulations.

Milder said encryption blocks sensitive information from being overheard by "individuals with malicious intent" and reduces the possibility of people monitoring radio traffic.

Several local police agencies — Atascadero, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach — already use encrypted radios. "Upgrading our equipment," Milder said, "ensures seamless, secure communication with these partner agencies during joint operations or mutual-aid events."

Sheriff Marks Smart Anniversary



Kristin Smart was a 19-year-old Cal Poly freshman in 1996 when she disappeared. Submitted photo.

By Neil Farrell

Memorial Day Weekend is officially a time when we remember fallen soldiers who died in defense of the nation. But for the County Sheriff it's also a time to remember a case that has haunted SLO County for three decades.

Memorial Day, May 25, marked the 30th Anniversary of the disappearance of Cal Poly freshman, Kristin Smart, and while her killer has been tried and convicted of her murder, she officially remains "missing."

"Today," Sheriff Ian Parkinson said, "we remember Kristin Smart. A young woman whose life was stolen far too soon, but whose memory has never faded. For three decades, her family has carried the unimaginable weight of not knowing where she is, while our community has continued to hold onto hope that one day she will finally be brought home."

Smart was just 19 when she disappeared over Memorial Day Weekend in 1996. She was last seen alive in the company of another Cal Poly freshman, Paul Flores, walking home from an off campus party. Smart was intoxicated.

Flores, who has always been the lone suspect in her disappearance, avoided justice for some 26 years until new evidence was uncovered and Sheriff Parkinson's Cold Case Unit and the District Attorney's Office were able to bring murder charges against him in 2021.

Paul Flores and his father,



Sheriff's Department investigators sift through excavated dirt looking for evidence of the murdered Cal Poly freshman, Kristin Smart, weeks before the 30th Anniversary of her 1996 disappearance. Submitted photo

Reuben Flores, were both arrested. In 2022, Paul Flores was charged with murder, and his father with being an accessory after the fact for helping him hide Smart's body.

That theory of the crime is the same one that has been suspected since shortly after her disappearance 30-years ago.

The senior Flores was acquitted but his son was convicted in a rare double trial. Both men's cases were moved to Monterey County because of a change of venue order by a SLO County judge.

Each had their own jury, who while hearing the same arguments and evidence deliberated separately and came to opposite decisions.

Paul Flores remains in State Prison and has already twice appealed his conviction and been denied both times.

His father walked out of court a free man.

On May 8, the Sheriff's Office served a search warrant on the Arroyo Grande home of Paul Flores' mother, Susan, seeking to find Smart's body.

But that search, which included the use of ground penetrating radar and "soil vapor science" did not find Smart's remains. However, the results were not an entire failure.

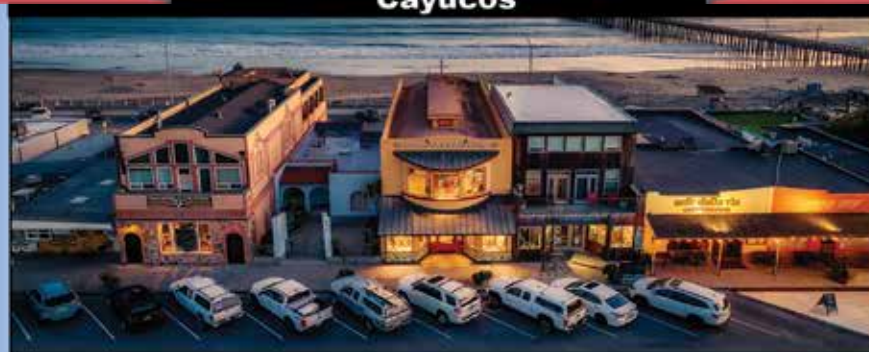
"Soil scientists identified an area along the side yard of the property that produced results consistent with the possible presence of human remains," reads a news release by Sheriff's spokesman, Tony Cipolla.

With that result in hand, investigators sought and were granted

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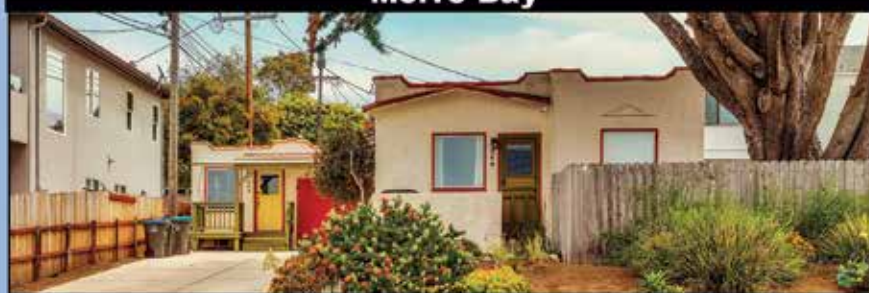
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Remodel Job Uncovers Sewer Problems



Workers with Rob Reynolds, Const., work underground to repair a break in the sewer line that services a row of buildings on Front Street. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

A remodeling project for a pair of small apartments on Front Street in Morro Bay led to discovery of some serious problems with a sewer pipe that serves the row of buildings on that stretch of the waterfront.

City Engineer, Nate Stong, explained that the project, which wrapped up last week after several days of work, was part of a remodeling project at 1108 Front St. That project turned two small apartments into vacation rentals.

"The remodel project," Stong told Estero Bay News, "was permitted with the requirement to evaluate the existing private sewer lateral, and two defects were found from the video inspection."

Contractor on the remodel job and subsequent sewer repairs was Rob Reynolds Const., Inc. The first problem they found was a spot where two different pipe materials had separated and displaced vertically with one end dropping down below the other. It was apparently the City's doing.

"The first location," Stong said, "was an offset joint from different pipe materials. A newer PVC section was installed at some point between the prior existing clay pipe."

"The PVC was likely installed by the city during installation of a newer interceptor sewer main, which crossed under the sewer lateral, and we believe required replacing a portion of the lateral. The City accepted financial responsibility for the repair of this section."

That fix involved digging out a section of the pipe far enough back to put in a new segment of pipe and match up the elevation drop.

The second break was a simpler fix but made trickier because it was 20-feet below ground.

"The second location is where the private lateral drops vertically down into the sewer main," Stong said, "and this section was shown to have groundwater intrusion. The developer is having the pipe slip-lined, sleeved, or otherwise sealed to prevent further

groundwater infiltration."

The sewer problem is located near another problem that the City had to address recently, when they discovered that a storm drain that runs underneath the Embarcadero had collapsed and had to be replaced.

Fixing the two sewer breaks caused traffic to be detoured around the work site, which sat at the busy intersection of Beach Street and the Embarcadero. The detour pushed northbound cars into the parallel on-street parking spaces and temporarily eliminated the dozen or so parking spots. It also moved pedestrians out of the crosswalk but only lasted for a few days.

San Luis Obispo Airport Upgrades Funded

San Luis Obispo County Airport was awarded \$2.25 million in federal funding to improve its baggage screening system, according to U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal, (D) CA-24, who secured the money.

Announced in late May, the grant will go toward funding the replacement of equipment that is undersized and outdated allowing the airport to meet current operational demand.

"Given SLO's beautiful landscapes, innovative companies, and acclaimed universities, it is no surprise that SLO County Airport welcomed a record-breaking number of passengers last year," said Carbajal in a news release. "This federal funding will support necessary infrastructure upgrades, allowing the airport to accommodate the growing number of travelers coming into SLO County each year."

Carbajal's congressional district includes southern San Luis Obispo County. Northern San Luis Obispo County is represented by Jimmy Panetta, D. CA-19 whose district follows the coast to Santa Cruz and San Jose.

San Luis Obispo County Airport Director Courtney Johnson said they are "incredibly grateful to Congressman Carbajal and his team" for the support, saying that the funding will "enhance the travel experience for families and passengers traveling through our community airport. Investments like this are critical to maintaining safe, efficient and reliable service as passenger activity continues to grow."

The funding was secured from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Airport Terminals Program, which doles out grants for safe, sustainable and accessible airport terminals, airport traffic control towers, and airport rail and bus projects that improve multimodal connections. The program has delivered more than \$1 billion in funding to projects on the Central Coast.

County Seeks \$1.3M Opioid Treatment Grant

By Neil Farrell

The County is applying for another 3-year grant to continue offering a program that helps people addicted to opioids and methamphetamine to kick the habit.

In a report from the Behavior Health Department's Interim Administrator, Frank Warren, the Board of Supervisors was asked to retroactively give permission to apply for the next round of funding through the Federal, "Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program" or COSSUP.

The County is seeking another \$1.3 million to cover the costs of continuing a program it started in October 2023 but is set to expire at the end of September.

This new grant would cover from June 1, 2026 to June 1, 2029. If awarded, Warren said the grant would "support the BHD's capacity to provide peer recovery support services to an estimated 200 individuals suffering from opiate use and stimulant use disorders. The target population is adults who have both opiate use disorder and stimulant use disorder, primarily methamphetamine, who are at high-risk for overdose."

The new grant would allow the County to continue providing "Recovery Residence stays [drug and alcohol-free living] to all COSSUP participants in San Luis Obispo County, one of the least affordable housing markets in the nation, who need this level of care."

The report said that 40 individuals would get the Recovery Residence services "for an average stay of ninety days."

The recovery residences are all compliant with requirements under something called "Medication Assisted Treatment" and the grant will also continue paying for two full time equivalent County employees (case managers) to oversee the clients in the program.

"The case managers," Warren said, "will continue their current duties such as coordinating transportation, scheduling follow-up appointments, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, and providing a 'warm handoff' from custody to outpatient treatment and Recovery Residence services."

The money will also partially fund (one-fourth time) a Behavioral Health Supervisor. The County workers are essential to the treatment program.

"These positions are essential to providing intensive case management services to COSSUP participants while in custody, during treatment, and upon release into the community," Warren's report said. "Due to the ongoing opioid epidemic and increasing demand for services in the County Jail and local emergency departments, maintaining the existing staffing model is necessary to support continuity of care and improve treatment engagement."

According to Warren's report, the salaries and benefits for the two-and-one-quarter time employees will cost \$275,000 in year one; \$352,000 in year two; and \$370,000 in the third year of the grant.

Other expenses include: services and supplies (\$7,600 each year); other professional services (\$42,800 each year); and indirect costs (\$41,300, \$52,900, and \$55,554).

Because the money originates with Department of Justice, the BHD had to coordinate its efforts with the County Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department. But BHD is running the show.

"If awarded, this grant will be overseen by the Community Corrections Partnership," Warren said, "as this is a Department of Justice grant with the lead agency being the Health Agency BHD."

Warren's report predicts lofty results. "As a result, there

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is expected to be a measured improvement in employment, decreased drug and alcohol use [including fatal overdoses], and decreased legal involvement as measured by pre-test and post-test measured by objective drug testing results, self-reported employment status, and by review of arrest information prior to program participation and at discharge.”

He added, “Participants in the COSSUP will have achieved and sustained a lifestyle of sobriety and recovery, including learning skills to better manage their lives.

“There will be decreased criminal recidivism, decreased impact on criminal justice and behavioral health care systems, and re-stabilized lives which will contribute to the County vision of a safe and healthy community.”

County to Fix Salinas Pipeline

By Neil Farrell

The County is going out for bids to repair a major water pipeline that feeds water from Santa Margarita Lake into San Luis Obispo.

The Salinas Gravity Pipeline Leak Repair Project would fix a pair of leaks that sit near the start of the 9-mile pipeline near the Salinas Dam, that’s the concrete dam that holds back the Salinas River and created Santa Margarita Lake.

SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District maintains and operates the pipeline for SLO as a third party and regional partner.

It was originally built in 1941 and the leaks have been given temporary repairs, but the County now wants a permanent fix so they don’t get any worse.

“This Project,” reads a report from District Supervising Engineer, Anna McKenna, P.E., “will replace the two damaged pipeline sections with new PVC pipe of an equivalent diameter. The Project also includes replacement of two blow-off assemblies and minor drainage improvements to address localized erosion. These repairs correct existing deficiencies and do not expand or alter the function or capacity of the Salinas Pipeline.”

The initial segments of the pipeline deliver the raw lake water to the Santa Margarita pump station, where it is then sent over the hill into SLO’s water treatment plant near Cal Poly.

The Army Corps of Engineers actually owns the entire Salinas River Project, which includes the pipeline and the dam. And the Flood Control District is the overseer and handles maintenance on the reinforced concrete pipe.

The ACOE has already signed off on the repair project and so has the County Environmental Division. The project was deemed to have no environmental impacts. It’s a major piece of SLO’s drinking water infrastructure.

“The City relies on the Salinas Pipeline as a drinking water source and pays all costs associated with operating and maintaining the system,” the report explained. “Work will be coordinated with the City to align with its water demand needs.”

The cost estimate for the project is \$261,000 and the City of SLO will reimburse the District through its regular billing.

Bids were to be advertised starting around May 20 and

there’s a normal 21-day period to submit a bid. If needed, County Supervisors who sit as the Flood Control District Board have also approved an extension if needed.

Started in 1941 by the War Department in anticipation of WWII’s War in the Pacific and to feed water down to Camp San Luis, the dam was completed in 1942.

The dam is 135-feet high and can hold a maximum capacity of 28,000-acre feet of water in the lake at a maximum depth of 1,300 feet.

The Salinas pipeline and the Cuesta Tunnel that runs through the Santa Lucia Mountains were part of the initial project in 1941.

Cuesta College Earns High Fiscal Rating



The San Luis Obispo County Community College District Board of Trustees announced that Cuesta Community College earned honors for strong fiscal stewardship with campus investments. The school received an Aa1 ranking by Moody’s Ratings, a firm that tracks international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities.

The announcement comes as the district prepares to celebrate the opening of the new San Luis Obispo Campus Center and advances construction of the new Instructional Building at the North County Campus in Paso Robles — major investments made possible through voter-approved Measure L bond funding.

In its report, Moody’s cited the district’s “strong reserves, growing tax base, favorable regional economic profile, and stable financial operations as key strengths supporting the rating.”

The re-funding is expected to generate approximately \$2.7 million in taxpayer savings over time by replacing existing higher-interest debt with lower-interest bonds. All benefits from the re-funding will be delivered to property owners within the district, with no fiscal impact to the district’s General Fund.

“This rating reflects the district’s careful financial planning and commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources,” said Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Todd Hampton in a press release. “By securing favorable financing terms and responsibly managing Measure L investments, we are helping protect taxpayer dollars while continuing to invest in facilities that support student success and workforce development.”

The Aa1 rating is among the highest ratings assigned to public institutions and signals strong confidence in the district’s long-term fiscal health and governance.

Moody’s also highlighted the district’s approximately \$80 billion tax base and strong net asset position.

The district celebrated the opening of the new San Luis Obispo Campus Center with a community ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 3.

Moody’s was founded by John Moody in 1909, to produce manuals of statistics related to stocks and bonds and bond ratings.

Immigration Fears Preventing Healthcare

By Kaitlyn Le, Cal Poly Journalism Student

Nearly from the moment the presidential administration changed in 2025, Zandra Alfaro-Olea said she began to see drop-offs in requests for some of the services she provides at Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) in San Luis Obispo.

Families who had shown up reliably to the group’s Spanish language parenting course began missing sessions. Some stopped coming altogether.

Before the election, about 100 people would seek help from the group each month. After, the number immediately dropped by half.

“And now we’re at around 20 people,” per month, Alfaro-Olea said. And the drop was despite the group’s efforts to adapt to concerns by, for example, moving parenting classes from in-person to Zoom.

Across the region, healthcare providers report seeing the same trend, with increased fear making people reluctant to seek routine checkups, follow-up care and mental health support. That fear exists within a broader national context. As of early April, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) held more than 60,000 people in detention, one of the highest detention levels in recent years.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re a U.S. citizen or not,” said TMHA Community Engagement Director Michael Kaplan. “People are scared to meet friends in public, about how they present themselves, and about whether a space truly feels safe.”

County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Deputy Public Information Officer Olivia Montiano said she has also noted the trend among Latinx and mixed-status families.

As rumors spread about ICE warrants and possible raids, often people can’t tell whether nearby activity involves targeted enforcement or something broader, creating uncertainty across communities, said Montiano.

Beginning in late summer and into the fall of 2025, Montiano said her department and community partners began to notice clinic appointments dropping off when enforcement activities were reported nearby.

Preventing Healthcare Continued on page 6

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Fundraiser on Saturday, December 12th that benefits both
the SLO Noor Clinic and 40 Prado Homeless Services Center.

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Saturday June 27, 2026

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Event Proceeds to go to these non-profit organizations

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News

Preventing Healthcare From page 5

Schools reported attendance declines of about 20% on certain days. Community health events, fairs and festivals were canceled out of concern that public promotion could draw unwanted attention.

"People are going out as little as possible to protect themselves and their families," Montiano said. "That's not good for health and well-being in general."

Rinaldo Caminada is a nutritionist at the SLO NOOR Foundation in San Luis Obispo, a free clinic serving uninsured patients regardless of immigration status. He said he sees a growing number of patients skipping follow-up care for chronic conditions because they are afraid to leave home.

To mitigate the risk of leaving home, he travels with the clinic's mobile van to Paso Robles and Atascadero to reach migrant farmworkers. Others take phone appointments on their one day off from working in the fields or restaurants, so that medical care does not cost them a day's wage.

Caminada recalled advising a woman in Santa Maria to walk outside with her children for exercise. Out of fear, she told him she couldn't. They talked through alternatives she could do without leaving the house.

Money is an important factor. Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2026 budget cut new enrollment for full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented adults and proposes charging premiums for others in the program.

The Noor clinic runs entirely on donations and grants, with doctors, nurses and physician assistants volunteering their time pro bono. Cal Poly students also volunteer as medical scribes.

Caminada said the atmosphere is unlike a typical doctor's office, with no insurance forms and no long waits.

Such support is needed because medical costs can be so high. Caminada noted that a consultation with a cardiologist in private practice might cost hundreds of dollars.

"But if you're cleaning hotel rooms, how can you spend \$200 to talk to a doctor about your heart?" Caminada said.

"Healthcare is about providing dignity and health, regardless of what your immigration status is," he said.

To reduce barriers, some Central Coast organizations have expanded telehealth services. Programs such as WIC provide support remotely, while phone interpretation services help bridge language gaps. Partnerships with community clinics and non-profits including Planned Parenthood, CAPSLO and SLO Noor Foundation continue to operate mobile and pop-up clinics to reach uninsured and rural residents.

As someone whose own family includes some without legal status, Alfaro-Olea of the Transitions-Mental Health Association said she understands that the fear some are facing has health impacts of its own.

Children, she noted, are in a stage of emotional development that requires understanding about how to process the fear of possible separation.

In the Spanish-language parenting course she leads, sessions cover topics ranging from understanding diagnoses such as ADHD and schizophrenia to setting boundaries and practicing self-care. She sees these tools becoming increasingly urgent as health services and access to care grow more limited for undocumented and mixed-status families.

"The fear of people receiving services and [of] going out is delaying treatment for just basic needs, and that's especially [so] in children," she said. "It's only going to be causing, you know, a little more instability, more fear, more anxiety."

Estero Bay New Briefs

By Theresa-Maria Wilson

SLO's State of the City



For those who live, work or own a business in the City of San Luis Obispo, make plans to attend the Mayor's State of the City address on Tuesday, June 9, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 990 Palm Street.

Join Mayor Erica A. Stewart for an evening highlighting the City's accomplishments, ongoing projects, community priorities, and vision for the future of San Luis Obispo. The event will provide an opportunity to hear updates on important initiatives shaping the City and learn more about the goals and progress.

Observe Timber Rattlesnakes Around the Clock



Timber rattlesnakes bask at a communal gestation site at an undisclosed area of Pennsylvania where a new live-streaming camera has made its debut. Photo courtesy Project RattleCam

A new platform has arrived to observe timber rattlesnakes in nature from the comfort of home thanks to a partnership between Cal Poly and a Pennsylvania college chartered in 1783.

Project RattleCam recently launched its third livestream installation at an undisclosed, remote location in Pennsylvania. The new channel, now live through early fall, operates 24 hours a day, with night-vision cameras capable of capturing the activities of snakes and other creatures that enter into the frame of the camera lens after dark, such as rodents and weasels.

The community science project is a partnership between Cal Poly and Dickinson College based in Carlisle, located about a half-hour southwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, and can be accessed free on YouTube as part of Project RattleCam. The launch adds a new location to complement ongoing, highly popular livestreams from Colorado, made public three years ago, and from California, the first to be released six years ago.

"Like the other livestreaming cameras within Project RattleCam, the Pennsylvania camera provides scientists and the general public a unique window into the ecology and behavior of this secretive species," said Scott Boback, a Dickinson biology professor and co-director of Project RattleCam. "The timber rattlesnake exhibits several features that make it unique among snakes generally and rattlesnakes, in particular. It possesses one of the largest geographic ranges, extending into northern latitudes, and is probably one of the top five largest rattlesnake

species in the world."

The timber rattlesnake, native to the Eastern U.S., is listed as endangered and threatened in 12 of 30 states it occupies. This North American pit viper is extinct in three states: Maine, Delaware, and Rhode Island. The species typically inhabits forests in rugged terrain.

Timber rattlesnakes are venomous but known to be highly docile creatures and prefer to avoid confrontation, typically striking only in self-defense. The species was the first rattlesnake encountered by European settlers upon their arrival in the U.S.

"Although we know a great deal about certain aspects of timber rattlesnake biology, we are still discovering novel behaviors," Boback said. "Just last year, researchers described a potentially new form of communication in timber rattlesnakes that includes rapid, tactile head vibrations between individuals."

Steadily growing its audience, Project RattleCam now has more than 24,000 subscribers and over 5 million views across its channels. The idea behind the initiative is to encourage education about rattlesnake behaviors, discourage harm to the species and foster dialogue about the reptiles. Rattlesnakes are an important part of the ecosystem, helping to reduce disease and control rodent populations. And their venom has helped produce medications, including anti-clotting drugs that prevent heart attacks.

To learn more about Project RattleCam, visit: <https://rattlecam.org/>.

Local Artist Advances in National Art Competition



Los Osos artist Sophia Brody working on a landscape painting in her studio. Photo by Kathryn Aron

Los Osos artist Sophia Brody is advancing in "Johnny Depp Presents: The People's Artist," a national art competition celebrating emerging and independent artists.

Brody says her work is inspired by California landscapes, memory, music, and everyday moments, blending realism with atmospheric and emotional storytelling. Her paintings often feature Central Coast imagery including local coastlines, architecture, eucalyptus groves, and rural scenes.

In addition to showing work at Hands Gallery in San Luis Obispo and sharing her work online, Brody has recently gained attention for cinematic art videos and storytelling-centered social media content that blends painting, humor, creativity, and personality. Her growing online presence has connected with audiences drawn to both the artwork itself and the creative process behind it.

Recently, musician and visual artist Mark Mothersbaugh (of Devo) responded to Brody during an artist discussion, encouraging artists to move beyond "the expected formula," a sentiment Brody says strongly reflects her own artistic approach. Follow Brody on Instagram @transpersonalmuse or check out her website at sophiabrodyart.my.canva.site.

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

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Community

Memorial Day Ceremony Honors the Fallen

Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Los Osos community gathered moving and somber Memorial Day event to at Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park to pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

"The visual landscape of the cemetery served as a striking reminder of the cost of freedom, with individual flags carefully placed at the grave of every veteran — a breathtaking sight underscoring the immense value we must continue to bring to our community," said Keyna Torres with Los Osos Valley Mortuary & Memorial Park. "Adding to the gravity of the day, an eye-catching flyover by the Estrella Warbirds soared overhead. The historic aircraft served as a powerful symbol of strength, reminding attendees to remember the sacrifices of the fallen every single day for the freedoms we enjoy."



Lumin Earth Opens Kava Bar

By Neil Farrell

If you're looking for a way to socialize but not get toasted, a local apothecary store might have just the ticket for you.

Lumin Earth Apothecary, located in the Circle Inn building at 875 Main St. (corner of Harbor Street) in Downtown Morro Bay, recently debuted a new offering — drinks made with kava juice.

Kava is derived from the roots of the kava plant and native to the South Pacific Islands, where the natives have forever used it as a ceremonial drink.

Store owner, Sierra Mace, said it's a great drink for people today who want to socialize but are turning away from alcohol.

"It alcohol-free," she said of kava juice. "There're a lot of people here that are looking for sober night life."

In her work as an herbalist, she's developed some tasty drinks with the kava, which she sources from the South Pacific Island Nation of Vanuatu, a volcanic archipelago, and from Hawaii.

Normally one would find kava root in a health food store, and it comes in a form ready for brewing into a tea. But her kava is juiced and ready to mix with a variety of tropical fruit juices into tasty alcohol-free elixirs.

The kava drinks compliment the store's other offerings, which include healing crystals, house plants, and herbal teas and tinctures that Mace creates herself and designed to address different ailments that people might have.

Their store caters to spiritual folks who subscribe to the whole organic-herbal-holistic healing way of life.

And now, she's added kava drinks to her menu, again looking to fill a demand that's growing among young adults.

And don't call it a "mock-tail" — a traditional cocktail like a Piña Colada or Margarita but without the hooch. Kava is a medicinal herb, Mace said, and her drinks are "crafted elixirs."

That's not to say it has zero effects on the body.

"Your whole body feels relaxed," Mace said. At a recent launch party she said, "It was the coolest thing to witness from behind the bar."

"It's a social lubricant without the poison" of alcohol.



Lumin Earth Apothecary owner, Sierra Mace, shakes up one of her new kava elixirs during her recent kava bar launch party. Submitted photo



One of the new kava elixirs available at Lumin Earth Apothecary in Morro Bay. Submitted photo

Volunteers Needed



The City of Morro Bay is accepting applications to fill an unscheduled vacancy on the **Citizens Oversight/Finance Advisory Committee** for a term ending January 31, 2027.

The Citizens Oversight Committee's primary function, as established in accordance with the provisions of Measure Q passed in 2006 and Measure E passed in 2020, is to semi-annually review revenues and expenditures from Measure Q/E tax proceeds and present its findings and conclusions to the City Council. When acting as the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, the Committee reviews the proposed budget prior to or in coordination with presentation to City Council, time permitting, with particular emphasis on the budget for Measure Q/E funds, and undertakes special financial projects, as directed by the City Council, City Manager or City Treasurer.

More Information

- (805) 772-6568
- cityclerk@morrobayca.gov
- www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody

Application Deadline

- Friday, June 19, 2026 By 5 PM
- Interviews are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 28th.

Kava Bar Continued on page 9



Probate Avoidance with Living Trusts

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Police Blotter



- **May 24:** Police responded at 9:38 p.m. to Albertson's Market on Quintana to deal with some groom of the stool making an arse of himself. The fellow had a bench warrant, proving once again that the nail that sticks out gets hammered.
- **May 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at the ungodly time on 12:06 a.m. in the 1500 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver got schooped for driving stupid.
- **May 23:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:17 p.m. in the 800 block of Piney Way next to Foster's Freeze drive in. The driver was tossed to the gaol for suspicion of driving legless.
- **May 23:** At 11:33 a.m. police contacted a poisonous fellow in the 2300 block of Hemlock who had a felony warrant.
- **May 23:** At 11:33 a.m. police ticketed another parked car with expired registration tags in the 2000 block of Sandalwood, normally such a nice upscale neighborhood.
- **May 22:** At 7:38 p.m. in the 300 block of Harbor police contacted a suspicious subject traipsing about and arrested the blasted bloke for suspicion of being drunk on the fumes of victory, a possible case of just 'cause it kills your liver, don't mean it ain't medicine.
- **May 22:** Yet another undisclosed lost item was found and turned over to police at the stationhouse.
- **May 21:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:44 p.m. in the Albertson's Market parking lot. Logs indicated they arrested the driver for suspicion of going shopping while inebriated.
- **May 21:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:52 p.m. apparently heading out of town at Atascadero Road and Ironwood. Logs indicated the fooliot driver was cited for suspicion of driving plastered with a suspended license no less.
- **May 21:** At 12:20 p.m. police responded to an emergency alarm at the High School, as some future Dean's lister apparently pulled a fire alarm.

- **May 20:** Police were called at 10:53 p.m. to a disturbance in the 900 block of Main at the Siren. Logs indicated they arrested some apparently bent fellow who was also charged with suspicion of resisting arrest and assault on a police officer, in addition to his (or her) being drunk and acting beastly.
- **May 20:** At 3:10 p.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow in the 300 block of Surf who naturally had a trio of out of county felony and misdemeanor bench warrants. He or she was hauled to the hoosegow to await a ride back home, a case of there's more to the elephant than the tusks.
- **May 20:** Police responded at 12:54 p.m. to a report of petty theft at Legend's Tavern in the 800 block of Main. No word on what was stolen but it was no doubt legendary.
- **May 20:** Police at 12:27 p.m. made a run for the border and caught up to a wanted pendejo at Taco Bell on Main who had a warrant.
- **May 20:** At 9:43 a.m. police caught up to another scofflaw in the 1700 block of Main who also had a bench warrant. And before that, at 9:18 a.m. in the 400 block of Quintana they caught up to another annoying flesh monkey with a warrant.
- **May 19:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 0:13 a.m. at South Bay and Quintana. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of being half cut behind the wheel.
- **May 19:** Police responded at 2:22 p.m. to the 1100 block of Monterey where some tortured soul reported receiving threatening phone calls and being stalked by some no doubt gaggle headed Scaramouch.
- **May 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd., no doubt while beatin' feet out of town at 10:53 p.m. Logs indicated the driver was nicked for suspicion of being thick as a tick.
- **May 17:** Police stopped a naughty driver at 8:04 p.m. at Harbor and Piney Way and ticketed the anarchist for not wearing a seat-belt.
- **May 16:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:02 p.m. in the 1000 block of Main. Logs indicated the driver was cited for misdemeanor suspicion of driving tanked and felony violation of probation, showing once and for all where the priorities lay.
- **May 16:** At 7:40 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject who

- had a bench warrant in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd., at the Morro Bay Coffee Co., showing once again that too much caffeine ain't good for you.
- **May 16:** At 12:47 p.m. in the 900 block of Morro police contacted yet another model citizen with a bench warrant shattering the serenity at La Serena Inn.
- **May 15:** At 10:32 p.m. police caught up to another citizen of the year in the 300 block of Surf who had an RSVP from the judge. Logs indicated the apparent liar also allegedly gave police a fake name and was allegedly caught with dope in his or her possession, which explains a lot.
- **May 15:** Police responded at 4:43 p.m. to the 2700 block of Elm for a report of someone getting swindled by some larcenous swindler.
- **May 15:** Police responded at 4 p.m. to the Harbor House Inn in the 1000 block of Main where they'd reported felony identity theft and petty theft.
- **May 15:** Police espied a suspicious vehicle at Greenwood and Avalon. Logs indicated they cited the offensive auto for expired registration, a hanging offense in this state.
- **May 15:** Police responded at 2:38 p.m. to a car crash in the 400 block of Quintana. No word on the extent of the carnage.
- **May 14:** Someone found some unidentified something somewhere at Dunes and Market.
- **May 14:** Another unregistered vehicle was spotted at Driftwood and Monterey and was ticketed, as the crime wave continues.
- **May 14:** Some unknown citizen turned in at the police station some undisclosed treasure they found at an unnamed location.
- **May 14:** Police ticketed a lazy bones vehicle that somebody parked for too long in the 2500 block of Ironwood.
- **May 13:** Someone turned in something that was found or left behind at the Best Western San Marcos Inn in the 200 block of Pacific.
- **May 12:** Police responded at 8:30 a.m. to Del Mar School on Sequoia after someone reported receiving terrorist threats of bodily harm, or a Tuesday at schools in this country.
- **May 12:** Police responded at 9:51 p.m. to a report of some mulish idjit violating a domestic violence restraining order.

Gel Plate – is it candy or art supply?

The Squishy Slab with Serious Creative Potential. It jiggles. It's squishy. It looks suspiciously like a big gummy candy. If you have no idea what a gel plate is, you're not alone.

Gel plates are reusable printing surfaces that may seem like they belong on the toy aisle instead of the art studio. But gel plates are surprisingly powerful printmaking tools that can turn paint, textures, leaves, stencils, and everyday objects into beautiful, one-of-a-kind prints.

Its strength lies in the interaction between layers. As the artist builds layers, the play between color, surface, line, and shape evolves in serendipitous ways. The basic techniques are easy to learn, yet experienced artists can also find challenges and push creative boundaries.

Intrigued? Estero Bay Art + Craft, located in Morro Bay, will hold a gel plate class on June 18. Beginners are welcomed and no drawing skills are needed - but if you draw well, you can put that skill to use. This class offers a relaxed and welcoming environment to play, experiment, and create. All materials are provided, and you'll leave with a collection of original prints and plenty of inspiration. Cost is \$50. For information or to register, visit bit.ly/4v11qak or call 805.771.5007.






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Smart Anniversary From page 3

ed a second search warrant to specifically dig up the area the soil samples had indicated.

"In order for the excavation to take place," Cipolla said, "large concrete pavers along the side yard had to be removed."

The following day (May 9) they excavated the site, which sits very close to the Arroyo Grande Village district in the heart of the South County city, and sifted the soil looking for any evidence like archaeologists at a dig site.

"During the search of the property," Cipolla said, "investigators recovered several items considered evidentiary in nature."

He added that the County Crime Lab is analyzing those items, and declined to say specifically what they were.

The house on Branch Street in Arroyo Grande has long been suspected in the case as where Smart's body was at least initially hidden, but it was trace evidence of human remains found under a porch at the Nipomo home of Reuben Flores that provided key evidence in the conviction of Paul Flores for her murder.

Ironically, while the younger Flores was convicted his father

was acquitted; this even though the key piece of scientific evidence was found at his home.

Cipolla said of this latest search of Ms. Flores' home, "Ultimately, no human remains were recovered during the excavation."

He added that the Sheriff's Department remains committed to finding Smart's remains. Sheriff Parkinson, who was with the San Luis Obispo Police Department when Smart disappeared, is also dedicated to finding her and bringing closure to the case.

"As I said following the verdict in 2022," Sheriff Parkinson said, "there is no true justice until Kristin is reunited with her family. That remains our mission today. The Sheriff's Office will continue to pursue leads, conduct searches, and follow every path that could help us find Kristin. We will not stop searching for her, and we will not allow her to be forgotten."

He pledged to the Smart Family to never give up.

"To the Smart Family," he commented, "we continue to stand with you. And to our community — thank you for never giving up on Kristin. Our commitment remains unwavering. Until Kristin is brought home, this mission is not over."

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Community

California State Parks Week: June 10-14



Mosaic and Marvels of Hearst Castle is part of State Parks Week June 10 – 14. Photo submitted

California State Parks Week celebrates the wonder and sense of community that the outdoors provides at 280 state parks units. This year's theme is "This is where you live." Check the website, castateparksweek.org, for Central Coast events.

Special community events and in-person and virtual programming welcome visitors to enjoy California's State Park System's diversity.

Local and Central Coast Events Include:

- Mosaic Marvels of Hearst Castle (June 11, 9 a.m.)
- Caring for the Collection of Hearst Castle (June 12, 9 a.m.)
- Experience the Magic of Morro Bay SP (June 13, 9 a.m.)

Among the activities included are free kayaking tours for underserved youth of San Luis Obispo County

- Guided Geology Walk at Montaña de Oro SP (June 11, 10 a.m.)

• Shipwrecks of Monterey at the Monterey State Historic Park (exhibit opening and reception (June 11, 5:30 p.m.). Within the Sanctuary, 463 shipwrecks are identified. Not all have been researched and documented, but 14 new shipwreck profiles were added to the Sanctuary website recently. Retiring MBNMS Deputy Superintendent Dawn Hayes said that her personal favorite was the USS Macon, the U.S. Navy's last great helium flying airship that went down with four Sparrowhawk biplanes on board in

1935

• Celebrate Indigenous Communities at Andrew Molera SP (June 13th, 10 a.m.)

Registration is required some events. The 5th annual celebration of California's State Parks is co-Sponsored by State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation (calparks.org), Save the Redwoods League and Parks California.

Marine Swap Meet Set For June 27

Folks who need or like marine-oriented equipment, gear or décor might find something they like at the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department's next Marine Swap Meet.

The swap meet is set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 27 at the Harbor Department's storage yard adjacent to the Morro Bay Maritime Museum, 1210 Embarcadero. Admission is free.

Vendor spaces cost \$40 and are available now. Sign up online at: friendsoftheMBHD.org or in person at the Harbor Office, located at the North T-pier.

Proceeds benefit the Friends and the Morro Bay Youth Sailing Association.

You'll find marine supplies and hardware, boats, surf boards, fishing gear, nautical antiques, dive and scuba gear and maritime collectibles. There will also be some yummy sweets for sale.

The Maritime Museum will be open to visitors, as well. Call 805-772-6254 with questions.

In the photo is a deep-water diving helmet that was at a previous marine swap meet.

In Print & On Line



esterobaynews.com

Events and Activities



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Upcoming free youth programs in June at the Morro Bay Library - 625 Harbor St, (805) 772-6394.

• Button Making - Wednesday, June 3, 3 – 5 p.m.

Unleash your creativity at our monthly art party! Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker! For ages 8-18.

• **Reptile Ron Animal Show** - Wednesday, June 10, 3 – 4 p.m. Meet Reptile Ron and all his animal friends. All ages.

• **Giant Build It Challenge** - Wednesday, June 17, 3 – 5 p.m. Build jumbo creations with Giant Octo Play, jumbo Legos, huge magnatiles and more! Will yours be the tallest, widest, most colorful, or something else entirely? Build it, tear it down, build it again! For ages 5+

• **Sensory Playtime** - Saturday, June 20, 10:00-11:00

Let your little ones lead the way in this open-ended playtime! Parents & caregivers: we also have early literacy tips for you! For ages 0-5.

• **Play Nintendo Switch** - Wednesday, June 24, 3 – 5 p.m.

Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch! We will provide one Switch for up to four players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros, and Just Dance.

• **PG Movie Day** - Saturday, June 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:15

p.m.

In this month's feature, a historian races to find the legendary Templar Treasure and the key is contained within the Declaration of Independence.



...

Join the Cayucos Land Conservancy for their 2026 Community Meeting and Reception. Sip, nibble and mingle with your neighbors, friends and the CLC Board. Find out what's going on with the greenbelt around Cayucos. Friday, June 12 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the Cayucos Landing (outdoor space). Reservations are not required, but they're love to know if you'll be there - it helps them with planning.

Events Continued on page 10

Kava Bar From page 7

She said it tastes "earthy but not gritty." And like some alcohols such as vodka or rum, kava mixes well with a lot of different flavors.

She's created a menu of several kava elixirs with names like Passion Fire, Guava Calm, Lychee Rose, and Cacao Spice, which is one of several drinks served hot. She can also serve the drinks in a coconut half shell making it a little more tropical and fun.

Or you can choose from a list of ingredients and make up your own kava elixir and choose how strong it is — single or double shots.

Lumin Earth's kava bar is open Fridays and Saturdays from 5-7 p.m. Their herbal teas and other apothecary tinctures and lotions are available during the store's regular hours, Mondays and Wednesdays-Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are closed on Tuesdays.

Lumin Earth has an online store, see: www.luminearthapothecary.com. They are also on Instagram: @luminearth.apothecary.

Mace said she can relate with folks who want to get away from the old way of socializing with alcohol, as she's been sober for several years now.

Her elixirs "are deliciously amazing," she said, "and make you feel so good."

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Community

Events From page 9

Attendees can help make the event a success by volunteering or bringing finger foods, desserts, or beverages. If interested, contact them at Hello@Cayucoslandconservancy.

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

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

Manufacturers include: Springbok, Ravensburger, Willow Creek and many more. Sizes range from 300 pieces to over 1,000. Themes include holidays, animals, shaped puzzles, Americana, nostalgia and more.



Cal Poly Jazz Ensembles to Present Sounds of Harmony Concert on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Spanos Theatre. The University Jazz Band's set will include Don Menza's "Dizzyland," Ryan Haines' ballad "There's a Letter from Home," and Marshall Gilkes' "4711 Special." The Jazz Combos will feature "Inevitable" by one of its members, Oscar Cervarich, plus Ray Barretto's "Indestructible," Duke Pearson's "Jeannine" and more. Aaron Kline is the interim jazz band director, and Dylan Johnson directs the combos. Get tickets, ranging from \$12 to \$22, at pacsl.org.

Free Programs at the Los Osos Library, 2075 Palisades Ave. for June, 805-528-1862.

• **Storytime** - Thursdays, 10:30 - 11 a.m. Stories, dance, and music for toddlers and preschoolers.

• **Fiber Arts Club** - Thursday, June 4, 2:30 - 4 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** - Friday, June 5, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Unleash your creativity at our monthly art party! Create your very own fantastic pieces of flair using our button maker! For ages 8-18.

• **Bears Book Club** - Tuesday, June 9, 6 - 7:30 p.m. "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo. Adult, drop in.

• **Giant Build it Challenge** - Friday, June 12, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Build jumbo creations with Giant Octo Play, jumbo Legos, huge magnatiles and more! Will yours be the tallest, widest, most colorful, or something else entirely? Build it, tear it down, build it again! For ages 5+.

• **Pokemon Card Trading** - Saturday, June 13, 2:30 - 4:30 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! All attendees will receive 1 card of their choosing from the librarian, while supplies last.

• **Nintendo Switch** - Friday, June 19, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch! We will provide one Switch for up to four players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart, Just Dance and Super Smash Bros. School Age, Tween, Teen.

• **Acrylic Ocean painting with Spencer Poulter** - Saturday, June 20, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Students will create a landscape painting on canvas using acrylics in this guided two-hour lesson. Great class for learning about brushes and color theory! Suitable for all skill levels. Adults/Teens. Registration Required.

• **Flute Recital** - Saturday, June 20, 3 - 4:00pm Join us for a recital performed by flutists Nell, Shelly, and Bonnie. All ages.

• **Paws to Read** - Wednesday, June 24, 3 - 4 p.m. Come and read your favorite book to Lucy and Pauli! School age.

• **Reptile Ron** - Friday, June 26, 3 - 4 p.m., South Bay Community Center. Meet Reptile Ron and all his animal friends. South Bay Community Center. All ages.



Volumes Of Pleasure Bookshoppe celebrates Pride Month with an event featuring three authors on Saturday, June 13 at 1 p.m.

Alicia Gael is a local author who has written several books including "Murder, Mayhem and Sex on the Beach", a sapphic romance and mystery novel that blends romance, suspense, and humor.

JD Locke is a sapphic author based in Los Angeles who believes every love story deserves a happily ever after-especially queer ones. Her debut novel, a magical holiday romance called "A Visit from St. Nic" was released in 2025.

Lynette Beers is an award-winning author with several books

in print, including a book set in the Central Coast, with her most recent, "Uncharted Waters," released 2025.

For more information, contact us at Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe 805-528-5565.

Celebrate Summer at the 23rd Annual Ice Cream Zoofari on Saturday, June 6 from 5 - 8 p.m. Cool down and join the celebration at the Central Coast Zoo in Atascadero. Plan for a magical summer evening with all-you-can-eat ice cream, sundaes, and yummy toppings! Enjoy hands-on fun with Central Coast Trains, see and learn about how the animals stay cool, and have a chance to explore animals native to some of the world's most biodiverse habitats on one unforgettable evening. This year's delicious ice cream is generously provided by Harmony Valley Creamery, with flavors including Vanilla Bean, Chocolate, Strawberry, Salted Caramel, Coffee Bean, Cookies N' Cream, Mint N' Chip, and Butter Pecan!

Whether you visit the Zoo often or this is your first time, this year's Zoofari is something truly special. The Central Coast Zoo is SLO County's only Zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is home to hundreds of animals from around the world. The Zoo is committed to conservation, education, and inspiring connections between people and wildlife. All sales are final. Tickets available online until day of event at 1 p.m. Tickets will then be available at the Zoo beginning at 5 pm. Tickets are \$17 for 13 yrs. and up; \$12 for 3 to 12 yrs., free to ages 2 and under. All Zoo Members receive \$2 off every ticket purchased. They are available in advance at My805Tix.com.



Cal Poly Choirs and Symphony present Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and Stravinsky's 'Symphony of Psalms' on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Beethoven's symphony is one of the most recognizable pieces of all time. Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms" represents the height of his neoclassical period. The Fresno City College City Singers will be the guest ensemble, making for a total of nearly 250 performers onstage. Get tickets, ranging from \$12 to \$17 at pacsl.org.

That's So Pride is bringing the heat, the hair, and the high-energy vibes you've been waiting for on June 6 starting at 8 p.m. at Libertine Brewing Company in SLO. Make sure you're ready to dance and see some amazing performances from hosts Nala Diamond, Juicy C.W., and more of San Luis Obispo's favorite

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Community

Queens. Dress to impress for this 21+ Dance Party. Doors 8 p.m. The show/dance party starts at 9 p.m. Food and drinks available throughout the night.



On June 7, That's So Drag Brunch is back and ready for Pride month! We've got the glitter, we've got the mimosas, and we've got the most fabulous queens in San Luis Obispo ready to leave it all on the floor for you. Come for the brunch, stay for the party. Trust us, you don't want to be the one hearing about it later. Hosts Nala Diamond and Juicy C.W. will bring the energy along with performances from Shekinah Manly, Cleo Van Scarlett, Viola Tile, and Fae Fatale.

Doors open at 10 a.m. Show starts at 11 a.m. Full bar and food menu available throughout the show. This brunch is an 18+ event, so bring valid ID for entry.

•••



Don't miss Sherman's Legacy Flight on June 6, at 10 a.m. at Estrella Warbirds Museum, 4251 Dry Creek Road in Paso Robles. This special event honors the legacy of Sherman Smoot — Navy veteran, aviator, and passionate advocate for honoring those who served. Sherman piloted Betsy's Biscuit Bomber out of the Paso Robles Airport during Honor Flight Central Coast California's inaugural local "Tour of Honor" flight, carrying 18 veterans who were unable to travel to Washington, D.C.

This marks the fourth year of the special Betsy Biscuit Bomber flight, which will carry 14 veterans and four additional passengers on a one-hour journey along the beautiful Central Coast before returning to the Paso Robles Airport. The veterans will board the plane by approximately 10:30 a.m. and depart the Paso Robles Airport by 11 a.m..

When they return to the Estrella Warbirds Museum, they will be enthusiastically welcomed home as they should have been all those years ago and provided with lunch in the Estrella Warbirds Hall.

If you are out and about on Saturday, June 6th, between 11 am and noon near Camp San Luis, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria or Nacimiento Lake and hear the beautiful sound of a fully restored Douglas C-47 Skytrain overhead, look up, wave, and salute those amazing men and women flying above. It is a small gesture of gratitude for the sacrifices they made so we can enjoy the freedoms and beauty of the Central Coast today.

•••

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.

Lost at Sea a Touching Memorial

Photos by Neil Farrell

The 24th Annual Lost at Sea Memorial Ceremony was held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 at the Cayucos Pier Plaza.

A couple of hundred people turned out for the solemn ceremony that pays tribute to all souls lost at sea — both military and civilian.

Organized by the Lost at Sea Committee and supported by numerous local service organizations, the ceremony went on this year for the first time without one of its long-time participants, the late Maj. Jim Murphy (U.S. Army Ret.), who died last year. His family was on hand to honor him, and emcee Trudy O'Brien gave a touching tribute.

The ceremony also specifically honors commercial fishermen lost at sea and is highlighted by performances by trumpeter and Retired Marine, Jerry Boots, who played the "National Anthem" and various military anthems, including the newest one for the Space Force.

Bagpipe and drum performances with piper Paul Dunn and drummer Bob Ratliff included "The Skye Boat Song" and "Amazing Grace."

A color guard from Coast Guard Station Morro Bay led the procession down the pier where a wreath of flowers is traditionally tossed into the sea, with a water canon salute by a Morro Bay Harbor Patrol boat.

The ceremony also included the debut performance of a special song by the Cuesta Concord Chorus directed by Cassandra Tarantino.

There was a flyover by the Estrella Warbirds in the Missing Man Formation. The Sea Cadets also participated in the ceremony dressed in their snappy white uniforms and the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony was performed by Thomas Worth Vogel and Adrian Hurtado.

Air Force veterans Dan Costley and Donna Archer had the honors of tossing the wreath into the sea to end the ceremony.

Committee member, O'Brien, served as master of ceremonies and was assisted by her husband Jeremiah in the "Tolling of the Bells Tribute."

The photos depict scenes from the ceremony that next year will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. It's been held annually except for 2020 when the COVID pandemic canceled it.

It was even held during the years that the Cayucos Pier and Cayucos Vets Hall were closed and under construction.





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Takin' Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Woods Adoption Fees June 6

On Saturday, June 6, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Woods Humane Society will join animal shelters across California in offering fee-waived adoptions as part of the third annual California Adopt-a-Pet Day, hosted by the California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA), and the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

"We are thrilled to be a part of this important awareness and adoption event that will help bring much-needed attention to homeless pets across the state," said Woods CEO Emily L'Heureux in a news release. "Woods Humane Society has seen enormous success in placing animals in loving homes during the past two years of this event, and we can't wait to see the impact we can have this year with our community's support."

The third annual California Adopt-a-Pet Day builds on two consecutive years of record-breaking results. When the event launched in 2024, 3,609 animals found loving homes in a single day, far exceeding its initial goals. In 2025, 148 animal welfare organizations across 212 event locations helped find homes for 4,979 pets. This year, organizers are aiming to surpass 5,000 adoptions for the first time. To date, the event has placed 8,588 animals



in homes over its first two years.

The ASPCA is providing grants to underwrite adoption fees at most participating organizations including Woods Humane Society and shelters across the state. In 2025, 46 percent of California Adopt-a-Pet Day adopters were doing so for the very first time.

On June 6, Woods Humane Society will be joined by fellow Central Coast shelters participating in California Adopt-a-Pet Day, including San Luis Obispo County Animal Services, Santa Barbara County Animal Services, Santa Barbara Humane, Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society/D.A.W.G., among others. Animals of all breeds, ages, sizes, and energy levels are available at participating shelters. Most shelter animals are already spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped before adoption. Shelter staff will help ensure adopters are matched with an animal who is the right fit for their lifestyle.

The event comes as animal shelters across California continue to face capacity pressures. In 2025, 5.8 million dogs and cats entered U.S. animal shelters and rescue organizations nationwide. Only about 30 percent of California households currently adopt their pets from shelters or rescue organizations. California Adopt-a-Pet Day was created in part to address these challenges, removing cost as a barrier to adoption and connecting more animals with loving homes.

Woods Humane Society is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, and is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

Three Cal Poly Faculty Awarded Fulbright Awards

Three Cal Poly faculty members have been awarded the highly competitive Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award for the 2026 academic year, with an additional faculty member named as an alternate. These honors recognize excellence in teaching, research and a shared commitment to advancing global collaboration.

Natasha Neumann, associate professor and co-coordinator of the M.S. Educational Leadership and Administration Program

(ELAP) in the School of Education, Bailey College of Science and Mathematics, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Spain. She will be hosted by Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera in Valencia, where she will conduct a project on "Multilingual Learning in Spain & the U.S.: Educational Policy, Leadership, and Teaching Practices," examining the intersections of language, education policy and leadership across international contexts, with a focus on advancing educational equity and cross-cultural understanding.

David Askay, professor of communication studies in the College of Liberal Arts, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Japan. Hosted by Ritsumeikan University, his research explores how embracing ambiguity — known as *yuragi* — can enhance creative team collaboration. In addition to his research, Askay will teach courses in design thinking and learning from failure and will work to build infrastructure supporting future student exchanges between Cal Poly and Ritsumeikan University.

Jasmine Nation, professor in the Liberal Studies Department in the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics, has received an award for Chile. She will collaborate with colleagues at the Universidad del Bío-Bío on her project, "Science Teachers as Researchers: Learning from Place-Based Science." Her work will include co-teaching graduate courses, mentoring teacher-led research, and advancing cross-cultural science education through the University-Community Links network, reflecting a sustained commitment to global partnership and educational innovation.

In addition, Clay McKell has been named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar alternate to Austria. His proposed project, "Game Theoretic Protocol Design for Energy Efficient Multi-Hop LoRa Networks," investigates how game-theoretic approaches can improve the performance and energy efficiency of communication in Internet of Things (IoT) systems. His project will be in collaboration with the University of Klagenfurt.

"These awards highlight the exceptional caliber of Cal Poly's faculty and their dedication to addressing global challenges through research, teaching and collaboration," said Cari Vanderkar, assistant vice provost for International Programs and Cal Poly's senior international officer. "We are proud of their achievements and the impact their work will have both internationally and within our campus community."

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is one of the nation's most prestigious international exchange programs, supporting faculty and professionals as they engage in research and teaching abroad to foster mutual

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understanding between nations. Since 1946, it has provided over 400,000 talented and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds with the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research abroad. For more information about the Fulbright Program, visit <https://fulbrightprogram.org/>.

For more information about Fulbright opportunities at Cal Poly, contact Nishi Rajakaruna, nrajakar@calpoly.edu or Cari Vanderkar at civander@calpoly.edu.

SLO Libraries Open Extra Hours for Summer 2026



Select County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries locations will open for additional hours during the summer months of June and July.

Because of summer heat, two North County locations will be open extra hours as places to cool off. Shandon Library will be open an extra day, Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30 – 1 p.m.). San Miguel Library will add Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Some South County locations will offer extra hours to accommodate additional summer traffic related to the temporary closure of the Arroyo Grande Library. Oceano Library will add Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m., and Shell Beach Library will be open Thursdays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Visitors can find hours for all 14 County of SLO Public Libraries locations at SLOLibrary.org.

Grover Beach Photographer Named to National List

It's that time of year to start booking senior portraits for school yearbooks for the class of 2027. Amy Marlan Photography, based in Grover Beach, was named to SeniorMUSE magazine's "50 to Follow '26'" list, a nationally recognized honor identifying the top senior portrait photographers across the country. The competition draws thousands of entries annually, making the final list a significant achievement in the senior portrait industry.



Amy Marlan Photography of Grover Beach was recently named to SeniorMUSE magazine's '50 to Follow '26' for senior portraits. Regan Holland, a senior at Nipomo High School, was one of the portraits featured in the publication. Photo by Amy Marlan Photography

For families with high school juniors, senior portraits should be on the planning list now. In fact, most area high schools require senior portraits for yearbook submission by late fall.

Amy Marlan offers full-service studio and outdoor photography around the Central Coast and on location. She encourages having a relaxed mindset throughout the portrait experience

"This is a rare opportunity for your senior to be the sole subject of a portrait session. Having time to plan and get creative without a deadline leads to better results," said Marlan.

Marlan's process begins with a creative consultation in which she learns about the student's passions, personal style and future plans to ensure every portrait is as individual as the senior it celebrates. If the student isn't sure what they want, Marlan will help them find their artistic direction.

"Choosing a professional photographer who knows lighting, posing and composition helps the most reserved subjects feel at ease and confident in the outcome," said Marlan. "Senior portraits are a huge milestone."

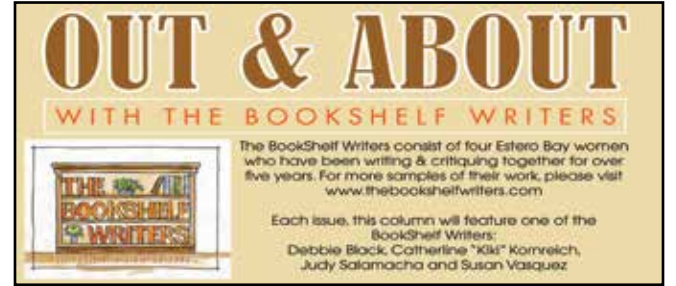
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STEM-Worthy Free Maritime Fun This Summer

By Judy Salamacha



he inaugural Summer Sessions in 2025 featuring volunteer Morro Bay Maritime Museum members. Activities included singing and pulling to a sea shanty with Gregory Anderson; diving and steering the ship with Morro Bay fisherman Jeremiah O'Brien; and securing knots with Larry Newland. The program is and back for 2026. Photos provided by Jenna Freck

"Summertime and the living is easy" or so the classic lyrics promise! Seriously, is it easy today? Many families must modify their regular schedules and find childcare or activities for their school-aged children who are on summer break. If that is your

Out & About Continued on page 14

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Community

Out & About From page 13

quest, here's a great opportunity.

The Morro Bay Maritime Museum (MBMM) started a summertime experience program for kids 8-12 in 2025 and are scheduled to offer a refreshed program this year on eight consecutive Mondays starting June 15. It's free – yes FREE! The goal is to have lots of creative fun at the museum while learning about our waterfront community — our bay, our boats, and our marine-life. SLO County residents or visitors available on a summer Monday? All are welcome to reserve your child's spot by signing up at www.morrobaymaritime.org or if it is more of a last-minute decision, show up by 9:30 a.m. to register at 1210 Embarcadero.

According to Jenna Freck, this year's MBMM volunteer director, "We have several knowledgeable volunteers returning this year and have added some very talented and respected community groups and volunteers to join us in this summer."

She mentioned the ever-popular John Lindsey, who is now retired from his career as a weather specialist for PG&E, but continues to update Central Coast weather weakly on social media. And Ken Foran, who is an internationally known master model-maker, who happens to live in Morro Bay. He created the model of the iconic fishing boat "The Dirty Dozen" on display at MBMM and has another model ready for placement.

Jenna further explained, "This year's program is developed around a theme for the day based on the skills of the volunteers who are donating their time to work with the participants. Although the themes have been set and registration is in full swing, some volunteers are still working out their final commitment dates at the time this column will publish."

The first experience date begins Monday, June 15. All sessions run from 10 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunchtime. Participants can sign-up for all or pick and choose their dates. The first session is intended to be a fun day at the museum introducing the vessels, favorite maritime interactive activities, and each participant will craft their own sailboat or submersible, also known as a submarine like the mammoth green DRSV-2 Avalon that fronts the museum on the Embarcadero on the way to Morro Rock.

June 22, the theme is navigation while at sea with insights led by Morro Bay's Steve Dunkelberger. Joining him is Avila Lighthouse docent Susan Posner to explore how lighthouses along our western and eastern coasts help guide boats to sail a safe distance from our rocky shores.

June 29, participants will learn all about weather.

July 13, MBMM's Jenna Freck and Steve Dunkelberger will co-present activities with visiting docents from the Central Coast Aquarium in a program called, "Sea Life – Octopuses and Squids." Participants will enjoy watching the wiggly sea life that will have traveled from Avila's museum in touch tanks.

July 20 looks at the strong bonds that were created early in the development of MBMM with our first residents, the Native American Salinan Tribe. Members created and gifted a permanent hand-crafted reed boat to be permanently displayed inside the museum when it first opened and last year a Salinan Garden area was completed. Participants will learn about Morro Bay's early American roots directly from Patty Dutton and other members of the Central Coast Salinan Tribal Council.

July 27 – Sailing and fishing the ocean develops a variety of skills. MBMM's founding board member, Larry Newland, will demonstrate a variety of such skills. What a treat for participants to return home and show off new knot tying tricks to their fami-

lies!

August 3, the Morro Bay Estuary Program's Education Specialist Forrest Lurz will show and tell little known facts about our bay's sea life and vegetation.

August 10 is celebration time! Some folks whistle while they work, but sailors are known for singing Sea Shanty verses. Local Sea Shanty performer Gregory Anderson will be back this summer to guide the participants in "work" that becomes a lot more fun when learning to sing several Shanty-songs.

Kendall Welch, MBMM board president, shared why this summer program is important to MBMM. In 2025 she attended the American Maritime Association's annual conference, which was held on the USS Constitution in Boston. She returned with invaluable insight gleaned from maritime museum leadership around the country. Multiple times she heard, "Attracting younger children and their families to your maritime museum is a smart way to build future sustaining membership. Building memories at the museum bonds future loyal members to the museum. They will recall fond memories and want to share the experiences with their children when they are adults."

Once home in Morro Bay, Kendall expressed her hope to create some kind of children's program and was delighted how quickly MBMM's board and membership demonstrated their approval by offering donations to fund a summer experience in 2025. She also summed up the museum's plans and future goals. "We hope to extend a children's experience program all year long on weekends as well as the summertime. For now, our free summertime experiences are fashioned like summer camp, and Jenna's creative skills as an artist and teacher is the perfect MBMM member to lead our program in 2026."

Surf Camp Fundraiser is June 6



A fundraiser for Project Surf Camp at the Fitness for Life physical therapy clinic in Morro Bay is set for noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Shown here is a camper from a previous summer and her volunteer buddy learning to surf. Photo by Neil Farrell

A local physical therapy clinic is again hosting a fundraiser for Project Surf Camp, and the community is invited to come out and get some barbecue and bid on auction items.

Fitness for Life, located at the corner of Harbor Street and Shasta Avenue, across from the Morro Bay Library, is hosting the fundraiser from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Admission is free

and there will be a wide array of items to bid on and help support Project Surf Camp.

Project Surf Camp is a non-profit organization supported by the Morro Bay Recreation Department. Their day camps are held every summer at Morro Rock and benefit people — kids and adults — with special needs.

According to the camp's website (see: www.morrobayca.gov/741/Project-Surf-Camp), "PSC uses surfing, the beach, and other ocean activities as an educational modality to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy in individuals with special needs. PSC further provides opportunities to build social skills, improve physical fitness, develop healthy outlets for stress reduction, and foster independence."

Set up in 4-hour installments, PSC has a small paid staff supported by numerous volunteers who work with the campers teaching them the basics of surfing and the ocean.

Cost is \$75 per camper, and this year's camps are set for June 10-13, June 16 and 20, and June 24-27. There are morning and afternoon sessions.

In July, camps are set for July 1-3, and July 8-11. Check the website to see which camps have space available, as the popularity of the program means most slots fill up fast.

For more information and how to volunteer, contact PSC Camp Director, John Taylor at 805-235-1157 or email to: john@projectsurfcamp.com.

Cat Noir CC

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Boris is a sneaky guy trying to play on the human's natural rebellious nature. He figures he can get me to rip open the treat bag with reckless abandon to ease my itch.

Little does he know that it is the one fang hanging out and that perfectly round face out that got me. Who new lopsided was handsome. As much as I poke fun of this big pesky, demanding oaf, I never forget for a minute how lucky I am to have been adopted by him.

This morning he decided to prove that not all cats are graceful. I was almost waking up way after the alarm, in other words way after cat breakfast, when Boris decided he should check if I was still breathing. Every doctor will tell you that the best breath test is to start and the shins and slowly and heavily walk your way up to the human's face.

I was on my side, so it was a tad narrower of a space than if I was flat on my back, but my body is not a pencil size or a tight-rope. Daisy can run up the side of me and Virgil could should he

Cat Noir Continued on page 15



Photo by Cat Noir CC

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Where's the Bear From page 1



The bear statue makes the short drive to its new location on the other side of Turri road.

existing bridge and will feature 8-foot shoulders with bike lanes, along with a separate 5-foot-wide pedestrian pathway.

Throughout construction, the bridge will remain open to traffic, although speed limits may be reduced to improve safety within the construction zone. At times, shoulders and bike lanes may be closed, requiring bicyclists to share

the roadway with vehicles. Once the new bridge is completed and opened to traffic, the existing bridge will be demolished.

For now, the community's beloved bear will watch over the project from its temporary home, awaiting its return to greet residents and visitors entering Los Osos for years to come.



The crew responsible for moving the iconic bear statue.

Obituaries

Richard Allan Steuk 1945 - 2026



Richard Allan Steuk, age 81, passed away on May 1, 2026 after a very brief battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). He left behind his loving wife Alaine, sons David Steuk (Nancy), Edward (Diane) Wilson and David (Shawna) Wilson; grandchildren Garret Steuk (Julia), Emily Richardson (Daniel), Ian Steuk (Emily) and step-granddaughter Natosha Koltweit (Keith); sister-in-law Patricia Steuk; nephew Jeff Steuk (Paulette). He is preceded in death by parents Karl E. and Ruth (Pietschman) Steuk, his brother Karl William Steuk, and niece Kathy Sprungl (Jeff).

Rich was born March 23, 1945, in Sandusky, Ohio. He graduated from Margaretta High School in the class of '63, Miami University Oxford, Ohio in '67, and earned the Chartered Financial Analyst Designation (CFA) in 1975. His career was focused on security analysis and managing investment portfolios. He first worked at National City Bank, Cleveland before moving to Arizona where he was with First National Bank of Arizona (now Wells Fargo), and concluded his career at the investment counseling firm of L. Roy Papp and Associates (Phoenix) before retiring in 1995.

In retirement he enjoyed sharing homes with Alaine, first in Scottsdale, AZ and then Morro Bay, CA, travel, ocean sailing — both competing and for leisure in their boat — ballgames, theater and helping others. He also supported the arts by establishing an endowed music award at Miami University plus supported many local Morro Bay charities and organizations.

At Rich's request, no memorial service will be held. Interment will be in Oakland Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Richard A. Steuk Music Award in care of Brad Bundy, Miami University 725 Chestnut St., Oxford, Ohio 45056 or one's favorite charity.

Jordonna Diane Dores 1952 - 2026



Jordonna Diane Dores was born Kathy Blend on February 14, 1952, in Palo Alto, California. She lived a vibrant life shaped by reinvention, relationships, curiosity, and love. She was warm and welcoming, deeply interested in people from all walks of life, and had a special gift for creating meaningful connections wherever she went.

Jordonna grew up in California's Bay Area as the second of five siblings and attended Gunn High School in Palo Alto. As a young adult, and throughout her life, she embraced the spirit of the 1970s. She was free-spirited, strong-minded, open-hearted, and always searching. She lived briefly in Vermont and Washington state before settling in Zenia, California, where she began her motherhood journey with the birth of her first daughter, Laurel Makayla. Two years later, her daughter Amelia Star was born.

She then moved to Southern California, where she met Michael Dores. They married in 1988 and built a life together rooted in love, partnership, and community. They later moved to Montana's Flathead Valley, a beautiful place that captured both Mike and Jordonna's hearts. For the past 22 years, Jordonna and Mike escaped the Montana winters to their second home in Morro Bay, California, where they built close, long-lasting friendships.

Jordonna helped Mike manage their company, Merlin Information Services, while still sharing her time and talents throughout the Flathead Valley. She volunteered with Hospice and the Bigfork Guitar Festival. She also played a significant role in the fundraising efforts for a new Bigfork library, a new wheelchair accessible campsite and dock at Yellow Bay State Park, and many other local causes.

In retirement, Jordonna's creativity flourished. She loved mosaics, rock art, and paper art, especially handmade cards. Her

art was personal, her way of reaching out and saying, "I thought of you. I made this for you. You matter."

One of the best examples of Jordonna's generosity was in the way she gathered people. For many years, she hosted an annual holiday party in the Flathead Valley, inviting those without family nearby to make sure no one would feel forgotten or alone. She loved hosting her grandchildren, Andrew and Lindsey, for grandparents' summer camp in Montana, creating memories full of adventure, love, and new experiences. She treasured her circle of friends and nurtured those friendships with warmth and openness.

Jordonna firmly believed in the vast connection of the universe and in all of us as interconnected beings, transcending time and space. That belief was fitting for a woman whose life was so deeply rooted in relationships...to her family, friends, and community.

Those of us who loved Jordonna knew her as a bright light... funny, curious, generous, creative, and deeply connected to the people and world around her. She will be lovingly remembered and missed beyond words.

There will be a gathering later this summer at one of Jordonna's favorite places, the Swanderosa on the Swan River in Bigfork. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to jds_gathering@icloud.com to be added to the list.

'Love Letters' at By the Sea



Laura Richie (left) and Larry Barnes star in the Reader's Theater performance of 'Love Letters,' produced by the By The Sea Productions, June 5-7. Submitted photo

Morro Bay's community theater troupe will stage its next live production this weekend, and tickets are available now.

By the Sea Productions will stage a reading of "Love Letters," a play by A.R. Gurney this Friday-Sunday, June 5-7. Show times are 7 p.m. all three nights with Saturday and Sunday matinee performances at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$23.27 a person. Seating is limited. Reserve tickets now online at: bytheseaproductions.org or call 805-776-3287.

Love Letters is the story of two childhood friends who maintain their relationship through a lifelong correspondence.

As actors read their letters, the ebb and flow of their character's lives is recalled through laughter and tears.

This staged reading features Larry Barnes and Laura Richie in the lead roles, and is directed by Sheridan Cole.

By the Sea Productions performs at St. Peter's by the Sea Church in Morro Bay, located at 545 Shasta Ave.

Now in its 10th season, By The Sea Productions is Morro Bay's only live theater company. It's a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality live theater to the residents of Morro Bay and visitors.

They offer full-length plays and Readers Theatre shows throughout the year, in a combination of comedies, dramas, and classics.

Coastline Arts Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

Coastline Arts is celebrating 10 years in San Luis Obispo County, offering classes, workshops and performance groups where one can discover, or rekindle, the joys of the performing arts.

Their spring season wrapped up last month with a popular "road show" to retirement and elder-care facilities, featuring the Coastline Arts Choirs who are taught, rehearsed and conducted by Coastline Arts' founder and director, Colleen Wall.

"Colleen's wonderful singers always bring so much joy to our residents," said Oscar Buenrostro, community enrichment director for the Rose Care Group, in San Luis Obispo, one of the road show venues. "They enrich our seniors' lives with beautiful songs that bring up memories and emotions for all of us."

The season also featured events at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos, where audiences enjoyed "A Night to Shine" in February, with vocalists braving the spotlight, often for the first time. And in March, the theater/improvisation group Small Town Players performed light-hearted skits interspersed with audience-participation trivia contests.

Coastline Arts began with a vision to make the performing arts accessible to all — veteran musicians as well as those desiring



Coastline Arts' founder and director, Colleen Wall. Photo by Coastline Arts



HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MORRO BAY

Nadine Richard's Little Red House

To see the little red house, drive south on the Embarcadero in Morro Bay to the Tidelands boat launch area and look inland. You will see the red house Nadine Richards built just inside a chain link fence next to the parking lot.

Nadine was born in 1906 and moved to Morro Bay at 285 Main Street with her parents Charles and Irlene in the mid-1930s when the population of the Morro Bay was probably under 500 people. In 1939, she acquired the deed to a narrow strip of land along the bluff at what was then 683 Embarcadero. She had completed college and was working as an interior decorator and artist in Morro Bay by the time of the 1940 Census when she was 34 years old.

Before the war started, Nadine built the top half of the little red house to live in on her mother's land at 285 Main. She did all the work herself, including making pieces of lumber for framing, siding and installing windows. During the war she moved to the Bay area to work in an aircraft factory, but she returned to the little house when the war ended.

Because the Navy had built the Embarcadero in 1942 and 1943, Nadine was able to construct an art studio on her small parcel on the bluff while she continued to live in the little red house on Main. In about 1952/1953 she built a sledge and with the help of a bulldozer moved the little house to the studio location and (somehow!) got it on top of the studio, creating the two-story shape it now has.

The little house is fully functional with a tiny kitchen, a bathroom and a larger living area. It has bright light from its windows and a high-pitched ceiling, making a cozy spot to live. The studio below is connected to the house above through a trap door Nadine cut into the corner of the living area.



The little red house built by Nadine Richards. Photo submitted

Nadine lived in the little house, working as an artist and poet, for many years. She was an active part of the Morro Bay artist colony, part of a group that included pre-war residents like Aaron Kilpatrick, Charles Robinson, Harold Knott, and Charlotte Skinner, and weaver Miles Castle (who plumbed the house to make it more comfortable), as well as lots of later members of the colony in the 1950s.

In 1996, when Nadine had grown old and frail and needed money for her care, she sold the house and lot to the current owners, ending her long residence on the Embarcadero. The owners are planning to build a new home and there isn't room to keep the little red house. Finding a way to keep the house safe is a major project of the Historical Society.

Sources: Photo-HSMB. Background: Many thanks to Nancy Farrell and Betsy Bertrando of Cultural Resource Management Services for research done for the owners in 2017. If you have a great photo or story to share, contact HSMB at info@historicalmorrobay.org.

Cat Nior From page 14

ever want to be that close. Boris stood with all four dead-weight paws on my shin and started wobbling, so the claws crept out as he drunk walked up my body. (He would not have passed a field sobriety test.)

I tried not to yelp as each step promised to leave a wiggly bruise that only an ungraceful elephant could leave. I pleaded internally to every god that has ever been written about, for him to lie down on or fall off of me. He finally settled with a humph and

me an oomph. His feet and sharp claws reached up to my face and he did his trademark, lowered head subservient look that means "pet me; I'm the goodest boy." Then he rubbed his always wet, cold nose on me.

He won. Breakfast was late, but I got out of bed smiling. What more can a person ask for? What do cats do that make you smile even if you are half asleep?

Follow CatNoirCC on Facebook and Instagram for daily posts.

Track Athletes Get Big Send-off to State

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay High students and band members lined up last Friday to give a warm send-off to two track athletes bound for potential glory at the State Championships.

Juniors Shelby Taylor and Wendy Wilson along with their coaches — Jennifer Frere and Jackie Wilson — were heading to Bullard High School in Clovis for the State Meet Prelims on Friday, May 29. If they ran fast enough they would return for the State Finals on Saturday (post EBN deadline).

Morro Bay Vice-Major Jeff Eckles spoke to the girls before the big sendoff telling them their community was proud of them and fully supportive of their efforts. After a few quick photos with coaches, Eckles, and school principal Scott Schalde, they left the school office and walked through a long line of their classmates to a rousing drumbeat by the school band's drum corps.

Then it was into a school district van and a police escort — with lights flashing — to the City Limits before the roughly 200-mile trip to Clovis.

Head Track & Field Coach, Frere said Wendy Wilson recently won the CIF Section Championship in the 800 meters breaking her own school record and clocking 2 minutes 11.12 seconds in the effort. She followed that up with a third-place finish in the CIF Central Section Masters Meet, which combines the top finishers from each Division into one race for the honor



From left are: Morro Bay Vice-Mayor, Jeff Eckles, track coach Jackie Wilson, state meet qualifiers Shelby Taylor and Wendy Wilson, head track coach, Jennifer Frere and MBHS Principal Scott Schalde. Photo by Neil Farrell

of competing at the State Meet. Top-3 make it to State, she said.

Taylor was a double CIF Section Champion taking first in the 1600 meters and 3200 meters. She then finished third at Masters to qualify for State in the 1600. But her 3200 time landed her outside of the Top-3, so she'll just be concentrating on the 1600 at State, Frere said.

Taylor also broke her own school record in the 1600 clocking 4:55.08.

Both girls said they weren't nervous about the big meet and were excited to be returning to the championships.

Both also made State last year but finished out of the medal hunt. "It just wasn't our day," Wilson said.

Both girls laughed that last year the temperature was 105-degrees. But this year it was in the low 70s on Friday and in the low-80s on Saturday, considerably cooler than it was last year and more like Morro Bay weather.

Wilson said she wasn't feeling nervous but was feeling "prepared." Taylor said she was just excited to race.

Wilson said she's looking at possibly attending the University of Washington after she graduates next year but hasn't settled on anything yet. Ditto for Taylor.

Both girls have had impressive prep careers. Taylor medaled at the State Cross Country Meet in 2024, taking fifth place as a sophomore.

Both girls qualified for the State Cross Country meet that year.

In 2025, with Taylor sitting out the season, Wilson again made it to the State Meet as an individual runner, as the girls' team finished out of the hunt.

Coach Frere said they had several other athletes do well at CIF this year. The Boys 4 X 800-meter relay team finished sixth and medaled. They were 9 seconds off the school record, the coach said.

Parker Brigham was a CIF Champion in the girls high jump clearing 5-feet 3-inches for a personal best. She jumped 5' 1" at Masters and her season ended there.



Shelby Taylor (left) and Wendy Wilson walk through a lineup of Morro Bay High Students and the band's drum section beating out a warm send-off as they headed to the State Track & Field Championship Meet on May 29. Photo by Neil Farrell

Another girl, Rees Bright medaled in the 200 meters at CIF.

In league competition, the team didn't fare so well. Coach Frere explained that in dual meets they go up against much larger schools, like Santa Maria and Pioneer Valley that can field a complete team with multiple athletes in each event.

That makes it tough for a small school like Morro Bay to compete. "We use league as a tune up for CIF," she said. "It's hard to be competitive as a team."

No Medals at State Meet

Morro Bay's two State Meet hopefuls didn't make it out of the preliminary rounds last Friday, at the CIF State Track & Fields Championships.

Morro Bay's Shelby Taylor and Wendy Wilson, both juniors, had qualified for the State Championship Meet held May 29-30 at Bu-channan High in Clovis competing against the top runners in the whole State of California.

Taylor competed in the 1600 meters going up against a field of 28 and finished 14th. Her time in the metric mile was 4 minutes and 50.91 seconds.

The winner of that prelim race was Chiara

Dailey of La Jolla in 4:46.00. So Taylor finished about 4 seconds behind the winner. The Top-12 in the prelims qualified to run in the finals.

The eventual State Champion in the 1600m was Braelyn Combe of Santiago in 4:35.59.

Wendy Wilson was the other Pirate to compete at State running the 800m. She finished 22nd in the prelims in 2:12.09.

The winner of the prelim race was again Combe of Santiago in 2:08.25, so Wilson also finished about 4 seconds behind the winner.

Combe went on to win the State Championship in the 800m as well, running even faster than her prelim time in 2:05.13.

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Letters

To The Editor



The Other Side of the Sewer

It is unfortunate that Mr. Farrell didn't reach out to the Cabrillo Estates Property Owners Association (CEPOA) for the May 21st article on the Cabrillo Sewer project. He would have had a better-balanced news article if he had.

The Local Area Management Program (LAMP) was developed to mitigate high levels of groundwater contamination, typically in rural areas where sewer is not available. Cabrillo Estates was designated a "Severe Nitrate Loading Area" in 2018 after the sewer was built. Nearby wells, including the Cabrillo well and the Sunset Terrace well have consistently shown high levels of nitrates.

Residents of Cabrillo were unaware of the LAMP until it was brought to their attention by the Basin Management Committee (BMC), the group that is tasked with monitoring and protecting the Los Osos Aquifer, our sole source of water.

The retrofit to an advanced water treatment system from a regular septic system is very complex. The advanced system is made of two tanks and must be hard wired to WiFi for monitoring. They require special permits and must also be inspected and tested annually by the county. The system will remove approximately 50% of the nitrates but no other contaminants such as medications or cleaning products commonly

found in wastewater.

CEPOA had Crizer Construction do an estimate of the cost of these systems on four different subject properties and the cost ranged from \$100,000 to \$150,000 to install the system. That did not include the cost of repairing driveways and landscape as the systems require leach fields, not leach pits which is the style generally found in Cabrillo.

It is little wonder that residents looked for a better alternative to such an expensive requirement. Most of the residents in Cabrillo are retired and few would have the ability to put out that kind of money all at once. Even Ms. Howard conceded that Cabrillo Estates would "likely not meet the waiver requirements" to avoid having to install these systems.

The request to the Board of Supervisors was to create a tax assessment district which would pay for all of the cost of the project through our property taxes over time just like Baywood. Over 70% of the property owners affirmed not once but twice they would go on the hook to fund the entire project with a supplemental assessment.

There are additional reasons to connect to the Water Reclamation Facility. (WRF) Environmentally this is a much better solution than just removing some of the nitrates from the

Letters Continued on page 12

Coastline Arts From page 15

creative self-expression. Colleen had recently retired from 20 years as a high school music educator when an opportunity arose to partner with Hearst Cancer Resource Center to bring music — specifically singing with others — to patients and their caregivers.

Coastline Arts now includes the original Singing for Hope choir, the Small Town Players, a vocal chamber ensemble, and a women's ensemble, all under Colleen's direction — she is the sole proprietor and organizer. Additionally, Colleen offers voice and piano lessons at her Los Osos studio.

Today, Coastline Arts includes upwards of 100 members and is open to all ages 14 and up.

"Many are retirees for whom the opportunity to pursue the performing arts while making new friends is among the best perks of this time of life," Colleen said. "Everyone in the community can benefit from opportunities to connect with neighbors and friends, while nurturing

their own creativity and self-expression. In celebration of life's joys and victories, or as antidotes to the challenges and strife of our times, performing arts are a wonderful way to manifest joy, solace, and hope."

The Singing for Hope choir meets every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the South Bay Community Center in Los Osos.

Choir member Jean Moelter appreciates the benefits of Coastline Arts. "There's nothing as joyful as singing in a group," she said. "Using your voice to make music with others feels great mentally, physically, and spiritually. And the sense of community Colleen creates at every rehearsal is a beautiful thing."

Rehearsals are underway for the autumn and winter seasons' repertoire (including the road shows), making this a great time to get involved. For opportunities along with performance dates and ticketing, go to www.coastlinearts.org.



CONGRATULATIONS

Morro Bay and Cambria

SENIORS CLASS OF 2026

Messages To Our 2026 Graduate Class

To the class of 2026

Morro Bay High School is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026, with 174 graduates preparing to take their next steps toward college, careers, military service, and beyond. This class demonstrated remarkable dedication and work ethic during their high school years, with just over 79% of graduates holding jobs while attending school.

More than half of the graduating class completed at least one Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway, requiring two years of focused coursework in fields including Agriculture, Arts & Media, Engineering, Health, and Automotive Services. These programs help prepare students to be both career- and college-ready.

The Class of 2026 will continue their journeys in a variety of ways: 37% will attend four-year universities, 53% will enroll in community colleges, 3% will attend trade schools, 2% will enter the workforce directly, and 2% will take a gap year before continuing their education. Morro Bay High School also proudly recognizes three graduates who will serve our country as members of the United States Military.

This year marked a record number of Morro Bay High School students both accepted to, and choosing to attend, Cal Poly SLO.

Over half of our graduates who are choosing to attend Cuesta College and take advantage of the Cuesta Promise program, were accepted to four-year universities. These students made the thoughtful financial decision to begin their college journeys locally before transferring to a university in the future.

Graduates from the Class of 2026 will attend an impressive range of colleges and universities beyond our local Cal Poly SLO, including UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UCSB, UCLA, Boise State University, Cal Poly Humboldt, Chico State, Fresno State, Grand Canyon University, Long Beach State, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Cal State Monterey Bay, Northern Arizona University, Pratt Institute of Design, Sacramento State, Saint Xavier University, San Diego State, San Francisco State, San Jose State, Smith College, Saint Mary's College, Whitworth University, University of British Columbia, University of Hawaii, University of Minnesota, University of Oregon, University of Redlands, San Francisco State, University of Utah and more.

Morro Bay High School congratulates the Class of 2026 and looks forward to the positive impact these graduates will continue to make in their communities and beyond.

*Love you Morro Bay,
Scott A. Schalde*



Coast Union High School Class of 2026

I am filled with pride in each of you. You leave a lasting legacy here at Coast Union. Carry forward the lessons and confidence you've built here. Stay curious and make the most of every opportunity. Remember, success is measured not only by achievements, but by character and the impact you have on others. I wish you all continued growth and success.



*Congratulations,
Class of 2026.
Ed Arrigoni*

Dear Class of 2026

Congratulations! You did it. After countless hours, papers, exams, and classes, you succeeded, and it is time to celebrate your accomplishments. Now, your future is unfolding, full of promise and opportunity. We are excited for the adventures you will have.

This moment may be bittersweet. You have formed close friendships, found mentors, and developed a sense of community. It may feel daunting to end this chapter of life. Yet today is the start of something wonderfully new as your friendships, community and future grow stronger and brighter.

As a former teacher and a mom of two Morro Bay High students, I am so proud of what you have accomplished. Your perseverance and dedication in getting to this moment are to be applauded. In a complex world no one can replace your uniqueness, and I hope you relentlessly invest in what matters most to you.

From Sacramento to the Central Coast, I am in your corner, rooting for your success. I cannot wait to see all that you do for our collective future. Be proud of this accomplishment. Savor this moment. Most of all, congratulations Class of 2026! "



*With pride,
Assemblymember Dawn Addis
California's 30th Assembly District*

To the Graduates of 2026

Congratulations on achieving a notable milestone in your life! As you wrap up your high school career, you deserve to celebrate with your friends and family, and be celebrated by them!

As I look back on your journey through school, I know you've met more than a few challenges. The global pandemic struck at a crucial time at your life – and had an outsized impact on everyone's relations with school and life in general.

In many ways, things have gotten even more challenging since then. You've had to deal with a fast-changing world, where social media and artificial intelligence often feed social discord and harsh political rhetoric. All that seems to make everyday problems more complicated and trickier to navigate.

Yet, you've persevered and now accomplished something you should be immensely proud of. The diploma you receive is not just proof of your academic achievement. Yes, you've taken the classes and passed the tests, but think of all the other things you've learned about the world and other people.

In being part of your school's community, you've had to navigate relationships with people who were at various times annoying, clueless, frustrating and inspiring. While it probably wasn't always easy, that journey was essential in learning the complexities of human relations. Over these years, I expect you've also developed strong feelings about what's right and wrong in the world around you as well as opinions on what needs to change. That's fantastic!

Going forward, I hope you can continue to build many strong and durable relationships, because taking on our challenging world is something we must do together.

Your shared experiences have given you tools that will help shape the rest of your life, as well as the world around you. On whatever path you take, I hope you remember that being connected to others will make all of us stronger.

Now, it's time to celebrate how far you've come, and, please, let me offer sincere best wishes for all your future adventures! Congratulations!

*Bruce Gibson
County Board of Supervisors*



Morro Bay High School - Class of 2026



Acuna, Vanessa



Alders-Zive, Gavin



Amesse, Ava



Appel, Beatrice



Appel, Maggie



Araujo, Valeria



Arroyo Catilleja, Itzell



Asuncion, Adrina



Asuncion, Philline



Barnes, Marie



Barnett-Davis, Astrid



Basch, Rowan



Batalla, Radden



Bautista, Logan



Bellenzier, Eliana



Beltrama, Ashley



Biscay, Cassandra



Boggs, Isaac



Brown, Eli



Bryan, Clint



Burrow, Sahara



Camat, Arianna



Campanario, Anthony



Canas, Elizabeth



Carranza, Karina



Carreno-Diaz, Amanda



Carter, Weston



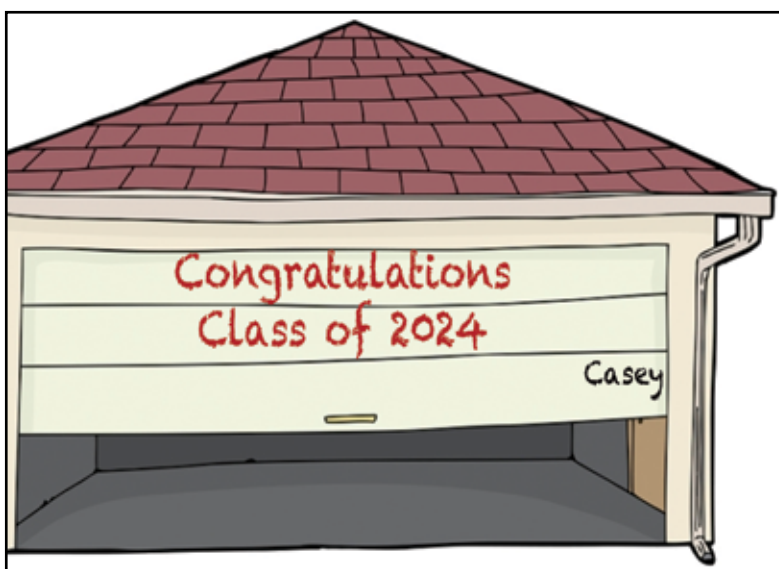
Cassidy, Dylan



Castanieto, Alexis



Castillo, Ace



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Coloma, Jesica



Contreras, Moriah



Cross, Keolani



Crotts, Quentin



Cruz, Genesis



Cuellar, Joaquin



Dancelme-Zarek, Lucien



Davenport, Hayvn



Davis, Evan



De Angelis, Andre



De La Rosa, Itzel



Dewitt, Caleb



Dougherty, Sands



Duprey, Lucy



Ekegren-Martinez, Alexander



Elmendorf, Aidan



Enriquez-Rangel, Guadalupe



Esparza, Jesus



Faulkner, Ale'a



Fernflores, Phaedra



Finch, Josslyn



Fitzwater, Zoe



Franco, Yaretzi



Fuller, Nathan



Garcia Rios, Geovana Julieth



Cisneros, Christian Garcia



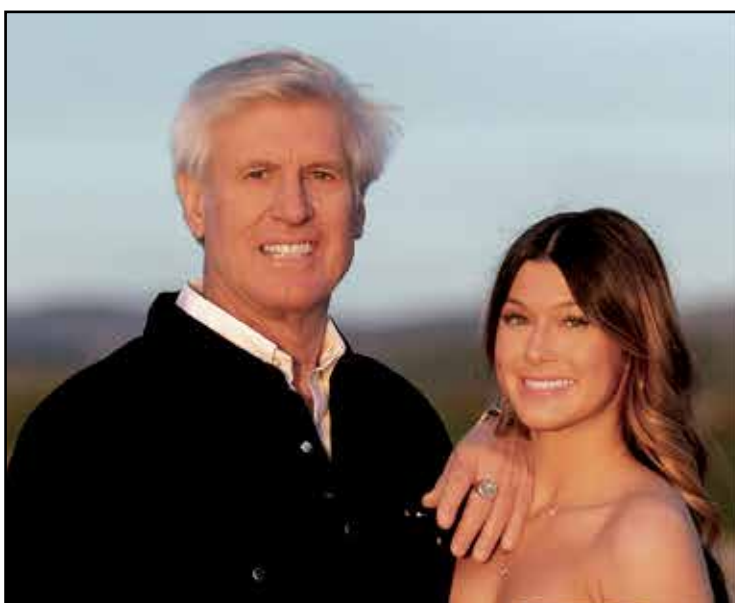
Jimenez, Katherine Garcia



Fernandez, Marilyn Garcia



Gomez, Ailene



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Watching local students grow into remarkable young adults is one of the many reasons we love being part of this community. We are especially proud to celebrate our very own **Averie Kaiser** on this exciting milestone.

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Gomez, Lianna



Gomez, Michelle



Gonzales, Brayden



Gonzales, Kieli



Ochoa, Juliciana Gonzalez



Gonzalez, Melissa



Gonzalez, Naomi



Gray, Tanner



Gumia, Kyle Eduardo



Haggard, Luke



Hague, Eli



Hart, Haley



Hartz, Julie



Hatton, James



Hawk, Stone



Heidt, Quinn



Hendel de la O, Jamie



Hendrix, Lucy



Hernandez, Efrain



Hernandez, Maybeline



Holst, Dominic



Eligo, Silvia Miranda



Jacquay, Emerson



Johnson, Poppy



Joshi, Suhan



Kaiser, Avery



Katsones, Alexandra



Kelly, Reese



Kimball, Nicholas



Kong, Juliana

Congratulation



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Kusko, Logan



Lietner Woolf, Abbie



Leon, Joaeli



Lithwin, Zane



Lopez, Mario



Lu, Edward



Lun, Lawrence



Macari, Luca



Macri, Vincent



Madison, Anthony



Martinez, Melanie



Martinez, Ryan



Mayo, Justine Ruby



Mehiel, Callum



Meichtry, Lyla



Miranda, Silas



Miranda, Giselle Cuevas



Moore, Jude



Morgan, Justus



Murphy, Chris



Naguit, Christina



Nairne, Sy



Navarrete-Cruz, Maria



Nguyen, Brian



Nishihama, Samantha



Noel, Samantha



Ocampo-Mateo, Jocelyn



Pace, Violet



Palmer, Gianna



Panian, Eva

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Parra Villaba, Abigail



Parra, Maverick Jay



Pascual, Gabe



Patel, Ishaan



Patel, Krishna



Patel, Tiya



Patton, Corey



Paul, Aleya



Penney, Davis



Pimienta, Daisy



Quintana, Andres



Rios Hernandez, Emmanuel



Roberts, Alex



Rodriguez, Giselle



Rosenlieb, Colton



Rounds, Amir



Russell, Ginger



Salgado, Chris



Carbajal, Jorge Salgado



Sanders, Chayse



Schofield, Nolan



Schooley, Isaac



Schuerfeld, Anders



Schuyler, Zoe



Serna Rocha, Tania



Shields, Alana



Skaggs, Joe



Socarras, Marley



Sotelo, Samuel

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Sperber, Charlie



Stilts, Mckenzie



Strong Lee, Eddie



Taylor, Jane



Martinez, Annamarie



Tuller, Abigail



Turton, Willa



Urbina de Jesus, Litzy



Valdes, Penelope



Van Meel, Isaac



Vidati, Aesa



Washburn, Quin



Weatherly, Lola



White, Colton



White, Gabrielle



White, Sandy



Whitehead, Ben



Wilder, Audrey



Wilkinson, Cruz



Williams, Lily



Wolfe-Kelly, Ariel



Wood, Jacobi



Yoshimoto, Jacob



Zastoupil, Anthony



Zatt, David

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Coast Union High School - Class of 2026



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Arellano Pena, Cynthia



Avina, Jorge



Amezcua, Owen



Balladares Gomez, Jose Manuel



Beauchene, Kaeli



Beltran, Gustavo



Castaneda, Grace



DeAlba, Anthony



Fernandez Garcia, Kimberly



Garbers, Austin



Garcia, Ashley



Garcia, Sussy



Garcia Carbajal, Mario Alonso



Garduno, Jose



Gutierrez, Kate



Gomez, Lua Evelyn



Gonzalez, Carolina



Lopez, Alex



Lopez Arvizu, Jonathan



Macias, Alexia



Medina, Mark



Mejia, Fernando



Mondragon-Urbina, Luis



Porch, Kaelyn



Ramirez Garcia, Eric



Ramos Garcia, Teresita



Rios, Susi Vanessa



Ruiz, Peyton



Salas-Canchola, Andrea



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 2250 Yorkshire Dr
 2120 Green St
 950 Main St
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 4314 Bridge St
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 2700 Eton Rd
 786 Arlington St
 1000 Main St*

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 805-927-8021
 805-927-5119
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 thevillagechristianchurch.org*

*Meets at the Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall (address above) Sundays at 10AM

Coast Union High School - Class of 2026



Schalk, Anna



Simiano Farias, Suleima



Urbina, Juan



Valencia, Alberto



Venegas Cardenas, Aimee



Ybarra, Elvis

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Study Blows From page 1

Wind O&M Infrastructure Study,” was written by the global engineering firm, Mott MacDonald using the results from various other studies as well as original work.

Mott MacDonald’s contract was for \$684,000 and covered the individual studies for Morro Bay and PSL.

The City, PSL and Cal Poly split the remaining \$315,000 to cover their work in supporting the study.

Though seemingly pretty involved, Mott MacDonald acknowledged that it isn’t the end-all definitive word on offshore wind and actually takes from a previous study done for the State Lands Commission as ordered by Assembly Bill 525.

That study looked at every port and harbor in California and judged their suitability for supporting offshore wind (OSW) facilities. Called the AB 525 Port Readiness Plan, it concluded that Morro Bay could become a port for crew vessels, the smallest of the three types of vessels that will be needed to build, service and maintain OSW. But it could need up to \$50 million or more in harbor repairs and improvements to do it.

The Mott MacDonald study upped that astronomical figure considerably.

“Construction cost estimates,” Mott MacDonald’s report said, “for the least constrained concept designs were estimated

to be approximately \$130-\$140 million, however may be in the range of \$90-\$210 million according to the Advancement of Cost Estimating’s Class V cost estimate scheme (-50% to +100%) for concept-level assessments.”

That least constrained model would be O&M facilities for all three wind energy companies, and doesn’t consider all the extra costs associated with doing anything in California, especially within the Coastal Zone.

“Costs were estimated for the waterfront infrastructure only and excluded any potential costs for environmental mitigation, upland development, or costs to relocate or compensate businesses,” Mott MacDonald’s report said.

They also looked at costs if the O&M facilities were split up but the numbers didn’t get much better.

“Construction cost estimates for the Split-Location concept design [one developer at Morro Bay, one developer at San Luis Obispo Bay, and one developer located out of the area] were estimated to be approximately \$114-\$122 million, but may be in the range of \$80-\$183 million according to the Advancement of Cost Estimating’s Class V cost estimate scheme (-50% to +100%) for concept-level assessments.”

The study assumed the North T-Pier would be the logical place for the 90-foot crew boats to tie up. That pier is also where the Coast Guard and State Fish & Wildlife as well as Harbor Pa-

trol have their boats. Some of the larger commercial fishing boats also tie up at the North T-pier as do visiting super yachts on the rare occasions they pull into Morro Bay.

It should also be noted that currently the City is seeking bids on a major overhaul and repair to the structural supports of the North T-pier which dates to the World War II Navy training base.

Indeed, many of the major piles that hold up the pier’s deck are rotted through, and some are not even attached anymore.

The study pretty much writes off using the North T-pier.

“Due to the expected size of vessels and loading required for O&M activities, the existing T-Piers at Morro Bay were found to be likely unsuitable for reuse or modification for O&M requirements.

“As such, an O&M facility would likely require a new marine structure, sized to support the required number of SOV(s) and CTVs.”

An O&M facility isn’t the same as the much-reported staging and integration (S&I) facility that requires a deep-water port and about 50-acres of adjacent land for a manufacturing/assembly yard. That’s what will be needed to assemble and launch the wind turbines to be towed to the wind area, which at 20 MW would stand about 1,000 feet tall with up to 300-foot fan blades.

As a comparison, Morro Rock stands some 575-feet high, and the power plant stacks are 450 feet.

As it stands, the location of this S&I facility is another of the many unknowns with OSW, but Long Beach in Orange County has expressed a desire to build such a facility. Port Hueneme in Ventura County has also been talked about as a potential S&I Port location.

“Unlike a Staging and Integration (S&I) facility,” Mott MacDonald said, “an O&M facility is typically limited to a dock and loading space for support vessels, as well as nearby offices and warehousing for maintenance activities and storage of weather sensitive components.

“Based on similar facilities and initial conversations with the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (MBWEA) offshore wind developers, an OSW O&M fleet for a single lease area in the MBWEA would be anticipated to include one large offshore Service Operations Vessel (SOV) and optionally one small Crew Transfer Vessel (CTV).”

The crew boats are 65-90-foot long and used to shuttle crews out to work areas, such as is done in the Santa Barbara Channel with the offshore oil platforms.

A 90-foot boat would be among the largest vessels in the harbor today, though there have been other 90-foot vessels — tug-boats servicing Chevron’s oil tankers at Cayucos and Coast Guard cutters — in the past. The current Coast Guard patrol boats in the harbor are 47-foot long.

In the State Lands Commissions previous study, it was proposed that the larger SOV boats would likely have to moor outside the harbor in Estero Bay.

Mott MacDonald said, “SOVs are assumed to be up to 300-feet in length and typically remain offshore for extended periods of time (assumed 1-2 weeks) performing inspections and maintenance activities before returning to the O&M facility for a short turnaround (assumed 24 hours).

“Exact schedule would be subject to the OSW developers’ O&M model. Whilst the berths are vacant, developers would be expected to utilize the wharf to stage equipment for the next scheduled vessel call.”

Currently, the largest vessel that enters the harbor is the dredge ship, Yaquina at just 200-feet long. Yaquina needs special arrangements just to fill up its fuel tanks.

“The largest vessel served at the facility is the Yaquina dredger with a length of 200 feet,” Mott MacDonald said. “These infrequent fueling events require special berthing arrangements, blocking adjacent docks. Due to the large capacity of the vessel

Study Blows Continued on page 26

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News

Study Blows From page 26

fuel tanks, it needs to be fueled directly from fuel tankers.

"This fueling arrangement would not satisfy design standards for the O&M facility and would be unsuitable for fueling SOVs (up to 300 ft. in length). However, fueling is not addressed in the study due to uncertainty of vessel fueling methods and potential for vessel electrification."

And, for there to be SOVs and the facilities needed to support their activities, each company would need about four total acres of land — three acres for a storage/maintenance yard, and two, half-acre sites for intermediate staging and a waterside quay for loading.

Mott MacDonald's study looked into the environmental and permitting constraints and found several, including some that would need Morro Bay voters to approve.

They cited a study by Rincon Consultants, Inc., that looked at environmental planning, resources, land use and permitting.

"A primary constraint of an O&M facility from a permitting standpoint is the potential for such a project to be inconsistent with the City's General Plan and Zoning Code," Mott MacDonald said.

"The City's recently updated 2021 General Plan envisions a sustainable, vibrant, and accessible waterfront."

Two voter approved zoning laws also come into play — Measure D and Measure A-24.

Meas. D requires all new development north of Beach Street to be related to commercial or sport fishing. It was passed to protect fishing facilities and insure a continuing working waterfront.

Meas. A-24 requires a vote of the people before the City can approve any zoning changes from Beach Street north to Morro Rock and down Embarcadero to Atascadero Road.

It was passed with the intentions of throwing up a roadblock on a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on the old power plant property but would also apply to zoning changes needed to accommodate OSW facilities.

That 2021 General Plan Update also rezoned the closed power plant from industrial to commercial/visitor-serving.

Attitudes on OSW among citizens could be considered somewhat split, though it seems opposition to it is stronger than support or perhaps just more vocal in their beliefs.

The City Council was asked only to accept and file the Mott MacDonald study.

No applications have been made at this time by any of the OSW companies holding leases from the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM for any sort of OSW support facility in Morro Bay.

Also, the Trump Administration is adamantly opposed to offshore wind energy off the California Coast, even as the State Government in Sacramento has been staunchly supportive of it.

All funding of OSW by the Federal Government has either been halted or canceled, including a sizable grant from the Transportation Department to Humboldt Harbor District, which wants to build port facilities for two OSW lease sites BOEM sold off its coast.

But Sacramento seems willing to invest money into it, evidenced by the \$1 million Mott MacDonald study and the millions spent by the California Energy Commission and the Coastal Commission on various studies.

The Coastal Commission recently came out with a study that purports to show how OSW can be beneficial to commercial fishing, even though commercial fishers in Morro Bay and Port San Luis are suing to stop it.

But despite all these issues with the concept of turning Morro Bay Harbor into an O&M port, the study doesn't rule out it potentially happening, it will however, take a lot of effort and money to get it done.

Luxuries in Cayucos From page 1



Artistry by the Sea in Cayucos sells handmade jewelry, candles, and goods from independent makers. Photo submitted

the creativity and beauty of the Central Coast. In a world that feels increasingly fast and mass-produced, we think people are craving things that feel personal, intentional, and made with heart. It is built around the idea of celebrating life's little luxuries"

Meagan and Micah, her husband of nearly 23 years, came to the area from their birth state, Idaho. They spent seven years living in Portugal and other locations abroad before making the leap to Cayucos.

"We felt my work would be well received in a coastal community because it's very ocean inspired," Meagan said.

"When we learned that this particular space was opening, we felt like we just had to lease it and open a shop. The idea of the shop evolved from there. As an artist I know how hard it can be to get your work in front of the very people who want to find it. I hoped that by using my connections with artists I already knew, I could introduce their work to a new audience."

Megan is a metalsmith and artist creating unique pieces made primarily with sea glass, gemstones, copper and sterling silver in her jewelry line, Silver Coast Designs. Handmade items often offer a unique story and personal connection to the maker who leaves subtle fingerprints of the human process. Megan hopes her work "feels meaningful, organic, and timeless. My jewelry combines traditional metalsmithing with the lesser-known technique of electroforming. Through electroforming — essentially coating objects in pure silver or copper — I'm able to preserve delicate organic materials like sea urchin shells and butterfly wings and transform them into wearable art. Nearly every piece is one-of-a-kind with an emphasis on heirloom-quality pieces that feel both artistic and wearable."

Micah makes the clean burning, 100% natural ingredient candles using plant based, natural scents — a hard-to-find item in most big retail locations and online purchasing doesn't allow for evaluating a scent profile in person, which range from floral to sweet and herby to spicy.

"People love our candles," Meagan said. "They are all inspired by the coast, we have Foggy Morning, Endless Weekend, Walking on Sunshine, Santo by the Sea, and Golden Hour. We wanted them to feel luxurious but also clean and wellness-oriented — something people could feel good about burning in their homes every day."

The North Coast is fortunate to have many artists and patrons who embrace handcrafted arts as a part of community culture as well as a contributor to the local economy. Megan says the Cayucos community has welcomed them with friendship and support of the store.

"The best thing has truly been the community support and excitement," she said. "We thought, opening a shop in a tourist town, that the majority of our customers would be tourists. But seeing how many locals are excited about our shop and are coming back with their friends and making comments like 'thank you so much for opening this beautiful shop in Cayucos' has been so rewarding."

A quick look to the future includes plans for Artistry by the Sea helping to support and grow events like the Sea Glass Festival and creating new experiences such as a summer sip 'n stroll evening. They also hope to offer classes and organize a sort of "art and wellness" retreat with some other local businesses.

Artistry by the Sea is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Check out their products online at artistrybythesea.com. Better yet, stop by and meet Micah and Meagan in person.

Our Stories From page 1



Jim Clinton giving the Memorial address in Clinton, CT circa 1985. Photo courtesy of Karen Clinton

fallen warriors. The first official date established for an American nationwide observance day was May 30, 1868. A Civil War Union General John A. Logan suggested the day of observance so it would recognize all lost in either past or future wars.

In 1950 Memorial Day was proclaimed a day of prayer for permanent peace, yet the Vietnam War started only five years later and lasting through 1975. Meanwhile, in 1968 Congress created the May three-day holiday weekend for federal employees, and many businesses throughout the country followed suit. And yet many of our soldiers continued to give their lives or many were snubbed when they returned home.

During his term (1993-2001), it was President Bill Clinton who determined the last Monday in May take the day to Memorial Day holiday.

For years Los Osos Valley Mortuary and Memorial Park has held a well-attended Memorial Day community event to honor and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in all areas of the United States Armed Forces. It is an amazing gathering of our area representatives who had served or are still serving.

A unique Memorial

Day event typically happens at the designated time of 3 p.m. in the afternoon on Cayucos Pier. It is called Cayucos Lost at Sea Memorial and recognizes military veterans as well as fishermen and civilians lost in wars and lost at sea. The moving event invites attendees to walk the pier following a large memorial wreath that is symbolically thrown off the end of the pier while the Estrela Warbirds flight team circle in the air. I've often witnessed the Coast Guard or Morro Bay Fire Department offer a high-water salute at sea.

For me this year, I chose to honor a dear friend who served in World War II. Jim and Karen Clinton used to live on both coasts — here in Morro Bay during the winters and back in Clinton, CT during the spring and summertime. My husband, Bob, and I met the Clintons at the Morro Bay Yacht Club and were later able to enjoy time with them in Clinton. We always enjoyed hearing a Jim Clinton story! And he had many to tell, including his extraordinary meet-up with General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill.

For all the friends who knew Jim locally, I thought this would be an appropriate Memorial Day memory for our families and friends who knew the Clintons, and I only needed to telephone Karen Clinton to help me get the details correct:

Karen said, "Jim was in Eisenhower's signal center in a bunker several stories below Selfridges Department store in London. He took Morris Code messages (at 45 words per minute) from Washington and sent it out in code to commanders in the field. They also intercepted German messages and worked on code breaking."

"When Churchill and Eisenhower came through and shook hands with the men on duty, Eisenhower said to Jim, 'Son, I couldn't do what you are doing.' Of course, Jim told it with more zest and humor," Karen continued. "For instance, when Eisenhower said he couldn't do what Jim was doing, Jim would always say, 'I wished I had told Eisenhower, Sir, I couldn't do your job either.'"

"Jim was also the one who took the message that the war with Japan was over." Karen added, "On his days off Jim volunteered to help the London Fire Department dig through bomb rubble to find survivors and bodies. He often said how brave, stoic and uncomplaining the British were."



Captain Jim Clinton becomes pilot for United Airlines after WWII. Photo courtesy of Karen Clinton

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Community

She reminded me, “After the war it was Jim’s licenses with radios that got him his job with United Airlines working in the shop on radios, which was how commercial navigation was done at that time. Then when United put technicians on the piston planes to monitor the instruments, they would also get their pilot training since technicians would be needed during flights and available if something were to happen to the pilot or co-pilot. It was the first time in the history of civilian air travel that the airlines converted to a three-man crew in the cockpits.”

Jim and Karen never returned to Morro Bay after leaving in 2020 for what they thought would be their east coast summertime stay. Jim had always been the picture of health; continually active and jovial. And we knew him well into his late 90s. But then he took ill 2021 while still wintering in Clinton and would spend the time he had left entertaining the caregivers in the health care home telling his lifetime of amazing stories. I would get reports regularly since Karen and I have continued our long-distance friendship and she visited him daily – rain or snow!

Jim Clinton succumbed at age 101, September 2, 2022, but I know somewhere in the afterlife Jim is still making people smile. And I’m still praying for peace and good will to all good men and women dedicated to serving others.

Elementary Meeting From page 1



they were planning to take as part of a due diligence review before finalizing the \$5.3 million purchase from the school district.

They also wanted to hear from the community about any concerns they might have, he said.

It was packed at the Vet’s Hall as residents asked numerous questions about the property, which has been closed since 2001. It was the town’s lone elementary school until the early 1980s when Del Mar Elementary was built.

When enrollment declined sufficiently, the San Luis Coastal Unified School District closed Morro and sent all the children to Del Mar.

About a decade ago, the District moved all sixth graders to Los Osos Middle School for a new STEAM based curriculum, leaving Del Mar with kids in kindergarten-fifth grade.

Back at that April meeting, Craig and Community Development Director Airlin Singewald went through the various studies they were going to do as part of the due diligence prior to making a recommendation to the City Council on whether to move forward with the sale. That recommendation is expected to go to the Council in August.

At the next meeting, he said, they would have more information about their due diligence results. If all goes smoothly, the sale is scheduled to close escrow on Halloween (Oct. 31). The City has put \$500,000 down and will need to come up with the remaining \$4.8 million to close the sale.

Back in April, they hadn’t yet identified where that money would come from, and more information on that should be available at the June 24 meeting.

The City is also right now advertising the former Teen Center on Atascadero Road for sale, asking \$2.1 million. It’s presumed that if it can be sold the proceeds would be put towards the Morro Elementary purchase.

But just like the school, the old teen center has restrictions on its reuse. Under State Law any surplus properties owned by local governments and school districts must first be offered to other government agencies for continued public use.

If no agencies want it, it can be sold to private concerns, but they must build affordable housing on the site. If no takers are interested in buying it for affordable housing, the agency/owner can petition the State to lift the restriction and allow for other uses. The Teen Center is in a Commercial/Visitor-Serving zone.

It’s been conceptually shown that the Morro Elementary site is large enough to be able to build some affordable housing, a possibility the City put out there in April.

Another interesting fact that came out in April was the possibility of an old underground tank buried in front of what used to be the school’s bus garage.

Craig told Estero Bay News that they believe it was a gasoline tank but that it may have been emptied many years ago and taken out of service.

To what extent if any the old tank leaked into the ground is

something that must still be determined. They aren’t sure at this point if it’s even still in the ground.

It’s nothing drastic, he said, adding that it’s normal for a school with a bus garage to have a fuel tank.

At the June 24 meeting, they should have much more information about the other studies they’ve been conducting, like an environmental assessment, hazardous materials inspections, land surveys and a title search, among others.

There is currently a Montessori School operating in the school library. Other tenants that had been at the school and paying rent to the District, moved out in anticipation of the campus being sold.

What would the City want with an old school, which has eight buildings on it including a historic main building built in 1936?

At the April 29 meeting suggestions were made that the City could move City Hall and the Public Works Department there, bringing them under one roof and turn the school into a civic center of sorts.

The main building also has an auditorium with a stage that was also the school cafeteria with an adjacent kitchen space.

Most recently, the auditorium/cafeteria was used as a meeting hall for a church that rented that space from the School District but has since moved out.

The school also has several classroom buildings built at different times during its tenure that could be repurposed into other uses.

If the City does end up moving City Hall there, it would free up the current City Hall site at Shasta Avenue and Harbor Street for potential redevelopment.

Indeed, the City owns most of that entire city block, buying it up over the years as part of an old conceptual plan — now obsolete — to build a “civic center” there that would have included new fire and police stations, a new public works office and City Hall (administration).

Many residents at the April meeting wanted the City to make sure the sizable grassy field behind the school remains available for youth sports activities.

Letters From page 16

discharge. It will end any future contamination of ground water from Cabrillo Estates. It will send effluent to the Facility which currently is operating at 50% capacity. It will recycle it back into the community as irrigation water. The addition of more users of the Facility will increase the amount of money being paid to service the loans and Operations and Maintenance of the WRF. In fact, the Basin Management Committee wrote a letter to the county supporting the project because of the environmental benefit. It is also supported by the Regional Water Quality Control Board which monitors water quality on the state level.

Honestly the Cabrillo Estates Property Owners saw this as a “no brainer” being both financially and environmentally sound.

After two years of working with Public Works and conducting research including a \$40,000 preliminary engineering report provided to the county at no cost to them, it was more than disappointing that the Board of Supervisors decided not to support this infrastructure project.

Anyone who lives in Los Osos knows that since Covid property values have doubled and tripled in this community. As a result, every time a property changes hands the County collects additional property tax dollars automatically.

Since 2022, 34 properties have been sold in Cabrillo Estates. This means the county is collecting hundreds of thousands of dollars more in property tax from Cabrillo Estates alone every year.

Where are our tax dollars going?

Deborah Howe
Property Owner Cabrillo Estates

The Times They Aren’t A-Changing

Neil Farrell’s article about the old sewer plant in the 5/21/26 NEBN mentioned that it might be difficult to pay for the interest Cayucos holds in the plant as well as fund all of its other priorities. Subject to Coastal Commission approval, options for generating income from the property could be another RV park or a hotel.

The article reminded me of my 2011 letter to the Bay News when it was owned by Tolosa Press. The City could lease the site for a data center (not all data centers support AI). Or it could form a joint venture with Vistra to include the power plant. Since there is an adjacent major electrical transmission line, and a global internet backbone in Grover Beach, some company with deep pockets might be interested.

[2011 letter] Over the years, Morro Bay locals have lamented the tax base revenue decline, some of which has been generated

by the sunset of the power plant. Read the story of an Oregon town’s revival due to a new data center being built there, <https://bit.ly/4dUYb2l>. With a casual search, there are many other stories about this and similar opportunities.

The City of Morro Bay does not own the power plant, but it may have some influence with the current owners regarding income generation derived from sale/lease/licensing. With some creativity and effort on the part of the current Morro Bay City Council, maybe the power plant facility and grounds could be put to good use by modern industry. Teaming up with startups such as Facebook or Zynga might be less preferable than seeking a partnership with an established operation like Microsoft, Oracle or Google, but in Morro Bay’s case, almost anything would be better than nothing.

Will city officials look to creative solutions to its budget morass?

Andy King
Morro Bay

NGOs Duplicitous About Ocean Industrialization

Recently REACT Alliance received a request for response by a national media source to this question: “Does REACT have a comment on this policy move as a group that opposes further industrialization of the ocean?” <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/trump-offshore-drilling-21116334.php> Here is our response.

REACT Alliance is a single-issue alliance, and as such has opposed the industrialization of our oceans and coastal communities (ports, harbors, beaches and cities) by the offshore wind industry and our own state government. We do not advocate for any energy technology in any way and are adamantly against ocean industrialization in any form... this stance is consistent with our actions and opposition to floating offshore wind. In fact, if we were not to oppose all ocean industrialization and destruction it would be hypocritical in the extreme!

This being said, I would like to point out the hypocrisy of numerous NGO’s that have been ranting about ocean industrialization while wholeheartedly supporting offshore wind; a decidedly destructive form of ocean industrialization. Many of the local pro OSW NGO’s and higher education facilities have received money from the offshore wind industry, making their silence or vocal approval of the industry suspect and duplicitous in nature given their collective stances on ocean industrialization.

Is the almighty dollar guiding their choices? Is climate catastrophism drowning out the voice of reason?

To destroy the ocean in the name of “saving the earth” makes no sense at all! To oppose ocean industrialization and not oppose offshore wind is the perfect definition of hypocrisy, greed and corporate favoritism”.

Mandy Davis
President, REACT

Letter Policy

Please include your full name and town you live in on all letters sent. Although we do welcome longer opinion pieces, publishing is as space permits. Estero Bay News reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. The views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the newspaper, its staff, or its publisher. Email letters to editor@esterobaynews.com.

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