

Morro Bay Library Celebrates Mural



Morro Bay Friends of the Library board members Tiffany Porter and Vickie Seymour, Michael Badalamenti with the County of SLO Public Libraries, and FOL board member Jan Goldman stand in front of a portion of the refurbished mosaic mural.

Story and Photos By Theresa-Marie Wilson

City officials and members of the community gathered on June 26 for a celebration to commemorate the restoration of the mosaic mural on the streetside wall of the Morro Bay library at Harbor Street and Shasta Avenue.

"It's wonderful. It's beautiful," said Morro Bay City Councilman Jeff Eckles, who attended the event. "It is something the community will cherish. The Friends of the Morro Bay Library took the time to make sure it is up to snuff again, and it is going to last for the next generation."

Titled "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," the mural covers the entire west wall of the library across the street from City Hall. One of the first large public art projects in the region, it was designed in 1985 by the late Peter Ladochy, a nationally recognized Estero Bay artist whose work can be seen across the country, including at several locations throughout San Luis Obispo County.

"The library mural was installed as the first Art in Public Buildings project in the county and was timed to be built in conjunction with the building of the Morro Bay Library which

opened December 21, 1985," Vickie Seymour, president of the Morro Bay Friends of the Library the non-profit that financially backed the restoration, told Estero Bay News. "It was a truly collaborative effort and involved the entire community. The citizens of Morro Bay not only picked the themes to be pictured on the mural, but volunteers took classes from the muralist, Peter Ladochy, to learn how to assemble the individual mural sections which were eventually placed on the wall of the library. So, the people of Morro Bay literally constructed the mural you see today."

The library's 650-square-foot mural is composed of 125,000 one-inch glass tiles and depicts Morro Bay's history and environment. It features the area's Indigenous people, explorer Juan Cabrillo (who named our famous rock El Morro), and some of the region's early missionaries. It also includes birds and sea otters, fishing boats in the harbor, local flora and fauna and Morro Rock.

Josh LePell, of San Luis Marble, was hired for the job to replace missing tiles and restore the mural to its original condition using mostly extra tiles that were left over from the original project or had fallen off over time. San Luis Marble also took time to

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Celebrating Good Clean Fun for 50 Years



Good Clean Fun owner, Steve Hennigh of Cayucos, is celebrating 50-years in business.

Story and photos by Neil Farrell

For the past year, Good Clean Fun in Cayucos has celebrated a milestone that small business owners dream of — 50-years in business.

GCF's original owner, Steve Hennigh, sat down with Estero Bay News to chat about the business, sitting on stools in the window of the Ocean Front Street store's second floor living and office space.

It has a sweeping view of Estero Bay — from the Cayucos Pier to Morro Rock in the distance — and is a great place to keep an eye on the surf.

He started out with a small surf shop in 1975 in a building on North Main Street in Morro Bay, he explains. The store, now upholstery shop, was a couple doors up from Spencer's Market, which way back then was Young's Giant Foods.

Jack Smith was his first employee, he says.

"Rent was \$100 a month and my first phone was a pay phone. Outgoing calls were a dime and incoming calls were free," he laughs. "Those were the days."

In 1978, he says, he moved the business to Cayucos into an old building at 136 Ocean Front St., that has a storefront on both Ocean Front and Ocean Avenue, in the heart of the Downtown business district.

In 2003-04 he tore down the old building and built this new one, which fits the town's Old West motif well. Over the years, he's adapted to many changes, evolving from a surfing focused shop to the broader, outdoors industry.

For years, he rented kayaks and led ocean kayaking tours launching from the beach right in front of the store and paddling

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County to Close Morro Bay HHW Facility



Cars and trucks lined up down the block to drop off items at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Morro Bay. The Integrated Waste Management Authority is planning to close the drop-off facility after July 25 but is working on relocating the service. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

Estero Bay Area residents will have to find a new place to take their household hazardous wastes, after a County agency announced that it would be closing its drop-off facility in Morro Bay.

The Integrated Waste Management Authority or IWMA, the agency that deals with garbage and waste issues countywide, announced that it would be closing its HHW facility at the old Morro Bay-Cayucos Sewer Treatment Plant on Atascadero Road and looking to relocate the service.

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Our Stories: Thank you, Mary Ann & Ed Carnegie

By Judy Salamacha



If you could give a special gift just to say thank you to a United States Veteran of any one of our Armed Services, would you email someone who would make that happen? Mary Ann Carnegie of Cayucos has a simple request. Her fellow Gold Coast Quilters are looking for veterans living in San Luis Obispo County, particularly the Estero Bay area, who have yet to receive a handmade Quilt of Valor. The ladies will design, personally dedicate, and deliver the donated treasure for the sole purpose of saying, "Thank you for your Service."

Our Story Continued on page 22

Second Morro Elementary Meeting Explores Financing

By Neil Farrell



Morro Bay City Officials laid out the current status of their investigations into the purchase of Morro Elementary School, and while the exact scheme of how they will pay for it hasn't been finalized, they did talk about possible money sources and announced some important dates coming up in August when all will have to be decided.

The Staff Working Group that was put together for the purchase consists of City Manager, John Craig, Community Develop-

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250 Years
Ago
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Firefighters Given Medals of Valor

By Neil Farrell

Most folks would agree that firefighters are heroic and now four San Luis Obispo County firefighters have medals to prove it.

Cal Fire announced that four of its members in SLO County recently received the Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor.

It's "the highest honor bestowed upon California state employees for acts of extraordinary heroism performed at great personal risk," Cal Fire said in a news release. "The awards recognize actions that go far beyond the normal call of duty and exemplify the highest standards of public service."

The four firefighters honored were: Capt. Clint Marsalek of Pismo Beach Station; Capt. Carlos Pacheco of Nipomo Station; Capt. Andrew Perez of Shell Beach Station; and Battalion Chief Chad Flemming of Nipomo Station.

B.C. Flemming got his award after rescuing a man who was ablaze during the Gifford Fire on Aug. 1, 2025.

"While assigned to the incident along Highway 166," the release said, "Flemming rescued a civilian who was running down the highway while engulfed in flames. The victim suffered significant second and third-degree burns. Fleming's decisive actions provided critical aid during a life-threatening emergency."

The three fire captains were honored for their efforts to rescue a group of people from flood waters in Avila Beach on Jan. 9, 2023.

"While participating in swift water rescue training during a severe winter storm that impacted San Luis Obispo County," the announcement said, "the crew responded to an emergency and successfully rescued eight individuals from dangerous floodwaters."



Four SLO County firefighters were recently awarded the Governor's Medal of Valor. Pictured from left are: Battalion Chief Keith Tsudama, Medal of Valor winners — Battalion Chief Chad Flemming, Captains Andrew Perez, Carlos Pacheco, and Clint Marsalek, B.C. Terence Liszewski of the Office the State Fire Marshal and a one-time Pismo Fire reservist, and Unit Chief John Owens. Submitted photo

Unit Chief, John Owens said, "These awards reflect the dedication, professionalism, and courage displayed by our personnel when confronted with extraordinary circumstances."

"While these firefighters are being recognized for specific emergency incidents, they also exemplify the character and commitment to service that every one of our firefighters strives to demonstrate day in and day out, and we are proud of their example."

The Medal of Valor "recognizes California employees who demonstrate exceptional courage and selflessness while protecting the lives of others."

The recipients were formally honored during a ceremony in Sacramento on June 12.

Cal Fire is contracted for services with SLO County and serves as the County Fire Department. Also, Cal Fire contracts with several cities in SLO County as well as service districts in Los Osos and Cayucos.



Photo shows offshore wind turbines. Submitted photo

The DOI said this ends the high-cost wind projects. "These historic agreements provide dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for offshore wind leases that have been impractical to develop without relying on taxpayer subsidies."

"By cancelling these leases and promoting investments away from intermittent, higher-cost energy sources toward proven conventional solutions, these agreements support mutually beneficial investments that will now generate returns for American taxpayers."

Golden State Wind bought its roughly 80,000-acre lease site in 2022 paying some \$150 million to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM, which has held the money in escrow accounts while the permitting proves moves forward.

BOEM coordinated the entire auction process and is the lead agency for the project reviews and numerous studies.

It was part of a much larger lease auction with three lease sites here and an additional two, smaller leases off the Coast of Humboldt County. All told BOEM took in over \$757 million for the five leases.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum praised the settlement.

State to Sue Over Offshore Wind Collapse

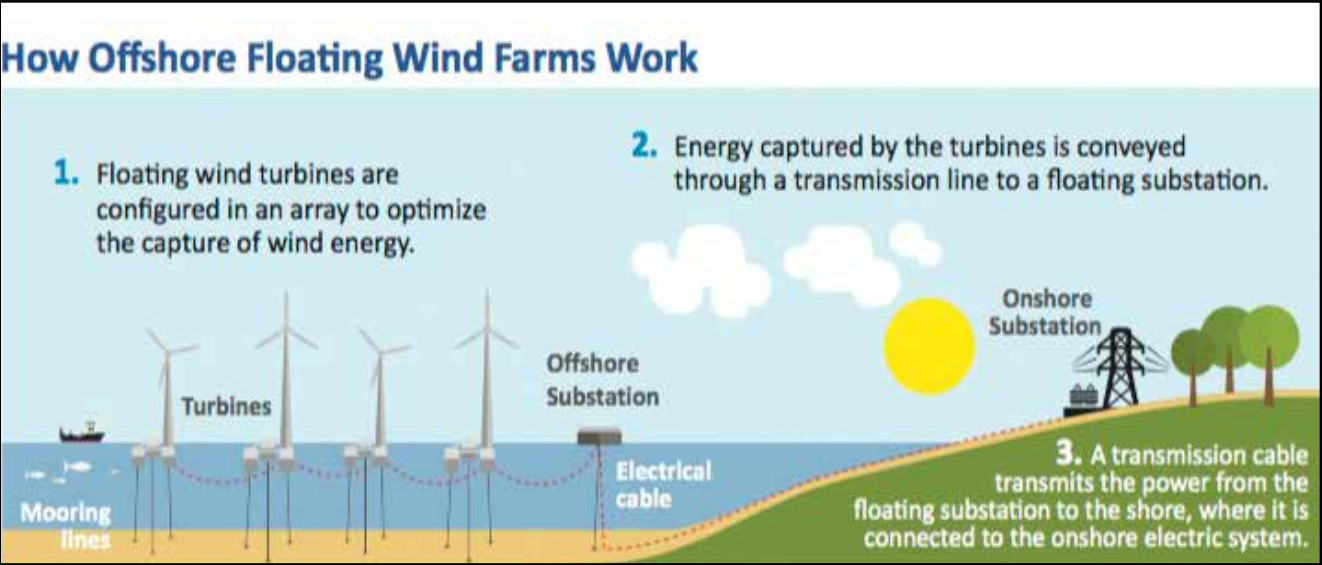


Diagram shows a simplified illustration of how offshore wind energy would work. Diagram courtesy BOEM

By Neil Farrell

The State of California is threatening to sue the Trump Administration after it approved a second settlement with a wind energy lease holder that effectively terminated their leases for offshore wind farm sites off the Central Coast.

In a news release dated June 23, the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the Attorney General's Office announced they had issued "Notices of Intent to Sue" to the Department of the Interior along with subpoenas on how the Department of the Interior reached settlements with Golden State Wind and Invenergy, two of the three companies that secured leases for the proposed 6-gigawatt floating offshore wind energy project.

That project site sits some 22 miles off the coast of San Simeon and 57 miles north of Morro Bay. Its official name is the "Morro Bay Wind Area."

The statement reads, "California Attorney General Rob Bonta and California Energy Commission Chair David Hoch-

schild today sent a Notice of Intent to Sue targeting an unlawful agreement between the U.S. Department of Interior and Golden State Wind, LLC (GSW) that puts at risk California's clean energy gains, thousands of high-quality jobs, and more than \$100 million in public investments in the offshore wind industry, including voter-approved climate funds."

The notice includes an "administrative investigative subpoena," essentially a demand that both the DOI and Golden State Wind provide documents and information about the settlement they reached back in April.

That agreement with both Golden State Wind and another company, Bluepoint Wind, was announced by the DOI on April 27.

"Under the new agreements," DOI's announcement said, "Bluepoint Wind and Golden State Wind have each separately agreed to voluntarily end their offshore wind leases, with the respective affiliate companies agreeing to make financial investments in reliable conventional energy projects."



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News

“President Trump is focused on providing affordable and reliable energy to American citizens. The companies that bid for these offshore wind leases were basically sold a product in 2022 that was only viable when propped up by massive taxpayer subsidies.

“Now that hardworking Americans are no longer footing the bill for expensive, unreliable, intermittent energy projects, companies are once again investing in affordable, reliable, secure energy infrastructure. We welcome each of the projects’ willingness to actually support baseload power and lower utility bills for American families. In addition, the agreements resolve the unaddressed national security concerns at both projects.”

The company said it was happy with the deal. Michael Brown, CEO of Ocean Winds North America which owns a 50% stake in Bluepoint Wind and Golden State Wind, said, “We welcome the opportunity to engage constructively with the administration on this agreement and acknowledge the clarity they have provided with this decision and deal.

“Our priority remains disciplined capital allocation and delivering reliable energy solutions that create long-term value for ratepayers, partners, and shareholders.”

The State naturally has the opposite take on the deals.

California A.G. Bonta said, “At a time when the country needs more reliable and sustainable power supply, the Trump Administration is busy using taxpayer money to strike backroom buyouts that make clean-energy projects disappear.

“California won’t stand idly by as the Trump Administration illegally strikes deals to kill offshore wind projects and replace them with more windfalls for his fossil fuel friends; we’re putting the Administration on notice that we intend to sue.

“California,” he added, “has already made substantial investments in clean wind energy that have advanced California’s clean energy goals, created high-quality jobs, and bolstered our economy. My office will continue to fight back aggressively against the Trump Administration’s illegal attacks on wind energy projects.”

Their Notice of Intent claims the State has invested \$100 million into the floating wind projects and has numerous other nearshore wind projects that the CEC has been working on for State controlled waters, within 3 miles of shore.

“California’s offshore wind strategic plan calls for the State to develop 25-gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2045,” the news release said of the CEC’s offshore wind plans, “enough

to power roughly 25 million homes and provide about 13% of the state’s electricity supply, to accelerate California’s clean energy transition, create local manufacturing jobs, and drive economic development.”

They point out that after Golden State’s initial \$150 million bid, they’ve committed some \$30 million “for workforce training, supply chain development, and benefits to local communities like fishermen’s associations.”

Of note, commercial fishing organizations in Morro Bay and Port San Luis filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against the wind farm projects.

The CEC news release said the DOI’s and Golden State’s lease termination was “a secretive agreement” that settled litigation that had not actually been filed by either party.

And the DOI also claimed “unspecified national security concerns justified the cancellation, even though the federal government had already reviewed and approved the lease area after years of analysis and consultation with the U.S. Department of Defense,” the CEC said.

The remote location of the proposed wind farm project off San Simeon was picked after the Navy vetoed other sites that were closer to Morro Bay, where the energy has always been proposed to make landfall due to the closed power plant’s ready connection to the power grid.

The Navy had concerns about its training flight path for the Lemoore Naval Air Station that flies out over the Pacific and back to base.

The CEC and A.G. Bonta claim the State has made significant investments in the offshore floating wind projects.

“California,” the CEC said, “has invested more than \$100 million to ready California’s ports, transmission systems, and industries to support offshore wind generation, investments which may be lost if the Trump administration succeeds in halting offshore wind development.

“Cancelling these projects will also threaten good-paying union jobs, reliable infrastructure investment, and sustainable economic growth.”

The hullabaloo comes weeks after a study commissioned by SLO County looking into the suitability of Morro Bay for a wind energy port, determined the cost to rebuild harbor facilities to accommodate the smallest of the working vessels the projects will need could top \$130 million.

Morro Bay Harbor can’t accommodate the mid-sized work boats that will do most of the maintenance work on the wind turbines without a huge investment. And there’s no way it could be made to accommodate the biggest of the ships needed.

Morro Bay was only potentially suitable to accommodate the relatively small crew boats

Offshore Wind Continued on page 4

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Morro Bay



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- **BEER GARDEN**



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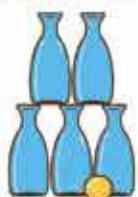


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- 11am - **CONCERT:** Rosewood and Honey
- 12pm - **OPENING FLAG CEREMONY**
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News

Cambria Man Arrested for Child Porn

Investigators arrested a Cambria man for suspected possession of hundreds of child sexual abuse materials, the Sheriff's Department said.

Sheriff's spokesman said that on June 10 Sheriff's Detectives served a search warrant on a home in the 400 block of Leighton St., in Cambria in connection with an ongoing investigation for possession of child sexual abuse material or CSAM.

"The investigation began," Cipolla said, "in April 2026 when the Sheriff's Office and San Luis Obispo Police Department received multiple tips regarding the possession of CSAM."

Detectives reportedly discovered more than 600 images alleged to depict the sexual abuse of children and arrested Roberto MercadoLeonardo, 45 of Cambria for suspicion of possessing CSAM.

Investigators are combing through the images and trying to determine if there are any photos of local victims connected to the suspect.

MercadoLeonardo has since posted bail and been released from County Jail, Cipolla said.

If anyone has information about this case, call the Sheriff's Detective Division at: 805-781-4500 or Crime Stoppers at: 805-549-7867.



Roberto MercadoLeonardo, 45 of Cambria was arrested after Sheriff's investigators reportedly discovered hundreds of suspected child pornography images during a search of his home. Submitted photo

Embezzler Gets Jail Time, Probation

The former head of a non-profit center for the LGBTQ+ pled guilty to two felony counts for embezzlement and will serve time in County Jail then be placed on probation and ordered to pay restitution.

The County District Attorney's Office announced that Dustin Colyerworth, 46, pled guilty to two felony counts of grand theft by embezzlement after it was discovered he took some \$59,000 from the GALA Pride and Diversity Center.

Colyerworth was the executive director of the Center from July 2022 until he left in September 2024.

GALA stands for "Gay And Lesbian Alliance" and the non-profit organization supports the LGBTQ+ community on the Central Coast.



Former GALA Pride & Diversity Center Executive Director, Dustin Colyerworth, was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 2-years of formal probation, and ordered to pay over \$59,000 in restitution for two counts of felony embezzlement. Submitted photo

It was shortly after he left that the GALA Board of Directors discovered the theft and reported it to San Luis Obispo Police.

"Beginning in late November 2022," the D.A.'s news release said, "and continuing for several months thereafter, Colyerworth took advantage of his position of trust at GALA to embezzle tens of thousands of dollars from the non-profit organization."

Colyerworth pled guilty in May to two felony counts of grand theft by embezzlement, and also admitted three aggravating factors: that the manner in which the crime was carried out indicated planning, sophistication, or professionalism; that the crime involved the taking of great monetary value; and that he took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense.

Under a plea agreement he negotiated with the D.A.'s Office, Colyerworth agreed to pay \$59,302.07 in restitution through the Probation Department prior to sentencing. He paid the money in time and the remainder of his agreement went into effect last week.

"In exchange for his pleas and admissions," the District Attorney's Office agreed to recommend that the court place Colyerworth on 2-years of formal felony probation on the condition that he serve 90-days in County Jail and comply with other standard terms and conditions of probation." Formal probation means he will have to check in regularly with a probation officer, among other restrictions.

The GALA Board of Directors reviewed the plea agreement's terms and agreed the restitution amount including estimated interest was enough to make them whole again.

Judge Michael Frye sentenced Colyerworth to the probation and jail terms and ordered that he report to jail on Sept. 30 to serve his sentence.

If he violates probation, Colyerworth could be brought back to court and sentenced to the maximum under the laws he broke, 3 years, 8 months in County Jail.

D.A. Dan Dow, said, "When someone abuses a position of trust for personal gain, it undermines confidence in institutions that serve our community. We will continue to aggressively prosecute fraud and protect victims."

The case was investigated by SLOPD Det. Marcelo Magana and prosecuted by Dep. D.A. Ben Blumenthal of the Major Fraud and Public Integrity Unit. Victim services were provided by Victim Advocate, Tristan Milledge, and witness coordination was by Eloiza Basinger.

According to the GALA Pride & Diversity Center's mission statement the organization "supports and empowers people of all sexual orientations, and gender identities, and expressions to strengthen and unite our Central Coast communities."

The GALA Center is located at 1060 Palm St., in SLO.

Alleged Burglar Has Been Busy

By Neil Farrell

The arrest of one man for suspicion of burglary may lead to the solving of several similar heists.

A Lompoc man accused of burglarizing a Morro Bay art gallery has reportedly been linked to several other recent break-ins by the Sheriff's Department.

According to Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla, Ryan Michael Coats, 27 of Lompoc, was re-arrested June 10 on suspicion of committing four felony burglaries and one attempted burglary.

Coats had also been arrested May 31 in connection with a 3:45 a.m. burglary at By the Bay Gallery in the 800 block of Embarcadero in Morro Bay.

In that case, officers responded to a burglar alarm arriving within minutes to find the front window smashed. The store owner responded and indicated a significant amount of jewelry had been stolen.

A short time later, Sheriff's Deputies on patrol in Morro Bay stopped a suspicious vehicle after the driver committed some vehicle code violation.

Morro Bay Police Cmdr. Tony Mosqueda said Sheriff's deputies "observed narcotics and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle."

A search of the car reportedly discovered "a large quantity of jewelry."

MBPD officers responded to the scene and were reportedly able to identify most of the recovered jewelry suspected to be property stolen from the gallery just a short time earlier.

Coats was arrested and booked into County Jail but was soon released on bail.

The other suspicious items allegedly discovered in Coats' vehicle led Sheriff's detectives to further investigate him.

"The investigation identified a series of commercial burglaries that began in April 2026 and occurred at multiple locations throughout the county," Cipolla said.

Those other cases were in Cambria, Cayucos, San Simeon and Templeton, Cipolla said.

Businesses that had been burgled included the Cambria Post Office, Artifacts Gallery in Cambria, McLean Jewelry in Cayucos and Upscale Resale in Templeton.

At least three — McLeans, Upscale Resale and By the Bay Gallery — were similar in that the burglar smashed a window or glass door to gain entry. However, video from the McLeans Jewelry burglary shows two men inside the Ocean Avenue store.

Detectives searched locations in Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo and reportedly discovered more evidence from the other crimes.

"At the time of his arrest," Cipolla said, "Coats was found in possession of stolen property connected to a commercial burglary that had occurred earlier that same day in San Luis Obispo."

He's allegedly been on a crime spree. "Detectives also believe that Coats is associated with numerous burglaries outside of San Luis Obispo County," Cipolla said.

His June 10 arrest was the result of another traffic stop in the 4700 block of Sante Fe Rd., in SLO. He was out on bail for the Morro Bay burglary at the time.

"Coats has an extensive criminal history," Cipolla said, "that includes felony convictions in Santa Barbara County for possession of a stolen vehicle in 2019, assault with a deadly weapon in 2020, and grand theft in 2022."

Detectives continue to investigate Coats and if anyone has information about him call the Sheriff's detectives at: 805-781-4500.



Ryan Michael Coats, 27 of Lompoc, has been allegedly linked to several commercial burglaries in SLO County. Submitted photos

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NASA Astronaut Victor Glover Talks Moon Mission

NASA astronaut and Cal Poly alum Victor Glover told a crowd of nearly 1,300 university community members last month how his education served as the launching pad for his successes, including the recent Artemis II lunar mission that saw Glover and three other astronauts make history with the first circumlunar flyby in half a century. Glover graduated with an engineering degree in 1999.

Glover's presentation, "Mustangs to the Moon and Back," included a brief talk about his career up to and including Artemis II followed by a Q-and-A covering topics such as the chemistry and teamwork of the mission's crew; maintaining physical and mental health in space; how seeing the Earth from afar affected him; and, of course, what advice Glover has for current students and recent graduates just embarking on their careers.

"We all spend a lot of time thinking about making the right choice — what major, what class. Then there's a time to just commit," Glover told the crowd when asked what advice he would give his younger self at Cal Poly. "We all have a point where the decision is made, now you've got to step out in faith and go all-in and give it your best. If you're going to sweat the decision, that means it's important. Now, sweat the actions once you've made the decision."

Glover and fellow astronauts Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen traveled further from Earth than any other humans in history — 252,756 miles. In the process, as



Estero Bay New Briefs

By Theresa-Maria Wilson

their Orion spacecraft circled the moon, they joined an exclusive club of less than 30 humans who have ever witnessed the far side of the moon firsthand.

When asked to share a particularly impactful moment from the journey, Glover showed a stunning mission photo showing the moon's dark side as it eclipsed the sun and the Earth, haloed in light that the crew determined to be earthshine — the Earth reflecting sunlight onto the moon.

"I lost it; my brain divided by zero," Glover told the crowd. "There is only one little slice of the universe where you could see this, at this moment. It was just such a miracle to experience."

"Going to space has made me sift through other experiences. There is all this wonder and magic in the universe — and sometimes we're just moving too fast and we're too busy and have too many things in the way to know it's there. There are so many other things right here on this rock that we live on — and actually, the fact that we live on this rock is a miracle. This kind of stuff happens to us all the time, and we just need to be quiet on the inside and observe it and listen."

Chumash Heritage Garden Opens

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden (SLOBG), in collaboration with the yak tit u tit u yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe (ytt) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), has opened the Chumash Heritage Garden — known in the Chumash language as yaktitit u qspiilhimu, the Place of the Root People. The opening marks a milestone in a multi-year effort to honor Chumash history and share Indigenous knowledge of native plants with the broader community.

"This new space in San Luis Obispo County is dedicated to Chumash culture and the traditional uses of native plants," SLOBG officials said in a new release. "The two-acre garden features more than 40 California native species selected for their significance to the Chumash people such as white sage, elderberry, yucca, and milkweed. Interpretive signage throughout uses both English and Chumash-language names — a deliberate reflection of the ytt's active work to preserve and revitalize their language, which, like the plants here, represents knowledge passed down across generations and worth protecting. Visitors are invited to enter with curiosity and respect."

The project was made possible by funding from PG&E and hundreds of community volunteer hours.

String Quartet Performances at Libraries

Five County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries locations will offer free string quartet performances featuring students from top U.S. music schools.

The Festival Mozaic Young Artists series kicks off Thursday, July 16, with a 10 a.m. performance at the Atascadero Library, followed by a 2 p.m. performance at the Shandon Library. Two performances on Friday, July 17, are at the Nipomo Library at 10 a.m. and the Los Osos Library (community center) at 2 p.m. The mini-concert series wraps up at the San Luis Obispo Library on Saturday, July 18, at 10 a.m.

The free library events are sponsored by the San Luis Obispo County Library Foundation.

"We are thrilled to partner again with SLO County Libraries and the SLO County Library Foundation to present these fine young musicians," said Scott Yoo, music director for Festival Mozaic. "The Young Artist Mini-Concerts are a fantastic way to introduce families and children to the world of classical music, and for community members at large to experience performances of a very high caliber right in their neighborhood."

Festival Mozaic hosts a two-week summer Music & Arts Festival of more than 30 events throughout San Luis Obispo County. The Young Artists program will culminate in a full-length Community Concert on July 19 at the Harold J. Miossi CPAC, in which the Young Artists will be joined in performance by their mentors Scott Yoo and Bion Tsang.

For more information about the Young Artists program and the Festival, go to www.FestivalMozaic.org. To see County of SLO Public Libraries events, hours, and locations, go to www.slolibrary.org.

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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Caltrans Signals Hwy 1 Traffic Delays

After touting the complete reopening of Hwy 1 through Big Sur after two years of being blocked by a massive landslide, Caltrans is installing a traffic signal that will cause delays for nearly a year.

A temporary traffic signal on Hwy 1 near the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge went active June 25 and will stay in place until next March (2027).

The signal is at mile marker 44, 1.1 miles south of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, which Caltrans had to demolish and replace after storms in 2017 damaged the supports and it began to collapse.

Caltrans Dist. 5 spokesperson, Ashton Harris, said, "This signal will operate 24/7 and travelers can expect delays of up to 10 minutes, with longer impacts during busy travel during the weekends."

The signal is in connection with the Coastlands II project, which will replace a retaining wall holding up the roadway. The project also involves stabilizing the slope, improving drainage and, "strengthening the long-term resiliency of the roadway," Harris said.

The signal, which will alternate 1-lane of traffic through the job site will be up for the duration of the project. Though next March is the target date, the duration of the job will depend on the weather next winter.

Travelers could be delayed going through the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge area, the scenic highway is still fully passable from SLO County to Carmel.

For road information on this and other roadways in Dist. 5, see: CaltransD5 on X; Facebook at Caltrans Central Coast (District 5), or Instagram at: Caltrans_D5.



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7

Police Blotter



• **June 21:** At 8:33 a.m. police arrested a vehicle in the 1700 block of Embarcadero and had it hauled to the impound lot for violation of the parking-in-one-place-too-long law.

• **June 20:** Police responded at 7:06 p.m. to a vehicle crash in the 100 block of Java. No word on injuries, but the cars will never be the same.

• **June 20:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 8:56 a.m. in the 800 block of Piney Way who had a bench warrant. He or she was issued another citation with a new court date that will probably be ignored too.

• **June 19:** At 10:47 p.m. in the 600 block of Monterey, police arrested some reprobationer who'd broken felony probation and stuffed him back where he apparently belongs.

• **June 19:** Police picked up two scofflaws with bench warrants at 2:57 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. in the 300 block of Surf and the 700 block of Harbor respectively.

• **June 19:** At 10:34 a.m. someone found something somewhere in the 1300 block of Main and turned it over to some police officer to do something with.

• **June 19:** At 8:16 a.m. police contacted yet another meat sack at Atascadero Road and Main who had a bench warrant.

• **June 18:** Police responded at 7:36 p.m. to Morro Bay High School on Atascadero Road for a battery charge.

• **June 18:** Police contacted another person in the 1300 block of Main who had a felony and a misdemeanor warrant and was also allegedly found in possession of drugs with at least two prior arrests for drugs. The groom of the stool was tossed into the hoosegow.

• **June 18:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:37 a.m. at Main and Errol. Logs indicated the car's registration was expired and the driver was also nicked for suspicion of possessing drugs and operating a motor vehicle.

• **June 17:** Police responded at 10:45 p.m. to the 700 block of

Quintana Rd., after someone reported shoplifting at Albertson's Market. No word on what was stolen, but they do have a lot of hooch stacked up by the doors.

• **June 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:53 p.m. at Beach and Main. Logs indicated the driver was allegedly drunk as a skunk.

• **June 17:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:52 a.m. in the 1600 block of Main, aka the bottleneck. Logs indicated the driver had a suspended license that was taken away because of a prior DUI, and no doubt is thankful he or she was apparently sober at the time.

• **June 16:** An unknown citizen gave and undisclosed thing they'd found at an unknown location to some unnamed officer.

• **June 16:** Police responded at 1:41 p.m. to the 300 block of Main where some apparent interloper was caught trespassing in a home. Logs indicated the squatter was also allegedly in possession of a switchblade knife.

• **June 16:** At 10:49 a.m. police stopped a suspicious vehicle at Sunset and Atascadero Road who apparently was driving while texting on a cell phone. Logs indicated the driver also had his or her license suspended because of a DUI conviction, and probably should take driver's ed. all over again.

• **June 15:** Police responded at 7:51 p.m. to a disturbance in the 500 block of Embarcadero. Logs indicated the call involved felony spousal battery and infliction of corporal injury. Let's hope the louse went to the big house.

• **June 15:** At 4:24 p.m. police responded to the 300 block of Anchor where some someone had ascended to Heaven.

• **June 15:** Police responded at 1:12 p.m. to a disturbance in the 2600 block of Greenwood for a report of someone having a bit of a meltdown. Logs indicated they took them for a 72-hour timeout.

• **June 14:** At 2 p.m. police collected someone with an invite to tea from a judge in the 300 block of Surf.

• **June 14:** Police responded at 7:23 a.m. to the 1600 block of Embarcadero where someone had passed on to paradise.

• **June 13:** Police responded at 7:35 p.m. to the 700 block of Embarcadero in response to some kind of suspicious subject report. Logs indicated some fellow was nicked for suspicion of trespassing and subsequently for possession of illegal drugs and paraphernalia. He or she was injected into jail.

• **June 13:** Someone turned in to police at the police station some things that they'd found and thought police should have.

• **June 13:** Police responded at 8:54 p.m. to the 400 block of Quintana Rd., to check out a suspicious subject that was apparently loitering at the Dollar Tree Store. Naturally, the dude had a bench warrant and was issued another ticket they'll probably ignore.

• **June 13:** At 8:28 p.m. police were sent to the 400 block of Quintana Rd., to deal with yet another suspicious subject at Central Coast Glass. The apparent Snallygaster was cited for suspicion of possessing suspected illegal drugs and paraphernalia.

• **June 12:** Police contacted some swagman at 3:56 p.m. in the 1300 block of Main and cited the apparent slacker for illegally camping in public.

• **June 12:** Police responded at 1:56 p.m. to a reported petty theft committed by some petty thief in the 400 block of Main.

• **June 12:** At 8 a.m. police cited an innocent vehicle for having expired tags at Pacific and Bay.

• **June 11:** At 9:55 p.m. in the 400 block of Quintana, police discovered another sinister Schmoe with a bench warrant and issued another disappearance ticket.

• **June 11:** At 9:41 p.m. police happened upon another urban camper in the 600 block of Quintana and issued the weekly special — a citation for illegal camping.

• **June 10:** At 9 p.m. someone in the 200 block of Beach reported finding some undisclosed treasure and handed it over to police for safe keeping.

• **June 10:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:50 p.m. in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., but all they could get the driver on was a suspended license.

• **June 9:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 8 p.m. in the 700 block of Quintana apparently outside O'Reilly Auto Parts. Logs indicated the model citizen was cited for suspicion of possessing illegal drugs and paraphernalia, and in about 30 days they will probably add failure to appear.

• **June 9:** A citizen at the Silver City MHP in the 1600 block of Main reported that a credit card was opened in his or her name and their identity was stole, and now we have no idea who they are.

• **June 9:** Police responded at 3:17 a.m. to a disturbance at Coleman Drive and the Embarcadero. Logs indicated they arrested some louse for suspicion of being soused.

• **June 9:** Police responded at 8:06 p.m. to the 400 block of Rennel where some felonious bounder committed vandalism and then resisted arrest.

• **June 8:** At 8:03 p.m. in the 1400 block of Teresa Dr., police contacted a suspicious wanker who turned out to allegedly be holding his sack of illegal drugs and paraphernalia.

• **June 8:** Police responded at 5:39 p.m. to a reported traffic collision at South Bay Boulevard and Morro Creek Road, wherever that is. No word on the extent of the carnage.

• **June 8:** Police responded at 9 a.m. to a reported grand theft in the 900 block of Anchor. No word on what valuable booty got pinched.

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Sheriff Seeks Missing Man

The Sheriff's Department is asking for the public's help finding an at-risk man who may be in mental health crisis.

Chad Patrick Corpuz, 37 of Templeton was last seen at about 11 a.m. June 16 walking away from his home on Bennett Way Templeton, according to Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla. He reportedly left his cell phone, vehicle and dog when he left on foot. He also missed work the following day.

"Corpuz is considered an at-risk missing person," Cipolla said, "because it is believed he may be going through a mental health crisis at this time."

If anyone has seen Corpuz or knows of his whereabouts, call the Sheriff's Department at: 805-781-4550.

Chad Corpus, 37 of Templeton was last seen leaving his home on June 16 and is considered an at-risk missing person. Submitted photo



Man Charged with Secretly Filming Nude Women

The San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office has filed charges and issued an arrest warrant for a Grover Beach man accused of filming nude women in tanning booths at an area gym.

The criminal complaint alleges that, at a fitness center in Arroyo Grande, Combs "secretly used a device to view or record women while they were nude inside standing tanning booths, a place where any person would reasonably expect complete privacy," District Attorney Dan Dow said in a news release.

The charged offenses allegedly occurred between July 12, 2025, and December 29, 2025, and involved 12 separate "Jane Doe" victims. There is evidence of many other additional incidents of the same conduct committed at the same location but that occurred between January and June of 2025, so those counts were outside of the statute of limitations period and could not be charged in this case.

"Secretly recording women while they are nude inside tanning booths is a deeply disturbing violation of privacy, dignity, and personal security," said Dow. "People using a gym or fitness center should never have to fear that they are being watched or recorded in one of their most private moments. Our office will continue to work with law enforcement to hold offenders accountable and to seek justice for every victim."

These allegations arise from an investigation by the Arroyo Grande Police Department involving suspected secret recordings at the Planet Fitness in Arroyo Grande. Investigators continue working to determine whether there are additional victims who were targeted in the same manner.

Kyle L. Combs, 40, of Grover Beach, was charged with 12 misdemeanor counts of violating Penal Code section 647(j)(1), invasion of privacy.

"Readers may be justifiably disturbed," Dow said, "to learn that, under current California law, allegations involving secretly recording multiple nude victims in private tanning booths are generally chargeable only as misdemeanors unless additional circumstances exist. If the public believes this conduct should be punishable as a felony, that change must come from the California Legislature, and residents may contact their State Assemblymember and State Senator through the official representative lookup page at findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov."

Under California law, Penal Code section 647(j)(1) prohibits using a device to look into or otherwise view a private area, including a dressing room or tanning booth, with the intent to invade another person's privacy. Because the complaint alleges

FilmingContinued on page 23

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Community

Morro Bay 4-H Has a Productive Year



Morro Bay 4-H donated toys through Jack's Helping Hands last December. Photo submitted by M.B. 4-H

By Noelle Bodily, Morro Bay 4-H Reporter

Morro Bay 4-H has had a very productive and busy year. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated 4-H leaders, parents, and volunteers, along with scheduled farm work days, our farm is looking great. Under the leadership of Tammy Haas, our garden group planted flowers, pumpkins, strawberries, and more. The garden is thriving and was on display during our recent Farm Olympics. We would also like to thank our amazing community for

supporting our drive-thru BBQ this past April. In December, our club donated toys through Jack's Helping Hands to help local families during the holiday season. Our project groups have experienced great success this year. The farm is in full production with beef cattle, pigs, chickens, and sheep. Many of our members are working hard and looking forward to showcasing their projects at the California Mid-State Fair in July. We would like to thank all of our project leaders for their dedication, hard work, and support throughout the year.

Cambria Honorary Mayoral Race is Underway

The race for honorary mayor of Cambria is now in full gear. Four candidates are vying for the coveted title that will be announced during the inaugural Mayoral Inauguration Ball on September 5, at the Veterans Memorial Hall in the West Village of Cambria as part of the Pinedorado Days weekend. The candidates include Dianne “Lady Tie Di” Brooke representing the Cambria PTA, Jim Bahringer representing the American Legion, Post 432, Del Clegg representing the Cambria Rotary Club and Barrett Stuart representing the Cambria Tennis Club. “Unlike real politics in which buying votes and voting more than once are illegal, every vote cast in this mayoral election is bought and paid for at the rate of one dollar per vote,” organizers said. “Even better, voters can cast many, many votes for each and every candidate. In fact, the motto of this race, as embedded on the election campaign logo, is mature suffragare,



The race for honorary mayor of Cambria is underway. Vote now. Pictured are Dianne “Lady Tie Di” Brooke representing the Cambria PTA, Jim Bahringer representing the American Legion, Post 432, Del Clegg representing the Cambria Rotary Club, and Barrett Stuart representing the Cambria Tennis Club.

saepe suffragare. Translated, it reads, ‘vote early, vote often.’” During the Mayoral Inaugural Ball, the candidates will conclude their respective campaigns with a stump speech early in the

evening. The patrons will have one more opportunity to “vote” then the electioneers will tally the cumulative votes and announce the victor. And yes, attendees will get a chance to hear three concession speeches followed by a rousing victory speech. The rest of the evening will be filled with glorious dance music of the mid 20th century provided by a live, 16-piece swing band known as the Vineyard Jazz Big Band. A dance floor will be available adjacent to the stage for all those inclined to move with the music. Delegates (those who purchase tickets for this gala) will enjoy a charcuterie board of assorted treats and a complementary glass of wine or soft drink. There will be a limited cash bar for additional wine and food. The Mayoral Inauguration Ball is limited to 120 delegates, so purchase your tickets early. Delegates are also encouraged to wear formal attire commensurate with the dress code of the 1920s through the 1940s. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the MC of this gala, Rick Bruce, will kick off the festivities around 6:30 with his unique brand of magic followed by the stump speeches, and then the first music set. Tickets are \$50 each via cash or credit card. They are available at the Cambria Chamber of Commerce during business hours and at the Cambria Farmer's Market every Friday afternoon starting July 3. The candidates themselves will also have available for purchase.

4th of July Events Galore



The City of Morro Bay is putting on a free drone light show July 3 in celebration of the 4th of July. This is an example of the kind of images in a drone light show. Photo courtesy Sky Elements

By Neil Farrell

The 4th of July Holiday will have plenty of things for people to do on the North Coast, but again there will be just one public fireworks show, though the skies over Morro Bay won't be without a dazzling spectacle on what's shaping up to be a monumental 250th Celebration of the nation's birth.

Cayucos

Cayucos will again host tens of thousands of spectators for the Annual Cayucos Lions Club's Independence Day Parade. The fun doo-dah parade will march down Ocean Avenue starting at 10 a.m. While the Cayucos Parade is always a fun, colorful event, with this marking the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence it should be extra special this year. Arrive early with your own chair to sit on and claim yourself a spot along Ocean Avenue to watch the parade. The judge's stand will be set up near Ocean and D Street. But the day starts before dawn with the Sand Sculpture Contest. Open to adults and children, arrive at the beach by the Pier between 4 and 5 a.m. to sign up and mark your spot in the sand. Bring your own tools — buckets, shovels trowels, etc. — and get creative. The sculpting ends at 10 a.m. and winners will be announced later. Ocean Front Street will be the site of a street faire with food and crafts vendors setting up shop until 6 p.m. A Lions Club benefit barbecue at Cayucos Landing (the Cayucos Vets Hall) will be ongoing all day. Fireworks are scheduled for dark; about 9 p.m. get to the beach early to claim a patch of sand. Fireworks will be set off from the pier. The Chamber of Commerce helps coordinate and sponsor 4th of July and wants to warn that private fireworks are not allowed on Cayucos Beach. You can expect sheriff's deputies to be on patrol.

Cambria

Cambria is again hosting 4th of July festivities starting at 11 a.m. at Shamel Park. There will be family fun events, music and a barbecue lasting all day. Admission is free. Cambria will not have public fireworks show again this year.

4th of July Events Continued on page 10

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Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 9

utilizing the “Join the Conversation” feature, listeners can submit audio feedback directly to news and staff – whether to share a perspective on a local issue or tell the station why they listen.

Programming available on-demand includes locally produced shows, such as “Central Coast Voices,” “Issues and Ideas,” “Morning Cup,” and “Broken Spoke Folk Show,” along with national programs, including “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered,” and “Wait, Wait... Don’t Tell Me!” KCBX 2 features news and talk programming, including BBC World Service, “Here and Now,” and “On Point.” The app also has the capability to deliver push notifications for breaking news and station updates.

“KCBX has always been about community, and this app is another way to be there for our listeners, wherever they are,” said Chris McBride, general manager and president of KCBX. “One of the best features of the app is how easy it is to listen any time of day to “Morning Cup” or any of our other 25 locally hosted music shows.”

The KCBX app is free to download. Direct links are available at KCBX.org for any way people may choose to listen, along with a frequently asked questions webpage to guide listeners through any questions.

Poly Professor
Receives Botanical
Society of America’s
Award



Dr. Nishanta “Nishi” Rajakaruna, a Cal Poly biological sciences professor while serving as the faculty-in-residence at yak?it’ut’u dorm in 2021. Rajakaruna, a botanist, bonded with students through weekly tea nights like this at yak?it’ut’u and through leading hikes on local trails. Photo by Joe Johnston

A Cal Poly biological sciences professor is a 2026 recipient of the Charles Edwin Bessey Teaching Award from the Botanical Society of America, one of its highest recognitions in botanical education.

Honoring enthusiasm and innovation in teaching botany, the society highlighted Nishi Rajakaruna’s outstanding contributions

over 22 years, noting his teaching “weaves together fieldwork, food, culture, and rigorous science in ways that make botany impossible to ignore.”

The prestigious national award recognizes individuals whose “work has improved the quality of botanical education at a regional, national, or international level.”

Rajakaruna, an Arroyo Grande resident who is originally from Sri Lanka, has served in faculty positions at Cal Poly, since 2017, San José State University (2008-10) and the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine (2004-08 and 2010-16).

“Of all the recognitions I have received throughout my career, this one is especially meaningful because it stems from nominations and support from students whom I have had the privilege of teaching and mentoring over the past 22 years,” Rajakaruna said. “Teaching has always been my first love. It always has been and always will be. There is no greater reward than knowing that you may have made a positive difference in the lives of your students, and to be recognized by former students in this way means more to me than I can adequately express.”

During his career, he taught more than 3,500 students across 19 courses, supervised dozens of undergraduate senior projects and master’s theses, and co-authored over 110 conference presentations where a student was the presenting author, the society noted in his award.

The organization added that about 40% of his 91 peer-reviewed publications list undergraduate co-authors — many as first author, recognizing their lead role in the scientific writing process and meaning that the student’s name will be cited in future publications.

Through multiple Fulbright awards, Rajakaruna also has served as a botanical teacher and researcher South Africa, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and India. He was appointed as a Fulbright US Scholar Alumni Ambassador for 2024-26, serving as an official representative and recruiter for the Fulbright Program — the U.S. government’s flagship international academic and cultural exchange initiative.

Rajakaruna’s instruction has included commitment to student learning through field excursions, research and international collaborations.

Student nominators highlighted many of his contributions:

- A vast knowledge of plants that grow on the harsh conditions of serpentine rock (California’s state rock, which takes its name from the colors of a serpent: green, blue and cream);
- His passion for plant science, teaching botany with joy and infectious enthusiasm;
- His effort to build connections while instructing about the natural world, including, for example, his Plants, People and Civilization class; and
- Dorm-based tea sessions as one of the first professors to participate (between 2018-22) in Cal Poly’s Faculty in Residence program, where professors live and interact with students in a campus residence hall.

“I believe that Dr. Rajakaruna’s gift as a teacher of botany is rooted in three strengths: his enthusiasm for student connection, his ability to make botany both engaging and directly relevant, and his savvy in helping students reach their full potential,” said a 2023 Cal Poly alumnus in his nomination letter. “In all of my schooling, I have not met another teacher who placed so much effort in building connections with students.”

The Botanical Society of America, founded in 1893, boasts an international community of over 3,000 members and serves as an overarching network for researchers, educators, students

and plant enthusiasts. The society also publishes two prominent peer-reviewed journals: the American Journal of Botany and Applications in Plant Sciences.

PG&E Warns
Customers About
Emerging Barcode
Scam

A new twist on scams to steal money from utility customers is raking in money.

So far this year, monetary losses from scams impacting Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers are on track to outpace 2025, with customers losing over \$211,000 through mid-year. To help customers spot the signs of a scam and avoid falling victim, PG&E offered preventions tips and is warning customers of a newly emerging scam that may be playing a part in that surge.

The most common scam continues to involve scammers placing a phone call to PG&E customers with a demand for immediate payment to avoid disconnection. A new wrinkle on that scam has emerged where scammers call customers to threaten disconnection and then send them either a barcode or QR code via text or email. The customer is then instructed to take the barcode or QR code to a store or business to present to a cashier to make payment.

“Scammers are constantly evolving their tactics to defraud customers, and the latest ‘barcode scam’ is a prime example of that,” said PG&E lead scam investigator Matt Foley in a news release. “What hasn’t changed is that they are still demanding immediate payment of your bill to avoid disconnection. If you receive a call of this nature, hang up. If someone at your door asks to see your utility bill, close the door. Then, call our 800 number or log into your account at PGE.com to verify your billing details.”

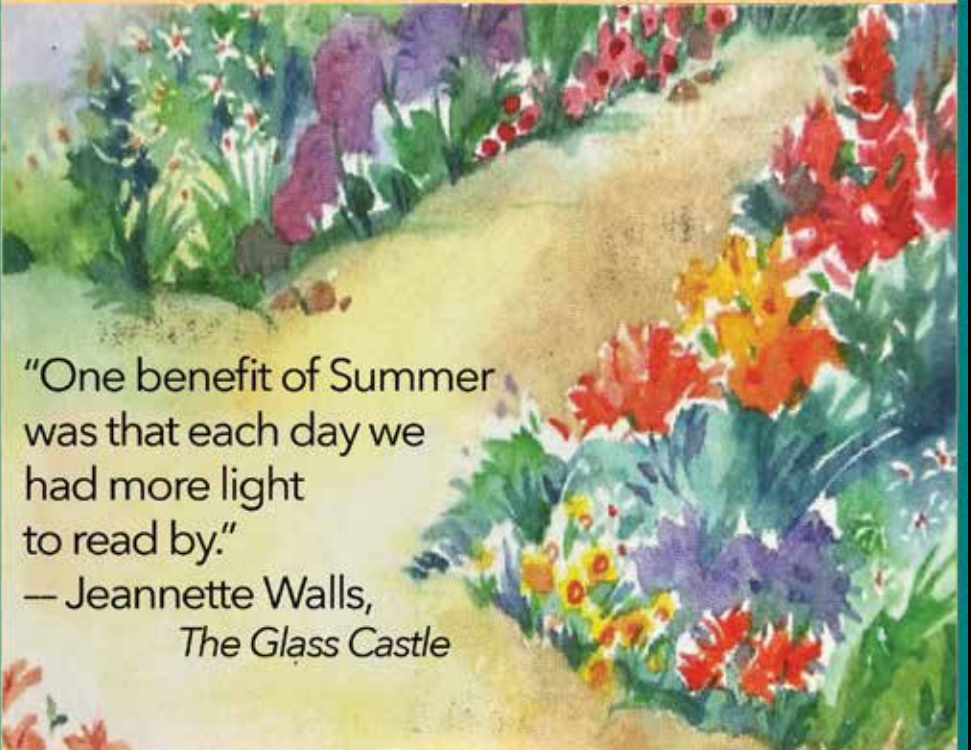
“Remember, PG&E will never ask you for financial information over the phone or for payment via bar code, QR code or pre-paid debit cards or money transfer services like Zelle, and we won’t ask to see your bill at your door.”

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The Glass Castle

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Community

In 2025, PG&E received nearly 24,000 reports from customers who were targeted by scammers impersonating PG&E and lost over \$301,000 in fraudulent payments with an average loss of \$590. By mid-year 2026, customers have already reported over \$211,000 in losses to utility scammers, representing a nearly a 30% increase in financial losses by year's end, with an average loss of \$969.

On the Central Coast, nearly 150 incidents have been reported, with the highest numbers in cities like Salinas (37), Santa Cruz (24), Watsonville (19) and Santa Maria (8).

Here's the 2026 county breakdown:

Monterey County: 61
Santa Cruz County: 67
San Benito County: 7
Santa Barbara County: 9
San Luis Obispo County: 3

PG&E says those numbers are likely just the tip of the iceberg for overall scams, as many go unreported.

Small- and medium-sized businesses are also a target, and scammers focus their efforts during busy business hours, preying on business owners' sense of urgency to keep the doors open and the lights on. In 2026, in less than half a year, PG&E has received nearly 656 reports of scam attempts targeting business customers. That's on pace to easily surpass 2025, which saw 846 reports of scammers targeting businesses.

Signs of a potential scam

- Threat to disconnect: Scammers may aggressively demand immediate payment for an alleged past due bill.
- Asking to see your bill: If someone comes to your home and asks to see your bill, they are not with PG&E.
- Request for immediate payment via prepaid debit card or money transfer service: Scammers may instruct the customer to purchase a prepaid debit card then call them back supposedly to make a bill payment, or they may ask for payment via a money transfer service like Zelle.
- Refund or rebate offers: Scammers may say that your utility company overbilled you and owes you a refund, or that you are entitled to a rebate, and then ask you for your banking information.

Protect Yourself

Customers should never purchase a prepaid card to avoid service disconnection or shutoff. PG&E does not specify how customers should make a bill payment and offers a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

If a scammer threatens immediate disconnection or shutoff of service without prior notification, customers should hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door. Customers with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification, typically by mail and included with their regular monthly bill.

If someone comes to your door claiming to be with PG&E, customers should know that PG&E personnel carry identification and are always prepared to show it upon request. If a customer still has doubts, they can call 800-743-5000 to confirm whether an individual is there on official company business. And remember, if someone asks to see your bill, they are not with PG&E and you should close the door.

Signing up for an online account at PGE.com is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, they can sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing and helpful alerts.

Scammers are now able to create authentic looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 911.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers, should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal

information.

For more information about scams, visit pge.com/scams or consumer.ftc.gov.

Is your business, including non-profits, supporting our community? Maybe you're launching a new business, or you're making updates to your current business model, or re-opening. Perhaps you have a job opportunity, or have been doing some volunteer work, or are collaborating with another business or a non-profit.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Cayucos Friends of the Library Kirk Wilson Memorial Used Book Sale is set for Friday, July 3, at the library patio at 310 B Street, Cayucos. Shopping begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. Search the tables for great books, CDs, puzzles, and more! Most items are available for \$1-\$2. Discount shopping begins at 12 p.m. — fill a bag for \$5. Friends of the Library memberships are available. Call (805) 710-1031 for more information.

...

This Fourth of July weekend, the community is invited to celebrate 30 seasons of Concerts in the Plaza in SLO at a special festival and block party on Friday, July 3. The afternoon will consist of six hours of live music, two full-size stages, vendors, art installations, photo opportunities, and the closure of Broad Street between Monterey and Palm, adjacent to Mission Plaza.

Event Performance Schedule

Friday, July 3, -| Extended Concert: 2-8 p.m.
Five bands will perform live throughout the event, making this the largest Concerts in the Plaza event yet. With two full-size stages and staggered sets, live music will continue nonstop all afternoon and into



the evening. Community members are encouraged to come and go throughout the day; entry is free, and alcohol will not be allowed to leave the premises.

Start at the Plaza stage just before the music kicks off for a special reading of the Declaration of Independence by SLO City Council members, and hear remarks from Mayor Erica A. Stewart before Moonshiner Collective takes the stage at 6:30 p.m.

Plaza Stage (Mission Plaza)

- 1:45 p.m. - Special Reading of the Declaration of Independence by SLO City Council members
- 2:00-3:15 p.m. - Soul Kool performs R&B, classic rock, dance, and Latin
- 4:15-5:30 p.m. - Max MacLaury & The Compromisers perform folk, country

Events Continued on page 14

COLLEGETOWN

By Michael Walker



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Events From page 13

Art and Soul is a monthly art fair providing a queer safe space for artists and musicians throughout the Central Coast to share their work and cultivate community. Hosting around 20 vendors, four live musicians, interactive tables, and various live artists. First Saturday of every month, 1-5 p.m. at 1773 Pereira Dr., San Luis Obispo. Entry is free, but if you want to attend the comedy show that follows, it is \$15. Tickets are at eventbrite.com. Call (609) 805-4688, for more information.

This year, AvomargFest returns to its original home in the heart of Morro Bay's iconic waterfront district on the Embarcadero again on Sep 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There's just something magical about thousands of people roaming the waterfront with tacos in one hand and margaritas in the other. Enjoy California-grown avocados in every food vendor dish, the return of the legendary Avocado Margaritas, tacos, snacks and avo-infused deliciousness everywhere, Live music all day, and the Grom Zone for the kiddos (10 & under are free). Only 6,000 tickets available this year. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and are available at avomargfest.ticketsauce.com.

The first main stage show is “The Father” running August 28 - September 13. It is A gripping and profoundly moving drama that places audiences inside the shifting reality of a man confronting memory loss and dementia. Season ticket packages are available by mail, phone, online and at the Box Office. On July 8, Individual tickets for all performances go on sale. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit SLO REP’s Box Office, call (805) 786-2440, or go to slope.org.

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MORRO BAY presents



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For more details, visit Art in the Park on Facebook or follow @artcentermorrobay on Instagram.

The City of Arroyo Grande will hold a July 4 concert at Heritage Square Park, 201 Nelson St., from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show is free. Events: 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. the Honor Guard Flag Celebration & National Anthem, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Village Band will play traditional, patriotic tunes, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Mother Corn Shuckers will play Americana/bluegrass. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and sun protection. South County Historical Society will be serving their famous hot dogs, and the Arroyo

Grande Rotary Club will be selling beer and wine.

The Morro Bay “Rockfish” Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor St. from 4 to 6 p.m.

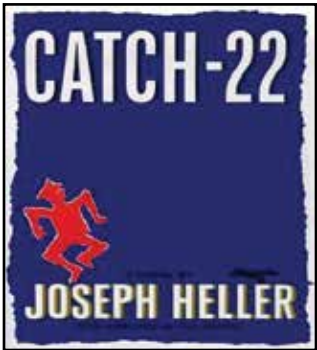
The book, “Catch 22” by Joseph Heller, will be discussed at the July 28 meeting. All readers are welcome. Free of charge. For more information, reach out to Doug Rogers at smoothfoam2000@yahoo.com.

PG Movie Day – Saturday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
It's the eve of the American Revolution! War is imminent with Britain, and the continental congress is trapped in gridlock.

- Play Nintendo Switch – Wednesday, July 29, 3:00-5:00.

Master your gaming skills and make new friends with our Nintendo Switch! We will provide one Switch for up to 4 players at a time - feel free to bring your own too. Games include Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros, and Just Dance.

The Reboot Speak•Easy (aka Storytelling ReImagined) returns this summer with three live shows featuring local folk and well known pros sharing entertaining, true personal stories around each monthly theme at the Red Barn in Los Osos. 7-9 p.m. Always free (seating for 100).



July 17 - Regrets
We've all had a few! Stories about if-only moments, things left unsaid and undone, plotting a do-over and seizing second chances.

Aug. 28 – Not As it Seems
Stories of masks, facades and hidden gems, the perks of deception, defying expectations and reveling in the big reveal.

Sept. 25 - Ambition
Stories about risking everything for mighty and mini aims, clawing your way to the prize, and discovering what really matters.

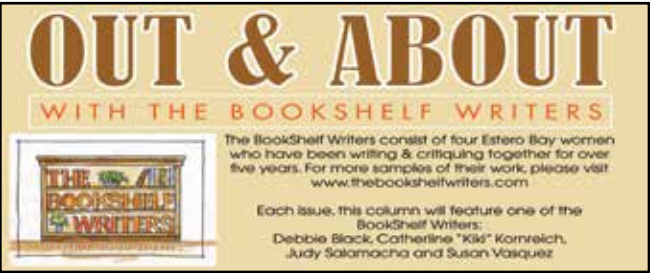
• • •



These new paintings are filled with moody, tranquil tones and luminous coastal light, inviting viewers to reconnect with favorite beaches, hiking paths, and unforgettable views. Inspired by the landscapes of Cayucos, Los Osos, Morro Bay, and Big Sur, Mike's work celebrates the beauty that surrounds us every day.

14

Community



RV Camping in Your Own Backyard
A Southwest Gem:
Jerome, AZ



You're looking straight down a 1900-foot-deep mine shaft in Jerome, Arizona

By Debbie Black

Follow in our tracks, as we travel a bit farther afield on our “Circle of the Southwest” RV trip, to Stop #3--Jerome, Arizona. Disclosure: I'm a history geek. Places like Jerome make me giddy! Even if history isn't your thing, please read on. There's something in here for you too! Note: Hwy 89A to Jerome is narrow with hairpin turns. Not for rigs over 30 feet! We did fine in our 24-foot-er. Well worth it!

You've likely heard of Jerome—the quaint 1870s historic mining town between Prescott and Sedona. Let me convince you to go exploring, to lose yourself for a few hours, or days, in the wild history of this energetic little town, replete with a haunted hotel, creepy mines and ghost tours but also delightful hippie-es-que shops, galleries, restaurants and great wine-tasting. Sleuth out the Haunted Burger and savor one of their famous namesakes out on their back deck. Visit Zen Mountain Gallery for some beautiful jewelry. Go on a Jerome Ghost Walk to scare your socks off, or a popular Wild West tour — be sure to book ahead with

Jerome Ghost Tours. Visit the Douglas Mansion and museum with fascinating (to me anyway) displays about Jerome's mining history. Want a unique experience? If it's open, check out the old Audrey Shaft Headframe where you can stand on a glass platform (or crouch on your hands and knees!) and look straight down into a 1900-foot-deep mineshaft — guaranteed to give you the willies! See? I may make a history geek out of you, yet!

Perched on the side of Cleopatra Hill, Jerome's narrow, steep, and organic streets make parking a motorhome a lesson in patience. There's one, and only one, parking lot for RVs —past the fire station, next to the gigantic Cleopatra mine. Enjoy strolling about this walkable, but hilly, town. Don't miss the notoriously haunted Jerome Grand Hotel standing watch from its high vantage point on aptly named Hill Street. Wouldn't you know, the hotel was originally a hospital back 100 years ago? The best haunted places are always old hospitals!

Besides ghosts, here's something else to be wary of. Don't take any RV larger than a van up the narrow, steep road to the hotel. We made the mistake of thinking we could and crunched a bottom corner of our motorhome attempting to turn right up a street that shot straight up like a graph of food prices. Maybe leave your RV parked below and walk up. Consider checking into famous, haunted Room 32 for perhaps a night of paranormal activity and some eerie souvenir memories you'll never forget. You can't pass up that!

The imposing three-story hotel indicates that Jerome once needed a hospital of that size for the town's large mining community. During its 70-year heyday, Jerome extracted a whopping \$1 billion in copper, silver, gold, zinc and lead. Its population grew to 15,000 (bigger than Morro Bay), then finally dropped to 100 when the ore ran out, a common fate of mining towns. Jerome would have continued to deteriorate into oblivion were it not for some intrepid artists and hippies in the 1960s who revitalized the town and saved it, not the first time the hands of humans affected its destiny.

Jerome is a testament to human ingenuity mixed with a bit of human arrogance. The complex system of extremely deep concrete-lined mine shafts plus the brilliant ways the ore was extracted are juxtaposed to the somewhat slap-dash mentality of digging and blasting under the town itself. This caused some of the town to slip downhill and methane-fueled fires to erupt, blanketing Jerome in lethal gases. No wonder Jerome was called “The Wickedest Town in the West.”

I thought about home, and what history will have to say about our current Estero Bay towns which are as old as Jerome and they, themselves, sit atop ancient village histories of the Salinan and Chumash peoples. Every town has its own story. Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Harmony, Cambria, and San Simeon each have fascinating histories already spanning hundreds of years, with various cultures, languages, industries, villains and heroes. Great deeds were done and mistakes were made. Now, during the years that we're here, may we be good stewards of these special places. History will tell.

The day was getting late. We had to say goodbye to Jerome and head downhill to the east, toward our next destination — Stop #4, Sedona.

For extended articles, go to www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard.

A
Dose
of Good
Dogma
Human Brain Vs
Dog Brain



By Lisa Ellman

This column covers things that a dog owner does that may be, and most likely are, confusing their dog. Many people tend to transfer and project human thought processes onto their dog without realizing just how differently the canine brain works. Meaning, dog owners address canine behavior as they would human behavior, thus producing much confusion for the dog and the result often being ineffective training and inefficient responses to the behavior you're attempting to teach and or change.

Let's start with play. For puppies and young dogs, being mouthy is part of their natural development. They explore everything with their mouths, much like toddlers. Dogs also play with other dogs using their mouth. To your puppy, you're just another puppy. One of the ways to inhibit your puppy from biting and chewing on your hands is to never have them anywhere near the dog's mouth. This means no wrestling, no finger pointing or waving, no hand playing at all. Use a toy to teach your dog that's what goes in its mouth, and that's when you engage in play. If the pup bites your hand instead of the toy, the game ends for a minute,

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Community

then go back and try again. You want the puppy to learn that only the toy goes in its mouth. Never raise your hand to threaten your dog or give them a smack. It's essential that hands should always be associated with nothing but affection and food. The dog should know that when any person (especially children) offers a hand to them, good things will happen.

Next, inconsistent vocabulary, rules and boundaries. Everyone in the home should be using the same vocabulary for training purposes. If one person says down for lying on the ground, and another person uses it to prevent jumping, that's confusing. Decide what word is going to be used for specific behaviors. I often suggest putting up post it notes around the house to refer to. Use words that address the behavior (sit, stay, halt, off, etc.). The word "no" is NOT a behavior. It's more productive, and easier, to teach the dog the behavior you want, rather than what you don't want. Rules are something that should also be consistent. Make them and enforce them. The humans decide what they are and everyone follows. It doesn't matter what kind of rules you want to make, as long as they are fair, and enforced by all. If you decide it's ok for the dog to jump on people, great! If you decide the dog is not allowed to jump on people, then it is enforced by everyone. No one gets jumped on, not even when playing. This is because dogs don't have a "gray" area, their world is black or white; it's either allowed all the time, or it isn't.

Next, inadvertently reinforcing fear and/or anxiety. This is a common thing. Again, because people assume that dogs think like humans, they use positive reinforcement to help the dog relax. What's happening is that, in the dog's head, the calming soothing words are reinforcing whatever headspace the dog is in at that exact moment. For example, your dog is showing fear at a person you are engaging. Most people will try to calm the dog by saying, "it's ok, good girl", and stroking her gently. In the dog's mind, you are telling her it's ok to be fearful, she's hearing praise for what she is doing in that moment. Small dogs especially, when they're afraid, often get picked up and soothed, thus reinforcing the fear/anxiety state of mind.

There are many good books on dog psychology and how dog's think that I encourage owners to read. Once you understand how dogs think and learn, training becomes uncomplicated and even fun!

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



HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MORRO BAY

Morro Bay as a Magnet for Artists

The years between 1920 and 1940 were marked by depression and upheaval. California was emerging as the cutting edge of American culture and growing fast. Morro Bay was beginning to change from a tiny farming and commercial backwater into a more dynamic but still tiny part of the California miracle. One part of this flourishing community was its attraction to artists. By 1940 the Telegram-Tribune would claim, "Morro Bay this year is becoming firmly established as one of the Coast's outstanding art colonies ranking with Carmel and Santa Barbara in importance if not in size..." (September 6, 1940)

Who were these artists? Why did they come to Morro Bay?

The first widely recognized artist to arrive in Morro Bay was Charles H. "Robbie" Robertson. He came from St Louis in 1920 with his mother Mary when he was already 58 years old and an experienced artist. He worked in many mediums but was best known then and now as a water colorist. His typically small paintings were scenes from places within 20 miles of Morro Bay, mostly landscapes that captured aspects of local history in beautiful details about space and light.

During his time in Morro Bay, up to his death in 1945, Robertson was the social and artistic center of a community of painters, writers, sculptors and craftspeople of all sorts who lived in the area or visited to make art. He held solo exhibits, participated in joint exhibits, taught art students, led classes on art appreciation, and served on community committees. He was one of the local leaders of the "recreation" program set up by the Works Progress Administration as part of the New Deal to bring culture to everyone.

Robbie was not alone. Four other artists are frequently mentioned in news of the time, A. Harold Knott; Aaron Kilpatrick; and the Skinners, Charles and Charlotte, who all lived in Morro Bay full time after about 1930. Other people who lived here and participated in the art colony activities and exhibits included Nadine Richards, of the Little Red House fame who painted in oils, and Miles Castle, who was a weaver and did plumbing work for Nadine.

Harold Knott and Rachel Thayer Knott moved from Carm-



el to Morro Bay in fall 1927 and purchased a house at the corner of Kern and Ridgeway, which still stands. Aaron Kilpatrick and his wife Mary, who had commuted from Los Angeles to paint, purchased land for a house in 1928 and built at the corner of Olive and South Main, it house still stands.

Many other artists visited Morro Bay to practice their craft after Robbie arrived. A March 1934 article in the Daily Telegram titled "Poetry of Morro Bay Transferred to Canvas by Colony of Artists" mentions William Ritschel, who arrived in Morro Bay just "a few days" before Robbie. Others include William Wendt of Laguna, Walter Cheever of Glendale, Frances Gearhart and her sister Marie of Pasadena, Cadwallader Washburn whose etchings hung in museums of France and Great Britain; and many others.

The spirit of the old art colony lives on in the Art Center located on Main Street in old town Morro Bay on the same block parcel where European founder Franklin Riley built his little house. Art is alive and well on the Central Coast.

Painting image by A. Harold Knott looking uphill from his house at Kern and Ridgeway, n.d. Note open space roughly early 1930s. We'd love to hear your favorite story about Estero Bay history—info@historicalmorrobay.org.

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MBHS Names All League; Top Sports Awards



Morro Bay High's standout quarterback, Sands Dougherty was named the 2026 Boys Athlete of the Year. Photo by Neil Farrell
By Neil Farrell

With another school year in the history books, and Morro Bay High School recently handed out its school athletic awards and named the spring sports all league awardees.

M.B. Estuary Program's Free Summer Field Trips



The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is offering free Field Trip events. Photo by Bella Slosberg

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program will host a series of free field trips throughout July and August, providing families and community members with opportunities to explore local ecosystems through hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

This summer series is part of the Estuary Program's ongoing effort to provide environmental education opportunities that connect people with local waterways and habitats. Through partnerships with local educators and community organizations, the program aims to increase access to outdoor learning experiences and foster stewardship of the Morro Bay watershed.

"These trips will be a fun, engaging way to spend time with your family outdoors this summer and learn more about our special local ecosystems," Forest Lurz, estuary program education coordinator said in a news release.

The field trips will take place at locations throughout the Morro Bay watershed and San Luis Obispo County. While the trips are designed with families and children in mind, participants of all ages are welcome. Field trips scheduled for July include a nature walk in the Elfin Forest, kayaking on the Morro Bay estuary, a tidepool exploration program, an ecological restoration activity at Prefumo Creek, and a sunset bat walk. Additional trips will be offered throughout August.

All field trips are free to attend, although registration is required and space is limited. A full schedule of events and registration information can be found at mbnep.eventbrite.com.

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Athletes of the Year

Boy Athletes of the Year awards were given to star football quarterback, Sands Dougherty and two-sport standout Evan Davis who played baseball and water polo for the Pirates.

The Girl Athlete of the Year went to basketball standout, Violet Pace, who was the Sunset League MVP and was also named Player of the Year by The Tribune. The Pirates were co-Champions with Righetti.

The school's Good Guy Award went to Colton Rosenlieb and the Good Gal Award went to Reese Kelly.

League Champs

The Boys Swimming Team took the Sunset League Championship, according to information provided by the school. The Pirates leader, senior Jude Moore was named Sunset League MVP.

Junior, Edward Ku made Honorable Mention All Sunset League in the 100-meter fly, as did the 200m freestyle relay team of Moore, Asea Vidati, Caelen Josey and Alex Roberts.

Beach Volleyball

The Beach Volleyball Team saw two girls honored. Ava Anesse, a senior, was named Second Team All-League in the Mountain League and her teammate, Keolani Cross, a senior, was Honorable Mention.

Baseball

The Pirate's shortstop and senior, Colton White, was named to the Mountain League's First Team All-League.

Senior third baseman, Quentin Crofts made Second Team All Mountain League and pitcher, senior Eli Brown was Honorable Mention All-League.

Boys Golf

The Boys Golf Team had a couple of players honored. Seniors, Andrew Cellar and Stone Hawk made First Team All-League in the Sunset League.

Softball

Two softball players were honored.

Senior shortstop Reese Kelly and junior utility player, Vena Fryer were named Second Team All Ocean League.

Junior catcher, Julia Brown was Honorable Mention All-League for the Pirates.

Boys Volleyball

The Boys Volleyball Team had two players honored in the Sunset League.

Liam Coming was named First Team All-League and junior outside hitter Johnny Roberts was Honorable Mention.

Track & Field

The Pirates had several track athletes make All League honors, led by high jumper Lucas McAlpine, a junior, and pole vaulter, Bennett Robertson, a junior both making Second Team All-League in the Ocean League. And 1600m runner Abe Gade was Honorable Mention All-League.

On the girls team, which had two runners make it to the State Meet, Rees Bright a sophomore was Second Team All-League in both the 100m and 200m.

Juniors, Shelby Taylor and Wendy Wilson, were Second Team All-League in the 1600m, and the 800m respectively.

Both girls also medaled in the CIF Sections and Masters Meets and qualified for the State Championship Meet.



Join Us in Celebrating Our Nation's 250th Anniversary!

The City of Morro Bay invites you to celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a week-end-long celebration at Tidelands Park filled with live music, family activities, great food, and patriotic fun for all ages!

Friday, July 3 – Friday Night Festival!

Kick off the holiday weekend at our Friday Night Festival! The popular band The Molly Ringwald Project will take the stage at 6 p.m, bringing their high-energy performance and favorite hits to Morro Bay.

Following the concert, Morro Bay will host its first-ever Drone Show, presented by the renowned Sky Elements Drone Shows, lighting up the night sky in celebration of our nation's milestone anniversary.

Festival attendees can also enjoy:

- Delicious food trucks
- A beer and wine garden
- The Chablis Floating Bar

Saturday, July 4 – Family Fun Day!

The celebration continues with Morro Bay's annual Family Fun Day at Tidelands Park. Entertainment and activities throughout the day include:

- 10:30 a.m. - "Red, White, and Blue" Bike Parade
- 11 a.m. - Live music by Rosewood and Honey
- 12 p.m. - Opening Flag Ceremony
- 12:15 p.m. - Gilligan's Sandwich Shop's 1st Annual Hot Dog Eating Contest
- 1 p.m. - Live Music by Sound Investment

The festivities will continue until 4 p.m.

In addition to the entertainment, families can enjoy:

- Kiwanis Fundraiser BBQ featuring hot dogs and hamburgers
- A beer and wine garden
- The Chablis Floating Bar
- Face painting
- Snow cones
- Carnival games
- Bounce houses

(Some activities and attractions may require a separate purchase.)

"Red, White, and Blue" Bike Parade participants should gather on the north side of the Morro Creek Bridge for a 10:30 a.m. start. All decorated bicycles and recreational vehicles are welcome, including skateboards, scooters, electric bikes, and golf carts.

Interested in competing in the Hot Dog Eating Contest? All participants can sign up for the Contest by emailing Gilligans805@icloud.com or stopping by Gilligan's Sandwich Shop to register in person.

Join us for a memorable weekend of community, celebration, and patriotic spirit as Morro Bay honors our nation's 250th anniversary. We look forward to celebrating with you at Tidelands Park!

News

HHW Facility From page 1

IWMA Management Analyst, Sasha Del Giorgio, said in a news release, “The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority is moving forward with plans to relocate the Morro Bay Household Hazardous Waste Facility to a new location.

“The current site, at the former wastewater treatment plant, is slated for demolition and all existing operations must be relocated.”

She added that the HHW facility in Morro Bay would cease operations after Saturday, July 25. The facility at 160 Atascadero Rd., has been open for drop offs on Saturday afternoons for more than 25 years.

But since the City built its new Water Reclamation Facility or WRF plant at a new, inland location, the old sewer plant has sat unused, except for the HHW facility.

And the Cayucos Sanitary District, which co-owned the treatment plant, also built a new plant on Toro Creek Road that opened in 2022.

The City is currently in escrow to buy out Cayucos’ 40% interest in the old plant and some surrounding properties with an eye at demolishing the facility and making the prime-location property available for some kind of redevelopment.

Decommissioning the old plant was included in the City’s permits for its new one.

The news shouldn’t have been a surprise, as the IWMA knew over a decade ago that Morro Bay’s new wastewater treatment plant didn’t have a HHW facility in the site plans.

Del Giorgio said that they’ve been working hard on finding a new location. “The IWMA has been proactively planning for the future of the program and has completed an extensive review of more than a dozen potential sites in Cayucos, Morro Bay, and Los Osos,” she told Estero Bay News.

“This thorough process has led to the identification of a promising new location that appears well-suited to support continued safe, convenient HHW services for the community.”

She didn’t say where that location is, however. “Negotiations are currently underway, and additional details will be shared once agreements are finalized and approved.”

HHW facilities are locations where residents can get rid of common household products like paint, used motor oil, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, pesticides, household chemicals and cleaners, gasoline and acetone, propane tanks and fire extinguishers, aerosol cans, electronics, and gardening products.

All these things contain chemicals that harm the environment and can even be deadly, according to the IWMA website, and are considered hazardous waste.

HHW facilities were established to give people a place to safely dispose of such items and products instead of dumping them in some remote location and polluting the environment, which has been known to happen. They keep it out of the regular garbage stream, too.

It was also started as part of the whole reduce, reuse, recycle push that started in the early 1990s, when curbside recycling programs were mandated by State Law.

There are three main categories of items that they will accept at HHW facilities: hazardous, universal and e-wastes.

Hazardous items include aerosols, corrosive liquids, fire extinguishers, Mercury (from thermostats), paint (containing PCB), pesticides, and, propane tanks.

Universal wastes are batteries, gasoline, light bulbs, paint, thermostats, and used motor oil.

Electronic or e-wastes include IT assets — monitors, servers, computers, laptops, routers, hard drives, cables and chargers. Other items are office equipment — telecom systems, copiers, printers, and fax machines; scientific and medical devices — satellite and imaging equipment.

They also collect consumer electronics equipment such as TVs, LCDs, DVDs, VCRs and stereo equipment; cell phones,

smart phones and PDAs; small appliances — microwaves, smoke detectors, toasters, and vacuum cleaners.

Of note, they will not accept at HHW facilities stoves, refrigerators, or freezers. You must contact your local appliance retailer or landfill for assistance with these items.

Landfills charge a fee for disposal of such large items, including furniture like recliners and sofas.

SLO County residents can drop off at no cost up to 15-gallons or 125-pounds of hazardous waste per visit, Del Giorgio said.

And retail stores that sell some of the items listed above are also mandated by law to take back certain items, like batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, latex paint, prescription medications, needles and thermostats containing Mercury.

By local ordinance, De Giorgio said, these items are accepted throughout SLO County by any retailer that sells them.

Businesses, she added, can continue to make an appointment to dispose of hazardous, electronic, and universal waste through the ‘Very Small Quantity Generator’ Program, using IWMA’s online appointment request portal at: www.iwma.com.

For more information, see: www.iwma.com/retail-take-back-for-consumers.

Del Giorgio said that the HHW program is very important to her agency, and it “reflects IWMA’s strong commitment to maintaining reliable HHW services for residents. Even during the transition period, it is important to remember that HHW should always be kept out of curbside trash and recycling bins.

“Items such as batteries, paint, pesticides, cleaners, sharps, and fluorescent bulbs require special handling to ensure safety and protect recycling systems. HHW programs play a key role in safely collecting and managing these materials in accordance with environmental standards.”

They may already have a new site located but establishing a new facility will take time, so IWMA is beefing up some of the other aspects of the HHW program.

“In the meantime,” Del Giorgio said, “IWMA is also expanding convenient options for residents and businesses. Retail take-back partnerships are being strengthened to provide easy collection of materials such as household batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, latex paint, and motor oil.

Estero Bay Art & Craft Holds Ribbon Cutting

What began last August as a hopeful, all-in-one wish has officially outgrown its first home! Estero Bay Art + Craft has expanded into a second location, allowing each space to enjoy a dedicated function.

The original location, 523 Harbor street (under the new alias ‘Harbor Studio’), will continue to focus on developing hands-on classes, workshops, and events for both children and adults.

Materials and retail supplies have moved to a beautiful, larger new home in the heart of downtown Morro Bay (315 Morro Bay Blvd), allowing them to expand their stock of unique, professional, and folk-traditional materials.

“This exciting transition supports our calling and our underlying mission to connect, nurture, and enliven the creative impulse in our



community,” said owner Hilary Soldati. “We do our best to have a bit of everything for everyone; we also invite personal orders, when you can’t find the one thing you need. Whether you’re seeking quality supplies, hard-to-find resources, books that guide and motivate, a new practice to explore, or are ready to gather for an evening

workshop, we now have two ideal spaces for you — come wander through our new downtown shelves, peruse a studio schedule, and discover your next creative step.”

Check out Estero Bay Art + Craft online at <https://esterobayartandcraft.com/>.



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Satellite image shows Morro Elementary School outlined in red. Submitted photo.

ment Director, Airlin Singewald, Finance Director Emily Conrad, City Attorney Brian Stack, and consultant, Michael Codron.

City Council members who make up a subcommittee on the matter are Councilwoman Zara Landrum and Councilman Bill Luffee. All were there June 24 for the second public meeting on Morro Elementary.

City Manager Craig led the meeting, attended by about 50 interested residents. The agenda was an update on their ongoing due diligence work for the \$5.3 million purchase of the old school.

The City has already put \$500,000 down with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District to hold the property and Craig said the deadline for pulling out of the deal without penalty is Aug. 31.

The District is not willing to let the \$500,000 be refunded after Aug. 31, Craig said.

If the City pulls out of the deal after Aug. 31, they forfeit the down payment. The purchase is scheduled to finish escrow on Oct. 31, when the remaining \$4.8 million is due.

The team of City staffers working on the sale plans to bring their findings from the various due diligence investigations to the City Council as a new business item on Aug. 25.

How that vote falls will determine whether the City buys the 9-acre school site, with its historic buildings and deep history in the community.

This was the second public meeting the City has held on the subject and Craig said the clear message from the first meeting was that the citizens want the City to buy the old school.

Craig said 25 people spoke up at that first meeting in April and what stood out was strong support to buy it. He added that there were different views expressed on future reuses for the school, which has about a 5-acre grassy field used by different groups mainly for youth activities like soccer matches.

There are eight buildings on site, built at different stages of the school’s life, and some could qualify as historic structures.

The school district closed it in 2001 due to declining enrollment and all the town’s elementary school-aged children were moved to Del Mar Elementary, a school across town built in the early 1980s that now has children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Sixth-eighth graders attend Los Osos Middle School and all the kids from Los Osos and Morro Bay, along with many from Cayucos, go to Morro Bay High.

But Morro Elementary is currently zoned “high-density residential,” Craig explained. That means if could be redeveloped with from 15 to 27 units per acre. It’s the highest form of residential zoning for density, he explained.

Many residents believe the old school should be turned into a new City Hall along with Public Works and possibly other departments. To do that, will require a zoning change, which shouldn’t be a problem, but will take time and cost money.

So too will remodeling the buildings into usable office spaces. And changing zoning could trigger further review under the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA.

Craig explained that they would have to re-zone the site for any future use, including as a school site.

The due diligence work has included several studies on everything from a title search to hazardous materials survey, a land survey, and inspections of the infrastructure — water, sewer, electrical and gas — services.

Consultant Codron, who was brought in to act as special projects manager for the Morro Elementary purchase, ran down the various studies they’ve done and the status of others still ongoing.

Codron called the studies standard work that comes with doing due diligence for any property purchase.

He said the hazardous materials study did find asbestos and lead paint but not in a quantity that would be unexpected in buildings that are nearly 100-years old.

A land survey confirmed the property’s boundaries. “What’s on the ground,” Codron said, “matches what’s on paper.”

Codron said a Phase-1 environmental study, “Came back clean” and the property is free of contaminants.

There had been some concern regarding an old underground fuel tank, but it apparently didn’t leak and contaminate surrounding soils.

The site appears suitable for future uses, Codron said.

They did find about 600-square feet of asbestos insulation wrapped around heating ducts. When the time comes for the City to do whatever remodeling is needed for whatever future use it decides to do, the asbestos would be removed at that time.

Asbestos was widely used for a number of purposes, primarily as fireproofing but also as siding and flooring. The tiny fibers from asbestos can get into the lungs and cause cancer.

Lead paint was also widely used and over time starts to flake off. It’s toxic if ingested.

Codron later clarified that asbestos and lead paint were only

found in the original school building, dating back to 1936.

Codron, based on a report done by the Friends of Morro Elementary on the historic nature of the site, said their consultant concurred with the Friends’ report that the school campus could be eligible for historical landmark status.

That wouldn’t prohibit the City from doing remodeling for a future reuse, but Codron pointed out it would bring in a different set of building standards they’d have to adhere to.

An example of this is Cayucos Landing, formerly the Cayucos Vets Hall that underwent a near complete rebuilding after it was condemned by the County and closed for several years.

The building was rebuilt in accordance with those historic preservation standards at a considerable cost.

Though they don’t yet have a plan for the future use of the school, Codron said they have done a “test fit” study wherein a consultant surveyed City officials to determine their office space, plus storage and equipment space needs, and then measured the actual school buildings.

That study showed the old school could fit the City offices within the existing buildings, though public offices have their own set of standards to meet, such as the potential need to retrofit for fire sprinklers and electrical service upgrades.

Their studies have also determined that a significant number of affordable housing units could also fit on the site.

They’ve looked at different scenarios mixing City office use and housing. One scenario looks at 100 market priced units and 50 affordable units, and another was a 50:50 split of market price and affordable. Both preserve a sizable portion of the grassy fields as “open space.”

Craig pointed out that the more housing that’s allowed the more revenue would come back to the City.

Craig explained that the City Council will be the ones making the decisions here, from whether to move forward with a purchase to future uses.

The Council will also have to decide where the purchase money will come from.

City Finance Director Conrad was asked about potential sources of money for the remaining \$4.8 million bill.

The City has some \$7.8 million in general fund emergency reserves, which equals about 52% of the general fund budget. They could pull about \$4 million out of that and still have the 33% reserves that City policy calls for. Overall, the City has over \$14 million in its reserve accounts.

However, there is no cushion at all in the operating budget, she said.

The City is also due to get \$3 million from power plant property owner Vistra Energy, if the company hasn’t torn down the smokestacks and power plant by the end of 2027.

Vistra withdrew its proposed Battery Energy Storage System or BESS Project that it wanted to build on the plant property.

The \$3 million is part of an agreement the company reached with the City back when Vistra was pursuing the BESS Project.

Craig pointed out that the City is currently listing the former teen center on Atascadero Road for sale with a \$2.1 million asking price, and has other properties that could be sold, as well.

For instance, if City Hall and Public Works were moved to the school, the City could then sell the roughly half a block sized property where these offices are now, for redevelopment.

Craig said the City’s finances were in a good position and the

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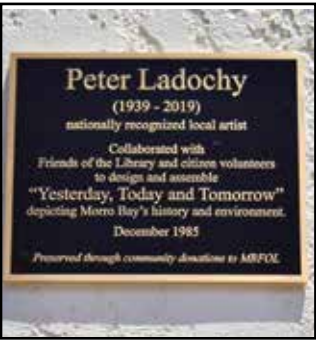
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Mural From page 1



A new plaque honors the original mosaic mural artist, Peter Ladochy.



A group gathered in celebrating of the restored mural.

removed loose tiles clean them and re-install them. The project took one week to complete.

A commemorative plaque was also installed to honor Ladochy and the community effort that made the mural possible.

“I think it is important to have art in communities, and I am glad that they are taking care of it for the future of our community,” said Rebecca Rasmussen, a Morro Bay resident and library patron. “It looks more vibrant and detailed now. It looks like it is jumping out at you.”

The project had a \$30,000 price tag from initial assessment to the last tile set in place.

“We were very lucky that we had built up the money in our savings and did not have to do any additional fundraising to pay for it,” Seymour said. “The money used has been raised by do-

City has “robust” reserves, with \$3-\$4 million extra in emergency reserves.

Though reserve funds sitting in various accounts, like the water or sewer funds, are meant to support the needs of those departments, they can be spent on anything the City Council wants with a four-fifths vote.

The Staff Working Group plans to have options ready to present to the City Council on Aug. 25 when they bring the due diligence report to the board for a vote on whether to move forward with the purchase.

And then they’ll have to put together the actual funding plan before Oct. 31, when they have to write the big check.

The Real Estate Show

Fear Not The Correction

by Greg Astle

In an earlier column I bemoaned the fact that the California real estate market has apparently skipped what had become a somewhat regular, if not predictable, portion of the home-sales cycle; the downturn or, in market-speak, the “correction.” Pointing out that for several decades, the California resale market had experienced one complete cycle every 12 to 14 years or so, I posited that at 14 years, the “up” portion of the cycle we seem to be stalled in, represents a radical departure from previous market behavior.

Now, there is no written law that says markets must correct. It’s just that there is history that shows that corrections have happened with regularity. And then there are good old-fashioned axioms that underscore their existence. “What goes up, must come down” comes to mind. Recent activity might indicate that the correction aspect — the missing cycle “link” that keeps the market in check — just might be on the horizon. I base my thinking on a notable increase in the number of homes for sale in many regions of our county.

One area, Cambria, where the ratio of vacation or second homes to owner occupied homes is heavily weighted with the former, has seen a marked increase in listings in the past few months. Earlier I noted that previous corrections appeared to be triggered by economic or political events like hyper-inflation or subprime mortgage selloffs. A recent article I read pointed out that as of mid-2025, over one-half of American homeowners had mortgages with rates below 4 percent. That fact alone, the article states, is the primary reason that housing inventory has remained well below traditional levels. Homeowners are not trading up to bigger or better homes, mainly because they can’t afford the impact of today’s 6 % mortgages when combined with highly inflated home prices.

Ultimately though, reality trumps financial comfort and circumstances sometimes force homeowners to sell. In the case of the inventory increase in coastal SLO County, perhaps the dream of owning a second home at the beach is having to compete with affordability. And perhaps traditional reasons for selling, death, divorce or downsizing, are having to dance with today’s higher mortgage rates. Could this combination of circumstances initiate a correction? Our President has cursed the thought. He doesn’t want to see all the recent “equity millionaire homeowners” lose their seven-figure standing “so soon.” He might benefit by studying a little economic history. Ultimately, it is corrections that temper markets and make way for new players, in this case, first-time-homebuyers. So, fear not — in real estate it has been proven time and time again, what goes down, must come up.

nations to MBFOL from generous patrons, through membership dues, and revenue from our Morro Bay Friends Bookstore.”

Morro Bay FOL has more than 180 supporters that can join as Lifetime, Annual or Business members. Seymour said they are always looking for new folks to join the group. Their numbers declined during COVID and haven’t fully recovered. Membership is only \$10 annually.

“Our local library and country library have many varied services, programs and resources available that I think many people aren’t aware of,” Seymour said. “And those services and programs are free. What can be better than that? Our Friends of the Library groups in the county are fortunate to be able to step in and help fund the needs of the library when budgets are tight

so our patrons can continue to enjoy all the library had to offer for free.”

Looking to get involved, join the Morro Bay FOL on their website mbfol.org or send an email to info@mbfol.org. The non-profit’s goals, according to their website, are to raise awareness of and promote the library to its greatest possible use, provide financial support for the library and supporting the development and funding of its programming, advocate for the unique Morro Bay library community and patrons, and to provide volunteering and other opportunities for patrons to share their enthusiasm for books and libraries.

“We are also always looking for new people to join our board,” Seymour said. “It’s so good to have new ideas and a fresh perspective. Right now, we have a few members who have been on our board for several years and are looking to hand over the reins to other community members who are interested in supporting our library. Our meetings are every other month on Friday afternoons. Our next elections will be in November to get ready for 2027.”

The Morro Bay Friends of the Library Book Store is open whenever the Library is open and includes books, CDs, DVDs, audio books and magazines. An upcoming project on the group’s radar is to gift books during the holiday season for the local Meals that Connect group.

Can you Find These?

1. Arrows in flight	14. Horse
2. Spanish banner	15. Houses in Morro Bay
3. Boats and harbor	16. Mission Padres
4. Butterfly	17. Morro Rock and the Seven Sisters
5. Cabrillo	18. Peregrine falcon
6. Caravel with sails	19. Pistol
7. Chumash Indian	20. Sand dollar
8. Compass rose	21. Sea lions
9. Constellations and stars	22. Sea otters
10. Fish nets	23. Sun
11. Geese in flight	24. Waterfall
12. Halley's comet	
13. Headless salamander	

For a fun activity, try to find this list of things to find on the mural. Image courtesy of the Morro Bay Historical Society

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Step back in time and experience aviation history aboard Betsy’s Biscuit Bomber, a beautifully restored 1943 Douglas C-47B Skytrain that served during World War II.

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A suggested donation of \$300 per seat is requested. The flight date has not yet been determined, but all passengers will receive at least 30 days’ advance notice. To reserve your seat(s), contact: communications@honorflightccc.org with your name and phone number. Seats are limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

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N. Main Street at 8 a.m. to decorate our parade entry and prepare for our journey through town. The parade begins promptly at 9:30 a.m., so all participants should be in place and ready before then.

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RSVP to communications@honorflightccc.org.

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Good Clean Fun is still a surf shop but is also an outdoor lifestyle store.

north to the Estero Bluffs and a little spot called Byron’s Beach, named after a guy who used to live there.

Good Clean Fun “has been a lifestyle for me,” Steve says, “that’s what’s kept me in the game.”

He admits his timing has been fortunate.

“I was fortunate to be in surfing when it was blossoming,” he says. “We’ve shifted now to outdoors gear.”

That shift includes a focus on coastal fishing — from the pier, surf kayak fishing and sport fishing offshore. The fishing focus includes bait and tackle, which gave birth to the “Hooked on Fun,” brand.

They also have an extensive clothing selection for men, women and children.

Hooked on Fun “applies to any outdoor activities,” he explains.

Hooked on Fun started out as e-commerce selling online, but now he sells it in the store. His venture into fishing has worked well, featuring everything from bait to rods, reels, tackle and big-ticket things like fishing kayaks.

“We supply it all,” he says. “Fishing is the number one sport



Some of the fishing gear available at Good Clean Fun in Cayucos.

in the world.”

He no longer does the kayak tours, and stepped away from a youth program he ran for 15 years. But the rentals continue. “We also have the best collection of beach rentals on the coast,” he says. “Surfboards, body boards, wetsuits, kayaks and more. But the retail kayak business has changed.

“The kayak industry is dead,” he says. What killed the retail side of kayaking is what’s hurt just about every aspect of retailing, manufacturers started selling direct to customers.

“There’s not one kayak shop left on the Central Coast,” he says, excluding businesses that rent kayaks. The same goes for paddle boarding and wind surfing.

“It’s the independent, small dealers that got hurt,” he says. “What’s kept us alive is our location.”

Kayak rentals still happen but “the demand is not there.”

Even surfing has been hurt but that’s more influenced by drones, specifically drone videos that have exploded online and show great white sharks swimming just offshore and frighteningly close to surfers and kayakers.

“Even in Pismo Beach,” Steve says, referring to a recent video shot with a drone showing what appears to be a juvenile great white shark — still about 10-feet long — lazily swimming beneath surfers. “The demand is just gone.”

Now his “bead & butter” sales are body boards, clothing for

men, women and children, and bait and tackle.

One thing he offers has really started catching on — a fishing simulator. With the high-tech gizmo he can set someone up to catch any type and size of fish they choose — tuna, salmon, halibut, etc. The simulator mimics the fight you’ll get from different kinds of fish and different sized fish, too.

“I can demonstrate rods and reels on the simulator and it’s as good as catching a fish.”

He adds, “We’ve always figured out something to keep us going.”

He says he’s seen good times and bad times over the past 50 years. “Right now,” he says, “it’s a pretty good time.” He praises his current crew in the store.

“This new crew,” he says, “is the best crew I’ve ever had.”

They’ve brought in some special skills too.

“My social media is blowing up right now,” he says, crediting one employee, Chloe, who’s been handling it.

He’s been working on making Good Clean Fun a national outdoor, active lifestyle brand.

Having good help has allowed him to live a somewhat nomadic life, splitting his time between Cayucos and a home he built in Baja California, Mexico.

“I’ve been commuting back and forth from the tip of Baja to here,” he says. At 76-years old, he’s hoping for another change soon. “I have other things I want to do,” he explains.

Good Clean Fun — the building, the business and the brand — are currently listed for sale as a package. “My hope and dream,” he says, “is to have someone keep this going forever.”

He adds that this is “a desirable package for someone who wants a lifestyle change. There’s not a location like this. It’s one of a kind.” (See: www.136OceanFront.com for details)

“Our beachfront location,” he says, “is unsurpassable by anyone in the outdoor business.”

He’ll keep the store running with business as usual and has no plans for any kind of big sale.

In the meantime, he says they haven’t scheduled a big bash to celebrate the 50-year milestone but may do something after the summer busy season is over.

“I’ve had a really good run,” he says, “I couldn’t imagine it would turn out like this.”

Good Clean Fun, 136 Ocean Front St., is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Our Story From page 1

Since November 11, 2011, the group has participated in area Veterans’ community events and arranged brief private recognitions to award the unique quilts. It was originally a project created by Mary Ann for the two years she was president (2010-2012) of the quilting group. “I’m an Army brat who enjoyed living many places in the world due to the services of my father and my husband, Ed, so I suggested Quilts of Valor be given to our county’s veterans on Memorial Day.”

It was instantly embraced and so appreciated by the veterans and their families her group continues to present a Quilt of Valor when they discover a veteran who doesn’t have one.

“We hope to provide a quilt to all who served,” said Mary Ann. Immediately priority is reserved for those who served during WW2, WW1, and Korea, but it is now timely that the group reach out to those who served in Vietnam and Iraq. Contact maryanncarnegie@gmail.com.

Mary Ann said, “Recently we gave one to a 103-year-old

gentleman, who survived the Bataan Death March.” Note: It happened April 9-17, 1943, when up to 78,000 American and Filipino POWs were transferred to alternative prison camps after Pearl Harbor (www.nationalmuseum.af.mil) “His sons invited us. They were in their 80s.”

Mary Ann grew up learning how to adapt to the tough times and enjoy the good times. She recalled a family story told by her grandparents. “They lived in Germany pre-WW2 and one day my grandfather came home and said, ‘We have to go. I sold the house to a dentist and a Nazi general. I don’t know who will get here first so we need to go.’ It was several years after the war before they felt they could return. Their house was still standing. A sign identified who was living there and my grandfather said, ‘I guess the dentist got it.’”

On the positive side she recalled, “My dad served in the 89th Combat Support Hospital with the 101stAirborne at Fort Campbell, KY. The family would somehow always take three-months traveling time to visit Europe. When someone would ask how he got the time off, he would say, ‘I won it in a poker game.’”

“It was those times traveling I learned my love for history and empathy for those who served and were hurt in battles. I’ll never forget when Mom and Dad took me to Verdun, France. Seeing 130,000 French and German graves of soldiers who never went home after WWI made an impact. Moving often also meant I was always the stranger that needed to make new friends. I learned how to appreciate and mix into all cultures.”

She believes she studied history and sociology at UC Davis to continue learning more about the cultures she had visited. When she chose a career as a social worker, she felt it was due to the empathy she had learned from those cultures that had lived through wartime.

Mary Ann experienced burnout while in Monterey caring for oncology, dialysis, and terminal patients. Once she got to know them, they would pass away. “I realized it was changing my personality.”

She decided to take music classes thinking she would enjoy the positivity of teaching history through ballads. I wanted kids to grow up knowing about the past. She believes strongly, “If you erase history how will you anticipate the consequences?”

And then Ed Carnegie changed her life’s direction. He was in the Navy reserves in Monterey, where she met him one night at a busy club. She and a friend were very hungry and Ed’s persistence attracted them to join his empty table. By dinner’s end he had talked



Mary Ann Carnegie’s “Quilts of Valor” display on her Cayucos balcony. Photo by Debbie Black

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her into going sailing. She had to wonder what she was doing out in the ocean with someone she barely knew and yet once safely home she wrote in her journal, ‘I’ll marry that man someday.’

Like Mary Ann, he had moved around a lot. He had lived in Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. She believed Ed Carnegie would have a bright future with his master’s in engineering and commitment to Navy services on submarines. They stayed in contact while he served in Korea. And he would continue his service in the Reserves for 20 more years.

While serving at Camp San Luis in the command office, he would become the Director of Cal Poly Bio Resources, formerly known as the Agriculture Engineering Department. She accepted his job offer as his assistant. “We were friends and co-workers first then enjoyed 52 years of marriage and four children together living in Morro Bay and Cayucos.”

Many know Ed and Mary Ann for their longtime involvement developing and managing a Cal Poly project in Santa Cruz called the Swanton Pacific Ranch. Al Smith, a Cal Poly alumni and CEO of Orchard Supply Hardware, owned 3,200 acres and had also purchased an operational 1/-scale locomotive with passenger railcars. Ultimately determined to bequeath the property to Cal Poly, Smith hired Ed to design and manage enrichment programs for Cal Poly students at the ranch. The Carnegie family would spend most weekends and summers managing the programs until a fire in 2020 destroyed it. Many interactive programs were developed both for students and Santa Cruz teens that would lead to careers in agriculture, construction, engineering, railroad management, and even creative arts with a summer Shakespeare program staged on site.

Mary Ann had only requested a dollhouse. Ed complied with not only one for their three daughter’s playtimes, but in the 1980s he designed and literally built their Cayucos home - crafting doors, cornices, picture frames, furniture, light fixtures, even a full-size merry-go-round horse and more. Everywhere in their hillside home you see something created by Ed Carnegie.

The couple was always active and involved in community. They joined the Morro Bay Yacht Club during its early days. Ed was Commodore for two years, thus, Mary Ann planned socials. Ed was recently recognized for his major role on a development team led by “Dev” Devlin that designed and built the current clubhouse. He also designed the iconic bar in the shape of the hull of a sailboat.

Once they moved from Morro Bay and until Ed passed, January 19, 2024, they were both active in Cayucos. They served multiple terms on the Cayucos Citizens Advisory Committee which advises the SLO Board of Supervisors about issues and needs for the community. Ed was chair and Mary Ann was land use chair.

Without a doubt, I believe this July 4th everyone in the Estero Bay can tip their hat and offer a big “thank you” to Ed and Mary Ann Carnegie for their continued recognition for our military veterans and their community service in Morro Bay and Cayucos.

News

The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

Something we should all read at least once!

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neigh-

bouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Cat Noir CC

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The human sure takes after the cats. I think that any Independence Day event I have ever been too, half the time was spent waiting in line to use the bathroom even before the martinis or margaritas started cheering my elimination system on to victory.

As it does every year, the fog has already rolled in and it is a tad chilly. I guess if I decide to hit up a BBQ or two, I will put on the snow parka before I head out.

I was sitting here typing away, when I heard a pre-July 4 crash and boom that nearly made me jump out of my skin. After my breathing had returned to normal, it hit me that the noise was in my living room.

Guess who is in my living room rather than outside in the gloomy fog. If you guessed an oaf sized cat with a perfectly round face that is always causing trouble, and who happens to be named Boris, you would be right.

Boris had decided that today was the perfect day to jump on the craft storage bin, the one that had my inks and small frames and pieces to make my next project sitting on top of it.



The key word here is HAD, sure it fits because I am writing after the fact and in past tense, but it also fits because all those things are no longer on the storage bin — they are now on the floor. What is on the storage bin, you ask? Boris is just lying there with his paw doing that midair kneading thing he does when he does something he shouldn't. It sort of looks like a flashing beacon signally, “I’m cute. I’m cute. I’m cute.” He is, so I am now cleaning up after him while he gives me slow blinks to go with the paw thing.

Remember to bring the pets inside to be near you in case they get scared by the fireworks and obnoxious illegal boom makers. More pets go missing on the 4th of July than any other holiday. They do not understand that for some reason we need to make a lot of noise to prove our independence way back in 1776. Calming treats have worked for the crew in the past. Hit the stores today, if you need some.

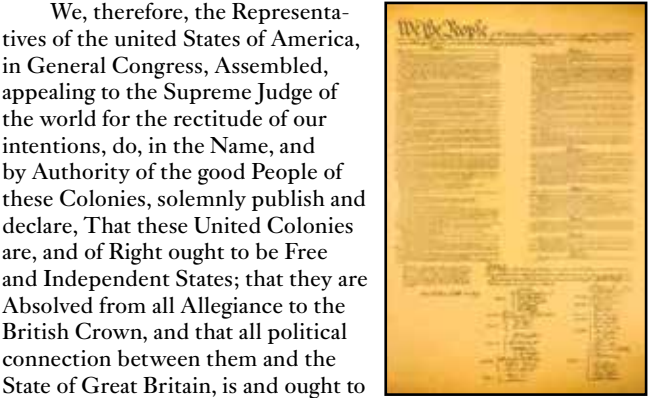
Letters From page 15

I'd rub my tarsal claws together, trying to attract another
And if a glassy-wing I were, eschewing of the conifer
I'd choose instead to break my bread, while turning table
cloths to red
Becoming soon thereafter glassy eyed, by drinking red wine
'til I died
Sharpshooter, to thy aim be true as master of your wino crew
Waiter bring another round! It seems I've drank the last one
down
One more chalice, sans the malice, pair with shallot for my
pallet
Do beg the vintner- spare the mallet!
Now I'm feeling sharp-shot woozy, tied one on this time a
doozie
Still to make a great escape across the vintners parched
landscape
Condolences to poor homeless fox, who wishes vintner cases
of pox
A proudly glassy pest I be and now I'm off to fly, be free!

Joseph John Racano
Los Osos

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.



Filming From page 8

adult victims and does not allege a qualifying prior conviction, the conduct being alleged in this case can only be charged as misdemeanors under California law.

Women who used the tanning or red-light therapy rooms at the Arroyo Grande Planet Fitness during 2025 and have not yet spoken with investigators are encouraged to contact Arroyo Grande Police Detective Brandon Earnest at (805) 473-5110 ext. 7021 or by email at bearnest@arroyogrande.org.

Superior Court Judge Erin Childs signed an arrest warrant and set bail in the amount of \$50,000.

Master Plan From page 4

- Environmental stewardship.

Absent from this list is the desire to continue to have a working waterfront, which has been a top priority for the City for decades.

The schedule for the update includes a fourth workshop sometime this summer and release of a draft update, and a fifth workshop and public hearing in September when the draft plan would presumably be adopted by the City Council.

It will automatically then have to go to the Coastal Commission for its review, potential changes, and adoption.

If there are changes made by the Commission, and it's probably a safe bet there will be, then it will have to come back to the City Council for further review and then final adoption. This process can be lengthy.

The WMP update also includes a citizen's advisory committee made up of representatives from the City's various advisory boards and commissions, and stakeholders like the Waterfront Master Leaseholders Assoc., the National Estuary Program, and Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, eight members in all.

The committee's ultimate duty will be to provide a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council on whether to approve whatever update comes out of the process. It will not have a binding say in the matter.

The advisory committee meets at 3 p.m. the first Thursday of the month (July 2) at the Vet's Hall, 209 Surf St.

For more information on the Waterfront Master Plan Update, see: www.morrobayca.gov/1116/Waterfront-Master-Plan.

BAY

MAIN EVENTS AT THE BAY THEATRE
OPEN FRIDAY - WEDNESDAY
CLOSED THURSDAYS
SHOWTIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

7/1 - 7/15
MINIONS AND MONSTERS
(PG) 1 hr 30 min
Fri-Sat & Tues-Wed 4:30 pm & 7 pm
Sun 1:30 pm & 4 pm
Sat July 4 at 4:30 p.m. ONLY

7/17 - 7/29
THE ODYSSEY
(R) 2 hr 52 min
Fri-Sat & Tues-Wed 3 pm & 7 pm
Sun 12 pm & 4 pm

MONDAY SPECIALS * ONE SHOWING ONLY AT 5:30 PM

7/6
THE STRAWBERRY
(NR) (2026)
1 hr 37 min
PRESENTED BY SLABTOWN
STUDIOS & SUPER IMAGE LTD

7/13
APOLLO II
(G) (2019)
1 hr 33 min

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For Sale

1819 6th • Los Osos



3/2 with 2 car garage, Stunning
Turnkey near Baywood \$875,000

1572 LOVR • Los Osos



2/1.5 with large legal ADU,
garage, greenhouse, space!
1.7 acres \$1,100,000

1143 16th • Los Osos



Fourplex- 2- 2/1 and 2 studios
Next to Elfin Forest
\$ 925,000

1909 Claire Dr • SLO



Manufactured home near trails,
set in nature, great location.
\$465,00

For Rent

Los Osos



3/2 with 2 car garage in
Sunset Terrace
\$3,500/mo

Morro Bay



2/1 with loft and garage, close to
the beach.
\$2,325/mo

San Luis Obispo



2/1.5 Attached garage in
Cedarwood
\$2,950/mo

Grover Beach



2/2 Garage, water and trash
included
\$2,450/mo



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