

Morro Bay Police Enjoy a Night Out



Twelve lucky kids received bicycles at the Morro Bay Police Department's Annual National Night Out event.

Story by Neil Farrell
Photos by Dean Sullivan

The Morro Bay Police Department held its Annual National Night Out event on Aug. 4 bringing police officers, fire fighters and other organizations together at Cloisters Park for a fun evening of community building.

MBPD Chief, Amy Watkins told Estero Bay News that the department has been holding NNO events for over 10 years now. "The purpose," she said, "is to bring the community and law enforcement together for engagement and fun exchanges."

The event features games for the kids to play, free food and emergency information, plus a lot of swag from various organizations and business sponsors. It's all designed to bring police officers closer to the people they serve.

"Safe communities," Chief Watkins said, "begin and end with a cooperative partnership and solid relationships between the police and the communities they protect. This event provides an opportunity to come together, enjoy some food and get to know each other in a neighborhood/community atmosphere."

NNO events are held the first Tuesday of August and now take place in some 17,000 communities nationwide, and 38 million people take part in the events annually.

The idea started forming in 1970 with a community volunteer named Matt Peskin in a West Philadelphia suburb.

According to the NNO website (see: <https://natw.org>), "Matt spent several years volunteering for the Lower Merion (Penn.) Community Watch program, who works in cooperation with the Lower Merion Police Department.

"During his tenure of volunteer work in the township, he often patrolled his neighborhood, assisted in patrol dispatch and shortly thereafter introduced the program's newsletter becoming

a representation of the success that took place within the organization and the volunteer work put forth by over 1,000 neighbors."

Finding it increasingly hard to gather relevant information for the newsletter he was putting together, Peskin started reaching out to neighboring communities, according to the Website said.

"This was the aha! moment," the website said, "Matt noticed hundreds of these local groups existed with no shared platform to connect."

In 1981, he formed the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), "to provide community watch groups the necessary information, resources and assets to stay informed, interested, involved, and motivated within the community.

"Neighbors and local law enforcement across the nation supported the association as it steadily grew for the next 3 years." Peskin now serves as the NATW's executive director.

NATW soon introduced the National Night Out. "National Night Out," the website said, "was introduced in August of 1984 through an already established network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and volunteers across the nation. The first annual National Night Out involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states."

NNO has grown much bigger than the initial goal of sharing information and building camaraderie among neighbors.

"Neighborhoods across the nation began to host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and more."

Police departments in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo also held NNO events this year. Morro Bay's event had a lot of support from the business community.

Chief Watkins wanted to thank their Major Sponsors — La

Night Out Continued on page 19

Meals That Connect Still Serving after 50 Years



The non-profit Meals that Connect has been serving meals to seniors for 35 years. Photo courtesy of Meals that Connect

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Nutrition and socializing are vital to wellness, but some area seniors struggle to get both. A non-profit in SLO County has worked to fill those needs for decades and hopes to reach even more.

Meals that Connect (MTC) began work in San Luis Obispo County in 1974 and became an incorporated nonprofit organization in 1991. MTC, the Senior Nutrition Program of SLO County, provides meals, wellness programs, and human connection. By providing free hot meals in a group setting or delivering them to the homebound, the program helps seniors maintain independence for a longer period, get 30 percent of their daily nutrition, and stay socially connected. Client contributions are welcomed but are completely voluntary and are based on what each individual feels comfortable contributing.

"Programs like Meals That Connect reminds us that caring for our seniors is both a responsibility and a reflection of our values," said Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) at a recent anniversary celebration. "Their work helps older adults remain independent in their own homes while giving families the peace of mind that someone is checking in and looking out for their loved ones. It's an invaluable service that strengthens our communities, and one we're fortunate to have here in our

Still Serving Continued on page 16

Rich Man Poor Man Celebrating 50 Years

By Neil Farrell

Fifty years is a long time to be in the antique business. Stay open that long and a store might become an antique itself, like the items on sale inside.

Myles and JoAnna Crebs, who are both retired accountants, don't seem to mind. Their two locations — Rich Man Poor Man Antique Malls in Cambria and Morro Bay — are going strong, enjoying a rich base of loyal customers and business associates, many who have become friends, and celebrating the business' 50th anniversary this year.

They both were antique dealers in Visalia in the 1980s and purchased the original Rich Man Poor Man store in Cayucos from the original owner, Barbara Lender, Myles explains, sitting for an interview with JoAnna and a reporter in the Los Osos Starbucks.

The two had moved from Visalia to Cayucos in 1987 and worked for Barbara at the original location in an old building on Ocean Avenue. The building was quirky with three floors including a basement level and wood staircase and a balcony that wrapped around the exterior overlooking the main showroom floor.

"It had a ghost," JoAnna says, smiling



Myles and JoAnna Crebs, owners of the Rich Man Poor Man stores in Cambria and Morro Bay, are celebrating the business' 50th Anniversary. Photo by Neil Farrell

50 Years Continued on page 18

County Moves \$100,000 into Morro Bay-Cayucos Connector Project

By Neil Farrell



Work continues on a much-anticipated dedicated bike lane connecting Morro Bay and Cayucos and overlooking the beach and Pacific Ocean.

County Supervisors were asked to approve moving \$100,000 from the County Parks' Public Facilities Fund to the Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector Pathway Project account, to cover additional work needing to be done by the County's contract engineering firm.

According to a report from Aaron Yonker, the Supervising Engineer for the

Connector Project Continued on page 17

Our Stories: Helen Seavy - A Century of Memories

By Judy Salamacha



In less than a month Morro Bay's Helen Seavy will celebrate her 100th birthday with her family. The official date is September 9. Her three children will be among the celebrants to meet-up with relatives, friends and neighbors. I'll leave invitations to the Seavy clan!

Helen was born in Harbor Beach, MI. She explained, "It is a small town in the thumb of Michigan on the coast of Lake Huron." My husband is from Michigan, but I was confused by Hel-

Our Story Continued on page 18

Police
Blotter
Page 8



Kindness
Pays
Page 8



Ice Cream
Social
Page 12



News

Congressman-CSD Celebrate Fire Department Funding



Congressman Jimmy Panetta of the 19th District delivers remarks in front of the Cambria Fire Station celebrating a big grant. Photo submitted.

The Cambria Fire Department is getting a big boost from a local Congressman.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta of the 19th District was joined by officials with the Cambria Community Services District and public safety members to celebrate Panetta’s securing \$935,000 in federal funding to help the District buy a new fire engine and a whole lot of essential equipment and gear.

“The funding Rep. Panetta secured will support the purchase of a new Type 1 fire engine and essential firefighting equipment, including extrication tools, self-contained breathing apparatus units, hoses, and radios,” reads a news release from Panetta’s Office.”

The Congressman also had a tour of Cambria’s lone firehouse before the check passing ceremony.

The new engine will be a welcomed addition to a small department tasked with some hefty responsibilities.

“The new frontline engine,” the release said, “will strengthen emergency response and safety for Cambria’s approximately 5,500 residents and the many visitors [a million or more] who travel to the community each year.

“As the sole provider of emergency services within the district, the Cambria CSD Fire Department responds to fires, medical emergencies, rescues, and natural disasters while facing limited access to mutual aid and evacuation routes.”

The new gear and equipment will help a lot. “The new apparatus will improve the Department’s ability to protect lives and property, meet current safety standards, and provide automatic and mutual aid to neighboring communities, including San Simeon and other areas of San Luis Obispo County.”

Because of its location on the far North Coast of SLO County, Cambria’s CSD holds special importance for the residents.

The CSD provides drinking water and sewer treatment. And the community not only has its own fire department, but also has its own ambulance to make sure emergency medical aid is readily available. The CSD also manages several community amenities including the Vet’s Hall and the Fiscalini Ranch Open Space, among others.

County Releases More Homeless Money

By Neil Farrell

County Supervisors approved releasing more than \$3 million from two key homeless assistance programs.

County Social Services Department Principal Administrative Manager, George Solis’ report asked Supervisors to release the “Round 5” funding of the State Department of Housing and Community Development’s “Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program,” some \$1.73 million that was recommended by the County Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC).

Solis also asked for the release of the Round 6 funding in the State’s “Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program,” for another \$1.27 million. All together the two disbursements total just over \$3 million.

Solis explained that the HHAP Program comes through a Housing and Community Development division, called the “Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.”

The money goes to large cities of over 300,000 population and to counties with “Continuums of Care” agencies in the form of block grants, “to build on the regional coordination created through previous HCD grant funding and support local jurisdictions to prevent and expeditiously reduce unsheltered homelessness.”

It’s a somewhat complex web of bureaucracy to get the money actually dispersed out into the community.

Under the HHAP Program, Solis said, SLO County and the Continuum of Care were eligible for more than \$7 million from Rounds 5 and 6 combined.

In October 2024 the HHAP Round 5 money, the County and the Continuum received some \$4.31 million. HHAP-6 for \$2.77M came last January.

“These rounds of funds,” Solis said, “are disbursed in two phases each, with the second disbursement contingent on meeting specific expenditure and obligation benchmarks.”

In August 2025, the HSOC approved awarding \$1.98M (from HHAP-5) and County Supervisors gave final approval in December 2025.

HHAP-6 funding priorities were approved by HSOC in March (2026) when the Round 5 second allocation went out. HSOC also put out a request for proposals for the funding. HSOC set up several priorities for the available funding:

- 31 percent for delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions;
- 21% for operating costs/supportive services in existing interim shelters;
- 21% for operating costs/supportive services in permanent supportive housing units;
- 10% for prevention and shelter diversion; and
- 9% for rapid rehousing/rental subsidies.

Solis added, “Under State guidelines, at least 10% of the total funds must be spent on homeless youth and no more than 7% of the total funds may be used by the County to administer the HHAP-5 program.”

HSOC also set priorities for the Round-6 funding:

- 61% for interim housing services and services coordination;
- 15% for rapid rehousing/rental subsidies;
- 8% for permanent housing services and services coordination; and,
- 7% for capital for permanent housing.

The State has the same requirements as the previous funding round, 10% to homeless youth and no more than 7% for administration. The request for proposals got a dozen applications totaling more than \$10.2 million, and the County put together “Grant Review Committees” or GRCs to review and score the applications using criteria developed by HSOC.

The Council approved the list last February and Supervisors gave their approval last April. Getting approval was of course complicated.

“Applications were evaluated,” Solis said, “using standardized scoring criteria based on the project type. For service-related projects, application scores were combined with performance measures derived from the County’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or other HMIS-compliant databases.

“Because project objectives differ across eligible activities, separate performance metrics were used for each project type.”

He said their method of review made sure everything was done fairly. “This approach ensured that funding recommendations considered both application quality and demonstrated program outcomes,” he said.

The awards were broken down into five categories: delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions (capital costs); operating costs/supportive services in existing interim shelters; operating costs/supportive services in permanent supportive housing units; youth set-asides; and, prevention and shelter diversion.

Three projects got funding under the “Capital Costs” heading — The SLO Nonprofit Housing Corp., for \$183,000; People’s Self-Help Housing for \$269,000; and, Transitions Mental Health association for \$248,000.

One applicant, NanoNest, was denied funding to buy eight housing units because it had “no project location or service provider attached to it,” the report said.

Under the “Operating Costs/Support Services” three awards went to: the Five Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) for \$512,000; CAPSLO for \$395,000; and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) for \$277,000. These funding amounts, which were awarded at levels far below what the agencies asked for, totaled \$1.18M.

Another applicant, Lumina Alliance wasn’t funded because its request was for help to renovate an existing shelter, which the review committee and HSOC didn’t feel was a priority, but Solis said they will try to find their project some other funding.

“Staff will direct the applicant to alternative funding opportunities for public facilities in the upcoming 2027 Action Plan NOFA,” the report said.

Three awards were made under the “Permanent Supportive

Housing” category: People’s Self-Help Housing for \$262,000; Transitions for \$109,000; and the Housing Authority of SLO (HASLO) for \$71,000. These grants totaled \$442,000 and no one was denied.

Rapid Rehousing and Rental Subsidies saw three awards given out: 5CHC got \$162,000; ECHO got \$87,000; and CAPSLO was awarded \$73,000 for a total of \$322,000.

Transitions was denied \$75,000 for its Housing NOW program and continuing assistance.

Under the “Youth Set-Asides,” 5CHC got \$354,000 for its “countywide youth focused” program, according to the report.

Solis said this money was awarded because of “5CHC’s strong performance in serving youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Additionally, 5CHC has proposed to continue to provide services countywide. Youth set-aside funding will support interim shelter operations, rapid rehousing, prevention, and permanent supportive housing services.”

ECHO had also put in a request for funding but was denied.

These funding recommendations align with the priorities established by the HSOC and the Board.

Solis said the grant awards and the programs they would support align with the County’s plans to end homelessness.

“These recommendations,” the report said, “support the implementation of the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness, specifically:

1. Line of Effort 1: Create affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options for underserved populations.
2. Line of Effort 2: Focus efforts to reduce or eliminate barriers to housing stability for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including prevention, diversion, supportive services, and housing navigation.”

Correction

In the Article “Kenneth Norris Marine Reserve Celebrates 25 Years,” (Vol. 8, Issue 15), we used the wrong name. The reserve’s parent organization changed its name from the UC Natural Reserve System to UC Nature in April of this year. Further, the network of field stations of reserves now includes 42 sites not 39.

Estero Bay News Staff



Dean Sullivan
Owner - Publisher
dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson
Editor
editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell
Reporter
neil@esterobaynews.com

Judy Salamacha
Columnist

Joan Sullivan
1925 - 2025

Dean Thompson, Lisa Ellman
and The Bookshelf Writers.

Cambria Contributors
Keith Pendleton
Connie Pendleton

347 Garden Street
Listed at: \$825,000



Bear Valley Realty
Steve Auslander, Owner
DRE #01068681
Cell: 805.801.4444
BearValleyRE.com



Dianne Blanchard, Broker
DRE #01945483



NEW PRICE

Rare opportunity to own a home in a desirable Los Osos location directly across from the Cuesta Inlet, offering scenic water views and views of iconic Morro Rock. This single-level home sits on a spacious lot with established landscaping and plenty of room to enhance and personalize. The property offers a small yet functional floor plan and solid potential but is ready for updating and cosmetic improvements, making it an excellent opportunity for buyers looking to build equity and create their own coastal retreat.

900 Los Osos Valley Road Suite A Los Osos, CA 93402

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC. Copyright 2026 all rights reserved. We are a bi-weekly publication with thousands of copies distributed throughout Morro Bay, Los Osos, Cayucos and Cambria. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com. You can reach us through emails listed above, by phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at: P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.



News

County Fire to Get HeloPod

By Neil Farrell

The Cal Fire/County Fire Department is getting a big boost from a utility company's donation that will aid in water drops on wildfires.

County Supervisors approved acceptance of a \$40,000 donation from Pacific Gas & Electric via the Fire Safe Council, to buy a HeloPod, a portable water storage container that holds water that can be taken up by helicopters for dropping onto wildfire hot spots.

"HeloPod," reads a report from County Fire Chief John Owens, "is a patented, prefabricated dip source/dip tank design fully re-locatable and can be deployed anywhere within San Luis Obispo County where there is an operational need."

"It is filled with water and can be supplied from either a static water source [hydrant] or water tender."

Having a ready pool of water close to a fire will make things easier for firefighting helicopters. "It provides significant flexibility and value to helicopters during wildland fire incidents in areas without open water sources," Chief Owens said, "allowing responding helicopters to dip into the tank of water when conducting aerial firefighting."

County Fire and the County's Purchasing Department worked together on a non-competitive bid from the manufacturer, Pump Pod U.S.A. to order the Helopod.

PG&E's donation didn't cover the entire cost. Chief Owen said the overall cost is \$72,000 and the remaining \$32,000 is coming out of the County Fire Department's budget.

The HeloPod looks a lot like a roll-off

LOCSD - S&T Agree to Cooperate

By Neil Farrell

The Los Osos Community Services District has formalized a support agreement with one of the town's private water systems, agreeing to continue to lend operational support when needed.

The LOCSD Board approved an agreement with the S&T Mutual Water Co., which provides water to the Sunset Terrace neighborhood, that would ensure the governmental agency would

be there when the little water company needs help.

"S&T," reads a report from LOCSD General Manager Greg Kwolek, "is a very small mutual water company whose operations are managed by a husband-and-wife operator team that live within the S&T service area. During periods when both operators are out of town or otherwise unavailable, the District has been asked to provide limited operational coverage to help ensure continuity of water system opera-

tions."

S&T Mutual is owned by and serves 179 owner/customers and provides water to the Sunset Terrace neighborhood and the Sea Pines Golf Resort and Restaurant, a par-3 private golf course that sits on the northern and western sides of the Sunset Terrace neighborhood.

The support had been done on sort-of a handshake basis. Now, it's formal.

"The proposed S&T Operations Support Services Agreement," Kwolek said, "establishes clear expectations regarding the services that may be provided, identifies the respective roles and responsibilities of each party, addresses liability and insurance requirements, and provides a mechanism for the District to recover its costs for both stand-by availability and any operational support services that are performed."

Under the agreement, the LOCSD would act as an independent consultant and contractor, and bill the company monthly for whatever services it provides, on a stand-by basis.

The CSD also agrees to emergency response for things like water main breaks and

dumpster that one might rent from the garbage company for use on a construction site, or perhaps a major landscaping job. It would be transported via a flatbed truck to a staging site near a wildfire where it can be filled by a water tanker truck or if one is available, a fire hydrant or water storage tank.

County building codes require such water storage tanks for rural properties of a certain size or distance from fire hydrants or other water sources like a pond or a lake.

And while water tanks are designed to be tapped by fire engines, they are not much good for loading helicopters.

With this piece of equipment, instead of having to fly to the nearest lake or pond to refill its bucket, a helicopter could just fly to the HeloPod to get another load of water, potentially cutting flying time significantly, and increasing the number of water drops that can be made before having to return to the airport to refuel the helicopter.



Photo shows a HeloPod with custom markings that the Cal Fire/County Fire Department is getting in part with a \$40,000 donation from PG&E. Submitted photo

LOCSD Amends Water Flow Work

By Neil Farrell

The Los Osos Community Services District is extending a system upgrade to its drinking water network, replacing an outdated component on a key booster station before it becomes completely obsolete.

The LOCSD board approved the fourth change order on a 2024 contract that would upgrade the "Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition" (SCADA) System, a system-wide computerized control to manage the water flow and supply.

Canon Associates was given the contract back in October 2024 and has been working on the project. Initially the company said the "problematic logic controller" on the 16th Street booster station could remain in place but with an upgrade to sync with the new SCADA being installed. The decision initially saved

various alarms on the system, among others.

Under the agreement, "Emergency response is intended to stabilize the situation and protect the water system until normal operations can resume. Following the initial emergency response, the Parties will determine whether additional operational support is needed."

S&T will pay the LOCSD \$20 a day in stand-by costs. Rates for emergency callouts "shall be billed on an hourly basis in accordance with the District's then-current rates for personnel, together with applicable charges for materials, equipment, supplies, vehicles, laboratory services, contractor costs, and other resources utilized in providing the services. If no applicable District rate exists, services shall be billed at District's actual cost."

No actual dollar amounts for emergency services were listed in the agreement. At \$20 per day, the stand-by costs to S&T would run \$7,300 a year.

The agreement did not have an expiration date and would stay in effect until either party decides to end the arrangement.



some money on the original project.

But things have since changed and now the District wants to replace that controller as well.

"During commissioning of the new SCADA system and coordination with the booster station pump improvements," LOCSD General Manager Greg Kwolek said in a report, "it became evident that the existing Siemens

Water Flow Continued on page 4

Bayside Cafe

Serving Morro Bay, Los Osos Area for over 30 years.

Just plain good food, generous portions



Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

Open Monday-Wednesday 11:00am - 3:00pm.
Thursday-Sunday 11:00am - 3:30pm. Closed between 3:30-4:00
Open again from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm
10 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Phone 805-772-1465
Visit our Menu at Baysidecafe.com

Hot Properties!

Cuesta-By-The-Sea

New Listing

Binscarth Road

Across from Cuesta Inlet this two bedroom, two and a half bath home plus bonus room is located in a very desirable neighborhood of Los Osos! Priced to sell at \$1,195,000.

Cayucos

136Oceanfront.com

Rare, Ocean Front Iconic Surf and Outdoor Living Retail Store Business and Property for Sale! Over 50 years in Business in Cayucos! Call Kelly today for Details!

Creston

SOLD

9750 Random Canyon

Enchanting Rancho el Sueno! Panoramic views from this artistically designed home. \$975,000

Kelly Vandenneuvel

Broker/Owner / GRI
CalBRE# 01472453

Call the Brokers with the SOLD signs!

Brenda Flood

Broker Associate
SoldbyBrenda@gmail.com
CalBRE# 01226837
805-903-3907

I Can Sell Yours Too
Call Me Today! 805-471-1046

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com

Water Flow From page 3

controller had reached the end of its practical service life. Vendor support is no longer available, replacement components are limited, and the proprietary programming software necessary to troubleshoot or modify the controller cannot be obtained.”

Having this outdated and unsupported piece of machinery presented a risk to the water system, so the staff decided it would be more cost effective to amend Canon’s current contact and change out the booster controller now.

Kwolek reported, “Replacing the controller as part of the current SCADA project will:

- Provide compatibility with the new District-wide SCADA platform;
- Allow District staff to remotely monitor and troubleshoot operations;
- Improve system reliability;
- Eliminate dependence on obsolete hardware and software; and,

- Avoid higher mobilization and engineering costs associated with completing the work under a separate future contract.”

Since Canon is already doing the project and is mobilized and up to speed, as well as being the design-build contractor, the Board approved what amounts to the fourth contract amendment. The increased cost was listed at \$73,000.

Canon’s original contract was awarded at \$855,000. The three previous change orders increased it by another \$53,000; add in the fourth amendment (\$73,000) and the overall contract now tops \$981,000.

The contract timeline was also extended by 300 days and now runs through Oct. 30.

In a formal letter to Kwolek, Canon wrote: “ This project will provide LOCSD with a more maintainable and serviceable pump control system.”

The company added, “The upgrade will preserve the existing hardwired pump control signals where practical, remove the unsupported Siemens controller, add local OIT access, and provide operators with consistent local and SCADA-based visibility of pump status, alarms, set points, and control functions.” (OIT stands for “Operator Interface Terminal.”)

In general, a SCADA system is a combination of software and hardware used to monitor and control industrial processes.

In a water system SCADA would be used to monitor the flow in the pipes and the water levels in storage tanks. The software collects and reports the data to a central computer where the CSD crew can keep an eye on the water system and troubleshoot potential problems before they become critical.

SCADA systems are also used in sewer systems, energy plants and distribution grids, and in manufacturing.

Maintaining the flow and storage supply of a water system is vitally important to any community for public health and fire safety — ensuring the fire hydrants remain charged in case of a major blaze.

It’s also a main responsibility of the LOCSD, which provides drinking water to about half of the community.

In Print & On Line



estero bay news.com

Two Appointed to City Boards

The City of Morro Bay has filled a couple of vacant advisory board seats.

A split City Council recently appointed Lyn Wickham to the Public Works Advisory Board (PWAB) and appointed Tom Starnes to the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC). Both votes were 3-2.

Their terms will expire Jan. 31, 2027.

PWAB advises the City Council on matters pertaining to the Public Works Department, things like road maintenance, street tree and parks maintenance, major capital projects and public works strategic planning.

CFAC primarily reviews the City’s spending of its two special sales tax measures — Meas. Q and E.

Meas. Q was a half-cent sales tax hike passed around 2006 after the Fire Department’s fire station on Harbor Street was condemned due mainly to damage in the 2004 San Simeon Earthquake.

Citizens rallied to pass the tax hike and put the fire department right again.

It’s stated intention was to support the fire and police departments needs, road repairs and storm drain maintenance.

But those intentions weren’t written into the law, as that would have triggered a requirement for two-thirds approval of voters. Instead the City Council promised to use the money for the stated uses.

Meas. E is a 1% sales tax intended to support public safety — police, fire and harbor patrol — but that also wasn’t specifically written into the law for the same reason as Meas. Q.

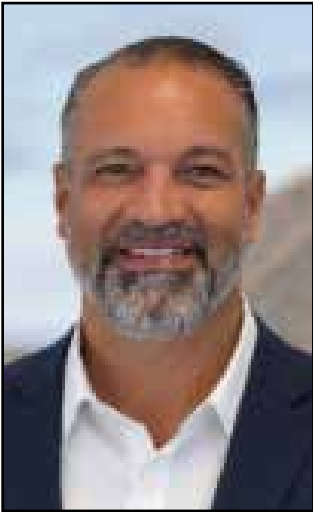
It’s CFAC’s duty to hold the City Council to its word to spend these funds as promised, though as an advisory board it has no power under the law, beyond public scrutiny and the power of public opinion.

City Hires New Public Works Director

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay reached into the North County to find its new public works director.

City Manager John Craig announced July 24 that he had hired David LaCaro to be the new director of public works. He comes to Morro Bay with more than 20-years’ experience “in municipal public works, environmental regulation, and infrastructure operations,” Craig said in a news release, “most recently serving as Public Works Operations Manager for the City of Paso Robles.” LaCaro was scheduled to start with Morro Bay on Aug. 10. LaCaro replaces former



David LaCaro has been hired as Morro Bay’s new Public Works Director. Submitted photo

PW Director Greg Kwolek who left in May to take the job of general manager at the Los Osos Community Services District. Kwolek had been with Morro Bay for about 5 years, having come to the City in May 2021.

Morro Bay’s Utilities Division Manager, Damaris Hanson, had been acting as interim director while the City searched for a new permanent hire.

LaCaro earned a bachelor’s degree in ecology and systematic biology from Cal Poly, SLO and holds a certified public manager designation, Craig said.

He started out in the private sector, working as a water quality program manager with Tetra Tech, Inc., in Santa Maria. There he developed industrial stormwater and wastewater programs, including working with Vandenberg Air Force Base (now a Space Force Base), Craig explained.

He worked for nearly a decade as an environmental scientist with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, administering and enforcing NPDES and waste discharge requirements permits. Craig said LaCaro also led “regional implementation of sanitary sewer overflow regulations for municipalities across multiple counties.”

His familiarity with State water agencies could come in handy as the City tries to navigate a potential project to recycle its treated wastewater that was a key part of the funding contracts for its Water Reclamation Facility.

Paso Robles hired LaCaro in 2014 as its stormwater program manager. He led the city’s Municipal Stormwater Program, and “developed goals covering public education, low impact development, construction compliance and environmental permitting,” Craig said.

He was promoted to public works operations manager in 2022 and oversaw the Streets and Stormwater Program with a staff of 12 and an operating budget of over \$1 million a year.

Craig said LaCaro led development of the town’s first Signal Master Plan and brought in advanced GIS-based management for Paso’s long-range capital planning.

LaCaro “spearheaded the region’s first Watershed Plan and Stormwater Credit Trading Program,” Craig said.

LaCaro also oversaw “a first of its kind statewide multi-agency permit for Salinas River vegetation management balancing flood risk reduction and wildfire mitigation with environmental protection.”

That final experience could also come in handy in Morro Bay, which has a flooding problem on South Bay Boulevard at the Chorro Creek Bridge; a problem made more complicated by the riparian, creek corridor that runs through the area, and is protected habitat that’s overgrown with willows choking the flow of water down the creek and into the National Estuary during big storms.

The City is also dealing with another flooding issue on Morro Creek as it enters town. That creek has overflowed several times in recent history flooding nearby businesses and a mobile home park willed mostly with senior citizens. A study on that situation and how to improve the flood control is in progress.

Having someone with experience putting together vegetation maintenance plans in major creeks could be advantageous to the City of Morro Bay.

According to the City’s current salary schedule, public works director position pays from \$165,000 at Step 1 to \$200,000 at Step 5. LaCaro was presumably hired somewhere in between those figures, His compensation also includes the normal suite of benefits — insurance, retirement, car allowance, etc.



**WEALTH CARE
LAWYER®**

**Probate Avoidance
with
Living Trusts**

ALSO A BUSINESS OWNER?

- Coordinate business planning with your estate plan
- Create a clear succession strategy
- Choose the right entity: LLC, Partnership, Corporation



Klaus Gottlieb, JD, MBA
California Estate Planning Attorney

www.WealthCareLawyer.com

 805-703-2282

 info@WealthCareLawyer.com

 871 N Ocean Ave,
Cayucos, CA 93430

 956 Walnut #200,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401





ASE Certified

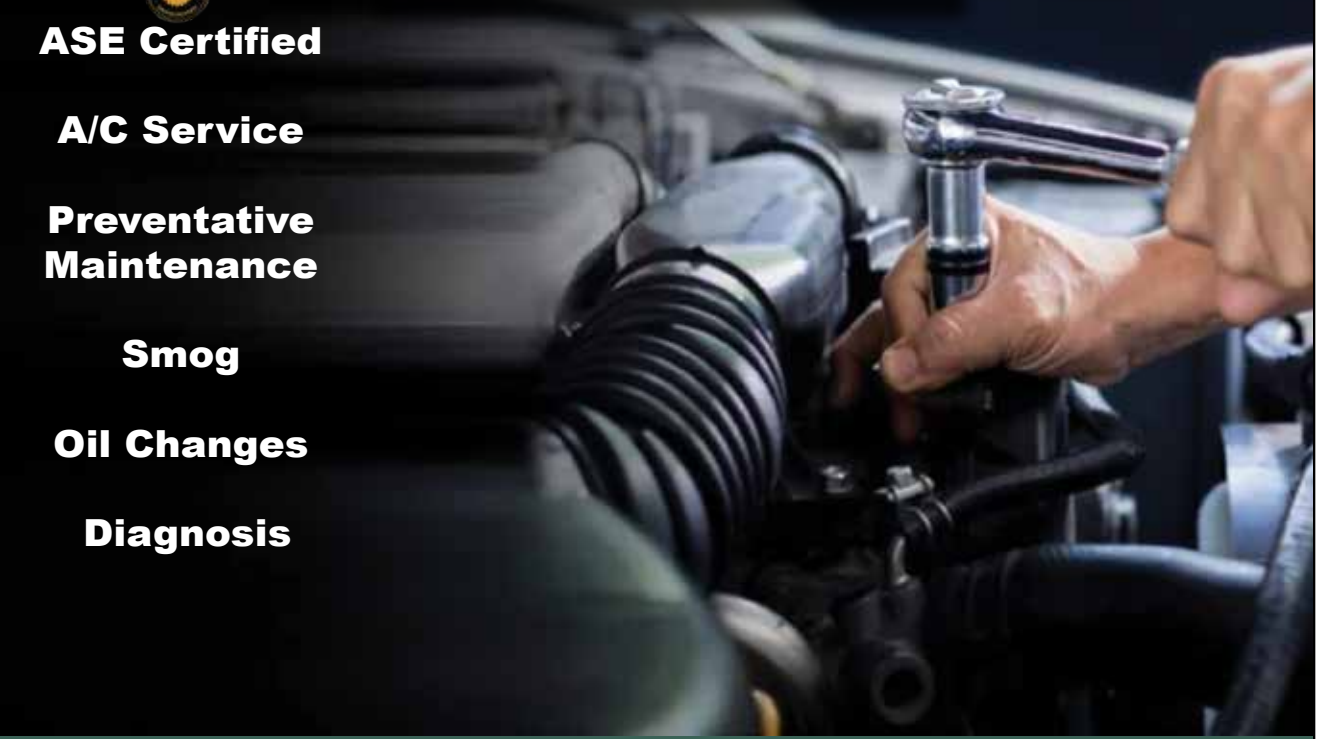
A/C Service

Preventative Maintenance

Smog

Oil Changes

Diagnosis



50 S. Ocean Ave. Cayucos • 805.995.3658

Lewd Acts Alleged in Shandon Man’s Arrest

The Sheriff’s Department arrested an elderly Shandon man on suspicion of committing lewd acts with children attending an unlicensed daycare operation in his home.

According to a news release from Sheriff’s Spokesman, Tony Cipolla, deputies served a search warrant on Aug. 5 at a home in the 100 block of South Fourth St., in Shandon.

The search warrant was in connection to an ongoing investigating involving allegations of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14, Cipolla said.



Javier Rivera Mojica, 67 of Shandon has been arrested on suspicion of committing lewd acts on children. Submitted photo

The warrant led to the arrest of Javier Rivera Mojica, 67 of Shandon on suspicion of lewd and lascivious acts on a child.

“During the investigation,” Cipolla said, “Detectives learned Rivera Mojica allegedly gained access to numerous victims through an unlicensed daycare that he and his wife were operating from their residence in the 100 block of South Fourth Street in Shandon.”

Detectives continue to investigate the matter and are asking anyone with information related to the case or who have had contact with the suspect in a similar circumstance or know someone who has had contact with him to call the Sheriff’s Detective Division at 805-781-4500.

“Investigators are working to determine whether there are additional victims or witnesses who have not yet come forward,” Cipolla said.

The victims in the case have been referred to victim advocacy and support services, Cipolla said. “The Sheriff’s Office remains committed to their safety and well-being throughout the investigation.”

X-ray Tech Guilty of Groping Patient

The District Attorney’s Office has won conviction of a former X-ray technician for sexual battery of a patient, the Office announced July 29.

D.A. Dan Dow said a jury convicted John Stephen O’Brien, 47, of misdemeanor “sexual battery and for willfully and unlawfully touching an intimate part of a patient against her will for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, and sexual abuse while he was working as an X-ray technician at a local medical office.”

The case began in May 2024, according to the D.A.’s news release. According to what was presented at trial, the D.A. said the unidentified female victim had gone in for an X-ray of her injured back, “and needed assistance tying her gown. After the X-rays were completed, O’Brien offered to untie the gown. When the victim agreed, O’Brien untied the gown, touched and rubbed her back, kissed her back, pressed his erection against her back, and then reached around the front of her body in an embrace and grabbed and squeezed her breasts twice.”

The victim was not named, and the medical clinic where this occurred wasn’t identified, however, the San Luis Obispo Police Department investigated the crime.

The victim reported the groping incident to the medical office and law enforcement that same day. Police interrogated O’Brien the following day and he reportedly admitted that he grabbed the woman’s breasts, “but claimed she had come on to him,” the D.A. said.

He tried that same play at trial, claiming that her “movements and body position were an invitation for the sexual touching,” the release said. The jury didn’t buy his story and convicted O’Brien. The fact that another woman came forward with a similar story helped bury the lies.



Former X-ray technician, John Stephen O'Brien, 47, has been convicted of illegally touching and groping a female patient for his sexual arousal. Submitted photo

That prior victim said O’Brien groped her back in 2016. She said O’Brien’s actions “included unwanted touching of her private body parts.”

Normally, uncharged prior bad acts can’t be used as evidence, but the D.A. said this case fell under an exception in the law.

“This evidence was allowed,” the news release said, “under a provision of the Evidence Code that allows for certain uncharged prior conduct to be admitted as evidence when a judge rules that it is permissible for a particular purpose.”

O’Brien is slated to be sentenced in December. He potentially faces the maximum of a year in County Jail plus what is likely to be a hefty fine and possible loss of his X-ray technician license.

D.A. Dan Dow commented, “Patients place extraordinary trust in medical professionals, and that trust is especially important when a patient is in a vulnerable position during treatment.

“This verdict holds the defendant accountable for violating that trust and for the unlawful sexual abuse of a patient who did nothing to invite this conduct.”

Judge Michael Frye presided over the case and SLOPD was the investigating agency. Prosecutor was Dep. D.A. Amy Fitzpatrick. Victim Advocate Tristan Milledge, and Witness Coordinator Iris Martin, also worked on the case.

Missing Man Found Dead on Hwy 101

Highway Patrol investigators have identified a dead man lying in the dirt next to a major freeway who was recently found in Templeton.

The CHP Coastal Division’s investigators working on the case have identified the man as Chad Corpuz, who had been missing since June when he reportedly left his home leaving his dog and cell phone. Family members have been notified.

CHP Public Information Officer, Ryan Armstrong said at about 11:06 a.m. on July 31, CHP dispatch was notified by a Caltrans crew of what the caller thought was a dead body “located within the west shoulder of US-101 near Vineyard Road,” Ofc. Armstrong said.

CHP officers out of the Templeton office responded along with firefighters from Templeton Fire Department. They discovered what must have been a frightful scene — “a male lying face down within the dirt shoulder,” Ofc. Armstrong said. “No personal identification information was found near the scene.”

At this time no information has been released as to cause of death.

Expect Delays on Hwy 46

By Neil Farrell

Folks traveling Hwy 46 by night should expect delays as Caltrans does emergency work on the heavily traveled east-west route.

Caltrans announced on Aug. 6 that on Aug. 9 they would begin overnight roadwork on Hwy 46, east of the junction with Hwy 41, the place they used to call “The Y” before the State built a proper interchange. Hwys 41 and 46 are the main routes from the Central Valley to the Central Coast and back again. Hwy 41 cuts off and runs towards Fresno and Hwy 46 heads southerly towards Bakersfield.

“Traffic controls,” reads a news release from Caltrans spokesman Ashton Harris, “will be in effect Sunday nights from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and Monday through Thursday nights from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. for emergency maintenance work.”

There will be no traffic controls on Friday and Saturday nights.

Harris told Estero Bay News that their goal is to have the project finished by mid-September. They will be giving fair warning to motorists along the route.

“Electronic messaging boards,” Harris said, “will alert travelers in advance of the closure. Travelers can expect delays of 10 minutes and are asked to allow extra time on their travels through the area.”

Road information and updates can be found on Caltrans Dist. 5’s social media platforms: on X at: CaltransD5, Facebook at: Caltrans Central Coast (District 5) and on Instagram at: Caltrans_D5.

Readers are reminded to slow down when passing through any road construction zone to insure safety of work crews, and because if you get caught driving too fast by the Highway Patrol the fines are doubled.

Local Banks Predict Optimistic Business Forecast

By Keith Pendleton

Two local banks, having the greatest market share for San Luis Obispo County, have published broad economic forecasts indicating optimism for national business productivity.

Although the United States National Debt has exceeded 100 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a measure of how well the U. S. economy produces services and products, both Mechanics Bank and Columbia Bank are guardedly optimistic for the future of business. The 100% Debt-to-GDP ratio is the first since World War II, and a first for a time period without a declared war.

“When it comes to inflation, the bond market may be a more reliable forecaster than the stock market,” a Mechanics Bank Wealth Management report states. “Current indicators suggest the Federal Reserve rate hikes will peak at around 5%, versus 5.5% as earlier forecast. Real time data on rents in the housing market indicate that rent inflation is slowing down much faster than the reported data indicate.” That means, “we are 80% of the way through this tightening cycle and the end is in sight.”

After World War II the national debt declined as a percentage of GDP only because inflation and economic production increased. The same seems destined to repeat in the current debt crisis.

Columbia Bank released their 2026 Business Barometer, an annual study examining business outlook, priorities and decision-making of close to 1,200 small and middle market enterprises across the United States. The report points to growing confidence among business leaders that productivity and efficiency gains over the next year will bring greater opportunities to invest in artificial intelligence and technology in general allowing for business expansion and hiring through the middle of 2027.

A record number of small and middle market businesses say they are poised to invest rather than cut costs in the near term. Year-over-year improvement in the outlook of these smaller enterprises reflects real optimism, though measured. While businesses are confident in their 12-month outlook, 60% indicate they plan to delay major decisions for at least six months to closely watch government action, especially tariffs, rising energy costs and inflation in general.

“This year’s study indicates that small and middle market businesses are approaching the next 12 months with relative confidence and an appetite for growth, which bodes well for the broader economy,” said Columbia Bank President, Tory Nixon. At the same time, near-term volatility and current headwinds are also real. “Business leaders are ready to invest but are timing those decisions carefully.”

While 10% of companies believe AI poses a threat to their business ventures, AI is now a top investment priority among most. Concern for losing market-share from both small and middle level businesses propelled a spike in AI prioritizing. More enterprises see its capabilities as critical for them to remain competitive.

From responses received, the Columbia Bank 2026 Business Barometer finds that most businesses believe AI advances over the next year will:

- Increase productivity (significantly or somewhat) (96%)
- Increase employee satisfaction and retention (92%)

Business Forecast Continued on page 17

Now Open In Morro Bay

Visit Our Website:

www.shorelineautosalesusa.com

BUY, SELL AND TRADE

1060 Quintana Rd • Morro Bay • 805.602.1111

Lic# 709877

Interior
Exterior
Fine Finishes
Custom Homes
Remodels
Barns
Ranch Homes

Proudly Painting on the Central Coast Since 1991

805-528-1572
cell: 805-748-5585
Email: mike@baysidepainting.com

www.baysidepainting.com

PG&E Drones Offer a New View



If you see drones in the sky near power lines, they are likely from PG&E's new pilot infrared drone program.

PG&E pilots are now operating drones equipped with infrared and UV technology to detect potential issues before an outage occurs saying it is a game changer for their inspections by making their system safer, more reliable and cost-effective.

The new infrared technology helps pinpoint "hot spots" on the system – which often indicate damage that cannot be seen by the naked eye.

This is the third year of this pilot program. The drones can cover 3 to 5 miles worth of poles and powerlines a day and give inspectors a birds-eye view of any potential damage or wear and tear offering a better angle than looking from the ground or climbing a pole.

These drones and infrared cameras are only looking at PG&E electrical assets, like pole tops, conductors and insulators, not looking in your backyard, at your house or your family.

If you see a drone and a pilot near a power line and want to ask questions, PG&E asks you to wait until the drone has safely landed to approach.

Any PG&E pilot or contractor wears a high-visibility safety vest, hard hat and have credentials they'll happily share.

These drone flights only happen during daylight hours and during favorable weather conditions.

Estero Bay New Briefs

By Theresa-Maria Wilson

Help Student Voter Outreach Project

The League of Women Voters of SLO County has launched the Student Voter Outreach Project, a new initiative to increase voter registration and turnout ahead of the November 2026 election. The project is run by Kate McHugh, a former communications intern, now serving as student voter outreach coordinator. She'll build an outreach program for Cal Poly and Cuesta students.

In the coming months, the team will reach out to relevant community partners and expand in-person outreach. This includes boothing, canvassing, and presentations. The team will also build out digital outreach through social media and website content.

LWV SLOCO needs help. Do you have community connections that could support this work? Want to schedule an informational meeting to learn more about the project? Are you a business owner or nonprofit interested in spreading the word? Email Kate at studentvoteslo@lwvslo.org.

The Student Voter Outreach Project is aimed at students, but the information applies to all SLO County residents of voting age. Visit VOTE411.org to register to vote or check your voter registration. Remember, if you've moved or changed your name since the last election, you'll need to re-register to vote!

For vote-by-mail drop box locations, polling places, candidate information, and more, visit lwvslo.org/vote.

for Cal Poly to conduct a study evaluating long term solutions to address healthcare workforce shortages on the Central Coast.

"One of the most urgent needs across California is healthcare, and that starts with the ability to see a doctor," said Addis in a news release. "Through numerous committee hearings, I have fought to secure funding that invests in increasing the physician workforce on the Central Coast, and I am proud that we are delivering for California, especially at a time when [bill] H.R. 1 is rolling back healthcare in ways we have not seen before."

Based on input from healthcare providers and residents, this study will evaluate current physician shortages, barriers to recruiting and retaining healthcare providers, and future workforce needs. It will also examine the feasibility of creating a medical school campus on the Central Coast.

"Central California is fortunate to have exceptional healthcare providers, but the shortage of medical professionals remains a significant challenge for our region," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "Access to healthcare is critical to attracting and retaining talented individuals, supporting economic development and ensuring vibrant communities. We look forward to exploring solutions that help attract and retain healthcare providers in our region."

In addition to the funding for Cal Poly, Addis secured funding to expand behavioral health services on the Central Coast, including for individuals living with severe schizophrenia.

Funding in the budget also includes the following local programs:

1. \$5 million for CenCal Health, to oversee a new pilot program in San Luis Obispo that will provide treatment for individuals living with severe schizophrenia and anosognosia.
2. \$2 million for Transitions Mental Health Association to recruit and retain behavioral health professionals serving individuals with severe mental illness in San Luis Obispo.
3. \$2 Million for Central Coast Medical School Loan Repayment Program to help subsidize medical school tuition for students living on the Central Coast.

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.

City Renews Chamber, Visit Morro Bay Leases

By Neil Farrell

A Morro Bay City-owned building will continue to be the home of the town's tourism bureau and the Chamber of Commerce under new leases the City Council recently approved.

Visit Morro Bay, the business name of the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) an assessment district for lodging businesses that promotes tourism, and the Chamber of Commerce

have been using the former fire department building at 695 Harbor St., for many years.

Originally, the Chamber also served as managers of a visitor's center at the site and the tourism bureau was a City-run department.

They and two other entities — the Rock Community Radio Station and The Resource Center also occupied the building.

All those entities moved in after the Harbor Street Fire House was completed and the fire department moved across the street to its new headquarters.

The property at Harbor and Piney Way had once been the site of the Public Works Department, which was housed in an old cramped building that caught fire about 25-years ago forcing the

department to move into temporary quarters — an old bank building (now Distassio's Italian Restaurant) on Morro Bay Boulevard. The old Public Works Office was eventually torn down.

Then the fire station across the street was damaged in the December 2003 San Simeon Earthquake, and eventually condemned mainly due to the structural damage but also due to potential health hazards, in particular mold growing in parts of the building.

The City bought a modular building and erected it on the old Public Works site moving the fire department in until a new, proper firehouse could be built. The old firehouse was burned down in a training exercise.

City Renews Continued on page 9

18TH ANNUAL

NATE'S

PINEDORADO

CAR SHOW

CAMBRIA, CA



20

26

SUNDAY • SEPT. 6TH

\$65 ENTRY FEE

For more event info:

WWW.CAMBRIALIONS.ORG/CARSHOW

*All registrants receive T-Shirt/Magnet/Goodie Bag only if registration is received prior to Aug. 15th

CAMBRIA VET'S HALL

ALL YEARS & MAKES!

Entry Fee is a Donation • All Proceeds go to Cambria Lions Charities

WINDOWS

on the Water

RESTAURANT

Fine California Cuisine On the Water, Morro Bay

We're Making it Official...

We will be open 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Windows will be open Sundays and Mondays starting Sunday July 19th

Happy Hour will be Monday through Friday 5pm-6pm

No more waiting until your favorite day, come see us whenever the craving hits.

Great food, great drinks, and great company will be available starting July 19th.

Make your reservations now!

805-772-0677

Open Daily at 5:00 p.m.

699 Embarcadero, Morro Bay (Upstairs)



End-of-Summer Ice Cream social & Mixer

Hosted by the

LO/BP CHAMBER

*Co-hosted by
Rotary of Los Osos*

WED. • AUGUST 19TH, 2026 • 5:30 – 7PM

- Build-Your-Own Ice Cream Sundae Bar
- Delicious Food - Brightside Pizza & more!
- Networking with local Businesses & Community Members
 - Music provided by Burning James
 - Door Prizes
 - FREE to attend

We can't wait to see you there! 🍦

Chamber Office

2141 Bush Drive, Suite D

Corner of Bush & LOVR

805.528.4884 | info@lobpchamber.org



Police Blotter



• **Aug. 2:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 9:34 p.m. well after the sidewalks have been rolled up, at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the slippery driver was cited for suspicion of being well oiled.

• **Aug. 2:** Police responded at 5:54 p.m. to a disturbance at the Motel 6 on Atascadero Road. Logs indicated someone got nicked for suspicion of violating a domestic stay-the-hell-away-from-her court order, a bench warrant and being a drunken tool.

• **Aug. 1:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:48 p.m. at an undisclosed location, presumably somewhere in town. Logs indicated the master criminal had a suspended license and had reportedly used some sort of gadget to obscure their license plate, which ironically was probably what attracted the cops in the first place, a case of even duct tape can't fix stupid.

• **Aug. 1:** Someone came down to the police station on Morro Bay Boulevard after business hours at 7:27 p.m. to report the violation of a restraining order, apparently using the red call box phone by the front doors.

• **Aug. 1:** At 1:17 p.m. someone gave police something they'd found at Morro Bay High School and apparently had no use for themselves. Police took the, whatever it was, for safekeeping.

• **Aug. 1:** At 12:53 p.m. police responded to the Silver City West MHP, formerly known as Tratel MHP, in the 1500 block of Main, for a disturbance. Logs indicated the matter involved some Scaramouch allegedly inflicting corporal punishment on a spouse or cohabitant and then making criminal, terrorist threats. Logs did not indicate whether the Moonraker got arrested, though it would serve them right.

• **July 31:** Police contacted a regular customer at 8:55 p.m. at an unknown location. Logs indicated the arch criminal had a bench warrant and was no doubt issued another citation to violate.

G

GELLERMAN
CONSTRUCTION

Phone (805) 439-4950

Fax (805) 439-4955

gcbuilt@yahoo.com

License #832059

Three Reasons
to List Your Home
With Greg Astle. . .

1) Experience

2) Experience

3) Experience

47 Years in California Real Estate!

(805)423-7653

Greg@gregastle.com

www.gregastle.com

Greg Astle - Lic. # 00687207

• **July 30:** Someone found some unknown something sometime around 6:38 p.m. somewhere near Morro Rock.

• **July 30:** Police responded at 7:25 p.m. to Albertson's Market on Quintana Road for a suspected sticky fingered customer. The alleged anarchist was also nicked with a charge of allegedly receiving stolen property, also called a 5-fingered shopping spree.

• **July 30:** At midnight police contacted a suspicious fellow waltzing along somewhere in town. Logs indicated the dingus had a bench warrant and was also fizzucked in public.

• **July 30:** Someone came to the police station at 2:37 p.m. with something they'd found, apparently seeking to unburden themselves from the burden they'd had burdening them like the burden they'd unburdened themselves from before.

• **July 30:** Police responded at 12:54 p.m. to an undisclosed location after some poor soul apparently was deceased.

• **July 30:** Police responded at 12:40 p.m. to an undisclosed location to deal with some interloper refusing to leave private property. He or she was advised to take their shoes for a walk.

• **July 30:** At 2:54 a.m. police responded to an undisclosed location where another citizen had escaped having to listen to all the mid-term election baloney.

• **July 30:** Police responded at 1:22 p.m. to a report of a disorderly idjit raising a drunken ruckus at Taco Bell on Main Street. No word on whether he or she was arrested or forced to eat the food, nor which would be a worse punishment.

• **July 29:** Police were called to a disturbance at 8:12 a.m. at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated they arrested someone for suspicion of being drunk in public, a case of being a moonflower and not a morning glory.

• **July 28:** At 8:51 p.m. police responded to a disturbance at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the case involved some feculent fellow violating a domestic violence stay-away court order, so he's really in trouble now.

• **July 28:** Police responded at 6 p.m. to a reported traffic crash. Logs didn't say where it happened, who was involved, nor how bad possible injuries were, in fact logs don't really say much of anything useful these days.

• **July 28:** Police were called at 10:19 a.m. to a disturbance report. Logs indicated the matter involved some ululationer raising some kind of hoo-ha-ha.

• **July 27:** Police responded at 2:49 p.m. to a report of some no doubt scruffy Philistine camping at Morro Bay High School, a hanging offense in some parts.

• **July 26:** Police responded at 9:54 p.m. to a disturbance involving some apparently bent vandalass vandalizing a vehicle, a violation of the basic rules of decency.

• **July 26:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at the suspect time of 2:49 a.m. and discovered of course the apparent skint had a misdemeanor bench warrant. Chances are that he or she was re-cited and given another court date, which they will likely ignore as well.

• **July 25:** Police responded to a disturbance at 8 a.m. at an undis-

closed location. Logs indicated the call involved an alleged battery or simple assault, though such things are rarely simple.

• **July 25:** Someone came down to the police station in the 600 block of Morro Bay Blvd., to report a missing person. A report was filed.

• **July 25:** At 8:24 a.m. another citizen came to the police station and turned in something he or she had found at some undisclosed location and of some unknown value, but apparently worth more than a trip to the nearest trash can.

• **July 25:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 2:16 a.m. near the Anytime Fitness Center on Quintana Road. Logs indicated the innocent vehicle had expired registration, and the owner was sentenced to a slow death at the DMV.

• **July 24:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 11:05 p.m. at Taco Bell on Main Street and cited the driver for suspicion of driving in the horrors

• **July 24:** Police responded to a disturbance at 4:25 p.m. at a motel on Market. Logs indicated some apparent gaggle head was nailed for suspicion of being tanked, because it's the nail that sticks out that gets hammered.

• **July 24:** Police responded at 12:21 p.m. to O'Reilly Auto Parts on Quintana after someone found something of some apparent interest and some undisclosed value and gave it to police.

• **July 23:** Police responded at 11:56 p.m. to a report of a suspicious subject hanging around the Mobil Station on Morro Bay Boulevard. Logs indicated the scofflaw had a bench warrant and was no doubt issued another disappearance ticket and released.

• **July 23:** At 3 p.m. some apparent desperado from out of town was arrested on a felony warrant from another jurisdiction apparently while at The Siren tavern at Main and Harbor.

• **July 23:** A good citizen turned in at the police station something he or she had found and apparently thought someone might actually miss it.

• **July 23:** Police responded at 1:15 p.m. to an undisclosed location for a report of someone trespassing and refusing to amscray.

• **July 23:** Police responded at 9:25 a.m. to an undisclosed location for a grand theft report and will no doubt have a jolly good time solving the mystery.

• **July 21:** Police responded at 8:45 p.m. to another report of someone attacking and damaging an innocent vehicle at an unstat-ed location.

• **July 21:** Police responded to a disturbance at 7:33 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the call involved some mulish tool violating a stay-the-hell-away-from-her court order.

• **July 21:** Police noted three incidents for people with bench warrants. One involved someone with two warrants turning himself or herself in at the police station and the other, presumably involving some other dastardly deed, was at Albertson's Market on Quintana.

• **July 21:** Police responded at 8:21 a.m. to a report of a traffic collision as two vehicles apparently tried to occupy the same space at the same time and the same location with predictable results.

Walgreens Ribbon Cutting



Photo by Dean Sullivan

Walgreens was welcomed to the community with a ribbon cutting held by the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce.

City leaders and community members turned out on July 31 to celebrate the store at 740 Quintana Road that has a pharmacy and retail space.

BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

• Benches

• Fire Pits

• Patios

• Sidewalks

• Stamped Concrete

• Exposed Aggregate

• Retaining Walls

• Driveways

• Foundations

State Lic# 816944

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com

www.burchconcretesolutions.com

B • C • S

BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

City Renewals From page 6

When the City eventually completed the Harbor Street Fire House, all went back to normal and the modular building became available.

The Chamber first moved into the building in 2015 and was on a month-to-month basis. It also staffed a visitor's center as part of the deal.

That new rate allowed the City to “get closer to market rate, within the context of the economic benefits provided by the Chamber and VMB to the City and community,” reads a report on the leases. “In 2025, the Council approved a month-to-month lease agreement with the Chamber at the continued rate of \$200 per month plus utilities.”

“Given the Chamber’s roll,” reads the report from City Manager John Craig, “in support of a strong local community and quality of life by promoting a strong local economy, promoting business development, including business attraction and retention programs, staff recommends the Council approve a one-year lease agreement requested by the Chamber.”

TOT is the second highest source of general fund tax revenues for the City behind property taxes. The City's TOT tax is currently 10% of the cost of a room night.

A screen shot of the bear warnings posted on the County's Lopez Lake webpage. Photo courtesy SLO County Parks

By Neil Farrell

San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department has asked Supervisors to “implement a Safe Coexist Wildlife Protection Project at Lopez Lake Recreation Area,” reads a report from Assistant Parks Director Shaun Cooper.

Cooper explained, “Lopez Lake Recreation Area, with its nearly 400 campsites, has continued to experience increasing bear activity within the campground. Bears have become habituated to human food, leading to frequent encounters with visitors and incidents in which bears search for improperly stored food, trash, coolers, and even vehicles for food sources.”

“Despite ongoing efforts,” Cooper said, “to inform and educate campers about proper food storage practices, including strict rules requiring that all food and trash be secured in bear-proof dumpsters or hard-sided vehicles when not in use, the problem has persisted.

“Reports of human-wildlife encounters have continued to

Today, black bears are the common species of bear, but grizzly bears also once roamed all over the state. But the last known living California grizzly bear, was killed in the early 1920s.

A bear that constantly raids cars and campsites, means it would either have to be tranquilized and relocated well out of the area for release, or in the case of a dangerous bear, it might have to be killed.

These measures will begin to be implemented this fall, Cooper said.

“Without additional bear-resistant infrastructure,” Cooper said, “human-bear encounters are expected to continue increasing, creating ongoing risks to visitor safety and wildlife management at Lopez Lake Recreation Area.”

For information about Lopez Lake and the recreational opportunities and amenities available, see the website at: slocountyparks.com/camp/lopez-lake.

By Neil Farrell

County Executive Officer, Matthew Pontes, asked Supervisors to approve an employment contract for “Suzanne [Suzy] Jed, RN, MSN, to serve as the County of San Luis Obispo’s Director of Public Health, effective Aug. 2.” Jed replaces the retired

Jed replaces the retired



Suzanne "Suzy" Jed, RN, MSN, has been hired as the new SLO County Director of Public Health. Submitted photo

New Director Continued on page 10

NATURAL HEALING CENTER

WEEDKEND SALE

— AUG 13 - 16 —

BUY 2 GET 50% OFF

SELECT BRANDS

SENSE™, COLDFIRE™, PURE BEAUTY™,
LAGUNITAS™, ABX™, CARE BY DESIGN™,
HIMALAYA™, GELATO™, HUMBOLDT'S TERP™
& GLASS HOUSE FARMS™ FLOWER.



BUY 1 GET 40% OFF

ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DEALS OR OFFERS.
DISCOUNTS ARE APPLIED BEFORE TAXES. VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

SHOP NOW




nhc

EXPERT 1-ON-1 SERVICE | CBD & MEDICALLY FOCUSED PRODUCTS | SENIOR & VETERAN DISCOUNTS



PLUS.

BUY 2 OR MORE SLEEP GUMMIES, GET 50% OFF

SATURDAYS IN AUGUST | MIX N MATCH PLUS SLEEP GUMMIES

LIMITED TIME ONLY. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. CANNOT BE STACKED WITH OTHER DEALS OR OFFERS. DISCOUNTS ARE APPLIED BEFORE TAXES.

ALL MONTH DEALS!

45% OFF

CAM ALL DAY. EVERY DAY. JETTY

VALID 8/1 - 8/31

STIIIZY *Jeeter* 

VAPES

30% OFF

ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

 PAPA BARKLEY *Gelato*

40% OFF

STOREWIDE

ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY

EXCLUSIONS APPLY. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. CANNOT BE STACKED WITH OTHER DEALS OR OFFERS. DISCOUNTS ARE APPLIED BEFORE TAXES. SEE THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

EXCLUSIONS APPLY | WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER DEALS OR OFFERS | DISCOUNTS ARE APPLIED BEFORE TAXES | VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DEALS: WWW.NHCDISPENSARIES.COM

GROVER BEACH | 998 HUSTON ST. MORRO BAY | 495 MORRO BAY BLVD. LEMOORE | 338 WEST D ST. TURLOCK | 3401 W. MONTE VISTA AVE

(805) 201-1498 | NHCDISPENSARIES.COM | OPEN DAILY 7AM - 9PM

Medical Cannabis (18+) & Adult-Use Cannabis (21+) Copyright © 2025 Natural Healing Center - All Rights Reserved. C10-0000388-LIC | C10-0000797-LIC | C10-0000734-LIC | C10-0000988-LIC

LAWN & GARDENING

Service



Beautify your home with a gorgeous garden! Use our gardening service for the best results.

☒ Full Service
 ☒ Garden Cultivation

☒ Hedge Cutting
 ☒ Weed Abatement

☒ Lawn Care
 ☒ Sprinklers

☒ Edging
 ☒ Yard Cleanup

CoastCare Property

FREE ESTIMATE
805-296-8780



1st Month
w/ Annual

coastcare.care



Community

Poly Seniors Build Learning Tools for Students with Complex Medical Needs

Every learning tool in Heather McColley's medically fragile classroom at Oceano Elementary School must meet students where they are. Two Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior project teams took on that challenge with a push-button garden box and sensory den built to bring more moments of response and discovery into the school day.

McColley, who has taught for 22 years, works with Lucia Mar Unified School District students with complex medical needs in the district's only classroom of its kind. She wanted equipment that could adapt to her students' needs and give them clearer ways to engage with water movement, light and texture.

Mechanical engineering seniors Gabe Haarberg, Lucas Meneghetti, Matthew Podgorski and Alex Seybold designed the garden box, an angled planter with push-button watering controls. Hannah Henderson, Marcus Kanenaga and Galilea Portillo developed the sensory den, an overhead frame with moving lights, music and textured panels with enough clearance for wheelchairs and hospital beds.

Making both projects usable across the classroom required careful measurements. Because McColley's class can serve students ages 3 to 22, the teams could not rely on one standard height, reach or viewing angle. Both teams visited Oceano Elementary multiple times as they refined their designs, studying how students would use each project and respond once it was in place.

"They met a community need that we couldn't meet on our own," McColley said. "We wouldn't have even known where to start, but they had the right background."

The garden box team designed the planter around seated access and stability. To help stu-



Marcus Kanenaga, from left, Galilea Portillo and Hannah Henderson stand with the sensory den during Project Expo. The team designed the project for Heather McColley's medically fragile classroom at Oceano Elementary School.



Marcus Kanenaga walks Heather McColley through the sensory den as Evan experiences the moving lights from a hospital bed in McColley's classroom at Oceano Elementary School.

dents see and reach inside, the team angled the box and reinforced it so it could hold wet soil without becoming difficult to move.

"We didn't want the teacher to have to adjust the wheelchair a lot," Podgorski said.

The final design pairs a steel frame and heavy caster wheels with an irrigation system adjusted for a smaller planter. Its buttons set off different sprinkler patterns, while clear tubing along the front of the box lets students follow the water before it reaches the soil.

"It's a way to bring nature to them," Meneghetti said.

The sensory den team expanded on an

existing sensory box McColley's students already loved. The original setup sat on a table and worked best for smaller children. The new den was scaled for wider classroom use, allowing students to experience it from a wheelchair or hospital bed.

The lights also give McColley and her staff another way to observe students with cerebral palsy and visual impairment as they respond to the display. Because many students communicate without speech, those reactions can help staff see what draws their attention and how quickly they process visual information.

Support from the TECHE Lab (Transforming Engineers Through Community Hands-on Engagement) helped fund both senior projects, while a Baker-Koob grant allowed the garden box team to upgrade key materials, including casters and wood.

On delivery day, the sensory den was installed in McColley's classroom, and the garden box was placed on the covered deck outside. Marion, a 7-year-old student with cerebral palsy, used the garden box buttons and smiled as water flowed through the tubing. Inside the classroom, 18-year-old Evan,



Heather McColley guides Marion as she presses a button on the garden box during the project's first use at Oceano Elementary School. The box was designed to help students explore cause and effect through water movement.

who also has cerebral palsy, lay beneath the sensory den as his eyes followed the lights shifting above him.

For Henderson, seeing the sensory den in use underscored how much engineers have to consider when designing for different abilities.

"Accessibility affects people in so many different ways," she said. "It was a good experience in understanding how to design for

Letters
To The Editor
Extend Diablo Operations

As elected officials throughout California, we represent our constituents' interests, and what we have been hearing loud and clear is that they want immediate action from lawmakers addressing affordability. That is why we are writing to encourage the Legislature to extend Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) operations to 2045 this year.

Lawmakers have an opportunity to pass a bill that directly addresses energy affordability by extending our only round-the-clock carbon-free energy source that provides a significant foundation for California's clean energy

goals. There are many downsides to delaying action: most notably, higher costs for Californians.

Allowing DCPP to operate through 2045 would save Californians up to \$1.3 billion annually, according to a recent MIT study. As California's energy needs continue to grow, ratepayers' bills should not; we already have some of the highest electricity costs in the United States. In our communities throughout the state, we often hear from constituents that affordability is top of mind. No family should have to decide between keeping the lights on or keeping food

Letters From page 12



MORRO BAY
MARITIME MUSEUM

EST. 1994

ROCK

the

WATERFRONT

AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE OUR MARITIME HERITAGE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM | MORRO BAY YACHT CLUB
541 EMBARCADERO • MORRO BAY, CA



SIGNATURE
COCKTAILS



GOURMET
BITES



SILENT
AUCTION



SUNSET
VIEWS



TICKETS & INFORMATION

MORROBAYMARITIME.ORG/ROCK

805.772.5044

Every wave.
Every boat.
Every story.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MORRO BAY MARITIME MUSEUM
PRESERVING OUR PAST. INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.
Morro Bay Maritime Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

www.asapreprographics.com

Document Printing & Copying

NEXT or SAME Day
Availability

Flyers • Reports • Certificates
Legal and Tax Documents & More!



Print QUALITY COPIES quickly on our
STATE-OF-THE-ART DIGITAL PRINTERS



ORDER
ONLINE!



(805) 772-3540

SAN LUIS OBISPO
3121 South Higuera
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 5:30pm

MORRO BAY
365 Quintana Road
Morro Bay, CA 93442
Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5:30pm

Locally owned since 1979

Community

Letters From page 11 on the table.

Each year the Legislature delays, the cost of fuel increases as national and international demand continues to grow in the nuclear fuel market. That could cost us tens of millions of dollars more by some estimates just for fuel.

Additionally, California’s energy needs are accelerating, and power purchasers are finalizing their plans to meet this larger demand without Diablo Canyon as a resource beyond 2030. That’s why the Northern California Power Agency called on the Legislature to act to extend Diablo Canyon, stating, “Current policy ambiguity surrounding the future of Diablo Canyon is driving up electricity costs today as we look to make long-term power supply purchases beyond 2030.”

Each year we wait, Californians may face increased energy bills and less reliable power during climate emergencies, forcing us to rely on expensive, polluting backup sources rather than the renewable, clean energy that will keep our state functional and beautiful for generations to come. Let’s not forget that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has paved the way for the state to extend Diablo Canyon, approving its permit to safely operate for another 20 years. And, this month, an independent Westinghouse study affirmed that Diablo Canyon’s reactor vessels are safe to operate for 60 years.

Fortunately, there is time to extend Diablo Canyon before the end of this year’s Legislative session. Now is the time to act. The best version of an extension involves a diverse range of stakeholders, all of whom must be engaged as soon as possible. We encourage the Legislature to listen to constituents asking for a more affordable future and extend Diablo Canyon Power Plant this year. We appreciate your consideration and continued dedication to supporting Californians’ livelihoods.

Signed by 54 elected officials including:
San Luis Obispo County Supervisors John Peschong District 1, Dawn Ortiz-Legg District 3 and Heather Moreno District 5; and Bill Luffee, Morro Bay City Council Member; and Zara Landrum, Morro Bay City Council Member

Edwards Not Running for M.B. Council

I’m Grateful and Thank You!
If someone asked me to run for office 20 years ago when I made Morro Bay my home, I would’ve said you must be joking. Followed by I’m not qualified, what do I have to offer, and any number of reasons I could come up with. The truth is serving this community was bound to be a part of my journey.

As a new business owner in a small town, one of the first things I did was search out other business owners. What better recommendation than to join the chamber of commerce. An opportunity to mingle and share ideas with other people experiencing similar situations as I was. While my connections with established business owners grew and my involvement deepened, my business began to thrive. My time with the chamber made me realize most people genuinely want to be of service to others and there was immense reward in doing so.

I was more than a business owner; I had become an engaged citizen. Many of my proudest achievements followed like being appointed president of the merchant association, chair of the chamber of commerce, founding member of our local radio station 97.3 The Rock, and ultimately, the honor of being elected as a city council member.

My point is you’ll never know what you’re capable of until you put yourself out there. Volunteering and serving one’s community is an incredible opportunity whether you’ve newly arrived or lived here all your life. Sometimes life’s greatest rewards come

from the most unexpected decisions.
I wanted to share my story for a very important reason. I want to encourage members of this community to get involved and stay involved. We’re at such an exciting but pivotal moment in the history of our city. We’ve invested more in maintaining our streets, secured funding for critical infrastructure and services, balanced our budget while continuing to make strides in planning for future growth opportunities, and we will soon complete the update of our Waterfront Master Plan.

As I serve out the rest of my four-year term on city council, I want to thank you for one of the greatest opportunities of my life. In my last few months, I will continue to make decisions with this community’s best interest at heart. I want to express how truly grateful I am to have worked with such a dedicated and hard-working city staff. To my colleagues, those to come and those I’m serving with, the health and prosperity of this community depend on the choices we make together. May we serve it well.

See you out and about or at the podium.
You may contact me at cedwards@morrobayca.gov.
Cindy Edwards
Morro Bay City Council

Slash Our Addiction to Plastic

If you’re not concerned about plastics, you should be.
Plastic doesn’t return harmlessly to nature. It breaks into ever smaller microplastics and nanoplastics that now appear in our food, water, air, blood and even human brain tissue. In one major study, people whose carotid-artery plaque contained plastic particles were more likely to suffer a heart attack, stroke or death during nearly three years of follow-up. The study found an association, not proof that plastics caused those events. Still, it is another flashing warning light.

The scale of the problem can feel paralyzing. It shouldn’t. We can cut demand today.
Start with single-use plastic. Bring cloth bags to farmers markets and grocery stores. Choose paper, glass or metal packaging. Trader Joe’s sells some apples in paper cartons. Sprouts offers shampoo and conditioner bars wrapped in paper. When plastic bags are unavoidable, wash, dry and reuse them.

SLO Citizens’ Climate Education, ECOSLO and other groups can help right here in our community. The Sierra Club also offers “A Room-by-Room Guide for Going Plastic-Free.”

Our dependence on plastic resembles an addiction: convenience keeps feeding it. Regulation matters, but so do daily choices. Slash your plastic use. Start today, and help make healthier habits contagious.

Don Maruska
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.



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Chamber to Hold Free Ice Cream Social Mixer

The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce is celebrating summer with a fun-filled Ice Cream Social Mixer at 2141 Bush Drive, Los Osos – everyone is invited!

“Whether you’re a Chamber member, local business owner, community member, or visiting from one of our neighboring chambers, we’d love to see you,” said Dawn Rodden with the Chamber. “We extend a warm welcome to members of the Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria, and San Luis Obispo Chambers of Commerce”

The social includes a build-your-own ice cream bar, delicious food including Brightside Pizza and smash Burgers by The Ale House, music by Burning James, networking with local businesses and neighbors, and family-friendly fun for all ages

The Chamber thanks the Rotary Club of Los Osos for co-hosting this sweet community event. Bring a friend or two.

Virtual Studio All One Family Yoga Launches in Morro Bay



All One Family Yoga is offering free chair yoga classes at the Morro Bay Library.Photo submitted.

Bringing a modern approach to multi-generational wellness, All One Family Yoga announces its official grand opening as a premier virtual yoga studio serving the Central Coast. Specializing in making yoga accessible to everyone from ages 3 to 103, the studio bridges physical boundaries by offering offsite sessions, interactive online classes, and community-centered events. To celebrate its launch, the studio will host a series of free, public classes at the Morro Bay Library Community Room.

“All One Family Yoga is built on the philosophy that wellness should be an inclusive, shared experience for the whole family,” said Jill Falcone, founder of All One Family Yoga. “Recognizing that traditional yoga environments can sometimes feel intimidat-

PLANT SALE

CAYUCOS GARDEN CLUB

SCHOLARSHIP & CITY BEAUTIFICATION BENEFIT



915 S. Ocean Ave. Cayucos

Fri. Sept 05 / 8am - 3pm

Sat. Sept 06 / 8am - 3pm

Plants for Every Garden

Coastal Real Estate

The McDonald Team

REALTOR ASSOCIATES®

www.McDonaldTeamRealty.com

Cambria



Cambria home with 5 bed, 4.5 baths, 3128 sq/ft, nearly half acre lot, dual living layout, tandem 4-car garage, two driveways, corner lot.

Priced at \$1,480,000

Paso Robles



This 3 bed, 2 bath, 1605 sq/ft plus sunroom, sits on an acre, newer roof, solar and 800’ well.

Priced at \$820,000

www.4321WhisperingOak.com

When it comes to experience, expertise, & knowledge look no further than the McDonald Team for your central coast real estate needs!From your first meeting, to well beyond the close of escrow, the McDonald Team of Coastal Real Estate is here to help you every step of the way!

Broker's CalBRE# 01157101

Sophia McDonald-Laugharn

805-234-5828

BROKER ASSOCIATE®

CalBRE# 01487058

Christine McDonald-Weiss

805-441-5018

REALTOR ASSOCIATE®

CalBRE# 01193039

Coastal Real Estate

1398 Los Osos Valley Rd., Ste. D, Los Osos, CA 93402

Community

ing or physically restrictive, the studio customizes its programming to fit various mobility levels, lifestyles, and ages. Whether logging in from home for an online session or attending a class at a local venue, participants receive tailored guidance that prioritizes safety, mindfulness, and connection.”

To introduce its unique offerings, All One Family Yoga is launching two free programs at the in the Community Room at the Morro Bay Library.

• Free 5-Week Chair Yoga Series: Designed for seniors, individuals with limited mobility, or anyone seeking a gentler approach to yoga, this series runs on Thursdays at 9-10 a.m. from August 13 through September 10. Participants will explore gentle movements that improve strength, posture, flexibility, and balance using resistance bands and stress reduction and relaxation.

• Yoga Animals Children’s Class: On Saturday, August 29 at 10-11 a.m., younger yogis ages 3 to 6 are invited to an imaginative, playful session. Children will learn foundational yoga poses, breathing techniques, and meditation by mimicking their favorite animals in an engaging, fun learning environment.

“Our goal is to erase the idea that yoga is only for a specific age group or body type,” said Falcone. “We want to bring family members together, from grandchildren to grandparents, to experience the physical and mental benefits of mindful movement. Moving online and taking our classes on the road allows us to meet people exactly where they are.”

While these specialized launch classes are entirely free to the public, space is limited, and advanced registration is required to secure a spot.

For more information, visit the official website at All One Family Yoga. Readers can register for all or one of the chair yoga classes. If classes are all filled, your name can be put on an email list to be notified of future events.

To RSVP for the upcoming free Chair Yoga series or the Yoga Animals children’s class, contact Jill directly via email at jill@allonefamilyyoga.com.

Central Coast Glass is now A-1 Glass in Morro Bay

A longtime Morro Bay business is entering a new chapter while remaining in local hands.

A-1 Glass, a locally owned, family-operated business out of Paso Robles has acquired Central Coast Glass in Morro Bay, ensuring that one of the Central Coast’s trusted glass companies will continue serving the community under the ownership of another.

The transition comes as longtime owner Gale Leage enters retirement after 32 years of serving homeowners, businesses, contractors, and property managers throughout Morro Bay and the coastal community.

“After over three decades serving this community, it was important to me to find someone who would care for my customers and continue the values that Central Coast Glass was built on,” said Gale Leage in a press release. “I believe that Bryan and his team at A-1 Glass share that same commitment to quality, honesty, and local customer service, and I’m confident they’ll continue taking great care of the Morro Bay and coastal communities for years to come.”

Customers can continue to rely on the Morro Bay glass shop’s location at 440 Quintana Road for the residential and commercial glass services they’ve come to expect, while now also benefiting from the expanded capabilities of A-1 Glass’s experienced installation teams, expanded inventory, and a new window and door showroom location coming soon.

In addition to replacement windows, doors, shower enclosures, mirrors, and custom glass, A-1 Glass is excited to offer full-service mobile and in shop automotive glass repair and replacement, advanced ADAS windshield calibration, and professional automotive, residential, and commercial window tinting and architectural film solutions — services that were not previously available through Central Coast Glass.

“As a resident of Morro Bay myself, I’m excited to take care of the local and trusted relationships that Central Coast Glass has built over the years in this area while providing even more of

our unique service offerings,” says Bryan Carroll, owner of A-1 Glass, “it’s an honor to take the new lead on what Gale created, and we’re just so grateful for the opportunity to carry that legacy forward. Not only does this allow us to better serve the Coastal communities as a more localized glass shop with quicker response times and reduced travel expenses, we also can better serve South County residents as well. Not everyone wants to drive up and over the grade to our large window and door showroom in Paso Robles, and now everyone can more easily access our products and services.”

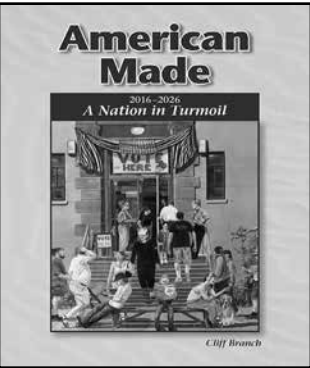
‘Hot-Tub King’ Hopes to Help Get Out The Vote with new Book

San Luis Obispo’s so called Hot Tub King, Cliff Branch, has announced a sequel to his 2015 book, “American Made: A Boomer’s Reflection.” His new work is meant to compliment the earlier book yet also create transformation.

“American Made, A Nation in Turmoil” reflects upon the current political divisiveness in America. “The sequel is a personal narrative written during the first 120 days of this year,” Branch said in a press release. “Each chapter reflects my thoughts about our culture and world events as they have unfolded. It was good therapy writing the books.”

Written in the form of a collection of magazine articles, Branch’s goal with the two-book series is to encourage people to get creative in seeking out information rather than feel like victims of the news headlines. “Today’s information and news sourcing, cable news and social media, can create alienation and dissuade citizens from researching the appropriate information to make the best possible decisions when voting,” Branch said. He feels the book allows readers to read a chapter or two at a time, inspiring them to seek their own resources not tied to divisive social media. Then readers can feel better equipped to vote in November.

In the 1970s and 1980s Branch started one of the area’s first Redwood Hot Tub sales and installation businesses. He built a reputation as SLO’s go-to installer, garnering the nickname Hot Tub King. Branch Hot Tubs helped popularize the backyard barrel-style hot-tub culture in San Luis Obispo, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cambria, as well as the interior valley communities along Highway 101. The pair of books may be ordered at american-madestory.com/.



Fighting Scammers Using Robo Calls

California Attorney General Rob Bonta joined a coalition of 49 attorneys general in submitting a comment letter supporting proposed rules by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that would combat robocalls by enhancing existing “Know-Your-Customer” (KYC) obligations for originating voice service providers. The letter supports the FCC’s proposals to establish specific, common-sense, baseline KYC standards to help prevent illegal calls from reaching the U.S. communications network.

“Everyone hates robocalls. They disrupt our lives and bombard us with never-ending voicemails,” said Attorney General Bonta in a news release. “But these calls aren’t just annoying. In many cases they are illegal and a vehicle for harmful scams that can result in real financial losses for consumers. I am proud to continue in this national, bipartisan effort to protect consumers from unwanted robocalls by supporting the FCC’s proposed rules designed to ensure service providers know who they are providing service to.”

The most effective way to prevent illegal calls is to prevent them from ever reaching the U.S. communications network, organizers said. “All illegal robocalling begins with an originating voice service provider’s decision to allow a customer that is a bad actor to use their network to make those calls. Originating providers are the first line of defense to protect the integrity and safety of the U.S. communications network and are best positioned to know their customer’s identity and to understand their business. When originating providers know their customers’ identities, it also

helps law enforcement hold scammers accountable.” The FCC is proposing more rigorous KYC requirements for providers to protect the public, including requiring that providers collect specific identifying information for new and renewing customers, requiring that providers verify, retain, and re-verify customer information, and requiring additional information and monitoring regarding certain customers, such as high-volume or high-risk customers. In submitting the comment letter, the coalition expresses its support for the Commission’s efforts to strengthen its mandate that originating providers take affirmative, effective measures when onboarding and retaining renewing customers, by engaging in meaningful KYC practices.

Additionally, the California Department of Justice is involved in ongoing litigation against Avid Telecom for allegedly initiating and facilitating billions of unlawful robocalls, including Social Security Administration scams, Medicare scams, and employment scams.

In submitting the comment letter, Attorney General Bonta joins the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Want To Start a Non-Profit

Learn Before You Leap: Realities of Starting a Nonprofit | Aug 27 \$45 Spokesfornonprofits.org

Learn what’s involved in forming and maintaining a nonprofit and whether there’s a better way to serve your passion.

\$45 General Admission
Free for Spokes Members

You’re passionate about a cause and you want to do something about it! In fact, you’re thinking about forming your own nonprofit organization. This class is for you.

Join us and learn:
• What a nonprofit is and isn’t
• How nonprofits are structured
• The steps involved in forming a nonprofit
• Why you need to develop a nonprofit “business plan” and how to get started

• What up front costs you’ll face
• Ongoing compliance requirements
• What are some options if you decide not to incorporate

This class is in-person in San Luis Obispo; location will be sent with registration acknowledgement. This class may be recorded.

Guest Experts: Chris Toews and Michael Simkins, Ed.D.
J. Christopher Toews is an attorney whose practice focuses on business and estate planning for business owners, professionals, and retirees, including the formation and representation of nonprofit organizations. Based in San Luis Obispo since 1984, he provides ongoing business, tax, and succession planning advice and has extensive experience in estate administration. Earlier in his career, he practiced tax law in New York and held senior legal and financial roles with Citibank and its international affiliate in Saudi Arabia. Chris has served as chairman of the State Bar of

Takin’ Care of Business Continued on page 16

We have been recognized nationally for our gift shop.

Come check us out!

We are here for you!

805-528-1017
989 Los osos Valley Rd Los Osos,
Mon. - Fri. 9:00-6:00 • Sat. 10:00-5:00

Lyrics and Melodies Studio

home of

MINI MELODIES

- Group Music Classes for all ages
 - Adult Voice Class
 - Music & Movement for infants and toddlers
- Private Music Lessons
 - Guitar, Bass, Ukulele
 - Voice
 - Piano

2084 9th Street, Units C & D
Los Osos, CA 93402
805-540-1738
LyricsAndMelodiesStudio.com

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Canzona Women’s Ensemble will hold auditions for their fall concert, Winter Reverie, on August 20 in San Luis Obispo and August 22 in Shell Beach. The ensemble seeks enthusiastic singers with previous choral experience who share a deep passion for music and community.

Auditions are open to women with previous choral experience who are eager to showcase their vocal abilities. Canzona Women’s Ensemble is specifically looking for individuals who possess a strong sense of musicality, dedication, and a desire to contribute to the ensemble’s success.

Auditions consist of a prepared solo piece of the singer’s choice, some sight-reading exercises, and vocal range exploration.

To schedule an audition or for more information, interested singers can visit the Canzona Women’s Ensemble website at canzonawomen.org/audition.

...

Don’t miss the SLO Concerts in the Plaze Family Night block party in Mission Plaza, San Luis Obispo on August 14, for live music from Holding Pattern and Brass Mash! This event is free, family-friendly, and food and drink will be available for purchase. Food, beer from Firestone Walker, cider from SLO Cider (including a special 30th-anniversary flavor), and wine from Talley Vineyards. Features a “Kid Zone” by the amphitheater, with specific family-focused activities.

...

Take the Mic at Mistura is a monthly vocal showcase unlike anything else in San Luis Obispo. Each third Tuesday (August 18 from 6 to 8 p.m.), Angela Kristine — vocal coach and creator of The Living Instrument framework — hand-curates an intimate evening of six performers: rising vocalists and locally beloved singers who are ready to share their voices fully.

As emcee, Angela brings twenty years of expertise and the warmth of someone who has helped hundreds of people find their audible power. The result is a showcase that feels personal, not polished — alive, not performative.

Held at Mistura in The Creamery, the evening pairs live music with a family-style dinner created exclusively for the occasion by Chef Nicola Allegretta. Chef Nicola’s vision — connecting people through great food in a memorable space — meets Angela’s belief that the human voice is the most intimate instrument there is.

Tickets include VIP seating for the showcase and Chef Nicola’s family-style dinner. Come ready to eat well, listen closely, and leave with something you didn’t expect. There are no age restrictions,

no refunds/cancellations, and

no outside food or drink. Tickets are limited and are \$75 at my805tix.com.

...

Get ready for an electrifying night of mixed martial arts action brought to you by BeatDown Promotions! Fight Night XI takes place August 21 at 5 p.m. at the Madonna Inn Expo Center featuring fighters battling it out in the octagon. Watch top-tier athletes showcase their skills, strength, and strategy in an action-packed lineup of bouts. Enjoy the ultimate fight night experience with VIP tickets, including premium seating, exclusive access, and complimentary refreshments. This event is supported by local businesses, ensuring a community-centric atmosphere that everyone will enjoy. Tickets range from \$45 to \$77 and are available at my805tix.com.

...

Get ready for an electrifying night of mixed martial arts action brought to you by BeatDown Promotions! Fight Night XI takes place August 21 at 5 p.m. at the Madonna Inn Expo Center featuring fighters battling it out in the octagon. Watch top-tier athletes showcase their skills, strength, and strategy in an action-packed lineup of bouts. Enjoy the ultimate fight night experience with VIP tickets, including premium seating, exclusive access, and complimentary refreshments. This event is supported by local businesses, ensuring a community-centric atmosphere that everyone will enjoy. Tickets range from \$45 to \$77 and are available at my805tix.com.

...



The Coastal Discovery Center, located at William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach in San Simeon, CA is seeking volunteers to support their mission of education, research, and resource protection. As a volunteer docent, you will receive a comprehensive training about the sanctuary, greet visitors, interpret exhibits, tell the public about the incredible sanctuary stories, and assist with K-12 school programs. No experience is necessary; we provide training on sanctuary research, resource protection, and how you can have a part in protecting this incredible ecosystem. This is a great way to support marine conservation and connect with your community.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact



How Morro Bay Got Its State Park

This story begins in the late 1920’s when two land developers bought land in Morro Bay where the State Park is today. They had big plans to sell residential lots in what they called Cabrillo Country Club Estates. They hoped to create a “beautiful club and home paradise” in Morro Bay for summer visitors from the San Joaquin Valley. Initially they constructed a nine-hole golf course, an administration building, and a Spanish-style club house (pictured here) that opened in 1929. It was located where the parking lot for the Morro Bay Natural History Museum is situated now. Unfortunately, that same year the stock market crashed marking the beginning of the Great Depression. Real estate sales dropped sharply, and it was obvious that the Cabrillo Estates project could not continue.



Fortunately, however, in November 1928 California voters had approved by a nearly three to one margin a \$6 million bond issue to be used to purchase properties for state parks. Naturally, there was competition throughout the state to acquire park land. A group of individuals from various towns and cities in the San Joaquin Valley formed a committee to advocate for a park in Morro Bay. Pismo Beach also wanted a state park and had strong support from the San Joaquin Valley as well. In the end, both projects received funding, in part because of the combined support of inland and coastal regions and a planned highway from the San Joaquin Valley area to the coast.

In January 1934, the State Park Commission acquired the Cabrillo Estates property that included the golf course, White Point (where the Natural History Museum now stands), and Black Hill, along with 20,000 feet of ocean frontage and 25,000

feet of bay frontage. For this 1,500-acre piece of property the state paid \$132,750. The Commission also acquired Morro Rock as a state monument. It planned to make Morro Rock part of the park by constructing a causeway across the bay to the sandspit and building a good trail to the top of Morro Rock.

Between 1934 and 1939, major improvements to the park occurred under the direction of the New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) to create the structures needed for park visitors, many of which still exist today. The work of the C.C.C. deserves its own story.

In 1949, the golf course was expanded to 18 holes, and a new clubhouse was built. The 1929 clubhouse was divided, moved to a new location, and converted to living quarters for park employees. A new Natural History Museum opened in 1962, which serves thousands of visitors annually. It is the only natural history museum in the California park system. The Morro Bay State Campground was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The steps to climb Morro Rock have been closed to the public.

Photo: Cabrillo Club House. If you have a photo and story to share, get in touch with us at historicalmorrobay.org.

mnbms.discoverycenter@noaa.gov or stop by the Coastal Discovery Center from Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to talk to a current docent or staff member. Volunteering is not only fun, it’s also a great way to connect with your community and be more informed and involved in marine conservation!

...

Dust off your poodle skirts, leather jackets, and penny loafers; it’s time to rock around the clock. Join the Rotary Club of Morro Bay for Shake, Rattle & Roll – Surf ‘N Turf, a high-energy, 1950’s themed fundraising dinner on Friday, October 23, 2026, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Morro Bay Community Center.

Enjoy a delicious Surf ‘N Turf or vegetarian dinner, sip exceptional wines from Absolution Cellars, and dance the night away with acclaimed Elvis tribute artist Jeremy Pearce. Plus, don’t miss the surprise guest emcee and Best Dressed contest, so come decked out in your favorite ‘50s attire.

Early-bird tickets are \$75 through September 20, then increase to \$95. If you would like to sponsor a table, contact Rotary Club President, Kim Cade for details: kimberlycade805@gmail.com. Proceeds support scholarships for Morro Bay High School seniors, grants to local nonprofit organizations, and community service projects that strengthen our local community.

...

Orchestra Novo will show and play the score to two silent movies, “Big Business” and “For Heaven’s Sake, on Sept. 13 at 3 p.m. at the Cuesta College CPAC. Early bird tickets are available through Aug. 15 for \$40. Ater that general admission is \$45 and Students are \$15. They are available at my805tix.com. Period costumes are encouraged. This is a nut butter Drive for SLO Food Bank.



...

Share the Care is more than a concert—it’s a community coming together to make a difference. Join us on Sunday, August 23 for an evening of live music, connection, and giving back as The Bomb Cyclone Unit and SLO Brew present a benefit concert supporting 805 UndocuFund, an organization dedicated to providing critical assistance to undocumented individuals and families throughout the Central Coast.

Enjoy performances from: The Vinylistics, Dante Marsh & The Vibesetters, The Mother Corn Shuckers and The Bomb Cyclone Unit. Every ticket purchased helps support this important cause while bringing our community together through the power of live music. Come out, enjoy a great lineup, and be part of an evening that celebrates compassion, solidarity, and the impact we can make when we share the care.

Doors open at 4 p.m. and music is from 5 – 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day of the show. Get them at my805tix.com.

...

UC Master Gardeners will present a fun version of the old game show “Liars Club.” A panel of UC Master Gardeners will each describe the cause of a gardening problem shown in an image, and the audience will guess which panelist is telling the truth. This workshop offers a fun way to learn with plenty of audience participation. A plant sale and docent table will follow

in the Garden of the Seven Sisters demonstration garden. The fun takes place August 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Garden of the Seven Sisters (UC Master Gardener Demonstration Garden).2156 Sierra Way San Luis Obispo. Register at <https://bit.ly/4wRTzLR>.

...

History buffs can celebrate the South County Historical Society’s 50th Anniversary on Saturday, August 15 at Heritage Square Park in Arroyo Grande from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited! Enjoy music by Crossroads, historical displays, and guest speakers. food, beer and wine, and ice cream will be available for purchase. Bring your friends, family or come on your own and enjoy this free community event for all ages.

...

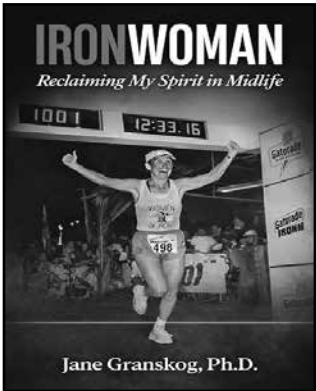
“If you don’t think you can, think again.” Jane Granskog says this and believes it. Join Volumes of Pleasure bookstore in Los Osos on August 15 at 1 p.m., in welcoming Jane for a selected reading, discussion, and signing of her autobiography, “Ironwoman: Reclaiming my Spirit in Midlife.”

Jane will share her experiences navigating midlife and the means she found for reconnecting with her truest self.

Jane has always been an achiever. After pursuing an academic career for 38 years — attaining a Ph.D., teaching cultural anthropology at CSU Bakersfield, and researching indigenous Mexican tribal spiritual and shamanic practices — she expanded her life experience through writing poetry and discovering endurance sports to gain a greater self-understanding.

At forty-one, Jane entered and completed the Hawaiian Ironman — a grueling test of physical, emotional, and mental endurance. Though the experience was not about overcoming herself, it was a tool— as one observer wrote — “to reclaim the wild, authentic self she had buried beneath expectations, responsibilities, and the cultural conditioning placed on women.”

In other words, Jane’s reading and discussion of her book will be a fascinating and possibly life changing event. Light refreshments will be served and copies of Ironwoman will be available for purchase. For more information, call Volumes of Pleasure, 805-528-5565.



...

City Farm’s 2nd Annual Farm Games Hoedown takes place on Saturday, August 15 at 5 p.m. at Rancho Toro y Oso, 1990 Sycamore Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo. The Farm Games playfully pits sponsored teams against each other in a competition of team fundraising, farm savvy, strength, and speed to complete tasks inspired by the work of regenerative farmers. The evening will also honor local female or nonbinary individuals that embody the City Farm SLO mission to empower the next generation to live healthier, more prosperous lives through sustainable agriculture and farm-based education.

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of farm games, celebrity judges, BBQ dinner, Rooted In SLO award ceremony, live and Silent auction and hoedown music By The Mother Corn Shuckers. Tickets are \$95 per seat and include dinner, open bar, hors d’oeuvres, dessert, concert, and a night you won’t forget. This is a 21 and over event. Get tickets at cityfarmslo.org/hoedown.

...

City Farm’s 2nd Annual Farm Games Hoedown takes place on Saturday, August 15 at 5 p.m. at Rancho Toro y Oso, 1990 Sycamore Canyon Rd, San Luis Obispo. The Farm Games playfully pits sponsored teams against each other in a competition of team fundraising, farm savvy, strength, and speed to complete tasks inspired by the work of regenerative farmers. The evening will also honor local female or nonbinary individuals that embody the City Farm SLO mission to empower the next generation to live healthier, more prosperous lives through sustainable agriculture and farm-based education.

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of farm games, celebrity judges, BBQ dinner, Rooted In SLO award ceremony, live and Silent auction and hoedown music By The Mother Corn Shuckers. Tickets are \$95 per seat and include dinner, open bar, hors d’oeuvres, dessert, concert, and a night you won’t forget. This is a 21 and over event. Get tickets at cityfarmslo.org/hoedown.



Babes Against the Machine are the world’s only all-female tribute to the music of Rage Against The Machine. They put on an absolutely kick ass show to be enjoyed by everyone, not just the die-hard rage fans. The band will blow you away with their incredible talent as they bring you one of the best tribute shows you’ll see live!

The show is August 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Our House in Paso Robles. Tickets are just \$15 for general admission in advance, \$20 at the door or \$85 for VIP tables that include entry and guaranteed seating for four. Get them at my805tix.com.

The Diamond Lounge VIP mezzanine is the best seat in the house and fits you and 14 of your friends — 15 total tickets included. The is an elevated concert experience with your own private viewing area and lounge.

Cambria resident John Tamiazzo, PhD, is conducting a workshop based upon his book: “Love & Be Loved - Eight Steps to Creating Intimacy and Finding the Love You Want.” It takes place on Saturday, August 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at his Cambria workshop. Register by phone call, text to 805-591-0822 or email jtamiazzo@yahoo.com.

Tamiazzo’s vocation is providing food and sanitation services to the homeless of Santa Barbara, CA. His professional background inspires a unique and dynamic approach to creating life-changing workshops, and personal transformations. His career in community mental health began in Calabasas Neuropsychiatric Institute when he was 24 years old. Within four months, the medical director promoted him to director of his 80-bed facility. He went on to be the director at three more psychiatric hospitals and two brain injury centers. Along the way he has learned enough about relationships to write two books and conduct several seminars. His first book, “Love & Be Loved,” was based on his early workshops. He wanted to reach a wider audience than workshops provided to help as many souls as possible recreate themselves.

“Returning to the Land of OZ - Finding Hope, Love and Courage on Your Yellow Brick Road,” notes that L. Frank Baum’s literary work and screenplay “is not just a charming children’s book or a highly entertaining film. Within the story line of this seemingly simple tale, Baum gave us one of the greatest resources for personal transformation ever written.”

Tamiazzo enables people to overcome their own challenges, in part, by using literature!

Send your event listing at least three weeks in advance to EditorEBN@gmail.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. Please, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers. We do not guarantee publication but try to include as many as we can.

Cat Noir CC



By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Not only did Boris decide to sign for the package, he also tried to open it to help the human out. That cat lends a paw when you least need it. One time a package came that was slightly open, Boris managed to claw a sock out of the slit in the box. Does he wear socks? No!

His giving helpful nature is making him fat. How can that be you ask? Before you decide to stop all volunteer work, so you don’t become a larger version of your wonderful self, let me explain.

Virgil does not like one flavor in the cat food case I just bought. There are eight of that flavor. So, I squeezed a Churu on top, so he doesn’t shun breakfast and dinner. Boris came unglued and wanted to help with the food situation. He is convinced that Virgil has a better benefits package than him.

As a result, he has taken to lurking under tables, behind doorways, on top of things, and just about anywhere else he can think of, so he can dart in and steal from Virgil’s bowl. Daisy discovered my horrible deed this morning, so is now also on the unglued treat train.

Cat Noir Continued on page 18

Leith Robert Hayes
1952 - 2026

Leith Robert Hayes was born in Liverpool, England. The lasts eight years of his life he spent in Waldport, Oregon with his wife Mary and grand-daughter Miley Gunderlock.

My heart is broken to have lost my best friend and husband after a courageous fight for 3 ½ years to losing his battle to lung cancer. He was 74 years young. To look at him, or the way that he acted, you would have never known he even was sick. He fought to his very last breath on earth holding my hand.



Leith spent most of his childhood in Southern California before moving to Los Osos. This is where he met the love of his life 30 years ago by “accident.” He brought his truck into Los Osos Auto Body, where I worked as a secretary. After his second accident he brought me a spider cupcake for Halloween and asked me out. Our date was at the Great American Fish Co in Morro Bay. Being a single mom, I didn’t go out to eat much, so I ordered a whole crab. He thought that there would be leftovers. I ate every bite. It was true love!

We have never stopped eating crab. When we moved to Waldport, he bought a boat and we had many adventures crabbing on the Alsea Bay. He knew all the right crabbing spots and would actually share them with his friends and family. He would call neighbors and share his rewards. The neighbors would have to decline sometimes, because they already had a full freezer.

When we weren’t crabbing, we enjoyed walks on the beach and looking for agates. He was very competitive when it came to agate hunting but said “that I was the one with the eye for finding them.” I would take off running if I found one and put my foot on it, while he would try to pry me off. We had many good laughs. Wish he was still playing this game with me.

Friends and family didn’t always understand how we could have stayed together for as long as we did. We were called the “bicker-sons” by those that loved us. In good times and bad, we were a team. I could always count on him, and he could always count on me. Our nicknames for each other where “Sniffles and Pickles.” He was “Sniffles” because he was always sniffling about something. Mine was “Pickles” because I was always in a pickle. He would say that I make life fun, interesting maybe.

He enjoyed working on projects around the house, with my encouragement. He hated painting when I meant him, later he actually enjoyed it. I think. Playing Zelda and Mario Cart with Miley. His cats Massie and Sassy. Leith made the best smoked pas-trami. The holidays, he always liked to keep his family’s traditions going. He was very generous but loved getting presents too. In fact, he was more like a little kid about it then Miley and I.

It was always important for Sniffles to try to fulfill everyone’s bucket list. He made sure that your birthday, and all the holidays were memorable. When he knew that there wasn’t anything that they could do for his cancer, he had only two things on his bucket list. One was to see Miley (our granddaughter we both raised) attend her graduation from high school and the other to be able to take her somewhere for her 18th birthday. She was the other love of his life. He was so proud of her. Luckily, he was able to do both. She graduated in June and turned 18 on July 16. We all had the best memories going up to Seattle for two days.

“He was very supportive of me and taught me many life skills, I’ll never forget. I’ll miss him a lot!” Love Miley

“My love of my life, I will always remember all the wonderful things you did for the both of us through all these years. You taught me well.” Love Mary

In the future we will be having a memorial at the ocean in Bayshore celebrating his “Good Life,” as he would have said.

Special thanks for giving us 3 ½ more years to all the staff at Oncology in Newport. Radiology in Corvallis, Evergreen Hos-pice, and The Albany House. The support from all of our friends, neighbors and family that have been there from the beginning of this journey to the next chapter of our lives.

Please make a donation in the name of Leith Robert Hayes to your special place! He would have wanted that.

Harvey Edward Petersen
1931 – 2026

Harvey Petersen passed un-expectedly, yet peacefully on July 14 in the loving arms of his wife of 67 years, Joan, and youngest daughter Jodi. He was a proud, lifelong resident of the Central Coast.

Harvey was a fourth-generation Morro Bay native, born to Ella (Stocking) and Hans Petersen. He attended Morro Elementary, Shandon School, and graduated from San Luis High School in 1949. He enrolled at Cal Poly, then left college to join the Air Force. He was stationed at Thousand Palms, CA and then Frankfurt, Germany where he was a Flight Chief on F-84 and F-86 aircraft for the 86th Fighter Interceptor Wing. Harvey had a lifelong love and fascination of aircraft.

After his 4-year stint with the Air Force, Harvey returned to California to work a variety of jobs, including summers fishing with his brother Bob out of Morro Bay. He also continued his undergraduate work at Cal Poly, graduating in 1964 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Being part of the Minuteman Missile program at Vandenberg AFB was a highlight of Harvey’s early career in engineering, but he found long-term commitment at PG&E where he was instrumental in building the Diablo Canyon



Nuclear Power Plant. Harvey left PG&E in 1977, purchased a fishing boat, the Horizon, and fished commercially for salmon and albacore through the mid ‘80s. He sold the boat and returned to engineering at Trusco Tank in San Luis Obispo.

Harvey first met Joan Propst when they were set up for a blind date by a local sandwich truck owner (an apparent match-maker) in San Diego. They were married in July 1959, built a house in Morro Bay and soon had their first daughter, Jill. A second daughter, Jodi was born 5 years later. Harvey and Joan retired together in 1994. They took up road biking and were both very involved with the SLO Bike Club. They traveled extensively in the US and Europe on many biking adventures. They also had a collection of friends in Morro Bay known as the T.G.I.F. group. Members of this social group are still gathering today after more than 50 years sharing friendship, food, and stories.

Harvey was intelligent and extremely curious by nature. He had a talent to fix things and would invent unique tools and devices when he needed them. He also had a great love of live music, especially bluegrass. He never missed an opportunity to attend music performances whenever he could.

Harvey always made time to put his family first. He was a very proud poppa who always wanted to tell people about his grandchildren’s adventures. He was thrilled to meet and hold his great grandson, Orson, for the first time just last year. He required frequent updates and pictures of every development.

Harvey and Joan have been living at Casa de Flores in Morro Bay for the past year and a half. Our family is grateful for the loving, supportive care he received there.

Survivors include Joan, daughters Jill (John) Hess and Jodi Petersen; Harvey’s sister, Joan Harradence; grandchildren Lauren (Franklin Dekker) Hess and Austin (Lizzy Iandoli-Miner) Hess; great grandson Orson Dekker, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Harvey’s life will be held on Sunday, August 30 at 11 a.m. at the Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way.

Meg Syfan
1961 - 2026

In the early morning hours of Sunday, August 2, Meg Reilly Syfan passed away at her home in Los Osos. Her last moments were spent in the company of her immediate family and loving friends. A celebration of life gathering is being planned for the fall of 2026, but specific details are not yet available.

Meg was born on March 2, 1961, and grew up in the Santa Monica area alongside her sister, Maureen, and her brother, Mark. As a girl, she could often be found on the beach with her best friends Diana and Megan. She later met her husband, Rollins “Rye” Syfan, in 1985, their first date taking place on his sailboat. The couple married in the winter of 1987 before moving to Los Osos in 1993 with their two daughters, Kellie and Taylor. They traveled as a family often, going as far as the southernmost tip of New Zealand.

During her life, Meg’s impact on the Los Osos community was vast, and her contributions can be felt even in her absence. She was active in local initiatives including the preservation of green spaces, served as a board member for S&T Water Company, and was a healer for many in the form of massage therapy, reiki, and meditation.

As well, earlier this year, Meg organized a ‘Walk for Peace’ that began in Los Osos and ended in downtown San Luis Obispo in the spirit of the Buddhist monks who walked across the United States for the same purpose. This achievement demonstrated not only Meg’s commitment to spreading the message of peace and compassion but attested to her stalwart determination; When Meg set her mind to a task, she saw it through with obstinance, grace, and love.

More than anything Meg will be remembered as a beacon of joy by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She was a Buddhist, and she smiled like one. An avid practitioner of yoga, she could do the splits and often proved it. She enjoyed singing and dancing to her favorite songs but failed to properly memorize the words to Bob Dylan’s “Like A Rolling Stone,” a fault that brought her to tears laughing every time she tried to sing it. She insisted upon doing cold plunges in the ocean at Spooner’s Cove, claiming that it “wasn’t that bad” while her loved ones shivered on the shoreline. She adored and probably spoiled her two beloved dogs, Sage and Rio; The latter of whom was snuggled loyally by her side in her final moments.

She was beautiful, in every way, to the very end.



MORRO BAY JEWELRY

FINE JEWELRY

WE BUY

Old Gold Jewelry and Fine Watches

898 Main Street, Suite A • Morro Bay

Community

Still Serving From page 1

County.” MTC serves any senior, age 60 or older, who asks for their service regardless of income. They serve free noon-time meals Monday through Friday, with frozen meals for weekends and holidays. Items on the menu are different every day of the month ranging from chicken enchiladas to pesto chicken cheese manicotti to Hawaiian chicken salad. All come with a glass of milk, a veggie and fruit. From July 2024 to July 2025 219,685 meals were served. In the same time frame from 2023-2024, 197,826 meals were served. Overall, 60% of those utilizing the program are women, and among them, half live alone and 38% are living at or below the poverty level. Those numbers are expected to increase.

“The need is great now and we expect it to grow as the average age of the county’s population climbs,” Ashley Murphy, MTC grants and communications manager, told Estero Bay News. “San Luis Obispo County has a higher percentage of residents over 60 than the state or national average. According to the 2020 census, 20% of San Luis Obispo County residents are over 65. The California



Meals that Connect celebrated its 35th anniversary as an incorporated nonprofit organization with a Partner Celebration at La Lomita Ranch in San Luis Obispo. Photo courtesy of Meals that Connect

Department of Aging predicts an 89% increase in the population of residents over 65 by the year 2060.” As far as the North Coast, MTC serves 220 clients daily with home delivery and congregate clients combined. Murphy said Cayucos and Morro Bay are underserved, and they are working on more outreach in both those areas. Atascadero and Oceano are the sites that see the most need and continue to grow. In 2025, there were talks of closing the Los Osos site at the South Bay Community Center where free hot lunches are prepared for delivery every weekday with an on-site group dining experience on Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

There will be a free open house at the Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave., Los Osos, on August 28 from 12 to 3 p.m. The event includes live jazz music, appetizers and refreshments, lunch prepared by the MTC team, tours of the site, opportunities to meet staff, volunteers, and community partners; and information about services available to older adults. RSVP by August 20 to mmshea@mealsthatconnect.org. Another open house will be held in Cambria on September 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2700 Eaton Rd.

“We want to make an effort to engage the Los Osos community to increase awareness,” Murphy said. “In addition to providing meals, we foster meaningful social connections that help reduce isolation and support the overall well-being of older adults. We are hoping to grab the attention of the community beyond those in need to experience what we offer. We have opportunities for volunteering not only for adults but teenagers as well. Providing service to others is heartfelt and fulfilling. We know families are caring for their aging parents and family members; they may not be aware of our services. Meals that Connect is local and here to help.”

MTC also offers resource contacts for items such as; local food banks, home healthcare, clothing resources, and if needed, Adult Protective Services calls.

Things have been tough for many non-profits and MTC is among those facing funding losses. “Grant monies awarded by the California Department of Aging have seen budget reductions over the last two years,” Murphy said. “From the fiscal year ending June of 2025 to June of 2026, funds awarded from CDA went down by over \$600,000.”

Rent for sites to work out of, staffing, and food costs are the three largest budget items. They have 10 dining sites; all have at least one paid staff member and volunteers to assist in the day-to-day operations.

For more information, reservations, register for programs or to find out what is on the menu, go to mealsthatconnect.org. Reservations are required at least two days in advance, to make sure there will be food. MTC also serves seniors in Santa Barba County, so tell a friend.

Government funding, designated to provide nutrition for senior citizens, first became available in 1974. State and County designated entities were established to manage this programming, thus the birth of the Area Agency on Aging. In 1981, The Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC), now CAPSLO, took over the San Luis Obispo Senior Nutrition Program. The EOC struggled to make the program financially sustainable for 10 years before handing it back over to the AAA.

Takin’ Care of Business From page 13

California’s Business Law Section’s Nonprofit Organizations Committee and represents numerous charitable organizations. He is a frequent lecturer and published author on estate and tax planning topics, and has been a Rotarian since 1985.

Michael has been a member of several nonprofit boards and served as board secretary, treasurer, and president. His professional experience spans the education and nonprofit sectors from being a school principal in Los Osos and Cal Poly lecturer to acting CEO of a major Silicon Valley nonprofit. He is immediate past president at San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre and president of his local property-owners association. Currently, he is Spokes’ CEO.

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.

Kindness Art Show Tops \$20,000 for Local Food Programs



Donna Ramos, Elena Ramos-Peffly - owner, Brian Peffly - owner, George Jercich - artist Bobby deLancalotti - Kindness founder, Katie deLancalotti - advancement director Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Estero Bay Kindness Coalition celebrated a triumphant community gathering on Sunday, August 2, as “Kindness: An Art Show and Fundraiser” filled Casa Ramos Art Gallery with joyful energy and overwhelming support. Nearly 200 neighbors attended the lively afternoon, helping the Kindness Coalition raise more than \$20,000 to strengthen its food programs ahead of the new school year.

The exhibition spotlighted special guest artist Arthur Carrillo of Homeboy Art Academy (Los Angeles) and featured a live wood-carving demonstration by local craftsman Jonny Miller, who generously donated the finished piece to the event raffle. Casa Ramos further supported the cause by donating 40% of art sales that day to the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition, totaling a \$4,000 donation.

The event was action-packed: live music from Shane Stoneman and Miss Leo’s String Trio set a warm, festive tone; Durham Wine + Cider generously provided all pours for attendees; an ice cream truck and a spirited raffle added to the excitement.

Funds raised will be used to bolster the Kindness Coalition’s core programs Got Your Back and Bags of Love ensuring kids and families in Estero Bay receive reliable, nutritious food as they head back to school. Got Your Back provides discreet weekend backpacks filled with meals and snacks for food-insecure K–8 students, while Bags of Love delivers three balanced, protein-rich and nutrient dense grocery bags weekly to households in Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria, and San Simeon.

“We’re deeply thankful to Casa Ramos, the artists and performers, our generous donors, and every community member who bought raffle tickets or came out to support us,” said Estero Bay Kindness Coalition Founder Bobby deLancalotti. “This event shows the power of community — when we come together, we strengthen food security and restore dignity for our neighbors when they need it most.”

To learn more about the Estero Bay Kindness Coalition or to donate, go to estero bay kindnesscoalition.org.

Who's #1 in Real Estate? Our Clients.

DALE KAISER
REAL ESTATE

Proudly supporting our community for over 45 years

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 30 from 11-2

2607 Richard Ave. Cayucos

Perched above Richard Avenue, this one-of-a-kind multi-story home offers sweeping coastal and hillside views, flexible living spaces, and expansive decks. With an elevator, unique layout, and rare design, it's ideal for multi-family living or creative use. A property like this wouldn't be approved today—come see why it's truly special.

\$1,375,000

3277 Ocean Blvd. Cayucos

This thoughtfully designed upslope home offers stunning ocean vistas, abundant natural light, and flexible living. Enjoy a quality kitchen, spacious primary suite, multiple view decks, and indoor-outdoor flow. With preserved view corridors and a prime location, it's ideal as a full-time residence or weekend retreat.

\$1,195,000

CAYUCOS.COM • 805-995-2900

*Dale Kaiser listed and sold our property. He and his team did an outstanding job representing us in a very complicated transaction. Their knowledge and experience is above and beyond expectations and was instrumental in navigating and seeing to conclusion our deal to the satisfaction of both parties. I believe communication is most important in any transaction and this team is on it. At no time did we feel like we were in it alone or uninformed. I would highly recommend Dale and his team for any real estate dealings." — Happy Seller

DRE 01297036



Human Brain Vs Dog Brain

By Lisa Ellman

In my last column I discussed things that dog owners say and do that may be, and most likely are, confusing their dog. People tend to transfer and project human thought processes onto their dog without realizing just how differently the canine brain works. Addressing 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. I would like to clarify several points that I failed to make clear and didn't directly correspond to the topic. Context is something that humans understand when people are using the same word for different behaviors. Dogs, not so much. That's not how their brains are wired. It's essential to understand the differences to understand why your dog behaves, or misbehaves, in certain situations.

Play - Styles differ from dog to dog. Some dogs are exuberant and rough; others are more docile followers. I've often heard owners tell their dog to "be nice." Unfortunately, your dog has no idea what this means, because that's human brain. Those words might as well be "go shopping." The reason is, they have no context to apply those words to. Have you trained them to "be nice" to other dogs when playing? The word "nice" is meaningless to the dog in that situation; it's not a behavior they can translate. Playing with your dog when the dog is biting your hand and you say, "no bite!" is another example of human brain. The dog doesn't understand the context. You can see it if I use some punctuation, "No, bite!" If the pup bites your hand instead of the toy, end the game for 30 seconds, then go back and try again. You want the puppy to learn that only the toy goes in its mouth. You can also teach the dog "leave it."

Vocabulary, rules and boundaries - Everyone in the home

should be using the same vocabulary for training purposes. If one person says down for lying, and another person uses it for jumping, that's confusing. Human brains understand the different contexts of the word, dogs don't. Decide what word is going to be used for specific behaviors. 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. It doesn't matter what kind of rules you want to make, if 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 or it isn't.

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. If, for example, your dog is showing fear toward something; a dog, a person, a pillow, most people will try to calm the dog by saying, "it's ok, good girl", and stroking her gently. In the dog's brain what's happening is that the calming soothing words are reinforcing whatever head-space the dog is in at that exact moment. 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.

I hope this information clarifies what I was trying to convey. There are many good books on dog psychology, and how dog's think, that I encourage owners to read. I especially recommend "The Dog's Mind" by Bruce Fogle, DVM. Once you understand how dogs think and learn, training becomes uncomplicated and even fun!

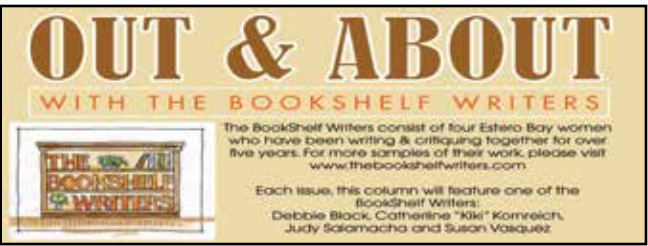
Good Dogma has been training humans and their dogs since 1996 and is currently taking new clients. Contact information for all offered services can be found on our website www.GoodDogma.net. Readers are invited to submit questions to gooddogma@botmail.com.

Business Forcast From page 5

Create the need for more skilled or specialized employee roles (89%)

Deliver efficiencies so employees can become more productive and even increase employment opportunities as business grows (63%), and Strengthen their business overall (59%).

Mechanics Bank and Columbia Bank have the number one and two largest market share of regional banks in San Luis Obispo County as measured by total customer deposits according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Summary of Deposits as of June, 2025, the most recent data available. Only JP Morgan Chase, the nation's largest (national) bank, based in New York, has a greater market share than the two regional banks.



Being Wrong

Story and Sketch by Susan Vasquez

The bushtits come nearly every morning now, announcing their presence by movement. Over the last several months, I have come to rely on these little-seen acrobats as they welcome the morning to my patio. Without these preludes to sunrise, I hardly know how to begin the day. It's not that I see them, or always hear them. It's the movement through the trees, the quiet press of leaf against branch, then twig, that calls my attention.



The passing parade of bushtits begins in the line of crape myrtles along the fence, then proceeds branch by twig through bush and vine to the Pistache tree. That's where they pause, then continue to the cherry plum tree as the march continues through the neighborhood.

I marvel that I have yet to see an individual bushtit. In my mind, they appear as a unity of creatures, polliwogs of the sky, a movement of togetherness. I see photos online or in the guidebooks and have to be satisfied with what others have recorded. So far, I haven't seen one single bird.

I hear them on occasion, says Merlin, the bird identification app. Mixed with other avian voices, theirs is a vocal rattle sounding farther away than their presence. Their voice is shy. But their march through the yard is unmistakable.

This morning, I see their entrance before I hear their call. I should pause, look in the guidebooks, learn what they eat and why they come here. But I am captivated by these sailors of the tree canopy, always dipping away from my view on a wave of natural protection. I don't really see them, but can't look away. Whatever

Out & About Continued on page 19

Connector Project From page 1



Aerial rendering shows the route of the proposed Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector bike path project, as it runs towards the Toro Creek Road-Hwy 1 intersection. SLO County rendering

project, this 10th amendment to the engineering contract "will allow Cannon Corporation, under the direction of County of San Luis Obispo County staff, to provide additional services necessary to complete the Plans, Specification, and Estimate (PS&E) package from the current 90% completion milestones to the final 100% completion milestone.

"Once completed, the Department of Public Works will be positioned to request authorization to enter the construction phase from Caltrans, and to advertise the project for construction bids."

It's been over a decade since the County first proposed the connector project, which would run a dedicated paved bike path along the bluff overlooking Chevron Dog Beach and connecting the North Point Natural Area on the south with the end of Cayucos' Studio Drive on the north.

The path on the west side of the Hwy 1 fence will run mostly over sand dunes requiring a bunch of small bridges to span dips and runoff channels through the dunes.

It has to span Toro Creek in what promises to be a pretty big bridge project and also needs a massive retaining wall with backfill on the south to support the path.

It's been a monumental undertaking to get the project even close to the goal line. "The approved project pathway alignment," the report said, "is complicated by the fact that the project passes through properties owned by the City of Morro Bay, Chevron, and Caltrans, and is within Coastal Commission jurisdiction, increasing the amount of coordination and support required by Cannon to complete this project.

"The coordination has led to numerous contract amendments to extend the initial contract duration and provide additional services to meet these needs."

This latest amendment, which Cannon bid at \$89,000, includes "additional engineering design, Caltrans coordination, Chevron coordination, Coastal Commission coordination, environmental permitting, right-of-way acquisition, and construction documents services."

Management of the project has added complexity to the overall complexity of being located in the Coastal Zone.

County Parks will retain portions of the project oversight,



Photo taken from North Point Natural Area in Morro Bay shows the area of Toro Creek that the connector bike path bridge will have to span. Of note, the Hwy 1 bridge shown here is in the process of being replaced by Caltrans. Photo by Neil Farrell

the report said, which goes back to the original charter approved for the project.

Caltrans is in charge of funding the construction and the Council of Governments (SLOCOG) as the County's transportation funding agency, controls the funding allocations.

The project's current budget sits at \$1.98 million and it's gotten a \$1.18 million Regional Surface Transportation Program grant out of the Regional State Highway Account (via SLOCOG) and \$900,000 from County Parks Public Facilities Fees. Developers pay those fees.

The County estimates the cost for finishing all the paperwork including final design and permitting will top \$2 million. The new funding was decided upon by committee.

"The Public Facilities Fees Subcommittee of the Capital Improvement — Executive Steering Committee," the report said, "held a special remote meeting to review the current balances of Public Facilities Fees and vote via email on a request by Parks and Recreation to transfer \$100,000."

CASA DE FLORES

Carefree Senior Living

Casa De Flores offers vibrant senior living in the rolling hills near Morro Bay, blending independence, personalized support, exceptional dining, and engaging activities within a warm, compassionate community.

Call today for a tour! (805) 772-7372

1405 Teresa Drive | Morro Bay, California 93442
www.CasaDeFlores.com | License# 405800142

Blinds • Shutters • Drapes

Discounted Prices

- Mini Blinds
- Vertical & Wood Blinds
- Cellular
- Roller
- Woven Woods
- Draperies
- Wood & Vinyl Shutters
- Fully Automated Shades

FREE design consultation and measuring

Support the Estero Bay News! Please tell them you saw it in the EBN.

Let Our Knowledgeable Staff Assist You With All Your Needs

805-528-4100

GRABER. HunterDouglas

www.theblindladyslo.com

The "Blind" Lady

Lic #839546

Mastercard VISA DISCOVER

50 Years From page 1

a little. Myles jumps in saying they had psychics come in to investigate and they didn't stay long.

In 1989 the pair moved to Atlanta, taking a 7-year hiatus from the antiques, and when Barbara was ready to retire and sell, they came back and bought the business in 1999.

"We picked right up with Barbara," Myles says, "and told her we wanted to buy the store."

The business model is rightly called an "antique co-op," Myles explains. They rent space inside the store to people who sell things and they man the register, mind the store and collect the sales, distributing the money back to the vendors.

Some of their vendors do this professionally, meaning it's their entire livelihoods. "Some have been with us over 20 years," JoAnna says.

Myles saddens a bit and explains that over the past 26-plus years they've had the business, "We've lost a lot of wonderful friends. We've lost a lot of dealers to death."

Though they both had lengthy careers as accountants, including working for come big corporations, both have always loved antiques. "He was involved in it before me," JoAnna says.

Myles recalls, "I was 18 or 19 when a friend took me to an auction. I got the bug then."

Even when they were in Atlanta, Myles says, he had a little antique shop in Stone Mountain, Ga., "and I still worked full time."

In 2012, they gave up the lease at the beloved Cayucos store and moved the business to Cambria and into the Redwood Center, a shopping center on Main Street in the East Village (2084 Main St.).

It's Cambria's oldest shopping center and sports a variety of small businesses including an electric bike shop, and two cafes. Having the restaurants has meant steady foot traffic for their antique mall. "It's been wonderful," Myles says, "having the restaurant next door."

When they were in Cayucos, JoAnna explains, she always felt they needed to have something for the men who came in with their wives to do. So they set up a "man cave" and put items in there that would be of interest to men. It was so popular they established man caves in the Cambria Store and now also in the Morro Bay location that they opened in April 2024 (located at 2110 Main St.).

"I said, 'These men need something to do,'" JoAnna explains. So she got vendors who sold tools, knives, records and other manly things, coining the term "Mantiques," along the way.

In Cambria, "It's the most popular part of the store," she laughs.

Myles mentions that they have old Playboy Magazines in there too, laughing at the memory of going in and seeing men get embarrassed when caught with the centerfolds unfolded.

"Women buy as many Playboys as the men do," JoAnna comments.

Myles points out that antique sales — retail sales in general — take special social skills. "It's a people business," he says. "JoAnna is really good with the dealers and the customers."

"I like everybody," she says. "It's a really good trade. I love on everybody."

He adds that in online comments and in person, people tell him all the time, "You're the most warm and friendly stores."



Rich Man Poor Man located on Main street in Morro Bay. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Morro Bay store, in what was for many years a furniture store, is huge, some 8,000 square feet. They have some great employees who make it all possible for the two of them to keep going, operating two stores in towns 30-plus miles apart and neither of which are in the same town where they live (Los Osos).

JoAnna praised her Morro Bay store helper, Kathleen who was instrumental in pulling together the Morro Bay store and keeps it running.

As one might imagine, having a store for so long, you will run into special, celebrity customers. Both recall their favorite — comedic actor, the late Jonathan Winters, whom they considered a dear friend.

"Jonathan Winters," Myles says, "loved JoAnna."

They laugh recalling a story about the legendary funnyman, who would hilariously work the room at local restaurants, and blurt out that he'd forgotten his wallet and didn't have any money to pay for his meal. One time a couple he'd been joking around with, actually paid for his meal, JoAnna says, which greatly embarrassed him, but must have been hilarious none the same. That was also the last time he pulled that particular gag on unsuspecting folks.

"He used to say, 'I forgot my wallet,'" Myles recalls when Winters visited their store. "He'd say, 'So today I'm just going to shoplift.'"

Joanna laughs, "He never had a wallet." Winters' bodyguards used to carry his money, which he needed because he was a collector.

"He collected toys," she says. "He collected toys because when he went off to World War II, his mom sold all his toys. At his estate sale, there were all these toys."

Another regular customer was Huell Howser a TV host, producer and personality who made several TV shows for California PBS stations, the most famous of which was California's Gold.

Howser loved to vacation on the Central Coast, JoAnna says, and came into the Cayucos store every time he was in town.

They've been involved with their community too. Myles was the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce president, and the two were instrumental in starting the Cayucos Antique Street Fair, a popular bi-annual event that continues today in May and October.

"That was always fun," JoAnna says of the Street Fairs. (The next one is set for Sunday, Oct. 18.)

She remembers one exceptional day in March 2011 when a major earthquake off Japan sent a tsunami racing towards California. A tsunami warning got them out of bed early that morning.

Though the warning was for the west side of Ocean Avenue, their store was just across the street and was loaded with valuable jewelry. JoAnna says she woke Myles up at 2 a.m. and said, "We've got to get that jewelry."

Their store was filled with other people's livelihoods and she was determined to protect what she could. "I had a suitcase full of jewelry and other valuables," she says.

In the end the tsunami, while it devastated some coastal towns and harbors in California and destroyed a nuclear power plant in Japan, did little damage here.

The store has been in business for so long that they now have second and third generation customers, many who remember coming into the store as little kids with their parents.

They recall one little boy who many years ago came to their store looking for World War II things that he collected. "He's now 28," Myles says, "and still comes in, and still collects World War II stuff."

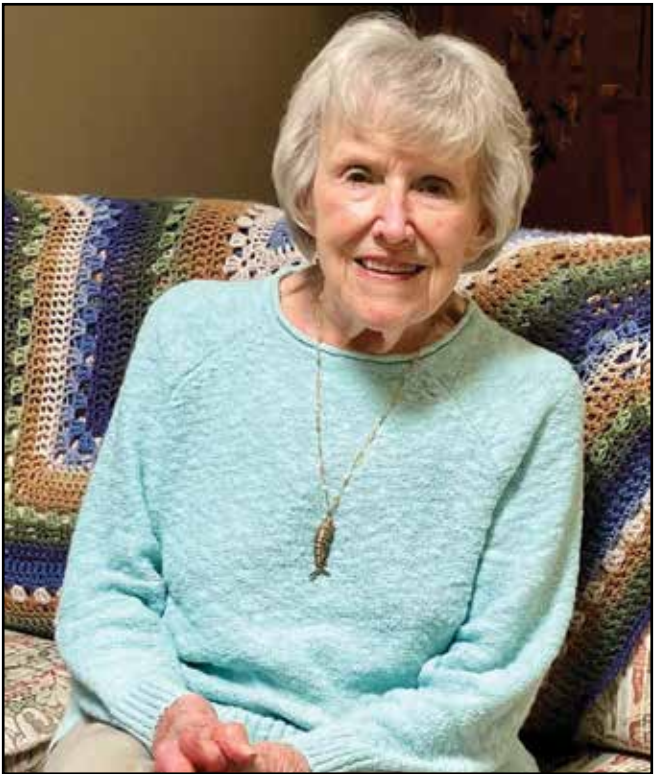
"Our customers and our dealers are the best," JoAnna says. "It's like a family," Myles adds.

He's 81 and JoAnna she's, well let's just say she's younger than that, but they don't see a second retirement on the near horizon.

"We plan to keep on going until the antique dealer in the sky calls us home," Myles jokes.

Both Rich Man Poor Man stores in Cambria and Morro Bay are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing only on Thanksgiving and Christmas, or, laughs Myles, "If the Pittsburgh Steelers are playing in the Super Bowl."

Our Story From page 1



Helen Seavy, of Morro Bay, will celebrating her 100th birthday next month. Photo by Judy Salamacha

en's reference to the state's "thumb." She pointed on the map how the shape of lower Michigan appeared somewhat like a thumb.

Helen was one of "...four children growing up among 2,500 residents 125 miles from Detroit and 60 miles south of Canada." She lived at home until age 21. "It was during WWII when most of the boys went into the service and girlfriends went to Detroit to fill the men's factory jobs. Dad said he'd pay me to stay home."

When she was a child, she had spent time in the University of Michigan's hospital with osteomyelitis, and infection and inflammation of bone tissue and marrow, in her right femur. The drugs of the day were not helping but then she suddenly recovered after being given a different medication. Years later she would meet up with a doctor in California during a medical issue her mother-in-law was experiencing. In casual conversation with him, they discovered he interned at the Michigan hospital in 1944 when Helen was being treated. He remembered witnessing that she was the first patient at the hospital to receive penicillin. The hospital had to get permission from President Roosevelt to treat her since the medication was still in trials.

Helen amazed me with her memory for dates, details and specific happenings during a century of living. She continues to live by herself with a few helpers to do gardening and chores she prefers not to do. Her home is immaculate. She continues to enjoy life with her friends although some activities have been curtailed. She keeps tabs on her 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, proudly showing me their pictures on her refrigerator's front and side panels.

Helen eventually followed her sister, who was six years her senior, to Redlands, CA. Near giving birth to her third child, Helen's sister needed help with her other two children of 11-months and five-years old. Her husband had been present for the birth of the 11-month-old but then soon left for the WWII European front.

It was during this stay with her sister that Helen would meet Richard Seavy. After a 9-week courtship they married. His family had come from New Hampshire in 1877 for employment with

Cat Noir From page 15

They were eating away as happy as cats in a sauna, but they both dashed to Virgil's dish in another room with their tongue in it faster than a hot knife through butter.

Meanwhile I was trying to keep one cat at the bowl and two far from it, and sometimes I sent the wrong one packing. It's like they are on a roundabout and one is constantly there.

I will point out that being sleep deprived and having two black cats and a shape changing Daisy, can lead to confusion when you are in a rush.

On more than one occasion I have walked by and said, "What a good boy Virgil. Look at you eat all . . . BORIS TIBERIUS and DAISYLOU scam!" Yes, I do talk in cartoon language when frustrated. Once I channel Porky Pig and shout "That's all, folks!" or Velma from Scooby Doo and yell "jinkies," I will check myself into a meditation retreat.

Boris was close to right about what he said he "saw" on the package. There was a package — that's it, the rest is his fibs.

BAY

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

7/31 - 8/19
SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY
(PG-13) 2 hr 30 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 3:30 pm & 7 pm
Sun 12:30 pm & 4 pm

8/21 - 8/26
THE RIVALS OF AMZIAH KING
(NR) 2 hr 10 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 4 pm & 7 pm
Sun 1 pm & 4 pm

MONDAY SPECIALS * ONE SHOWING ONLY AT 5:30 PM

8/17
THE THIEF OF BAGDAD
(NR) (1940)
1 hr. 46 min.
A CELEBRATION OF
WILLIAM CAMERON MENZIES

8/24
BIGHT FILM FESTIVAL
(NR) (2025)
9 Short Films
Approx. 3 hr. Total
PRESENTED BY BRIAN EDDY

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

(805) 801-6306

Los Osos Residential Care

Marilou Ubay, RN

Administrator

A free day care for 5hrs per month per person.

All state forms must be completed

2280 Inyo Dr.
Los Osos

Lostosos@yahoo.com

Sea Shanty

Since 1983

Great Food!

Cayucos.California

News

Standard Oil. Richard spent a career working as a sheriff-investigator and would ultimately retire after serving the San Bernadino County's DA's office as an investigator.

Helen says she is still a big LA Dodger fan. She recalled when her kids were growing up, they had a small box television in the living room. "I wouldn't like some of the shows Richard and the kids watched, so I would go turn the radio on in the kitchen and got to know many of the players. I loved hearing Vince Scully's voice." Listening to baseball always reminded her of her father when he would listen to the Detroit Tigers on the radio.

Richard and Helen birthed three girls and a son. "Our Susan passed away early in 1981," Helen said. Fortunately, her daughter, Terry Paske, lives in Morro Bay. After 30 years she retired as a San Luis Obispo RN from Sierra Vista. Another daughter, Barbara Murphy, lives in Marysville, WA and checks in on Helen daily. Her son Richard lives in Lancaster, PA since he chose to leave California to help his wife's father with the family business.

And although family has always been a top priority in Helen's life and she remembers where all the grandkids are and their grades in school, she has had her own life experiences to keep her busy.

Once her children were in kindergarten, she went to work parttime at "JC Penney when it was only open six days a week, Monday and Friday evenings and closed Sundays." She worked for the California State Employee Credit Union and ultimately San Bernadino's branch of the U.S. Social Security Administration when she retired in 1989.

She and her husband would regularly visit the San Luis Obispo area while their son Richard attended Cal Poly. Daughter Terry had married Bill Paske and moved to Morro Bay "to get out of Southern California." Terry and her husband were both in health care careers.

Helen and Richard Sr. moved here permanently in March 1996 although he would pass too soon in September,1998 after a lingering illness.

"But it was still the best thing we ever did," she said. "People were wonderful. The air quality allowed me to breathe without getting a tight chest for the first time in years and I was living close to at least one of my children."

She immediately joined the Newcomers Club of Morro Bay. "I believe keeping busy is the secret to staying healthy for so long." There is a long list of activities many of which she still enjoys on a limited basis.

With Newcomers, Helen enjoys dinners or lunch out with members. She participates in the grandmothers' group and loves finding treasures while exploring antique and secondhand stores. "I've probably visited 200 wineries all over SLO."

She explained her passion was playing bridge. "Until last December when my current bridge partner, Charlie Unger, started having some health issues, we played Duplicate Bridge sometimes three days a week. It keeps my brain alive," she said with her beautiful smile. "We eventually settled into playing at Morro Bay's Episcopal Church, but we often played in SLO and sometimes in Arroyo Grande. Charlie is younger than me ... in his 90s."

She volunteered for 10 years at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Los Osos "doing whatever was needed in the office." She also shelved books at Morro Bay's library. Although she still attends cultural arts events, she said, "I miss ushering at the PAC (Cal Poly Performing Arts Center). I love Theater Arts productions and SLO has some great ones."

I asked how she felt about Morro Bay as she has seen it grow. She said, "Although I'm pleased the tourists have discovered what we have been able to enjoy, I believe parking has become a big problem on the Embarcadero."

A very happy, happy birthday, Helen Seavy, from the entire Estero Bay News crew!

Out & About From page 17

brings them into my space this morning, I am grateful they have come. Bushitts. I feel I have gotten to know them and am amazed at their resourcefulness.

Above the fence line, they continue, in air and on branches. Closer and closer they march, moving branches and leaves. I hear them now.

There are ten avian voices this morning on Merlin's list. It's a festival of calls, many of which I can identify. As a bird calls out, its name is listed #1 on the Merlin App. I keep looking at the screen, knowing bushitts will be next. Here they come. Any time now. I recognize this birdsong. I wait. Their name must be next.

But Merlin disagrees. Ruby-crowned kinglet flashes on the screen, top of the list. A chorus of sound continues above me. Ruby-crowned kinglet says Merlin.

How could I have gotten this so wrong? I feel I knew the bushitts. I have seen their name before on Merlin. Certainly, their

Night Out From page 1

Katrina Morro Bay, So Cal Gas, Hall's Culligan, Spencer's Fresh Market, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling, Came Security, Costco SLO. Columbia Bank, and The Estero Bay News.

She also thanked "Organizations who joined us with a booth at the event: City of Morro Bay Services, Morro Bay Police Department, Morro Bay Fire Department, Morro Bay Recreation Division, and the Morro Bay Harbor Department."

And several service clubs and other organizations also helped out. They were: Morro Bay in Bloom, Morro Bay Lions Club, Columbia Bank, Costco, Estero Radio Club, SLO CERT, Shoreline Calvary Church, The Newcomers Club, 805 Fearless, Coastal Cravings Shave Ice, Premium Meat Market, and So Cal Gas.

movement is unmistakable. Some songbirds are flock companions, blending their groups. I wonder if this is true of Ruby-crowned kinglets and bushitts. I could see Bushitt movement and hear Kinglet song.

I look again to Merlin, still flashing the name of a bird I hadn't expected, giving me evidence of how wrong I have been. Bushitts, quiet this morning, are nowhere on the list. I am simply and undeniably mistaken. Finally, I open the guidebook to actually read the information on bushitts. I learn there is a difference between a call and a song. I begin to fill the large gaps in my knowledge.

The app continues to flash a name that calls me out for thinking I know more than I do. I congratulate the bushitts for finding yet another clever way to disguise themselves, hidden from me in my own backyard. I accept being wrong. Birds, once again, put me in the humble place where humans belong.

Visit Susan Vasquez and her stories at <https://susanvasquez.com>



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Start your next chapter in life with a solid savings plan

As your life shifts, this is a perfect time to stow some funds in a conservative investment to help plan for the future. CDs offer competitive rates. And you pick the term that fits your life. Get in touch to learn more.

Please contact us if you have \$1,000 or more to invest.

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

1-year APY*

4.15%

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 07/31/26. APY interest cannot remain on deposit; periodic payment of interest is required. Certificates of Deposit (CDs) offered by Edward Jones are bank issued and FDIC insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest) insured but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Edward Jones is not a bank or FDIC insured institution and deposit insurance only covers the failure of an insured bank. FDIC insurance for brokered CDs offered by Edward Jones is provided by the FDIC insured banks that issue the CDs on a "pass-through" basis, which requires certain conditions to be met for coverage to apply. The list of these banks frequently changes. For a list of banks in our network offering brokered CDs, visit edwardjones.com/brokered-cd-banks. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change, CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the price of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp (DTC).

EDJESBPA-4-01/SLP/30 NOV 2021 ACC/FAD/edward

Morro Bay

Nelson Pamplona
Financial Advisor

501 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-6188

Jennifer L. Redman
Financial Advisor

1085 Kennedy Way
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-7938

Deanna Richards,
AAMS®
Financial Advisor

1236 LOVR, Suite J
Los Osos, CA 93402
(805) 534-1070

Jocelyn Furtado
Financial Advisor

1236 LOVR, Suite J
Los Osos, CA 93402
805-365-2315

Cayucos

Alex Schams
Financial Advisor

241 S. Ocean Ave
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805) 995-2110

Luke Munds
Financial Advisor

241 S. Ocean Ave
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805) 995-2110

Jonathan Mumper
Financial Advisor

1073 Main Street
Cambria, CA 93428
(805) 927-1343

Sandy Cha Mumper
Financial Advisor

1073 Main Street
Cambria, CA 93428
(805) 927-1343

Since 1971

HOFBRAU

Hand Carved Roast Beef

It just doesn't get any better than this!

Celebrating In Business

50

FIFTY YEARS

1971 - 2021

805-772-2411

901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay

Open 7 days a week.

August 13, 2026 - August 26, 2026 • The Estero Bay News • Your Community, Your News 19

COME CELEBRATE!

It's our birthday!

AUGUST
15TH



AUGUST 15TH

FIRST 100 CUSTOMERS WHO SPEND \$25+
GET A PRODUCT-FILLED PARTY FAVOR!

25% OFF
STOREWIDE
ALL DAY!

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



AUGUST 16TH

MOM'S KEEPIN' THE PARTY GOING!



Open to 1PM

15% OFF STOREWIDE

Megan's

ORGANIC MARKET

280 HIGUERA ST, SLO, CA

OPEN 7AM - 9PM

805.592.1420

MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR 18+ WITH VALID MEDICAL ID.

21+

Valid August 15, 2026 for 25% OFF storewide promotion and first 100 customers who spend \$25+ receiving a product-filled party favor. Valid August 16, 2026 for Sunday Brunch 15% OFF storewide promotion from open to 1PM. Party favors available while supplies last. Discounts apply to qualifying products only and cannot be combined with other offers unless otherwise stated. Legal and age limits apply. Additional terms and services apply. Visit megansorganicmarket.com/deals for more details. LIC NO. C10-0000728-LIC.