

Boats at Cuesta Inlet need ID or Face Removal



Arial photo showing the boats that are at Cuesta Inlet. Photo by Dean Sullivan

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

About 10 months after purchasing the Cuesta Inlet and securing it for environmental stewardship and community enjoyment, the non-profit Save Cuesta Inlet (SCI) is ready to tackle a job that has long been a problem at the property bordering the southeast end of the Morro Bay estuary at 1745 Doris Ave.

SCI conducted a community survey, and participants overwhelmingly expressed the need to clear abandoned boats that line the shore. (See the survey results and more information at Savecuestainlet.org.) The group recently completed an inventory of all kayaks, canoes, and other vessels. The next phase is confirming ownership and current contact information for each boat. On Coastal Cleanup Day, September 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. stored vessels without proper identification will be removed.

"The number of boats has definitely been growing over the years, which was partly the impetus for us to initiate this boat ID project," Margarete Schmidt, SCI board member, told Estero Bay News. "In April of this year we completed an extensive inventory and at that time there were more than 700 boats at the Inlet. Several years ago, we counted 600 boats. We are asking people not to leave any more boats at the Inlet until we have completed identifying the owners of existing boats and removing abandoned boats. This project will require a lot of time and effort."

Boats without any contact information or with a disconnected landline listed, are considered abandoned. Over the years, even before SCI owned the property, boats have been hauled

away. How does one forget a boat?

"Many things have contributed to the buildup of boats over the years," Schmidt said. "People forget about their boats; boats that have washed ashore at various locations have been brought to the Inlet, and, sad to say, some people have used the Inlet as a dumping ground for boats they no longer want. SCI is trying to change that; we love that we can keep our boats at the Inlet to enjoy kayaking and boating in our beautiful bay. Our goal is to have all boats at the Inlet have current contact information for the owner prominently displayed on the boat. We are building a database of all boats at the Inlet so that we may easily contact the owners if needed. The Inlet is not a storage yard for abandoned boats. We want to see people out on the water enjoying our wonderful area and having fun with their boats."

Boat creep, the gradual, compounding accumulation of abandoned and derelict vessels, goes beyond cluttering a beautiful natural and public space, there are safety reasons as well. Schmidt says unused boats become hiding places for vermin and they collect standing water, a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

"Degrading boats release microplastics into our bay," Schmidt said. "Boats buried in the flora can be hazards, and broken boat parts can be dangerous to walkers."

SCI hopes to reduce the number of vessels freely stored at the site by about 70 percent.

"My hope is that once the unused, broken, and abandoned boats are removed, there will be room for all of the regular boaters to keep a boat at the Inlet," Schmidt said. "There are not that

Boats at Cuesta Continued on page 22

Report Seeks to Reclaim City Park



The empty playground at City Park in Morro Bay sits covered in wood chips with a very nice iron picket fence around it. Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's City Park is a lovely expanse of green, manicured grass, with several picnic tables, a basketball court, bus stop, children's playground and even an old shuffleboard court.

City Park has hosted special events like the City's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, and the Morro Bay Art Association's Art in the Park, which happens three times a year.

It also has a World War II memorial and is the site where the City buried a time capsule in

2014 commemorating the town's 50th Anniversary.

For those driving or biking by the wedge-shaped park seems a idyllic setting. But for some time now, it hasn't been as pleasant as the description suggests.

City Park appears regularly in the Police Department's weekly media logs, which chronicle the activities of the officers. Numerous people have been reported as being disruptive and been arrested for various mostly misdemeanor crimes, with being under the influence of drugs

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Congressman Works Key Wording Into Bill



Photo shows the revetment in front of the Harbor Office with concrete slab pieces used to shore it up in the past, now falling towards the water. City photo

By Neil Farrell

Needed repairs to Morro Bay Harbor's rock revetment got a promising boost after the local congressman was able to get key language included in a major bill making its way through Congress.

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D—Santa Barbara) announced July 23 that he had secured "key legislative language" into a funding bill to make sure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) "will carry out repair and maintenance activities on infrastructure protecting the harbor and nearby property."

The ACOE built the harbor as it exists today, blasting some 1 million tons of rock from Morro Rock in a quarrying operation that began in the early 1900s and carried on until the early 1960s, when the agency ceased blasting operations.

That rock was used to build the south breakwater and north jetty creating the modern harbor entrance, as well as the causeway out to Morro Rock that now has an access road on it.

Morro Rock was originally about 35% larger than it is today, and was originally an island.

The rock was used to create the breakwater at Port San Luis and was also used to construct other jetties and breakwaters up and down the state. It was also used in the construction of Grace Church in San Luis Obispo.

The revetment, which lines the Embarcadero is nearly 10,000 feet long and was laid down in the 1940s, when the ACOE built a WWII Naval training base on property that is now the old power plant.

Before the revetment went in, the Embarcadero area was mostly a tidal mudflat. The portion that stayed high and dry started around Beach Street and stretched north to Coleman Park, where Morro Creek originally emptied into the bay. The inner bay had entrances on both sides of Morro Rock until the causeway

Key Wording Continued on page 20

No Elections Again in Morro Bay, Los Osos

By Neil Farrell

Apathy ... is thy name Morro Bay?

For the second straight election cycle Morro Bay voters will not see a contested election for city council, after just one person signed up to run for mayor and two signed up for two council seats. And two of the three were seeking re-election.

City Clerk Dana Swanson announced the results of the nomination period that ended Aug. 12.

"As of the close of the nomination period on Aug. 12, 2026," reads the announcement from Swanson, "there are not more

No Elections Continued on page 23

Diablo Canyon Funding and Extension News Updates

By Keith Pendleton

Pacific Gas & Electric will pay San Luis Obispo County \$16.6 million in two installments to replace lost Unitary Tax revenue according to a press release by CA State Senator John Laird, D. Santa Cruz, whose District 17 includes nearly all of SLO County.

The Unitary Tax was paid by PG&E for operation of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant since it first added nuclear energy to the California grid. The deal covers financial impacts of the plant and its employees on county services, including schools in

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News

Appellate Court Upholds Subdivision Map Denial



The Anastasi Development Company's Estero Point Subdivision map proposed 98 lots on a nearly 20-acre vacant parcel on Pecho Valley Road in Los Osos. A recent appeals court ruling upheld a lower court ruling and has thrown out the map.

By Neil Farrell

An appeal of a court ruling that overturned the recordation of a final subdivision map in Los Osos has been denied, possibly sending the property owners back to the drawing board, after they waited more than 30 years for action on the proposal.

Called the Estero Point Project (Tract 1646), Anastasi Development Company of Redondo Beach, Calif., is the owner of the property on Pecho Valley Road. The property is nearly 20 acres of vacant land that sits across the street from the Sea Pines Golf Resort and adjacent to the Sunset Terrace Neighborhood.

Anastasi Development proposed a 98-lot subdivision — with 97 single family lots and one lot for a drainage basin — and won tentative map approval back in 1990.

But the approval had two requirements that had to be met before a final tract map could be recorded. They were that it be able to hook up to a community sewer and demonstrate there was water service available. Only then could the project take the next step and record a final map.

Once a final map is recorded, the normal procedure is for the developer to then file plans and seek permits for the preliminary work — grading, drainage and then installation of streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and underground utilities like water and sewer pipes, and most likely electrical service too.

This is also when individual lots would likely be sold, unless Anastasi plans to build the homes as well. With lot sales, the individual property owners would then propose their own home projects processed through the County.

But back in 1990 the town was embroiled in controversy over the community sewer project that wouldn't be resolved until 2016, when the County's treatment plant and collection system became operational.

But while the sewer was online and fully operational, another snag arose as a condition in the original Coastal Development Permit issued by the Coastal Commission required the County to first amend the Estero Area Plan, the General Plan for Los Osos (also the Local Coastal Program a Coastal Act requirement), before any additional hookups to the sewer could be approved.

It wasn't officially amended until 2024, which essentially extended the sewer moratorium another 8 years.

Tentative maps have time limits, but a governing body like the Board of Supervisors has the discretion to extend them, which they did repeatedly for over 33 years.

But in 2023 the old map was quickly approaching a hard

deadline and the County sought to move fast to keep the subdivision map alive.

So in October 2023, Supervisors approved a final tract map for Estero Point Project on a 3-2 vote, just weeks before the deadline would have killed it.

A citizen's group, The Sustainability Group, which has been watchdogging the County and had opposed the Coastal Commission's 2024 approval of the Estero Area Plan update, filed suit in SLO Superior Court. That update included findings that cleared up the issues surrounding the town's water supply and whether it was adequate for the existing residents, let alone future development.

The argument against Estero Point centered on timing, as the plaintiffs argued the Supervisor's approval came 8 months before the Coastal Commission's approval of the plan update and therefore didn't meet the requirements the Commission had laid down. They claimed it was a violation of the 1984 Subdivision Map Act.

Judge Craig Van Rooyen agreed and threw out the Supervisor's 2023 vote on the final tract map.

Anastasi Development appealed and a three-member panel of the State Second District Appellate Court on Aug. 18 upheld Van Rooyen's original ruling.

Unless Anastasi Development decides to further appeal to the State Supreme Court, the tentative subdivision map from 1990 would apparently be lapsed and if the company still wants to pursue a project, it will have to start over and file for a new subdivision map using current rules and regulations, instead of what they were in 1990.

The Coastal Commission's restrictions under the CDP for the County's sewer project would no longer apply and the water availability situation, which is another issue the Sustainability Group has been arguing over, would also appear resolved.

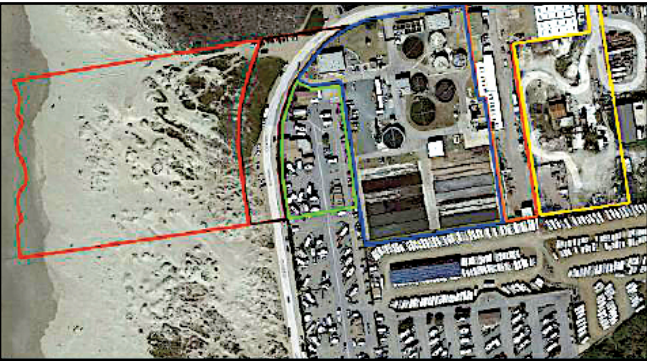
County Supervisors and the Coastal Commission have both approved the Estero Plan Update that called the water supply situation handled.

And Supervisors also approved a 0.4% annual growth rate, which means it could allow a handful of new homes a year to be built in town, the first time that's been possible since 1988 when the sewer moratorium was handed down by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

However, that growth figure too has come under fire due to disagreement over the study that was used to arrive at the growth rate.

(Estero Bay News sought to contact Scott Anastasi via email but he didn't respond before deadline. If we hear from him, we'll follow up this story.)

Buy Out of Sewer Plant Approved



Satellite image of the properties on Atascadero Road that Morro Bay is paying nearly \$4 million to the Cayucos Sanitary District to buy out the CSD's interest. Outlined in red is a parcel on the beach; yellow is the former concrete batch plant; blue is the former sewer treatment plant property; and green is the portion of Morro Dunes RV Park owned by the City. Outlined in orange is the City's Corp Yard.

By Neil Farrell

The last link between Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitary District is being severed, after the M.B. City Council approved moving ahead with the buy out of their jointly owned former sewer treatment plant on Atascadero Road.

Governed by a Joint Powers Agreement or JPA the old plant was co-owned and operated by the two agencies and with both now operating their own, separate treatment plants, the City sought to purchase Cayucos' 40% interest in that site and several other adjoining properties. The two entered into a sale agreement last March and the purchase price is over \$3.86 million. The City had been using the interim time to make sure all was copacetic with the property.

"The Agreement," reads a report from City Manager John Craig, "provided for a 90-day escrow period and due diligence items related to title, property inspections and a qualitative envi-

ronmental assessment. Standard title policy and escrow charges would be split evenly by the City and CSD."

Once money changes hands, that's it for the 40-plus year partnership. "Upon the close of escrow," Craig said, "the JPA would be deemed terminated and there would be no more jointly owned assets with the CSD."

The deal includes the old sewer plant property, the old concrete batch plant on Atascadero Road, a portion of the Morro Dunes RV Park, and a slice of public beach where the old plant's discharge pipe runs under.

The City also owns another parcel in between the old concrete plant (torn down in 2025) and the sewer plant where it has an incorporation maintenance yard. So with this sale, the City now owns all of the parcels on the south side of Atascadero Road from Hwy 1 except for Flippo's and an adjacent small RV park, and two motels — Motel 6 and Morro Shores. The City also owns the property under Morro Dunes RV Park, which is leased to the park owners.

Before the sale could move forward, the City had to investigate the old sewer plant property for any contaminants. It hired Roux Associates, Inc., to conduct the environmental assessment. Roux searched through property records and conducted some limited soils testing "to evaluate the potential for hazardous materials."

Craig said Roux' work found four "environmental concerns" — a previously reported 50-gallon spill of diesel fuel at the old concrete plant; the 1991 removal of an underground diesel fuel tank at the concrete plant; oil stains on the floor of the sewer plant's maintenance building, and reported detections of Per-(sic) and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in WWTP influent, effluent and biosolids and from sludge bed concrete samples taken as part of the pre-demolition structure assessment report," Craig's report said.

According to the Food & Drug Administration: "Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a diverse group of thousands of chemicals used in hundreds of types of products. PFAS in the environment can enter the food supply through crops and animals grown, raised, or processed in contaminated areas. It is also possible for very small amounts of PFAS to enter foods through processing and cookware."

According to the National Institute for Health (NIH), "Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products

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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.

News

around the world since about the 1950s. They are ingredients in various everyday products.

“For example, PFAS are used to keep food from sticking to packaging or cookware, make clothes and carpets resistant to stains, and create firefighting foam that is more effective. PFAS molecules have a chain of linked carbon and fluorine atoms. Because the carbon-fluorine bond is one of the strongest, these chemicals do not degrade easily in the environment.”

The testing at the maintenance garage was mostly clean for hydrocarbons but did show trace amounts of benzene in vapor testing that came in above the standards set by the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, the report said.

Four test wells were dug by the old sludge drying beds and three went down as far as 5-feet below the surface. However, one of the holes could only be dug 7-inches down.

They found PFAS compounds at levels that would be expected given the previous use of the concrete drying beds.

Groundwater tests were done using existing wells at the site and PFAS was detected well below the allowable standards for groundwater. That led Roux and the City to conclude that activities on these properties had not contaminated the groundwater with PFAS compounds.

“The PFAS detections,” Craig said, “are not surprising for wastewater treatment facilities given the ubiquitous nature of PFAS and its common presence in community effluent to such facilities. Only one soil sample was above generally expected background levels and groundwater well detections were low and below other well water detections in the area.”

The report admits that they didn’t drill any new wells down gradient of the sludge beds and might have to do so as part of a demolition plan. That should eventually have to be done; given the City has ideas of offering the property for redevelopment into some kind of tax generating

usage at some point in the future.

As to the future, the City Council has talked about doing a full public participation effort on future plans for what should be prime property for some kind of commercial visitor-serving use.

Given its location, just steps from Morro Stand Beach, and easy access from Hwy 41 and Hwy 1, it’s potential would seem unlimited.

Except that the Coastal Commission could mean the City gets pipped at the post with its grandiose plans for a future payday.

The Coastal Commission, while in the process of denying the City and CSD’s original plans to replace the old sewer treatment plant, set down some findings that are sure to come back to haunt any future development plans. The Commission found that the project didn’t meet the Coastal Act requirements for visual impacts and avoidance of so-called “Coastal Hazards.”

Those Coastal Hazards included the potential for future sea level rise, and potential flooding from a tsunami and from Morro Creek. The site sits within the creek’s flood plain and has indeed flooded on more than one occasion, though never enough to cause catastrophic damage.

Whatever comes of the future for the parcels, will have to deal with these precedents set down over a decade ago during a political battle over an entirely different project.

Roux recommended monitoring the diesel spills at the concrete plant and the sewer maintenance shed during any future grading that might be done with redevelopment.

The oil-stained maintenance garage and sludge bed issues were recommended for soil testing.

The City dug test wells by the old maintenance building and the sludge drying beds to test the groundwater for PFAS.

- Are there too many vacation rentals in Cayucos?
- What’s the difference between a vacation rental and a homestay?
- What are the requirements for a vacation rental permit?
- Are there regulations for parking, noise, etc.?
- What are the fines for operating without a permit?
- Have you been notified of a new vacation rental near you?
- How are violations enforced?
- How do I report a violation?

The meeting is free and open to all residents. According to CCAC the results from the meeting “will be utilized in determining the effectiveness of current regulation and whether any change is needed. Meeting will be recorded.”

The CCAC is an all-volunteer advisory board that airs the concerns of the community primarily with regards to land use issues and advises the Dist. 2 County Supervisor of concerns in the community.

They review development plans and recommend possible changes and determine support or opposition among the members. Though strictly advisory in nature, such boards exist in all of the unincorporated communities under the County’s jurisdiction.

Vacation rentals are a relatively new phenomenon but one that has sky-rocketed in popularity over the past 15 or so years.

The concept in general is someone buys a

second home in a desirable location like Cayucos and instead of living in it, they rent it out to vacationers for relatively short terms, usually a weekend to as long as a week to a month.

Many of them are within residential neighborhoods, essentially becoming a lodging business in a residential zoned area, hence the need for special permits and regulations. There is a lot of tax money in play.

The County and incorporated cities require VR owners to collect Transient Occupancy Taxes or bed taxes based on the cost of a night’s stay (9% in County areas, and 10% in Morro Bay), which go directly into the County and City general funds.

They must also collect business improvement district assessments (2% in the County and 3% in Morro Bay), which fund special Tourism Business Improvement Districts or TBIDs, used for tourism promotions.

The County splits these monies using half to promote the unincorporated towns together, and half going back to an advisory board in each community to be spent on special events and promoting the individual communities.

There is also a 2.5% special tax that goes into a Tourism Marketing District (TMD), a promotional effort that promotes the County as a whole.

All lodging businesses within SLO County collect this TMD tax that is managed by a contractor, dba Visit SLO Cal.

These tourism taxes are applied to motels, hotels, B&Bs, and vacation rentals.

Town Hall on Vacation Rentals, Sept. 26

By Neil Farrell

Some folks love them, others despise them, and Cayucos residents will soon have a chance to give their opinions about short-term rentals, aka vacation rentals or VRs for short

The Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council (CCAC) is hosting a town hall meeting to discuss VRs in town and learn about the County rules under which they are permitted to operate in residential neighborhoods.

The town hall is set for 10 a.m. to noon,

Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Cayucos School Gym, 3901 Cayucos Dr.

According to an event flyer the CCAC put out, “We invite your input as we share current information/pros and cons. Speakers include County staffer charged with enforcement and local folks who own and manage vacation rentals.”

The flyer lists some potential questions that residents might have:

- How do vacation rentals affect our community?



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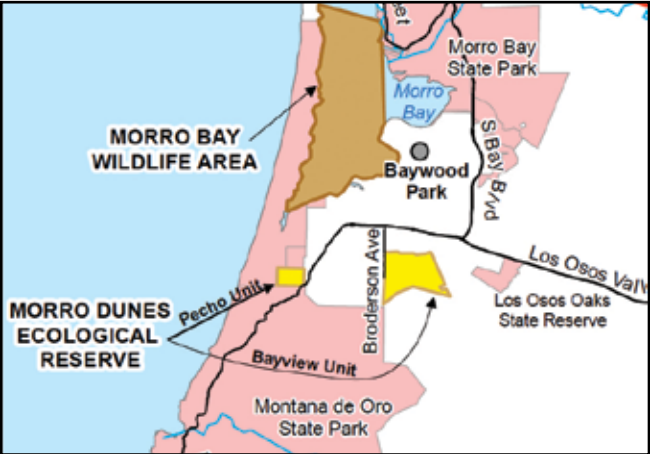
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News

Cal Fire Burns in Ecological Reserve



Map shows the two sections of the Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve in yellow. The larger of the two, the Bayview Unit is where Cal Fire plans to burn numerous piles of cut vegetation in an attempt to lessen the wildfire risk.

Cal Fire was slated to conduct prescribed burns in a wildlife area in Los Osos to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire that could threaten a couple of neighborhoods in Los Osos.

Cal Fire /County Fire and the Air Pollution Control District collaborated on the plans to deliberately set ablaze piles of cut vegetation in a sizable segment of a State Fish & Wildlife ecological reserve located on the lower flanks of the Irish Hills off Broderson Avenue.

The burning is being done in the larger of two sections that make up the 286-acre Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve. The burning is in the Bayview Unit of the Reserve. It lies behind the Redfield Woods neighborhood.

The smaller segment of the reserve is called the Pecho Unit and it lies across Pecho Valley Road.

“This operation,” reads the notice from Cal Fire, “is designed to promote regeneration of three rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that are either fire-dependent or benefit from fire: Bishop Pine, Morro Manzanita, and Indian Knob Mountain balm, a wildflower species.

“The project will also reduce the accumulation of flammable vegetation that contributes to catastrophic wildfires, to increase community wildfire defense.”

That last part should bring some comfort to homeowners in that area of town after Cal Fire designated that entire area as having a high fire danger on official maps, a move that has had a negative effect on people’s fire insurance rates and availability.

“This prescribed burn,” Cal Fire said, “is part of a proactive, science-based approach to land management. Fire personnel will be on site throughout the operation, and every precaution will be taken to ensure safe execution under favorable weather conditions.”

Even though the APCD is involved, residents can expect smoky skies. “Smoke may be visible in the surrounding areas, and residents are advised not to report the fire unless there is an emergency unrelated to this controlled operation.”

Burning was planned for Aug. 18–20, weather permitting. However, “due to the amount of vegetation being removed, this will be an ongoing project requiring multiple burn days. Additional burning is anticipated August 24–27, as weather and conditions permit.”



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According to the State Fish & Wildlife website the Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve was designated as an ecological reserve in 1983. It consists of two units: the 236-acre Bayview Unit and the 50-acre Pecho Unit.

Both parts are mostly covered in dune scrub habitat with intermittent trees scattered about.

Directions: The Pecho Unit is on the northern edge of Montana de Oro State Park, on Pecho Valley Road. Access is from Montana de Oro State Park at the Rim trailhead parking area.

The Bayview Unit trail access is from Broderson Ave, south of Los Osos Valley Road.

Get Involved with Central Coast National Marine Sanctuaries



By Christine Heinrichs

Love our beautiful coastline? Here’s some ways to get involved, learn more, and help others understand and protect it.

Become a NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer at the Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon

The Coastal Discovery Center at William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach in San Simeon welcomes volunteers to support its mission of education, research, and resource protection. Volun-

teer docents receive comprehensive training about the sanctuary so that they can greet visitors, interpret exhibits, tell the public about the incredible sanctuary stories, and assist with K-12 school programs.

No prior experience needed! Bring your love of the coast and ocean and enthusiasm to share its wonders with others. Increase your own enjoyment of the Central Coast by learning about 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 mbnms.discoverycenter@noaa.gov or stop by the Coastal Discovery Center from Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to talk to a current docent or staff member. Volunteering is a fun way to connect with your community and be more informed and involved in marine conservation.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a federally protected marine area off the central California coast. Stretching 276 miles from Marin to Cambria, the sanctuary encompasses 6,094 square miles of ocean and extends an average of 30 miles from shore. At its deepest point, the sanctuary reaches 12,743 feet — more than two miles. It is one of the nation’s largest national marine sanctuaries, surpassing the size of Yellowstone National Park.

Marine Sanctuaries Seeks Applicants for Advisory Councils

NOAA’s Monterey Bay and Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils represent the public’s interests in sanctuary matters. SACs study sanctuary issues, such as the Moss Landing battery fire and threats to kelp forests, resource protection, research, education, and outreach programs and advises the sanctuary superintendent. Recently, the MBNMS advisory council has focused on marine protected areas in federal waters and management plan review.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary extends from Marin County to Cambria. The Chumash Heritage NMS covers 116 miles of coastline from south of Point Buchon to south of Point Conception. Advisory Councils assure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary.

Monterey Bay SAC has 20 voting members and seven ex-officio members. Members represent local user groups such as commercial fishermen, agriculture, and tourism, as well as the public, and local and state governmental jurisdictions. Each seat has a Primary member and an Alternate, to assume a seat if a primary member resigns.

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The MBNMSAC meets quarterly. The next meeting will be September 18, in person at a location to be determined, and remotely via technology. The May meeting is held annually in Cambria, to allow council members to connect with issues at the south end of the sanctuary.

Several seats are open for new members: Agriculture Alternate, Commercial Fishing Alternate, Diving Primary and Alternate, Education Alternate, Tourism Primary and Alternate, and San Luis Obispo Citizen At Large Alternate. Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and knowledge regarding the protection and management of marine resources.

Deadline for applications is August 31, 2026. Applications are at <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/#apply> or by contacting Robbin Porter, Program Specialist, robbin.porter@noaa.gov, (831) 647-4206. Applications are to be submitted to Porter.

Submit completed applications via e-mail to Robbin Porter at robbin.porter@noaa.gov.

For more information, contact Porter at (831) 647-4206, SLO Citizen At Large member Christine Heinrichs, Christine.heinrichs@gmail.com, or view the sanctuary’s webpage for the advisory council at <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/>

Chumash Heritage NMS Advisory Council is seeking applicants for Research Primary member. The Research Primary member must be affiliated with scientific research institutions or organizations active in the sanctuary region. See additional qualifications at nms-sanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/docs/202608-chnms-ac-seat-descriptions.pdf.

CHNMS Advisory Council has 15 primary and alternate members representing a variety of public interest groups and provides advice and recommendations on the management of the sanctuary.

Applications for the Research Primary seat are due by Sept. 20, 2026. For more information, including a seat description and a copy of the application, please visit Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council webpage at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/advisory/apply.html>

Applicants do not necessarily need prior first-hand experience within the sanctuary but should be very familiar with their constituents’ regional interests and how they relate to, or benefit, the management of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Anyone with the desire and ability to effectively represent their respective community’s interest in the management of the sanctuary is encouraged to apply, regardless of the applicant’s geographic location within the region.

To learn more about Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary visit: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/chumash-heritage/> or contact: Sachiko Lamen, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, Program Analyst, at sachiko.lamen@noaa.gov or by phone at 805-203-6004.

Child Molester Gets 200+ Years

A convicted child molester has been sentenced to over 2 centuries in prison, the District Attorney’s Office announced Aug. 12.

D.A. Dan Dow’s office said Teodulo Vasquezjimenez, 41 of Paso Robles, was sentenced to 283-years to life in State Prison “for repeatedly sexually abusing two children.”

On July 15, a jury found Vasquezjimenez guilty on 15 counts involving the sexual abuse of two juvenile girls over nearly two decades.

“During trial,” said a news release from the D.A., “jurors heard evidence that Vasquezjimenez abused the victims over many years, from 2009 through 2023, when they were between 6 and 14-years old. The crimes occurred in Paso Robles.”

Judge Rita Federman handed down the maximum sentence

under the law and also issued a “criminal protective order,” that prohibits him from ever contacting the victims again.

He also ordered him to be branded as a convicted sex offender on the Megan’s Law list for the rest of his life, and ordered \$1 million in restitution for each victim.

D.A. Dow said, “This verdict and sentence reflect the extraordinary courage of these two victims, who came forward and endured the difficult process of seeking justice.

“Their voices mattered, their rights mattered, and they remain at the center of this case. This outcome demonstrates the dedicated work of our criminal and victim justice system — law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, witness-support staff, and jurors — to hold offenders accountable while honoring victims’ rights, protecting their safety, and supporting them throughout the process.”

He added, “We are deeply grateful to the jury for its careful and thoughtful consideration of the evidence and for delivering accountability in this case.”

The Paso Robles Police Department was the lead investigator in the case assisted by the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation. Prosecutor was Dep. D.A. Kristin Barnard of the Sex Crimes Unit.

Victim advocates were Aracely Maldonado and Tristan Milledge with the help of Witness Coordinator, Kellie Navarro of the Christopher G. Money Victim Witness Assistance Center.

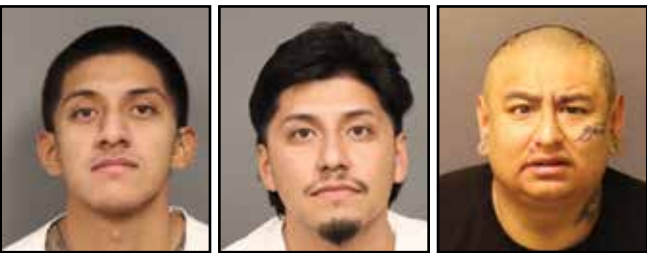
The D.A. took the case as a chance to reinforce his office’s support for all victims of sexual abuse. “The District Attorney’s Office wants every survivor of sexual abuse to know: you are not alone, and help is available. Confidential support, advocacy, and assistance are available through the District Attorney’s Victim Witness Assistance Center and community partners.”

Their doors are always open. “Survivors may seek services whether or not they are ready to report abuse to law enforcement. When a survivor chooses to report, law enforcement and victim-service professionals can help investigate the crime, pursue accountability, enhance safety, and connect the survivor with available resources.”



Convicted child molester, Teodulo Vasquezjimenez, was sentenced to 283-years to life in prison. Submitted photo

Gang Members to Stand Trial in SLO Beating



From left: Alex-Lopezramirez, Brian-Ramirezlopez and Miguel-Angel-Mendez, have been bound over for trial in the alleged brutal beating of a rival gang member in the middle of a Downtown San Luis Obispo street. Submitted photos

Three alleged gang members from Santa Maria will stand trial for the brutal beating of a rival gang member on a Downtown San Luis Obispo street, the District Attorney’s Office announced.

Following a preliminary hearing for the three, District Attorney Dan Dow’s office said Judge Michael Duffy held over for trial Alex LopezRamirez, Miguel Mendez, and Brian RamirezLopez in connection with the October 2024 attack.

“On Oct. 6, 2024,” reads the news release, “the three defendants were involved in a group assault in Downtown San Luis Obispo near Hotel Cerro.” The hotel, one of the new hotel developments in Downtown SLO, is located at 1125 Garden St.

In the hearing, the prosecutor, Dep. D.A. Cameron Simoes, presented evidence that “the defendants acting as a group repeatedly stomped, kicked, and punched the victim in the middle of the road. As the victim lay motionless and unconscious in the street, the group continued to stomp and kick him in the face.”

The victim, who was identified as “a member of a rival Santa Maria criminal street gang,” suffered severe injuries and was rushed to a hospital. The evidence included surveillance video of the very public beat down.

“The assault was captured on video, and additional recordings of the defendants made after the assault were also part of the evidence.”

Police identified the three assailants as members of another Santa Maria street gang.

Judge Duffy saw enough evidence to hold the trio over for trial on suspicion of “Assault by Means Likely to Produce Great Bodily Injury,” the release said, “along with the additional allegations that each personally inflicted great bodily injury and that the crime was committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.”

D.A. Dow said this kind of violence won’t be tolerated here. “Gang violence has no place in San Luis Obispo County. This was a brutal group attack that continued even after the victim was unconscious and defenseless in the middle of a public street.

“Our community is safer when those who bring this kind of violence here are held fully accountable, and this office will continue to pursue that accountability alongside our law enforcement partners.”

San Luis Obispo Police investigated the crime along with the D.A.’s Bureau of Investigation. Victim Witness services have been provided by Victim Advocate, Dona Reed, and Witness Coordinator, Kellie Navarro.

Even though the three have been identified as gang members who allegedly committed a brutally violent crime, all three are currently out on bail. Their next hearing is set for Sept. 17.



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Cat Noir CC

Virgil’s Gotcha Day
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

We celebrate this day in 2017 when Virgil signed the adoption papers and had the human drove seven hours to bring him home. After that long of a drive, I am lucky he still wanted to adopt me.

Virgil was part of community colony my friend, a veterinarian, fed and she found him near death in a gutter at about 4-weeks-old and nursed him back to health. She was worried that he would need to be enclosed until all the cats got used to each other and sent the playpen home with me.

It took me longer to set the darn thing up then it did for him to make his way out of it. I went to get my luggage out of the car and came back to this. I suspect that Boris, at the bottom of the photo, talked his little brother into his first defiant act. Those two have been partners in crime ever since.

I picked Virgil up today, which is about a 3-second endeavor before he leaps out of my arms as if I am a cat eating goblin. Today he stayed, albeit with his paws still in slight push away mode, for at least two minutes. I kept looking around and smiling while standing in my house expecting paparazzi to be memorializing the occasion. All I got was Boris glaring at me for giving attention to another being and Daisy snoozing away.

Happy gotcha day, Virgil. We already celebrated his birthday in June, but he managed to talk me into opening a can of tuna while his siblings cheered him on.

Follow catnoirc on Facebook and Instagram for daily posts.



Photo by Cat Noir CC



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Council Leaves PWAB Spot Empty

However, none of the current council members were serving on the Council at the time.

To The Editor

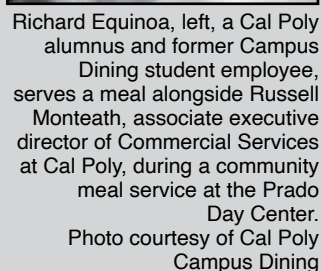


Central Coast Funds for Children

CCFC members meet monthly in one of the member's homes with the philosophy that the more money we raise, the more money to help children. We do not have an office or paid staff so there is virtually no overhead. All money raised is through member dues, donations (both private and business) and our major fundraiser. Grants are available on our website and applications are accepted September 1 through September 30 each cal-

Poly's 40 Years of Serving Meals at Prado Day Center

What started as a small volunteer effort has grown into a decades-long collaboration supported by Cal Poly Partners and



Addis Bill Tackles City Council Parental Leave

This bill would require a city to establish a process for a city council member to notify the city clerk or other designated official in writing that they are taking parental leave, as defined, for 12 workweeks or longer if the city council member's city provides a parental leave period longer than 12 workweeks for their employees. The bill would exclude parental leave from counting toward the number of allowed absences allotted to each council member. The bill would prohibit the process from requiring a council member to make the declaration at a public hearing.

News Briefs Continued on page 8

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Community

Our Stories: Pat & Nanci Teter, Giving Back to Morro Bay

By Judy Salamacha

In their day, Pat Teter’s great-grandparents visited Cayucos as often as they could make the trip from the Central Valley. Likewise, Pat’s parents brought the children over to get-away from the valley heat while working the family farm in Lemoore. When Pat married Nanci, it was always their go-to weekender throughout their busy careers. They knew it was where they wanted to retire, so they wisely invested in a small Morro Bay property to accommodate their visits. Meanwhile they built their nest egg to afford their dream home once they were ready to retire.

After their son married and moved to Colorado, they became Morro Bay residents in 2020. Nanci instantly joined Newcomers and has been treasurer ever since. She believes, “Newcomers is a great way to learn about and integrate into the community. You’ll find whatever your interest might be and get to know new friends.” She shared the Newcomers group offers small group options, including kayaking, Cultural Explorers, Bunco, Dine-Arounds and Lunch groups with area speakers. “And you don’t have to be a new to the community to participate with Newcomers,” she added.

When Nanci discovered the Morro Bay Active Adults group, she found another place to serve her community. She accepted the position of volunteer office manager, which offers a variety of activities particularly for seniors offered at the Community Center.

And although Pat had been a member of the Tulare Rotary Club, he took a break to enjoy his newfound relaxation before he reactivated his membership with Morro Bay Rotary. Last year he stepped up to lead the club’s largest fund raiser now in its sixth year, the Rubber Ducky Race held on Morro Bay October 10.

One has to wonder where these two active seniors find the energy to do all they do for their chosen retirement community! Nanci summed it up. “I need to be involved. For years we enjoyed



Nanci and Pat Teter of Morro Bay enjoy their retirement by giving back to the community.

coming over for quick weekends and felt welcomed by most who already lived here. We had to work hard to be able to live here fulltime so now I believe it is our responsibility to welcome our visitors and newer residents.”

Pat was willing to share his background, “I was a gypsy growing up.” When their Lemoore farm was flooded out one year and it could no longer sustain feeding their family, his dad was forced to find a new career. “He helped build many of California’s dams.” North Fork and Melones Dams were two he mentioned. Their family would live onsite until the job was done and then the family would go back to the farm until he was called to the next job site.

Pat admitted attending multiple schools was challenging. “My sister was older and she would teach me as she learned. After I finished kindergarten and we were at a new job site the teacher tested me. They tried to place me in the fourth grade,” he laughed. “When I was a Freshman at Don Pedro High School Dad worked on the Don Pedro Reservoir, but by the time I was a senior, we were back in Lemoore while Dad was working in New Guinea. Once I graduated, we joined him in Brisbane, Australia for what we thought would be three months. Turned out to be eighteen months on one job and then several

more months working a copper mine.”

Pat gleaned surveying techniques over these years and continued to follow the jobs until he met and married Nanci. The couple settled in Visalia and Pat spent 30 years working with Mike Lane including becoming one of Mike’s partners in Lane Engineers of Tulare.

Nanci was born and grew up in Santa Monica. “We didn’t have a lot so the beach was where our parents would take us for entertainment.” The beach continued to call out to her once Visalia became home. The couple was involved in several sports activities and spent most weekends water-skiing, snow skiing or playing team softball. Other weekends they’d head for Morro Bay.

Nanci also served on the planning committee for Youth Softball Association in Visalia. She offered Morro Bay leadership something to consider when looking for ways to increase weekend visitors, “Tournaments became a huge money-maker for our city.”

Nanci also admitted, “I love anything that goes fast.” She is proud of her first-place trophy in drag racing. And maybe the fact that Pat had four motorcycles contributed to her attraction to him. Note: he still has all four motorcycles! The Teters are members of the Coast Riders Club, a California Central Coast Motorcycle Club. Pat said his favorite and most challenging ride was the Barstow to Vegas motorcycle race. They’ve motorcycled through most of the western states, several states in the east and the Isle of Man.

This fall is a busy time for both. Although she recently gave up her front desk volunteer management job with the senior group, she continues to belong and support it. Coming up in September the Morro Bay Active Adults volunteer during the free musical programs called Tunes at Tidelands produced by the Morro Bay Recreation Department. Held every Thursday evening at Tidelands Park the seniors will be the greeters and guides for food vendors and in the Beer/Wine Garden. The community is encouraged to come out around 5 p.m. and bring their blankets or folding chairs and enjoy the early evening concerts with friends and neighbors.

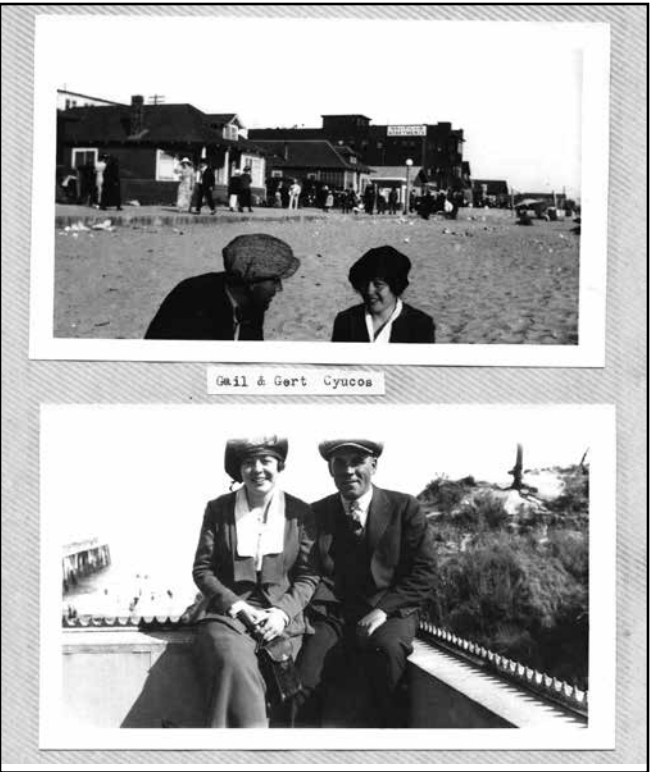


Photo show Gail and Gert, Pat’s great-grandparents, visiting Cayucos in early 1900s. Photo submitted

Nanci mentioned Brady Locke was Morro Bay’s staff coordinator for this popular event.

Meanwhile, Nanci has chosen to nurture her creative work. She is crafting and selling her handmade paper art designs and wind chimes which are currently on sale at Morro Made in Morro Bay.

Meanwhile, Pat chairs the Morro Bay Rotary Club’s annual Rubber Ducky Race on Morro Bay. Tickets are currently on sale at morrobayrotary.org for a chance to win \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 if your \$10-Ducky investment buys a yellow Ducky that cruises into one of the top three spots at Tidelands Park on October 10 soon after the 7:30am start time. Originally the idea came from Greg Hardcastle who had transferred membership from Visalia Rotary where he saw the fund raiser thrive. Pat will serve as chair for a second year and wanted to give major credit to volunteers Andrien and Michele Heryford for top sales in 2025 so the Club could provide more school scholarships and community grants.

Hats off to Pat and Nanci Teter for all you do to make Morro Bay a welcoming place for visitors and an enjoyable home for residents.

MEALS THAT CONNECT

Open House

Meals That Connect

Friday, August 28
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
South Bay Community Center
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- Appetizers and refreshments
- Lunch prepared by the Meals That Connect Team
- Tours of our dining site
- Opportunities to meet staff, volunteers, and community partners
- Information about services available to older adults
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Police Blotter



• **Aug. 16:** At 7:29 p.m. police contacted a suspicious fellow at some undisclosed location and deduced that the master criminal had a felony warrant from out of the county, another possible case of arriving on vacation and leaving on probation.

• **Aug. 16:** Police responded at 3 p.m. to a hairy car crack up somewhere in town. No word on the extent of the injuries or damage but you'd better check the CARFAX before buying it used.

• **Aug. 16:** Police were called at 9:58 p.m. to a disturbance involving a disciple of Bacchus causing a ruckus.

• **Aug. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:50 a.m. on Atascadero Road at the Cork 'n Bottle hooch store and arrested the allegedly tipsy driver for waiting too long to make a beer run.

• **Aug. 14:** Police were called to a disturbance at 4:38 p.m. at the Motel 6 on Atascadero Road. Logs indicated someone was nicked for suspicion of battering someone, a felony and a misdemeanor warrant, and possession of illegal drug paraphernalia, but their stash apparently remained well-hidden or already smoked.

• **Aug. 14:** Someone came to the police station on Morro Bay Boulevard at 11:45 a.m. to turn in something he or she had found someplace in town that was apparently not valuable enough to keep nor worthless enough to just toss into the garbage.

• **Aug. 14:** Police responded at 10:29 p.m. to an undisclosed location for a reported grand theft involving money, labor or property, which covers most everything worth stealing.

• **Aug. 13:** Police were called at 4:54 p.m. to a disturbed fellow causing a disturbance at City Park on Harbor Street. Logs indicated the bent gent was allegedly tanked and checked into the Parkinson Plaza on Kansas Avenue.

• **Aug. 12:** At 1:32 p.m. police responded to another car crash at an undisclosed location. Again, no word on the extent of the carnage.

• **Aug. 12:** Police responded across the street from the station-house on Morro Bay Boulevard to a report of some annoying flesh

monkey being all phonus balonus and trying to pick a fight at the Human Bean drive-thru coffee shop, a case of you might want to cut back on the caffeine buddy.

• **Aug. 12:** Some citizen reported having his or her identity stolen at 7:45 a.m. and we now have no idea who they are.

• **Aug. 11:** Police were called at 10:55 p.m. to an undisclosed location to put out the unwelcome mat for some interloper who was trespassing on private property and refusing to leave. Turned out the bonehead had a bench warrant, a possible example of being bone to the marrow stupid.

• **Aug. 11:** Police were called at 7:30 p.m. to an apparently violent domestic disturbance. Logs indicated someone got cuffed on suspicion of misdemeanor battery and brandishing a weapon, and felony making terrorist threats, which ought to teach him to enhance his calm.

• **Aug. 11:** Police responded to the Dutchman's Landing restaurant at Embarcadero and Pacific after someone apparently left some undisclosed item. Police took whatever it was for safekeeping.

• **Aug. 11:** Police responded at 3:10 p.m. to a reported felony grand theft and misdemeanor vandalism, a case of adding insult to injury.

• **Aug. 11:** Police contacted a suspicious subject at 1:02 p.m. who of course had a bench warrant. He or she was issued another court date to ignore and released to catch another day under the ol' job security program.

• **Aug. 11:** At 12:21 p.m. officers espied another return customer with a bench warrant and he or she too was cited and unleashed back into this cruel, cruel world.

• **Aug. 10:** At 9:36 p.m. police were called to an unreleased location of a reported vandalism. Logs indicated it was felony vandalism and police are hunting the misbegotten knave.

• **Aug. 9:** Police responded at 11:34 a.m. to an undisclosed location for a report of suspicion of sodomy by force, violence or fear, aka rape, and let's hope they get the monster responsible too.

• **Aug. 8:** Police responded to a disturbance at 5:38 p.m. at another undisclosed location. Logs indicated the matter involved some POS inflicting corporal injury on a child, which if there truly were justice in this world would be a hanging offense.

• **Aug. 7:** At 5:38 p.m. police responded to a reported petty theft committed by some apparent petty thief.

• **Aug. 7:** At 9:35 a.m. police contacted some maladjusted fellow with a bench warrant. The miscreant was issued another court date to miss, plus a charge of being twisted in public, which compounds the misery.

• **Aug. 6:** Police responded at 5 p.m. to an undisclosed location where the caller reported his or her car had been taken without their permission likely by someone they know, which is a misdemeanor, as opposed to a stranger committing grand theft auto — a felony.

• **Aug. 6:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 4:14 p.m. and cited the driver for suspicion of taking an apparent four-martini lunch.

• **Aug. 5:** Someone found something someplace in town sometime around 11:18 a.m. and handed it over to some police officer to do something with.

• **Aug. 5:** At 9:40 a.m. police contacted another model citizen with a bench warrant who was issued another disappearance ticket and unleashed back into the wild.

• **Aug. 5:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:57 a.m. at an undisclosed location. Logs indicated the driver had failed to submit to the annual DMV bloodletting and let their registration lapse.

• **Aug. 4:** Police responded at 12:23 p.m. to a report of another citizen who exited paradise for Heaven.

• **Aug. 3:** Police checkmated another regular customer at 3:04 p.m. with a felony warrant at the Giant Chessboard Park on the Embarcadero.

• **Aug. 3:** And they caught up to yet another citizen of the year at 9:41 a.m. who had also failed to appear for his rendezvous with destiny or at least a judge.

• **Aug. 3:** While be-bopping along on a morning constitutional, a retired trolley jockey happened upon a strange sight lying on the ground in the bushes outside the library on Shasta Avenue across the street from City Hall — an unspent shoot gun shell. Police were called to retrieve the curious item, which is pretty much useless without an actual gun.

News Briefs From page 6

“When I served on the Morro Bay City Council, I was a working mom of two school-age children,” Addis said in a news release. “I know how important it is for families to be able to have their voices heard and make decisions for their communities, in local government and beyond.”

Fiscalini Ranch Seeking Volunteers

If you love the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, help protect and share it by becoming a volunteer.

Two key rolls need filling:

- Lead Naturalist Walks: Share your love of nature with adults and children. If you're a budding naturalist, current docents provide training for both the Docent Walk series and Education program.
- Event Crew: Help host beloved annual events, including Songs for the Season and the Wildflower Show – from organizing to wildflower gathering to baking – they need your help.

Fiscalini is always in need of ranch hands and weeders to maintain and preserve this amazing land. Anyone interested is asked to contact barbara@fiscaliniranch.org.

New Liberal Studies Pathway Via Cuesta and Poly

Cal Poly and Cuesta College celebrated the launch of the Cal Poly Liberal Studies Bachelor's Pathway Program and welcomed its inaugural student cohort with a kickoff reception.

The new pathway allows students to work toward a Cal Poly bachelor's degree in liberal studies by completing Cal Poly coursework at Cuesta College in a cohort-based setting. Courses are scheduled to support students balancing their education with work, family and other responsibilities.

Students enrolled in the pathway are Cal Poly students and have access to their academic advising, library resources, career support and other university services, as well as select resources available through Cuesta College.

The program is designed to expand access to a Cal Poly degree and prepare students for careers in education. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/4zvi61F>.

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

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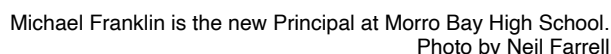
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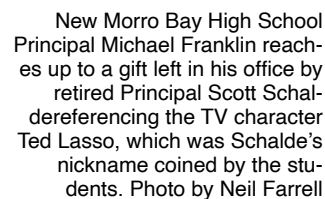
Morro Bay High Welcomes New Principal



Born in Los Angeles and raised in Baltimore, Franklin later went to the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he started out working towards a degree in pediatric medicine.

The family is living in San Luis Obispo at this time. He said

He's big on having the students do service in the community and plans to continue with those efforts. "I believe the school is at the center of the community," he explained, "and I want the community to continue to take pride in the school."



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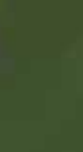
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Obituaries

Teresa Woodman
1951 – 2026

With profound sadness and endless love, we announce the passing of Teresa Woodman, who entered into eternal rest on August 3, 2026, surrounded by the family she loved more than anything in this world. She was 74 years old.

To know Teresa was to know what it meant to be loved. She was the heart of her family — the loving wife, devoted mother, proud grandmother, cherished sister and aunt, and loyal friend who always seemed to have room in her heart for one more person.

Teresa had a way of making people feel welcome, cared for, and important. She was kind, compassionate, strong, and generous with her love. She was the person you could count on, the person who would show up, and the person who always seemed to know when someone needed a little extra encouragement. Her love wasn't just something she talked about, it was something she showed every single day.

Her family was her greatest joy. She loved nothing more than having everyone together. Some of the most treasured memories will be the simple ones: sitting around the dinner table, gathering for holidays, sharing meals, laughing together, and watching her children and grandchildren grow. She rarely missed a sporting event, and she was always prepared with her famous bag of snacks. She loved cheering from the sidelines and being there for every milestone, big or small.

Teresa wasn't just a mother and grandmother, she was the glue that held the family together. She created a home where everyone knew they belonged. Her love, advice, strength, and sometimes even her gentle reminders will be missed more than words can express.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Tim Woodman, with whom she shared a lifetime of love, marriage, family, and memories. She is also survived by her children, Cory Woodman, Brian Woodman, Amy Woodman, and Danny Woodman; daughters-in-law, Sandi Woodman and Dea Woodman; and grandchildren, Maci Woodman, Kati Woodman, Cody Waldon, Cash Waldon, Austin Woodman, and Easton Woodman. Her brother, Ronnie James, and sister, Tina Hayes. She also leaves behind extended family and countless friends who were fortunate enough to experience her kindness, friendship, laughter, and love.

Teresa was preceded in death by her mother, Elizabeth "Betty" James; father, Earl James; brother, Mickey James; mother-in-law, Opel Woodman; father-in-law, Edward Woodman; and sister-in-law, Donna Woodman.



The loss of Teresa has left a hole in our family that can never truly be filled. We will miss her voice, her laugh, her hugs, her advice, and simply having her there. We will miss the little things we may not have realized were so important until they were gone.

But as difficult as it is to say goodbye, we find comfort in knowing that she is no longer suffering and is finally at peace. We will carry her with us in the stories we tell, the traditions we continue, the lessons she taught us, and the love we share with one another.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Teresa's memory in the way she lived her life: love your family, be kind to others, show up for the people you care about, and never miss an opportunity to make someone feel loved. If you would like to bring something to share at the celebration of life, the family would appreciate your favorite appetizer or dessert.

Teresa may no longer be sitting at the table with us, cheering from the sidelines, or welcoming us through her door, but she will always have a place in our family.

Her love will live on in her children, her grandchildren, and every person whose life she touched.

She was deeply loved.
She will be deeply missed.
She will be lovingly remembered.
And she will never, ever be forgotten.

Barbara Alward
1951 - 2026

Barbara Alward, local Morro Bay artist, poet, grandmother, and DoorDasher, passed away in her residence on August 4, 2026 at the age of 75, after a year of battling metastatic breast cancer. She is survived by her two children and four grandchildren. A memorial is planned for the afternoon of Saturday, November 21, 2026, venue to be determined. Those who knew Barbara may contact her son Nick at nalward@gmail.com to be included for further details on the memorial.



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Community

Baywood Lighted Bot Parade Sept. 6



Baywood Park Lighted Boat Parade 2025. Photo by Dean Sullivan

The Baywood Lighted Boat Parade is back! Join the fun on Sunday, September 6 for the 5th annual community float, an evening of creativity, connection, and fun out on the bay. The Baywood Lighted Boat Parade is free and open to boaters/floaters and any folks who'd like to come out to enjoy this magical night of twinkling lights, live music by the Cimo Brothers, and quintessential Los Osos/Baywood Park homegrown community fun. They will also award prizes and honori local luminaries for their contributions to our community.

The event starts at 5 p.m. at the blue pier in Baywood Park and runs until the sun goes down.

•Create, assemble, or decorate something you'd like to float, paddle, or sail out on the bay. Creativity and lights encouraged!

•Or, plan to bring some comfy chairs and friends to hang out on the shore and enjoy the fun.

- Embrace the spirit of kindness and community
- Look out for yourself and each other - on the beach and on the water
- Exercise safety (participate at your own risk)



• At the end of the event, help pack up anything you've brought and help tidy up the beach together Timeline:

- 5 p.m. - Assemble on the shore and get your boats, floats, or chairs ready
- 6 p.m. - Music by the Cimo Brothers
- 6:30 p.m. - Presentations for Local Luminary Awards
- 7 p.m. - Community Float! And Music by the Cimo Brothers
- 8:30 p.m. - Boat Awards

For more information, watch for posts on social media or visit: <https://www.bigbigslo.com/baywood-lighted-boat-parade-26>

OUT & ABOUT

WITH THE BOOKSHELF WRITERS

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

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

To Believe or Not Believe

Story and Illustration By Susan Vasquez

The Pistache tree above me, deep in green leaves, shimmers with movement. But there is no breeze. I hear a familiar birdsong which recently I learned to identify. It's as if nature, with a gentle touch, is ringing tiny glass bells. I see nothing but branches, leaves and slits of blue from the indistinct backdrop of sky. But I know bushtits are here this morning.

I have learned much about these birds. I now know their songs and their movement. But I've never seen one. Bushtits hide themselves, urging me to believe in something unseen. It's not a concept that comes easily. I prefer evidence – actual physical things that I can see and possibly touch. Maybe the hiding bushtits wouldn't allow me to get close. But if I could see them, high in the Pistache tree, I could snap a photo and touch the round chubbiness in the image, evidence that they exist. That kind of proof of life brings comfort. If the creature you see has weight and volume and color, there is no need for belief. If I had even a memory of having seen a real Bushtit, I could recall the cast shadow or the fact that it moved the branch it was sitting on or the leaf near its wing.

The app Merlin hears them often. I want to trust the sound and the movement to let me know they are there. But what I need is the visual.

I have seen other birds. Why shouldn't I use my knowledge of the Scrub Jay I see daily and let it assure me other birds can also be close by? I hear the song of the Scrub Jay, I see their movement, I see them. I hear what may be bush-tits. I see what I think is their movement in the tree. But I don't see them.

People say seeing is believing. I say seeing is evidence. These happenings in my backyard, without the confirmation of bird-sighting, might be a wonder of nature or a whimsical idea put into my head to give me hope beyond hope.

If I wait until winter, that season may offer some proof. With branches bare of leaves, there will be no camouflage for the bushtits if they continue to march through the neighborhood. They would be out in the open, the truth of



A drawing of a Bushtit

their existence unhidden. I suppose the bushtits would prefer the safety of the foliage, but I yearn for late autumn, when I won't have to place my hope in unseen things.

I open Peterson's guidebook and turn to the Bushtit section. I pick one photo and begin to draw its outline in my journal. It's not evidence of bushtits in the Pistache tree. I look up, but they have already gone, on to the neighbor's house, if they were really here at all. On my patio in winter, I may hear the tink-tink of bird-song and see a whisper of movement. Winter will come, eventually. And then, maybe I will see proof of Bushtit.

A sound from above pulls my attention away from the uncompleted sketch. It is a rousing chitter of tiny clinking bells, soft but insistent. A palm-sized ball of fluff lands on the outside branch of the Pistache tree. A second flies onto the branchlet next to it. The two balls of feathers, grey and tan and soft brown, bump into each other, tinkling their musical calls, flying into the foliage, lost again into their sanctuary. The tree shimmers as they pass through, onto their next adventure.

There wasn't time for a photo. Hardly time for a thought. Nothing like this had ever happened during my morning sit on the patio. But now, I have a memory of bushtits showing themselves, calling out to each other and to me. Now, I have evidence of good things so that I don't have to believe.

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

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Community

Food, Fun and Friends at Chamber Open House

Photos by Dean Sullivan

The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Los Osos Rotary Club, recently held its first ice cream social and open house at the Chamber's office, 2141 Bush Drive in Los Osos, behind Steve Auslander's office.

Several local businesses helped make the event a success. Brightside Pizza donated delicious pizzas a gift certificate that was offered as a door prize. SLO Roasted Coffee and Los Osos Rexall also contributed donations to the event. Musician Jim Scoolis provided live music throughout the evening, adding to the relaxed and festive atmosphere while guests enjoyed pizza, hot dogs and, of course, plenty of ice cream while visiting with friends and meeting other members of the community.

Among the more than 50 attendees were San Luis Obispo County Board Supervisor-Elect Jim Dantona, Senator John Laird representative Clint Weirick, CEO of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Tina Clark, and Director of Membership and Marketing for the Cambria Chamber of Commerce Katherine Gillen.

The Chamber's new office will serve as a place for members and the community to connect, learn more about Chamber activities and support local businesses. Keep up with the Chamber at lopchamber.org.

Publisher's Note:
A big thank you to my two sons, Ryan and Connor, for their help with this event, along with Gavin Marshall for sharing his time and, of course, Bubba who did nothing but eat.



September 4th- 6th



THE TAMING a staged reading

What if women rewrote the Constitution?

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Lauren Gunderson

directed by:
Jean Miller



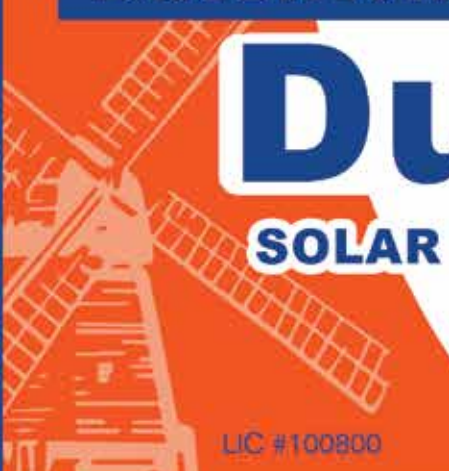
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By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The August Cambria Historical Society Speaker Series will explore a colorful chapter of local history: the Cambria Rodeo. Local historian Melody Coe will lead a discussion about the Cambria Rodeo, its place in Cambria's past and the people and stories surrounding this memorable part of the community's history. It takes place Friday, Aug. 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cambria Center for the Arts Theatre, 1350 Main St. Cambria. Gourmet refreshments will be provided, and wine will be available for purchase. Admission is free for Cambria Historical Society and Cambria Center for the Arts members and \$20 for nonmembers. For tickets, go to cambriahistoricalsociety.com

Kick off the new school year with a family friendly ride/roll around the safe streets of Baywood on Saturday Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. The first Kidical Mass ride in Los Osos this past June was such a success, organizers have moved the start spot from the pier to the empty lot (by the tree swings) at the corner of 2nd and Santa Maria in order to gather more safely and hear Bike SLO County's pre-ride safety tips.

All ages and abilities welcome! Feel free to bike, scoot, jog and bring your 4-legged friends. Stay for ice cream or bites at one of Baywood's many local establishments.



Central Coast Dance Community Presents: "Saturday Swing Dance" August 29 at the Morro Bay Veterans' Hall, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy dance lessons and live band. Tickets are \$10.

The evening begins with an East Coast Swing dance lesson from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm led by one of our favorite dance instructors, Linda Drake.

Following the lesson, the Full Swing quartet will play from 6:30 to 8:00. They are experienced professional musicians on a mission to provide a wide range of live music within our community for your listening and dancing pleasure. Terrel Eaton is on vocals, sax, and flute. Tom Bethke on guitar, Gary Drysdale on bass, and Mike Raynor will play drums.

The Central Coast Dance Community is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing live music and dance opportunities in Morro Bay. They meet every third Wednesday, usually at the Morro Bay Community Center for a potluck at 12 p.m., a lesson at 12:30, and dancing from 1:30-3 p.m. The 5:30 pm - 8 pm Saturday evening dances will usually meet on the last Saturday of the month at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall. The Morro Bay Parks and Recreation will move us if a special event is planned for our venue.

For more information and to view the full schedule, go to morrobaydances.com/upcoming-events.

If you like jigsaw puzzles, the Morro Bay Odd Fellows has solutions for you. The Bay-Rocker Lodge, I.O.O.F. is holding a "Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange" fundraiser set for 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Odd Fellows Hall, 710 Harbor St., Morro Bay. Cost is a \$10 entry fee, and they will have over 100 puzzles of varying sizes and by various manufacturers to peruse. Bring your old puzzles and take home new puzzles to assemble and help the non-profit organization raise money for its many community programs.

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

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



The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) celebrates its 50th anniversary at the 7th Annual Butterfly Ball, a special evening of community, conservation, and celebration, on September 12, from 4–8 p.m. at The Octagon Barn in San Luis Obispo.

This year honors five decades of CCSPA's work supporting the 10 state park units, 60 miles of coastline, and six campgrounds across San Luis Obispo County. Guests are invited to dress in their finest monarch-inspired attire for an evening that blends education, entertainment, and philanthropy, from a welcome hour with live music and appetizers, to a seated dinner, presentations, a silent auction, and dancing.

Highlights of the evening include the presentation of three awards honoring individuals whose work has left a lasting impact on California's state parks, along with heartfelt stories from State Park Interpreters and a first look at CCSPA's newest promotional film.

The John Laird Lifetime Achievement Award will honor former Congressman Sam Farr, whose nearly five-decade career in public service includes authoring the legislation that established Pinnacles National Park, leading efforts to designate the California Coastal National Monument, and playing a key role in creating the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Alongside his father, State Senator Fred Farr, he helped establish eight state parks and two federal monument designations over their combined careers.

The Metamorphosis Award, honoring significant contributions to western monarch butterfly conservation, and the Young Leaders in Conservation Award, honoring individuals under 30 for their contributions to environmental education and conservation in San Luis Obispo County, will be given at the Ball.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Ball directly support CCSPA's mission-driven programs, including western monarch butterfly conservation, environmental education for local students, volun-

teer programs, and museum exhibits and park signage throughout the region's state parks.

Tickets are available now and space is limited. Tickets are at centralcoastparks.org.

Get your taste buds ready! The Rotary Club of Cambria Chili Cook-Off is serving up an afternoon packed with delicious chili, cold

beverages, DJ, and community spirit on September 12 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Pinedorado Grounds. Local restaurants, clubs, and organizations will be battling it out for chili supremacy as attendees sample entries and cheer on their favorites.

For more info, go to event.auctria.com/770d7771-cc12-4313-a9b6-bc5fea2e3d06/.

Join Estero Bay Art and Craft, Morro Bay Yarnology and The Quilted Otter for a special showing of "Practical Magic 2" at the Bay Theatre.

This Craftersnoon Movie Event takes place Saturday, September 19 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and will be available for purchase only at the Bay Theatre starting at 12:30 p.m. the day of the event. "Practical Magic 2" is rated PG-13 and runs for 1 hour and 50 minutes. This sequel to the 1998 classic, stars Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman as the Owens sisters who battle a dark, centuries-old historical curse.



A “crafternoon” showing means the theater will keep the lights up just enough so you can see what you’re making while the movie plays. It’s not a class, but a fun place to work on your project and enjoy a movie at the same time. Bring your embroidery, drawing, knitting, crochet, stitching, travel paints, or any small (and non-messy) portable craft, and settle in for an afternoon of making and watching.

“Below Sycamore” is a powerful, supernatural story of addiction, friendship, faith, and redemption, and the fight to bring one lost soul home. Two lifelong friends and a community forced to answer one question: How far would you go to save someone you love?

Blending raw drama, humor, music, spirituality, and the supernatural, "Below Sycamore" puts a human face on addiction — the son, brother, friend, and child of God still worth fighting for. The production premiered in San Francisco in 2019, selling out all 16 performances, and returned to the stage for two special performances at LA Comic Con in 2024. Now, seven years after its original run, it comes to Cal Poly's Spanos Theatre in San Luis Obispo on September 19, for a special anniversary performance. This is a 16+ due to mature themes but there's no profanity. Tickets range from \$20 to \$55 and are at pacslo.org.

Enjoy a free chamber music recital at St Benedict Episcopal Church, 2220 Snowy Egret Lane in Los Osos, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 6. Featured performers are pianist Ann Lucas, joined by Hilary Clark on cello and Byron Mele on clarinet. They will perform Brahms' late work Clarinet Trio Op. 114, as well as works by Chopin, Schumann, and Poulenc. All three mu-

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Community

sicians are active professionally with local orchestras and chamber groups, and this is their first collaboration as a trio. The concert is open to the public and free of charge.



It's been nearly a decade since Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' joined forces for their Grammy award-winning debut as TajMo. What began as a one-time collaboration became a celebrated album, earned widespread acclaim, and launched a successful international tour. Now, the legendary duo reunites with Room On The Porch, their 2025 Grammy-nominated follow-up that recaptures the chemistry and creative spark that made their first collaboration so memorable. Recorded in Nashville, Room On The Porch showcases two of America's most influential roots musicians at the height of their powers. Blending blues, folk, jazz, country, and soul, the album is filled with songs that celebrate community, family, love, and optimism.

See them at the Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo from 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept 8. Get tickets at pacclo.org. They are running out fast.

Did you know that many of the herbs growing in your garden and the spices in your kitchen cabinet — as long as they're fresh! — can be powerful, natural medicine for you and your family? Eating as close to nature as possible, with fresh, local, organically grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs, gives our bodies the best possible landscape for a long, healthy life. Join us to learn how herbs and foods can support daily health — aiding digestion, enhancing nutrient absorption, and promoting healing, so we can keep our bodies and minds in step with the seasons.



The Los Osos Valley Garden Club September Community Program is "Creating Your Own Kitchen Pharmacy with herbs, spices and garden foods" presented by Ann Newland.

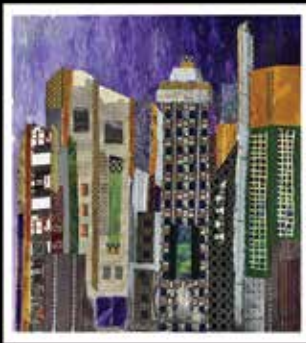
Join them on Sunday, September 20, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Los Osos (rear building), 1900 Los Osos Valley Rd. All LOVGC Community Programs are free and open to the public. No signup/registration required to attend. If you have questions, go to our website calendar <https://www.lovgardclub.org/> or email us at info@lovgardclub.org.

Greenspace Speaker Series - Brian Keeley "Voices from our Garden" is Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Community of Cambria, 786 Arlington St. Join us for a presentation highlighting an understanding of plant needs, their relationships, and how our gardens integrate with each other. We delve into creating root-friendly soil and dig deeper into the influence each garden can have ecologically and on the quality of our lives. Brian Keeley is a Greenspace Board Member and Conservation Steward for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. Brian brings a wealth of expertise in ecological restoration and wildlife ecology, along with a diverse background spanning botany, entomology, ornithology, herpetology, mammalogy, and aquaculture.

A \$10 donation per person is suggested. To reserve your spot, email admin@greenspacecambria.org or call the office (805) 927-2866 or visit greenspacecambria.org for more info.



The Cambria Center for the Arts (CCA) presents "Mix it Up," a vibrant mixed media exhibition. This showcase celebrates creativity without boundaries, featuring the innovative work of featured artist Carolyn Chambers. Additionally, works by our local artists exploring diverse materials and techniques and combining media in unexpected ways will be on display. The exhibit runs September 1 to November 1 with and Artist's Reception on September 5, 4:30 to 6 pm. Regular hours are 12 to 4 pm, Tuesday to Sunday.



Stone Soup Music Festival and Street Fair is on Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the newly renovated Ramona Garden Park with amphitheater for concerts and playground for the kids! Don't miss this year's Saturday Night Madonna Dance Party featuring the band Blonde Ambition. Beyond the music, the weekend will feature family fun for all ages. Kids can enjoy the Exploration Discovery Center on Saturday and the brand-new Ramona Garden Park Playground all weekend. Sunday features the Outreach Project volunteer event, assembling meals for those in need, and the Annual Mardi Paws Dog Parade with prizes for top dogs.

The free SLO Overdose Awareness Day takes place Sat. Aug. 29 from 12 to 3 p.m. at Mitchell Park in SLO. This event is for learning and remembrance for anyone affected by overdose or substance use or for those who wish to just learn more. There will be a resource fair with over 20 local agencies participating. Free naloxone (aka Narcan), the overdose reversal drug, will be available to all visitors. Keynote presentation on "Grief and Loss: How to Talk About What No One Wants to Talk About." The

event will close with a candle-lighting ceremony presented by Hospice of SLO County to remember, and honor loved ones lost to or affected by overdose.



Join the inaugural concert of a brand-new ensemble within Cuesta College Community Programs. Led by Dave Becker, the Central Coast Saxophone Coalition (CCSC) is a premiere saxophone ensemble bringing together some of the region's most skilled and passionate musicians. Seven featured soloists with a twenty-two-piece orchestra and rhythm section? That's right! You've never seen anything like it. In honor of Charlie Parker's 106th birthday. It takes place at the Harold J. Miossi CPAC at Cuesta College at 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. on Sat, on Aug. 29. Tickets are \$10-\$40 and can be purchased at Cuesta.university.com.

The Central Coast Challenge, part of the PBR Challenger Series, is bringing top bull riders, high-energy competition and a festive rodeo atmosphere to Paso Robles on August 29, at 7 p.m. at the Paso Robles Event Center. General admission starts around \$55; secondary market/resale tickets vary with tickets range in price and are sold by several sites.

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

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NATURAL HISTORY NUGGETS Compost!

By Dean Thompson

My dog loves it when I take my food scraps out to the compost bin in the backyard.

As soon as he sees me grab it from under the sink, he races ahead of me and waits by the door. When I head outside, he bounds over to the fence to first see if the neighbors’ dogs need to

be reprimanded and barked at, then heads directly to the compost bin. As I approach, he stares intently at me, eagerly waiting for me to remove the lid. He doesn’t get to eat any of the old produce remains I’ll be dumping in there, but instead, he is waiting for me to stir the pile around to see if any mice come scurrying out. If they do, he’s on them in a flash, trying to nab them before they escape into the boards and rubble piled around the bin.

If he does indeed catch the mouse, he’ll walk around with it for a while in his mouth, the little tail sticking out between his whiskered lips. No doubt he’s harkening back to his ancestral urges and enjoying the mouth feel of the little warm furry body in his jaws. Eventually, after licking his mouse-pop for a while, he’ll slowly consume it, eyes slightly closed, savoring the delicate crunchy insides. I know there are some of you cringing right now, but from my perspective as a naturalist, waste not want not. Besides, it seems like a nice treat for him. Not so much for the mouse though.

But hey, the mice get their treats too, as it’s quite the banquet in my compost pile. Banana peels, peach pits, avocado rinds, carrot tops, squash ends, apple cores, coffee grounds, tea leaves, and much more are added to the pile, along with dead leaves from my trees. It’s not hot compost, and it takes a while for the red worms (little protein snacks for the mice) and other microbes to break everything down. It’s quite the little ecosystem in there. I find springtails, millipedes, tiny centipedes, and even larger animals like legless lizards and moles that sometimes feast in there. I’ve put wire mesh around the bin, but to no avail; the little rodents always find their way in. At least the opossums, raccoons, and rats are excluded, though. Eventually, over time, it all breaks down, and twice a year, I can collect a couple of wheelbarrow loads of great soil for our garden.

In our county, we also have green waste bins for disposing of food waste. Most of my bones and eggshells end up there, along with any greasy napkins, chicken bones, citrus rinds, and curdled or moldy dairy products, as these items don’t work well in backyard setups. All that material, along with any yard waste, is taken to a facility operated by Kanadevia Inova, which features a remarkable Anaerobic Digester.

Once at the A.D., the organics are ground up and fed into a monstrous, slanted tube,



Kanadevia Inova Anaerobic Digester. Photo submitted

where they are mixed with FOG (fats, oils, and grease collected from local restaurants). It’s kept at a constant temperature of 131° and slowly mixed to a slurry with the consistency of runny oatmeal. It’s a perfect habitat for bacteria to break down organic matter and produce methane gas (I guess you could call it bacterial farts). They use that gas to generate electricity. Their “waste” product is compost. The whole digester process, start-to-finish, takes about 2 weeks. The compost is then dried, cured, and screened, for a few more weeks, then finally sold to local vineyards, farms, and orchards! Plus, twice a year, they give tons of compost away to the community. Anyone who shows up with a bucket, truck, or trailer can haul away as much as they like, for free*.

So, instead of taking all that organic waste and dumping it in the landfill, where it takes up space, doesn’t decompose, creates greenhouse gases, and doesn’t even help other living things, we’re instead getting energy and compost. That just seems sensible. It’s an efficient use of our natural resources and a great addition to our community. It’s another excellent example of technology helping us to move into a smarter, greener future.

*This Saturday, September 5 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Fall Compost give-away will happen at the SLO anaerobic digester! Located at 4300 Old Santa Fe Road in SLO. It’s a free event for the public to pick up some organic certified compost. Just bring a pickup truck or a trailer, or a car with buckets. Please make sure to bring a tarp to cover the load when you leave the compound.

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

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3585 Studio Dr. Cayucos



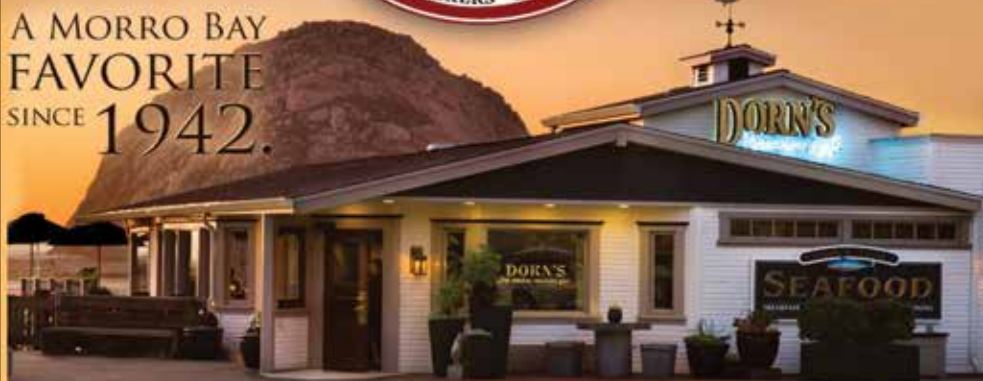
Experience coastal living at its finest on coveted Studio Drive, just across from beach access. This beautifully updated 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom home features a light filled floor plan, well appointed kitchen, spacious living areas, and expansive ocean view deck with sweeping Pacific vistas. The primary suite offers a private retreat, while the lower level includes a separate 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment with kitchen and living area. An additional garage entertainment space provides flexibility for a media room, office, or game room. A chair lift adds convenience and accessibility. \$1,999,000

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*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



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MORRO BAY

Raising Up Art in Morro Bay

(Special thanks to Patricia Newton)

Morro Bay has been a home base for artists for over 100 years. Beginning in the early 1920s, Charles H ‘Robbie’ Robinson and Aaron Kilpatrick began to champion this area as a compelling setting for artists comparable to locations like Carmel and Laguna Beach as a source of landscapes.

The band of artists in the 20s and 30s was highly accomplished but they remained a loosely structured group. They at one point referred to themselves as ‘Associated Artists of Morro Bay’ but did not form an enduring organization. One of the group, photographer Olive Cotter, started The Picture Shop in 1929 in downtown Morro Bay which eventually became the first art gallery in SLO County and a gathering place for local and visiting artists.

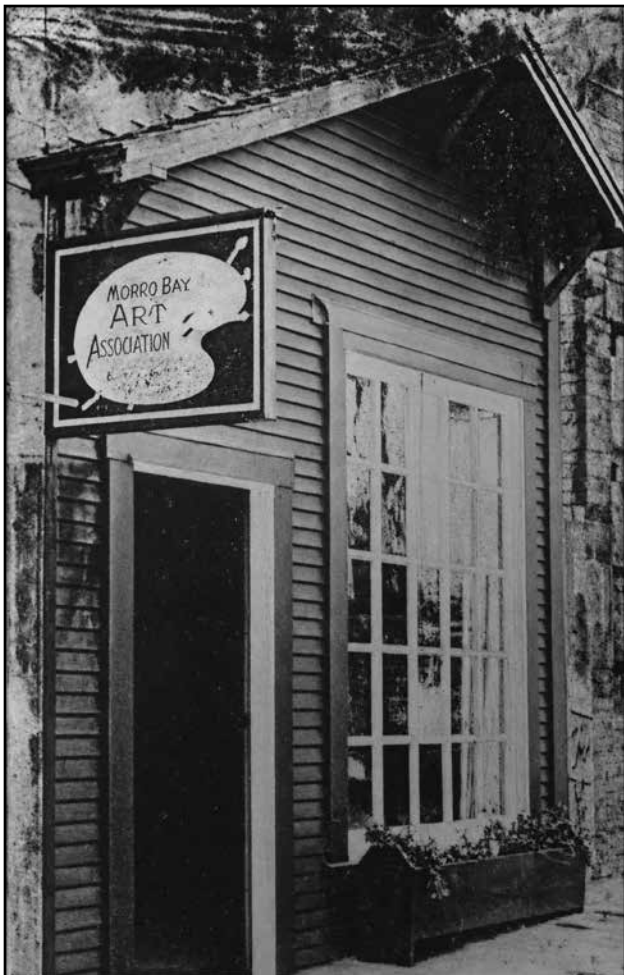
It wasn’t until after the rupture of World War II that local artists found a more permanent way to organize. On September 17, 1951, some interested people met at Ruth Pasko’s home to discuss forming an artists’ guild. They included residents who had been in Morro Bay before the war, like Pasko, Charlotte and William Skinner, and Nixola Key, but also many others who had moved here postwar. EC Benson was one of the newer residents who became the first president of the Morro Bay Art Association. The Telegram-Tribune reported on November 23 that the Association would be accepting new charter members until January 1.

With the added energy of prewar artists like Aaron Kilpatrick (the “dean” of local artists) the Association established a tradition of frequent exhibits and events, often with a fundraising edge to find a permanent location. Events in the 50s included solo exhibits like Charlotte Skinner’s (1952), exhibits with 40 to 50 artists (sometimes in unexpected places like a wooden fence on Main Street or on the hillside at Eagle Rock); a summer art sale called the ‘Browserie’ (1956); an annual dinner featuring Botso Korisheli on piano (1957); and an international art event (1958).

The search for a permanent facility was a constant theme. Fred McCoy invited the members to meet at his house in north Morro Bay for several years. After cycling through temporary sites, the Association leased its first facility in 1954 at 859 Main. Along with this new stability, the Association first incorporated in 1956.

Finally, the Association got the opportunity to purchase the property at 843 Main Street using a loan from member Eleanor Randall. Members contributed renovation work and held an Open House in April 1958 (Telegram-Tribune, 18 April 1958).

A freakish fire a little after Christmas 1962 destroyed the building (the address ‘843’ no longer exists). The Association was without a home for almost 10 years during which members



worked to raise a building fund.

The Art Center’s current location at 835 Main became available in 1971. The Association had raised \$10,000 (almost \$82,000 in today’s dollars!) and needed \$7,800 (\$56,500 today) more to close the deal and renovate the space. The Association raised it and therefore the Art Center is still very active in the cultural life of SLO County.

The Association’s first art festival in 1955 was in multiple locations but moved to City Park over Memorial Day weekend in 1965. 71 years later, the latest festival called Art in the Park will be held in the same park over Labor Day, September 4 through 7.

Takin’ Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Christine Fairchild Closing Keynote at Writers’ Conference

Acclaimed writer, editor, and book doctor, Christine Fairchild, will deliver the closing keynote at the 42nd Annual Cuesta College Central Coast Writers’ Conference (CCWC).

Fairchild brings more than three decades of experience as a writer, editor, and book doctor. She’s conducted celebrity interviews, edited for technical giants, and served as a communications and marketing specialist for consumer product clients. She now specializes as a book doctor in suspense fiction and helps authors take their work, and their career, to the next level through her

online workshops, conference classes, and craft books. Fairchild also writes romantic suspense, mystery, women’s fiction, and historical fiction, giving her a unique understanding of the challenges authors face in the publishing industry.

“We are thrilled to welcome Christine to the conference as our Closing Keynote Speaker,” said Meagan Friberg, event director. “Her experience, knowledge, and dedication to fellow writers are commendable, and she is an invaluable addition to this year’s conference.”



In addition to serving as the Closing Keynote, Fairchild will teach breakout sessions. Her two-part “Essential Edits to Be a Bestseller” has been compared to a master class and is geared toward all levels of writers. For her “Layering Suspense Elements for Any Genre” workshop, Fairchild will share tips for including props, devices, and word choices as well as theme choices, plot points, setting, and character behavior.

CCWC will also feature Jonathan Maberry, NYTimes best-

selling author, editor, poet, playwright, and comic book writer, as the Opening Keynote Speaker, and 40-plus presenters across numerous genres. In addition, master classes are available for a separate fee, and a teen program is available for ages 13-18.

Find registration details at CentralCoastWritersConference.com. Scholarships are available on a limited basis. The Central Coast Writers’ Conference is brought to you by Cuesta Community College, Kindle Direct Publishing, Launch My Book, The Salamacha Family Trust, BookFunnel, and SoCreate.

French Hospital Take Step to Expansion

French Hospital Medical Center in San Luis Obispo recently announces that the Hospital Expansion Project is making a significant leap forward, with an anticipated groundbreaking for the first phase of the project in late summer 2027

“For 80 years, French Hospital has been dedicated to providing exceptional care for our community,” French representatives said in a news release. “This ambitious expansion project is designed to elevate the quality of care available right here at home, ensuring everyone has access to the very best medical services for generations to come.”

The Plan

- Phase 1 - Late Summer 2027: A new parking structure
 - Phase 2 - A new, state-of-the-art Patient Care Tower, designed with patient comfort and advanced medical care in mind.
 - 108 single-patient rooms (following Phase 3 completion), offering enhanced privacy, comfort, and healing.
 - A new, expanded Intensive Care Unit, doubling our capacity to provide critical care.
 - A cutting-edge Imaging Center, equipped with the latest technology for faster, more accurate diagnoses.
 - Phase 3 - Extensive renovations to the existing hospital to enhance the patient experience.
- “Upon project completion, these advancements will truly elevate local healthcare to an unparalleled standard of excellence,” representatives said. “This robust \$270 million project is the largest undertaking in our history, and it represents a significant investment in the health and well-being of everyone living on the Central Coast. Projects of this magnitude require broad community support, and we invite you to learn more about how you can be a part of this historic effort.”

Marine Sanctuary Seeks Applications for Advisory Council Aug 31

NOAA’s Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking to fill seats on its advisory council, which represents the public’s interests in sanctuary matters and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

Sanctuary staff are currently accepting applications for the following seats: Agriculture Alternate, Commercial Fishing Alternate, Diving Primary and Alternate, Education Alternate, Tourism Primary and Alternate, San Luis Obispo Citizen At Large Alternate, and Santa Cruz County Citizen At Large Primary and Alternate. Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and knowledge regarding the protection and management of marine resources.

Takin’ Care of Business Continued on page 18



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The deadline for applications is Aug. 31, 2026. Applications can be obtained from the sanctuary’s website atmontereybay.noaa.gov/sac/#apply or by contacting Robbin Porter, program support specialist, at robbin.porter@noaa.gov, 831-647-4206. Completed applications should be e-mailed to Porter as well.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1994 to assure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The volunteer advisory council’s twenty voting members and seven ex-officio members represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and local and state governmental jurisdictions. Alternates attend meetings when primary members are not available and assume a seat if a primary member resigns. Specifically, the advisory council’s role is to provide the sanctuary superintendent with advice on the sanctuary’s resource protection, research, education and outreach programs. Recently, the advisory council has focused on marine protected areas in federal waters and management plan review.

Assistance League Celebrates 30 Years



This year marks a milestone anniversary for the charitable nonprofit, Assistance League® of San Luis Obispo County (ALSLOC). For 30 years, this organization has transformed the lives of students and their families by providing new clothing to children in need. During this time, they have enriched the lives of more than 42,000 students, kindergarten through 12th grade, throughout the county.

The passion and dedication of the members of our organization is as strong today as it was 30 years ago,” said Barbie Butz, the founding president of Assistance League of San Luis Obispo County. “What’s changed, and what we are ever grateful for, is the expanded number of volunteers, donors, and partnerships that have all led to our ability to grow from helping 130 students in our first year to now serving more than 2,100 students in need. To bring that number to life, just think about filling the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center twice over!”

Since its founding, ALSLOC has partnered with every school district in the county to identify students in need and coordinate clothing distributions with their families through Operation School Bell®. What began as a program to clean and mend donated clothing to provide to disadvantaged students, has evolved into a modern retail-based model. Today, through partnerships with Kohl’s and Old Navy, students shop alongside member volunteers to select new, school-appropriate clothing and shoes, the value of which averages \$200 per student.

“As Superintendent of Lucia Mar Unified School District, I have seen Assistance League’s Operation School Bell give our students far more than new clothes,” stated Dr. Paul Fawcett. “When students are able to choose new clothing of their own, they build

confidence, dignity, and a true sense of belonging. When a child feels comfortable and proud of what they’re wearing, it positively impacts attendance, engagement, and overall academic success.”

In 2023, ALSLOC expanded its mission with the launch of the Access to Career Education (ACE) scholarship program. ACE provides scholarships to local high school graduates with financial need, who are enrolled in Cuesta College career education and trades programs. These funds help to cover costs such as required tools and materials that might otherwise be a barrier to course completion. This year, ALSLOC provided a total of \$10,000 in scholarships.

Funding for ALSLOC programs comes from grants, private donations, and the revenue generated by the Assistance League Thrift Store in San Luis Obispo, which recently celebrated its own 10th anniversary. Last year, the value returned to the community was \$694,015, which includes nearly 25,000 hours of volunteer service.

ALSLOC is supported by more than 125 members and community volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to operating the thrift store, raising funds, implementing Operation School Bell, and supporting additional programming. The organization is a chapter of National Assistance League, founded in the mid-1890s and formally established in Los Angeles in 1925.

More information about Assistance League of San Luis Obispo County is available at www.alslocounty.org or by visiting the Assistance League Thrift Store at 667A Marsh Street in San Luis Obispo.

SLO Chamber Announces Interim Leadership

The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce announced that President & CEO Garret Olson will take a board-approved sabbatical beginning September 21 to be fully present for his wife as she undergoes cancer treatment. Olson anticipates returning to his role on February 8, 2027.

During Olson’s absence, Ermina Karim will serve as Interim CEO and Cindy Villa as Interim COO, providing leadership and continuity across the Chamber’s advocacy, member services, programming, operations and community partnerships.

“The Board fully supports Garret’s decision to put his family first during this important time,” said Aaryn Abbott, chair of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “Our responsibility is also to ensure that, during his absence, the organization, its staff and its members are in good hands. We are fortunate to have two experienced and trusted leaders in Ermina and Cindy, an outstanding staff team, and a deeply engaged Board. The Chamber’s work and priorities will continue without interruption.”

Karim previously served as president & CEO of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce from 2011 through 2018 and brings extensive experience in regional economic development, business advocacy, community partnerships, and organizational leadership.

Villa brings deep executive and operational leadership experience, including nine years at Cal Poly, where she served as Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, overseeing the university’s complex financial, administrative and operational functions. She later returned to Cal Poly to serve as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and is a past member of the Chamber’s Board of Directors.

“I am deeply grateful to our Board, our staff and this community for their support and understanding,” Olson said. “This was not an easy decision, but it is the right one for my family. I’m able to step away knowing that the Chamber is strong, our priorities are clear, and our members are in excellent hands with Ermina, Cindy, and our entire team. I look forward to returning in February.” “This is a strong organization with a talented team, and an engaged membership,” Karim said. “Cindy and I see our role very simply: provide continuity, support the team and keep the Chamber’s priorities moving forward. We both know this organization and community well, and we’re honored to have the Board’s trust as we work alongside the staff, Board and members during Garret’s absence.”

Olson joined the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce in November 2025 and has served as president & CEO since January 2026.

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.

Cambria Pinedorado Days Coming Labor Day Weekend



By Connie Pendleton

“Star Spangled Pinedorado” is the theme of the Cambria Lions Club’s 76th annual celebration taking place in Cambria on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5-7.

Kicking off the festivities is a 5K Fun Run beginning at 7:45 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at Coast Union High School, 2950 Santa Rosa Creek Road. The route continues west along Main Street and returns to the school after reaching the Old Cambria Market Place (Shell Station) in West Village. Proceeds benefit the CUHS cross-country and soccer teams. On-site registration starts at 7 a.m. and the cost is \$30.

The popular Pinedorado Parade begins at 9:30 a.m. the same morning at the corner of Bridge and Main Streets. It features marching bands, horse groups, non-profit organizations, classic cars, and several dignitaries. Chuck McMillan, longtime owner of Cambria Hardware, is grand marshal. A flyover by the Warbird Airplanes, historic military aircraft from Paso Robles, is also planned. The procession continues down Main Street, past the Pinedorado grounds to the far end of West Village.

During the evening of Saturday, Sept. 5, an Honorary Mayor’s Ball takes place at the Veterans’ Memorial Hall, 1000 Main St. This event serves as the finale to a fun contest where votes for candidates can still be purchased for \$1 each as many times as one wishes for the benefit of local non-profit organizations. The contenders include Barrett Stuart, Cambria Tennis Club; Dianne “Lady Tie-Di” Brooke, Cambria PTA; Del Clegg, Cambria Rotary Club; and Jim Bahringer, American Legion Post 432. According to Juli Amodei, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce Board, a portion of the proceeds will also help pay for (much-needed) visitor center building repairs.

Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. with MC Rick Bruce performing his signature magic and entertainment. Attendees can enjoy dancing to live swing era music by the 16-piece Vineyard Jazz Band. The honorary mayor reveal follows final voting and candidate speeches. Guests are encouraged to wear formal attire inspired by the 1920s to 1940s. The cost is \$50, which includes a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink and light appetizers with assorted treats. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase with a cash bar. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the ball should be purchased in advance due to limited seating. Katherine Gillen, director of membership and marketing for the Chamber of Commerce, said tickets are available at the visitor center office, 767 Main Street, (805) 927-3624. The public also has the option to place votes at the Chamber office, by reaching out to individual candidates, or by Venmo at cambria-chamber.org/mayors-race-inauguration-ball.

On Sunday, Sept. 6, up to 100 cars are expected at the highly anticipated Nate’s Car Show starting at 8 a.m. at the Veterans’ Hall parking lot. Lions Club organizers plan to honor the annual show’s founder, Nate Fearonce, who fulfilled his vision of adding a car show to the Pinedorado Days schedule 18 years ago. Fearonce died peacefully on Mother’s Day, May 10, 2026, at the age of 91. His family is traveling from Georgia to attend the show and help celebrate his life. A pancake breakfast, hosted by American Legion Post 432, is offered from 7 to 10 a.m. The show includes raffle prizes and giveaways starting at 2:30 p.m. and awards at 3 p.m. Administrative organizer Marissa Powels reports that car registration is still being accepted. The entry fee is a \$65 donation with all proceeds benefiting the Cambria Lions Club charities.

Each day that weekend, a variety of activities are planned from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Pinedorado Grounds, 950 Main Street. Attractions include game booths, bounce house, kiddie rides, electric train, food court, chicken and beef barbecue, and a pub serving cold beer and local wines. Live performances include the Roughhouse Band starting at 1 p.m. Saturday; Ballet Folklorico, 2 p.m. Sunday; and Jill Knight Band, 1 p.m. Monday.

Main Street will be closed most of the day on Saturday, Sept. 5. Early arrival is recommended to secure easier parking. Public lots are available at the Cambria Dog Park, 2021 Rodeo Grounds Road; and on Center Street, west of Burton Drive.

For more information, visit cambrialions.org and/or cambria-chamber.org.

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News

Diablo Canyon Funding From page 1

the local San Luis Coastal Unified School District. Meanwhile the federal government has approved a grant request by PG&E for unforeseen expenses from extending DCNPP operations until 2030. Those grant funds will go to help the utility pay the above payment plus help pay off \$1.1 billion in loan retirement to help keep the plant operating according, to Ted Garrish, assistant secretary for Nuclear Energy of the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Congressman Salud Carbajal D., Santa Barbara, whose district 24 includes Diablo, expressed his approval of the DOE subsidy noting that he helped shepherd legislation through congress, the Civilian Nuclear Credit Program, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for just that kind of expense need.

Diablo Canyon has received two operating extensions from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The plant was scheduled to close Unit One in 2024 and Unit Two in 2025, but the federal government allowed for an emergency extension to 2029/2030, and state agencies followed suit with their own extension approval, including a loan to PG&E from the Water Resources Board. Recently PG&E asked to keep Diablo operating until 2044.2045. The DOE and NRC approved that extension as well, but the state legislature has not decided the further operating extension issue.

California Governor Gavin Newsom stated he will leave the extension to 2044/2045 decision-making to the next CA governor's administration. Newsom's term ends January 4, 2027.

Replacing the Unitary Tax and paying off the forgivable loan authorized by the state in its decision to extend Diablo's operating license to 2029/2030 have been sticklers in passing the new legislation to keep the plant operating and additional 15 years. One controversy is whether nuclear power is indeed profitable considering the number of subsidies by all levels of government. The DOE has subsidized many regulatory expenses that would otherwise have been paid by PG&E, but the electric utility does not disclose those subsidies in its balance sheets in a way that shows true profitability according to public comments at the information session, "Diablo Canyon 2045: Local and Statewide Implications," that took place Thursday, July 30 following the Board of Supervisors 4 – 1 in favor vote. Watch the meeting on SLO-SPAN at www.slo-span.org.

With the 2029/2030 extension, the county lost the tax revenue PG&E had been paying. The local school district and county had to cover the shortfall or lay off employees to compensate for the loss. The \$16.6 million payment promise takes the loss current, but the state, county and PG&E would still negotiate for funding solutions to the end of 2029/2030.

The county's nearly 4-hour presentation had about 38 speakers during public comment. No actions or decisions resulted from the informational meeting. Public comments fell into three general categories: those supportive of Diablo in general and the extension of operation, those who asked that continued plant operation be tied to reinstating the Unitary Tax funding, and a final category was people who were skeptical that the power plant could operate safely and profitably. Most comments were in favor of continued operation.

The SLO County presentations
Featured speakers included Dr. John Parsons of the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who discussed the economic benefits associated with the proposed extension of Diablo's operations through 2045; and Dr. David Roland-Holst, executive director of Berkeley Economic Advising and Research, who presented information on the plant's positive economic impacts in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

Public Comments:
The key complaint in public comments was the loss of the Unitary Tax and the effects upon SLO county agencies, especially the \$10 million loss to the San Luis Obispo's Coastal Unified School District.

Ben Lippert, with the San Luis Coastal Parent Information Network, spoke about the efforts to lobby PG&E for continued funding amid school budget cuts.

Echoing those sentiments, Brian Clausen, who is a member of the San Luis Coastal School Board, said the meetings he has had with PG&E were "the most disappointing and rude experiences of his career. The representatives from PG&E had the gall to tell us that we are bad at lobbying, and that's why we lost our funding. They went on to say there would be no love money for our district or for our local community. If we don't advocate for our funding, we're not going to get it."

Lidia Stone, a SLO City resident, said the continued Unitary Tax funding, "isn't just a financial obligation, it is a moral obligation. PG&E is asking this community to continue hosting Diablo through 2045. The moral question is simple. If the plant can continue generating electricity, jobs and billions of dollars in value, shouldn't the children growing up in its shadow also share in that investment?"

A Different Perspective
Mona Olivas Tucker, Chair of Northern Chumash Tribe from San Luis Obispo County, who represented the documented ancestral people of what is now called Diablo Lands, said, "Our families have lived here for thousands of years. Many of our tribal members, including me, trace our ancestry directly to the villages on the Pecho Coast. Tonight's program covered many things, but one of the things that I feel is most important, that there was no time to really discuss, and that's the land. It's the land that holds the power plant. It's the land that has supported it all of these years. The land is the most important thing there. And the people who belong to it for thousands of years are the people I represent. I want to state clearly: If the plant runs to 2045, we want our land back. If it closes tomorrow, we want our land back. We'll take it any time we are given the opportunity. Our love and responsibility to this place do not end. We are not stepping back from our homeland. And the debate over extending the license should not overshadow the land-back conversation."

Another voice, also speaking for a wider group, gave the following cautionary message:
"The current operation and management of Diablo Canyon causes unacceptable damage to coastal ecology and presents an overwhelming threat to our community," said Charles Varni, International Surfriders Foundation, San Luis Obispo chair. "Surfrider opposes prolonging Diablo Canyon's role in California's energy system and supports retiring the plant on the fastest safe timeline while rapidly scaling storage and demand-site solutions. Our chapter's core analysis is that California is already producing

large amounts of renewable energy, so much so, that solar and wind energy are regularly curtailed and the real bottleneck is not a lack of clean generation, but a lack of storage and a lack of ability to use that clean power around the clock. Keeping Diablo online beyond the minimum transition period risks delaying investments in storage, transmission upgrades and demand responses that are essential for a resilient renewable grid and a healthier ocean. Diablo Canyon kills more marine organisms on North, Central, and South American coasts than any other facility. It is a security threat for terrorist attack.

Peg Frerking, an associate chief engineer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Labs and the first woman to run a nuclear reactor for the Atomic Energy Commission, spoke against the 2044/2045 extension.

"Over the next twenty years, this extension will turn San Luis Obispo County into the largest radioactive waste dump in California. Although nuclear power does not produce greenhouse emissions it is dangerously dirty due to nuclear waste. Twenty years of extended operation will increase the spent nuclear fuel at Diablo Canyon by 50%. Today, the case for Diablo Canyon's nuclear power plant to provide high-quality jobs and taxes has been presented. But choosing to extend operation also has associated risk. Is the short-term is economic advantage worth the risk? That is the question we have to answer."

Those in Favor
Jennifer Clay, a 20-year resident of SLO who teaches in the physics department at Cal Poly and an advisor of the university's Nuclear is Clean Energy club, voiced support for Diablo because "we believe it is a very reliable, important resource for clean energy, for the state of California and also for our community. I am in support of that extension and hope we have more opportunities like this to have these kinds of dialogues and make sure that the community is aware of the issues, and the state legislature hears our voices that we want this resource to continue."

Jim Hopf, a retired engineer, said that it is cheaper overall to run an existing plant than to convert to something else and the plant offers high paying jobs and the site produces 17% of carbon-free generation in the state.

"Voluntarily closing such a facility is simply insane," Hopf said. "If Diablo closes, the state government has acknowledged this, It will be replaced by gas plants to some extent. Also, there is a growing consensus that getting all of your electricity from renewable sources, solar, wind and batteries is not practical, it's not going to happen. So, we need some nuclear in the mix if we are going to get to 100% decarbonization."

Why DCNPP Operations Were Extended
When Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP) was placed on the state energy grid, the facility was scheduled to operate until 2024/2025 reflecting different end-dates for the two different nuclear generators. In 2016, planning for the DCNPP closure began in earnest. Before the closure, however, PG&E was asked by the Newsom administration to keep operating due to lack of alternate energy production capacity. The emergency extension proposal gained federal, and state approvals to operate until 2029/2030. SLO County governing entities were not part of that emergency extension conversation, nor was PG&E funding of county and school district support services included in the extension legislation.

Letters From page 6

endar year. The grants are then reviewed by an appointed committee and awarded in December.
For more information, or if you are interested in joining our group, please check out our website: centralcoastfundsforchildren.org, or

contact us by email at CCFC93406@gmail.com.
Thank you for your interest.

Christy Palmer
Arroyo Grande

Blotter is Worth the Trip

I recently picked up a copy of the Estero Bay News at a gas station in Cambria, expecting to catch up on the local news. I was not expecting to laugh out loud at the Police Blotter.
Please pass along my compliments to whoever writes it. Between the "5-fingered shopping spree," the "mulish tool not staying-the-hell-away-from-her" being "a moonflower and not a morning glory," and the wonderfully candid observation that police logs "don't really say much of anything useful these days," I was thoroughly entertained.
There is clearly someone behind that column who refuses to let a routine police log stand in the way of good writing.

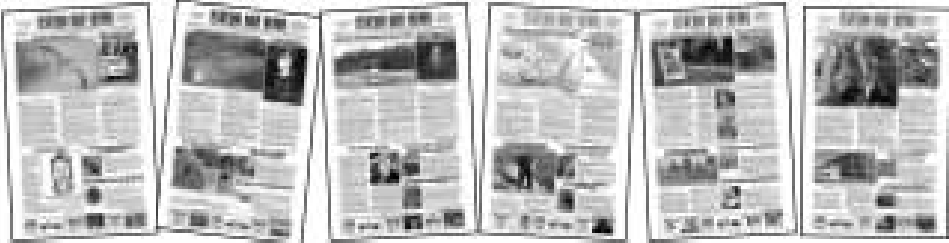
I live in Modesto, but I'm now seriously considering whether the Estero Bay News Police Blotter alone is sufficient reason to keep up with the happenings around Cambria and Morro Bay.
Please tell your mystery writer that their work was noticed, appreciated, and passed along to several friends who got a good laugh out of it too.
Keep up the fine journalism — and please don't ever let anyone make the Police Blotter boring.

Warmly,
Pete Swanberg
Modesto, California

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.
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Photo shows the falling revetment along the Harborwalk as it heads towards Tidelands Park and how it is undermining a tree. City photo was put in, closing off the north entrance. The extensive sand dunes that exist today filled in quickly.

The revetment was back filled with dredge spoils from Beach Street south, using spoils from the dredging of the harbor’s entrance and navigation channels, and the modern waterfront sits on that fill.

The revetment protects the Embarcadero, the Morro Rock parking areas and runs south past the public launch ramp.

The revetment is part of the business lease sites owned by the State Lands Commission and leased out by the City. It’s maintenance in the lease sites areas is supposed to be the responsibility of the lease holders, but much of the revetment — at the street end areas between the lease sites, north along Coleman Drive to the Rock, and south past the launch ramp — falls to the City to maintain.

A recent study of the condition of the revetment and seawalls in the harbor (the Brady Report) found some troubling and very expensive issues with that vital rock pile along its entire length.

“In 2024,” reads an announcement from the Harbor Department, “the City conducted a conditional assessment of portions of the revetment and found many sections in critical or poor condition. The initial estimates to make the recommended repairs were between \$26-\$55 million.”

Carbajal got the responsibility language into the “Water Resources Development Act of 2026,” the release explained. That bill was unanimously approved on July 14 by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee with a bipartisan 66-0 vote.

One section of that bill is key. “The bill includes Section 313, which directs the Corps to fix and maintain breakwaters, revetments, and seawalls originally constructed by the Corps that are either damaged or are in disrepair.

“Without this legislation it is questionable whether the Corps would undertake necessary work.”

The bill still must be approved by the full House of Representatives and then the Senate and also be signed by President

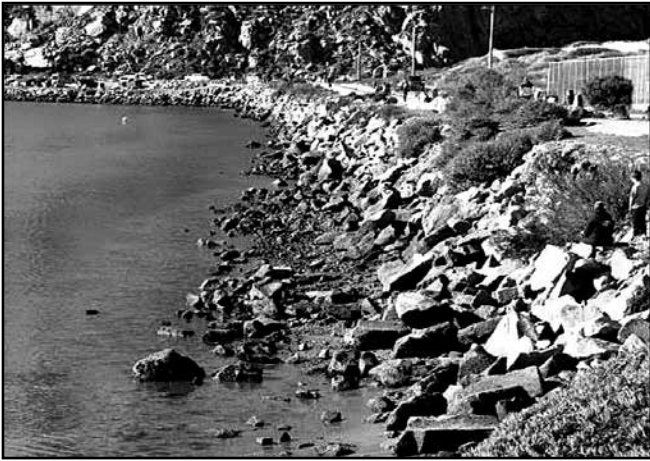


Photo shows the rock revetment along Coleman Drive that has fallen into disrepair. City photo

Trump to carry the force of law.

It also doesn’t include any actual funding for this new responsibility.

This isn’t the first time Rep. Carbajal has come through for the Morro Bay Harbor. Several years ago, he secured \$1.5 million to repair the North T-pier though the stated reason was to make it ready for use by the offshore floating wind energy companies that had plans to build a wind energy farm off the Coast of San Simeon.

Those plans have hit a figurative brick wall with President Trump, who is adamantly against offshore wind farms (wind energy in general). The Trump Administration’s Interior Department recently signed settlements with two of those wind energy companies to refund their lease payments and have them give up any offshore floating wind projects in favor of building power plants with traditional forms of electric generation, mainly coal and natural gas.

The third wind company has not yet signed a like settlement, but critics of the floating wind farm idea believe it will eventually give up its lease as well.

Another study, commission by the County, looked at what it would take to make Morro Bay Harbor suitable for offshore wind energy needs. That sobering study essentially put the costs into the hundreds of millions just to accommodate the smallest of the ships needed for the project’s construction and continuing maintenance. It was another in a string of blows to befall the project, though the State has vowed to sue the Trump Administration over the project, seeking to recoup whatever monies it has put into the project (mostly studies commissioned by the California Energy Commission and CEC staff time).

But whether the wind energy companies ever wish to use the North T-pier, it is in rough shape and in need of major repairs, the City is moving forward with regardless of who ends up using the pier.

The Mayor was happy with Carbajal’s efforts.

“Congressman Carbajal,” Mayor Carla Wixom said, “is a strong champion for our City and our harbor. Rep. Carbajal has worked for months to secure this legislation that will ensure our harbor remains open and safe for our commercial fishing industry,

our recreational boaters, our residents, and our visitors.”

The revetment protects the Embarcadero, but the harbor is important for other reasons as well.

“In addition to civilian navigation,” the release said, “Morro Bay Harbor hosts the U.S. Coast Guard, which carries out vitally important shipping safety and security missions from the harbor.”

During the recent California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (C-MANC), held in Washington D.C., City officials including the Mayor and Harbor Director Chris Munson, met with Sen. Adam Schiff, as well as lobbying the ACOE and other agencies about the needs of the Morro Bay Harbor, which is the only safe harbor of refuge from Monterey to Santa Barbara.

C-MANC is where City officials meet with the ACOE to dig up money for maintenance dredging of the harbor entrance, as well as other issues of importance for the City. They are hopeful the legislation Carbajal announced will get the support of the Senate too.

“City officials and staff also advocated for similar legislation in the U.S. Senate, and it is likely the legislation will pass with strong congressional support before being sent to the President for consideration.”

Boats at Cuesta From page 1

many active boats at the Inlet; it is evident that a large portion of the boats are unused. For right now, we really have to wait and see how many boats are left once the cleanup is completed.”

Those who have boats at the inlet are being asked to take three actions:

1. Bring unused boats home. If you haven’t used your canoe, kayak, or sailboat in the last year, consider taking it home. Volunteers will be on hand September 19th to help you move your boat if needed. If you can’t bring it home but are no longer using it, a receptacle will be available for disposal.
 2. Label your boat. Write your name and phone number on the boat using a marine-grade marker, waterproof vinyl lettering, or paint, positioned so it’s easy to see even when the boat is stored upside down.
 3. Complete the Boat Identification Form. Save Cuesta Inlet is asking all current boat owners with boats at the Inlet to fill out an online form — one per boat. Take a photo that clearly shows your entire boat along with your name and phone number. Save the file as a .jpeg or .png with your last name included in the file name, then upload it with the form on their website. Boats without a confirmed ID on file will be subject to removal.
- “Boats not in our existing inventory and boats without confirmed ID are subject to removal,” Schmidt said. “We will attempt to contact the owner via the information on the boat. If your boat is a recent addition to the Inlet (post March 2026), it is likely not part of our inventory; we ask that those boats be taken home until we have identified the owners of all existing boats at the Inlet and removed all abandoned and derelict boats.” Questions can be emailed to boats@cuestainlet.org.

This current project is expected to take in 2027 to complete the inventory to their specifications. After that, other areas of concern expressed in the survey will be addressed.

“Our group is driven by what the community wants to see happen at the Inlet,” Schmidt said. “Approximately half of the 600 respondents to the survey said they want to see the Inlet stay largely unchanged. Some would like to the addition of trash cans,

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Sailers launch their catamaran at the Cuesta Inlet where many store their water vessels. Boats without proper identification will be removed. Photo by Elizabeth Hale

improved biodiversity of the habitat by removing invasive ice plant, and a bench or two would be nice, otherwise leave it as it has been. It is our intent to survey the community periodically to make sure we stay in touch with what they want to see happen at the Inlet.”

She did say the request for a coffee shop on the property would not become a reality.

San Luis Obispo’s County’s Coastal Cleanup Day, known as Creeks to Coast Cleanup, is organized by ECOSLO (Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo) and takes place at more than 35 inland and coastal sites spanning from San Simeon to Nipomo. In 2025, 839 volunteers removed 7,305 pounds of trash, 177 pounds of recyclable material and 4,248 cigarette butts. For a list of all Cleanup sites and to signup, go to ecoslo.com.

Save Cuesta Inlet will hold the Art for the Inlet event on Saturday, September 12, at the Sea Pines Golf Resort, 1945 Solano St., Los Osos. The community is invited to enjoy a day of art, music, and festivities while helping protect the Inlet. Every piece of artwork purchased supports the ongoing stewardship and care.

“We are budgeting \$30,000 for insurance, taxes, and administrative and overhead expenses,” Schmidt said. “This number doesn’t include special projects such as cleanup and invasive plant species control. Our community is not only financially generous but very giving of their time and talents.”



Ice plant is taking over a kayak showing disuse over time. Photo by Elizabeth Hale

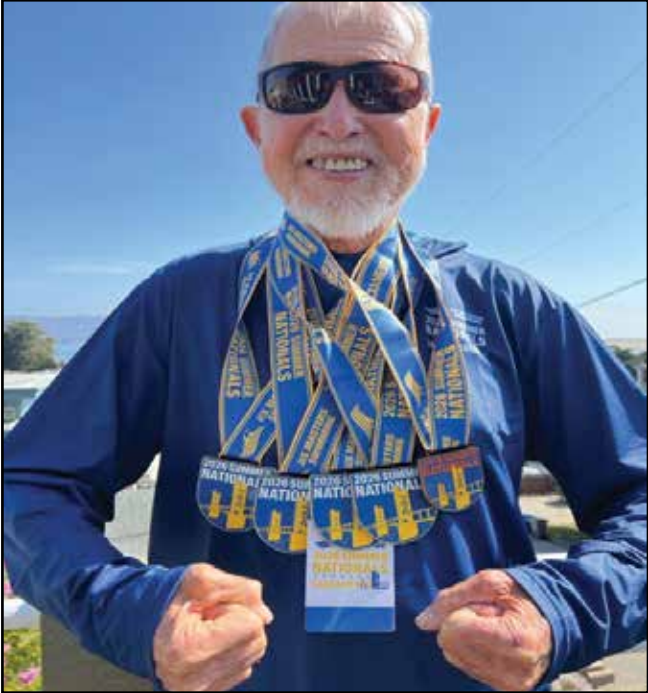
Attendees will enjoy mingling with local artists, hearing the stories behind their work, and discovering original paintings, photography, and handcrafted creations. In the afternoon the celebration comes alive with the Celtic-inspired sounds of two bands—The Flogging Seagulls, bringing their signature Celtic punk energy, and Celter Skelter, performing their bluegrass Celtic tribute to the Beatles.

The Art Show is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and live music: 2 – 8 p.m.

SCI closed escrow on the Inlet on Oct 1, 2025, after tremendous financial support from community members and folks no longer in the area who had fond memories of the spot.

“I am humbled by this wonderful achievement our community has accomplished,” Schmidt said. “While it may not seem monumental to an outsider, we know how many hours of work, tenacity, and financial sacrifice went into purchasing the Inlet. We are not some organization that received mail-in donations from unknown donors —people directly handed us their hard-earned money and trusted us to secure the Inlet. All of our volunteers are very conscious of the responsibility we have to the community. I am very proud of the 25-plus people that made up our core group of volunteers. They are an incredibly talented group of people who all went above and beyond to bring the Inlet home. When I see people using the Inlet, I am so appreciative that I was able to be part of it. I really love seeing children having fun at the Inlet and hope their time at the Inlet will help foster a lifelong love of nature and the outdoors.”

Zuur Brings Home Four Silver Medals



Morro Bay’s Jim Zuur continues to bring home metal competing with his swim team, TAM, Tamalpais Aquatic Masters. This past August they attended the 2026 US Masters Nationals in Sacramento. Early in his senior years, Zuur started competing in the Senior Games intended for swimmers 50 and older. After finding success, he decided to try more competitive meets challenging himself to advance his training. The US Masters Nationals is for swimmers 18-100. Zuur now competes in the over 85 group with sixteen other members of the team.

He reports, “(I) had a great meet — four Silvers in individual events and eighth in my relay.” He was also proud to share their team’s successes, which “out of 1400 swimmers who qualified to swim from 236 clubs, we placed eleventh with only 16 members while larger clubs like the Olympic Club have 77 swimmers, which helped them place first.”

Zuur currently practices at the Morro Bay High School pool although this meet was considered an LCM (long course meter) meet.

“I had to train at Sinsheimer in SLO to practice the events I entered,” Zuur said. “It is the only pool on the Central Coast with a 50-meter pool not split up into halves.”

If anyone is considering swim training, Zuur suggested contacting head coach of the SLO Swim Club Seahawks, Alan Peterson at swim@sloseahawks.org. Check out their website at sloseahawks.org/

Coach Peterson said four members competed this year at the Nationals. They were Dana Paquin, Christine Scott, Dan Gibbons, who are all in their 40s plus 70-year-young Mickey Lant. Each finishing their contests placing anywhere from second to ninth place while competing in 12 events.

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The women’s and the men’s [unisex] restrooms at Morro Bay’s City Park were closed by City officials after they were reportedly vandalized and reports came in of illicit activities taking place inside. Photo by Neil Farrell

or alcohol, bench warrants, and possession of illegal drugs topping the list of misadventures.

When City Councilman Jeff Eckles recently held a series of public town halls — both in person at the park and online — the concerns of the people who live nearby or who frequent the park were aired.

Eckles compiled a report that was recently presented to the full City Council asking for directions on how to address these nagging problems.

“City Park,” reads a staff report from City Manager John Craig, “is a 2.0-acre public park located at the eastern end of Downtown Morro Bay at the intersection of Morro Bay Boulevard and Harbor Street. It is one of the first parks dedicated within the City and has long served multiple overlapping roles: neighborhood park, recreation area, civic gathering place, public-art location, visitor amenity, transit hub, and a potential focal point for downtown economic activity.”

Craig summed up the problems. “In recent years, the park’s conditions have deteriorated. Vandalism, misuse of the permanent restroom building, extended disruptive occupation of portions of the park, inadequate lighting, and a general decline in ordinary public use have collectively undermined the park’s function as a welcoming community space.”

Someone recently vandalized the public restrooms, which caused an immediate reaction from the City. “In response to vandalism and public-safety concerns,” Craig said, “the City closed the permanent public restroom facility and placed a portable toilet in its place.

“Families, nearby residents, and visitors have also reported avoiding the park as a result of these conditions.”

The park’s playground equipment has also been removed. Eckles’ report, entitled “Reimagining City Park,” discusses the problem and makes some suggestions on how to fix it.

“I hosted four City Park town halls in July 2026,” Eckles reported, “to hear directly from residents about existing conditions, community priorities, and possibilities for the future of the park.”

Eckles points out that his report is “not a final park plan, a request to approve a particular design, or a statistically represen-

tative survey of the community. Instead, it is intended to provide a foundation for referral to the City’s citizen advisory bodies and for a broader, more deliberative public discussion.”

Under “current conditions,” Eckles mentioned the vandalized restrooms that were “reported to be a location for illegal and illicit activity, including drug dealing.”

Locking the restrooms led to a different and decidedly more disgusting response. “After the closure,” the report said, “urination and defecation were observed behind the restroom building.” That restroom backs up to a small apartment complex where people live.

Some homeless folks have taken over some areas of the park. “Extended occupation of portions of the park, combined with illegal or disruptive conduct, has discouraged ordinary public use,” Eckles’ report said.

He goes on to say people no longer feel safe going to the park, especially at night when a lack of lighting leaves it extremely dark.

“Families, residents, and visitors,” Eckles said, “have avoided the park because of its condition and atmosphere.”

He doesn’t blame the homeless folks who hang out in the park daily. “The central issue is not a person’s housing status,” the report explained. “The concern is conduct and conditions that interfere with the public’s ability to safely and comfortably use a public space. The park should be welcoming to all people who use it lawfully and respectfully.”

The folks who live nearby were in favor of fixing the park’s issues. So too were representatives from the Art Association.

Eckles’ report said, “The adjacent neighbors were generally receptive to improvements and increased positive activity. They expressed that thoughtful programming and investment would be preferable to the unsafe and uncomfortable conditions that currently exist, especially at night. Their primary immediate concern was inadequate lighting and the resulting sense of insecurity.

“Art in the Park representatives discussed preserving the successful event while considering open space, access, parking, infrastructure, and compatibility with future park improvements. No single issue dominated their input; rather, they emphasized the need for future planning to accommodate the event and its operational needs.”

Eckles said his meetings produced some strongly supported “themes” to address the park’s problems. Among those was reclaiming the park through positive uses; safety lighting; sanitation and enforcement of the rules; regular “programming” or starting to hold more events at the park to give people more reasons to visit; strengthening connections between young people, schools and the park; and, developing the park into more of an economic hub for the eastern edge of the Downtown business district, which is centered west of the park at the Morro Bay Boulevard and Main Street intersection.

The report mentions one potential addition to the park that many years ago severely divided the town — building a gazebo/ band stand.

“A gazebo, pavilion, stage, or similar gathering structure,” the report said, “was one of the most frequently mentioned physical improvements. Participants envisioned a focal point for concerts, family movie nights, school performances, drama presentations, classes, public gatherings, community celebrations, picnics, art activities, and informal daily use.

“The historical record identifies a 1988 voter-approved measure concerning a gazebo in City Park. The concept of a pavilion or gathering structure can remain part of the discussion, but the current legal effect of that measure should be confirmed before a specific permanent structure is advanced.”

Another thing people mentioned was the suitability of City Park continuing as the town’s main bus stop, even though the City

just a couple of years ago spent over \$650,000 tearing down a bus shelter, removing a huge eucalyptus shade tree and installing a new, expanded, modern bus stop facility.

The report goes on to propose potential steps for the Council to consider and concludes with: “The opportunity before the City is to reclaim City Park not only by improving the physical space, but by restoring its purpose as a place where residents, families, visitors, students, artists and local businesses can come together.”

Estero Bay News asked Eckles what the Council wants to do next?

- “The short-term measures are:
- Enhanced lighting most likely with tree lights;
 - No smoking signs to help eliminate cigarette butt litter;
 - Active enforcement of shopping cart ordinance to keep abandoned carts out of the park; and,
 - Enhanced and more visible law enforcement.”

He didn’t get the main thing he was after though. “What I didn’t get and was disappointed about,” he said, “was a re-opening of the restrooms. Zara [Councilwoman Landrum] and I voted for that but the other three did not. So, the opening of the bathrooms is a longer-term fix along with some of the other longer-term solutions mentioned in the report.”

As to the police activity and if residents brought the park’s problems to his attention, Eckles said, “Both. Fewer and fewer residents were using the park because it has been falling into disrepair along with a lot of undesirable and illicit behavior taking place.

“It was the closing of the restrooms that really got my attention and why I decided to take it on as a project. I don’t agree that the City should wave the white flag and give up on this public space, and that’s essentially what City management did.

“As a town-hall attendee eloquently put it, ‘We need to reclaim this space for the use of all our residents and visitors.’”

The restrooms still work but the decision was made to close them anyway. “The bathrooms are entirely functional,” Eckles explained. “City management decided to close them due to vandalism and illicit behavior in and about the restrooms.”

He doesn’t agree with that move. “So, their solution was simply to close them down. That is not an appropriate response from my perspective. The City should be doing what it needs to do in order to provide a public restroom to residents and visitors in the park.”

The playground equipment was taken out because it had “come to the end of its useful life,” Eckles explained.

“It is an empty space now,” he said, “covered with woodchips and looks terrible. One suggestion during the town hall was to make it a temporary dog park since the space is mostly encircled with metal fencing.”

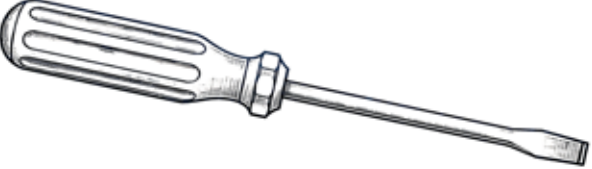
Eckles thanked everyone that took part in this exercise in problem solving, even though it didn’t result in an immediate solution.

“I would like to thank the approximately 50 people that participated in the town halls I hosted [I did two online via ZOOM and two at the park on successive Saturday mornings] and shared their ideas and vision of how we can once again make this an inviting and usable community space.”

It should be noted that this isn’t the first public park to have problems. Lila Keiser Park has in the past had similar issues with homeless folks taking over and issues with drug use and drug dealing in the park.

The City has on at least three occasions aggressively cleaned out encampments in the woods behind Lila Keiser Park and police have in the past increased patrols at the park to keep an eye out for any skullduggery afoot.

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Mayor Carla Wixom (left), Councilwoman Zara Landrum and new Councilman Mike Gerson were uncontested in the November Council Election and will start their new terms in December. City photos

candidates than offices to be elected.”

That means the three will get an intentional walk into a council seat.

The persons nominated are: Mike Gerson, city council member; Robin “Zara” Landrum, city council member; and Carla Wixom, mayor, Swanson said.

The council seats are 4-year terms and the mayor’s is a 2-year term.

Landrum was seeking her second council term and the mayor her third term. Gerson is new to the council.

This marks the second straight time no election for Morro Bay City Council will be on the November General Election ballot.

In 2024, Mayor Wixom and Councilmen Jeff Eckles and Bill Luffee were uncontested and automatically won their seats. It was the first time on City Council for Eckles and Luffee and the first time in town history that an election was completely uncontested.

Of note, current Councilwoman Cyndee Edwards did not seek re-election, which extended the normal nomination period for an extra week. Still, no others stepped up to stand election.

In a letter to the Estero Bay News editor (EBN, Aug. 13), Edwards spoke of her time serving on the city council and thanked everyone.

“As I serve out the rest of my 4-year term on city council,” Edwards wrote, “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 hardworking 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.”

This apparent lack of interest to serve is evident in smaller governing bodies as well. In Los Osos, where the Community Services District had three seats open, only two people signed up to run, and both are incumbents.

LOCSD General Manager, Greg Kwolek said Chuck Cesena who represents Area 1 and Christine Womack from Area 4 signed up to run and were both unopposed so they will win re-election without a fight.

The third seat, currently held by Board President Matthew Fourcroy in Area 2, will have to be filled. Fourcroy did not seek re-election and no one else sought the seat.

That means for the second election in a row, the board will have to appoint someone to fill an empty seat.

“I anticipate we’ll take applications for a board appointment,” Kwolek said, “likely after receiving board direction like last time.”

The LOCSD, when it first formed in 1999, used a communitywide election system, so everyone within the District got to vote on all the candidates.

Several years ago, they switched to a district election system,

dividing the town into five “Areas” and each with a single seat to represent the residents within. Since then, the District has not had enough candidates to run from within a given Area and had to appoint board members when the new term starts in December.

Cesena and Womack will join the other two incumbents, Tom Cross, Area 3, and Richard Hubbard, Area 5, in reviewing applications for the open seat, conducting interviews and selecting someone to

serve.

But because they will have been appointed to the seat, under State Law that person will have to run for election at the next regularly scheduled election — November 2028. And once again there will be at least three LOCSD Board seats to be filled.

With no elections slated for Morro Bay City Council, one could infer that the three were elected by way of the 25 registered voters that signed their nominating petitions, instead of the whole electorate.

Why is this happening? Is it apathy? Or could it be satisfaction with how these towns are being run by the current people in office?

In this reporter’s over 34 years covering Morro Bay, I would never have thought I’d see a single election go uncontested, and now there have been two in a row.

In the past there were usually at least two people and up to four seeking the mayor’s office and four to eight vying for two council seats. Many of those were during the brief time the City conducted Primary Elections in June, a system that the voters ended several elections ago.

Any appointments to the Council happened when a council member won election to the mayor’s seat in a mid-term election (having 2 years left on their council term).

And even that has only happened twice in the past three-plus decades — Janice Peters when Cathy Novak was elected mayor; and Thad Baxley when Peters became mayor.

The City could still hold an election, but it would list the certified candidates and then leave space for write-in candidates that voters might pencil in.

That would mean the City paying the County Elections Office the normal fee to conduct the election. Simply appointing someone saves that expense.

It should also be noted that write-in candidates must still go through a process to become official and have any votes they get count.

Apathy, a dirty word when it comes to elections, normally refers to low voter turnouts, not to a lack of candidates.

Estero Bay News asked the Mayor why she thinks this is happening?

“I think there are many reasons,” Wixom said. “It seems to be a trend, perhaps more common in SLO County as the SLO mayor and Atascadero mayor are also running uncontested.”

And, “Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach have three open seats, as their mayors are not running for re-election.”

Sitting on any governing body be it city council, CSD board, or County Supervisor is a big responsibility not everyone is willing to take on. The inherent spotlight of responsibility isn’t for everyone. But what’s behind this apparent lack of interest?

The Mayor said, “There are always many factors to consider. The time and continuing education needed to make responsible and informed decisions on behalf of the city as an elected official

is a BIG commitment.

“The financial compensation is minimal for the time required, (but the personal rewards are priceless).”

It should be noted that the Morro Bay Mayor gets a \$1,200 a month stipend for serving, while the San Luis Obispo Mayor is paid \$5,000 a month. Morro Bay council members get \$1,000 a month.

Council people also sit on various larger boards, so-called “discretionary appointments,” including the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG); Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA); Air Pollution Control District (APCD); SLO County Housing Trust Fund; National Estuary Program Board; and the most recent, the Central Coast Community Energy Policy Board, among several others.

Each of these, while they mostly meet monthly, has a full agenda packet that must be studied to make informed decision. And each discretionary board has an appointed member and an alternate in case the primary representative can’t make it to a meeting.

Many of these boards while not directly affecting Morro Bay citizens, still pass rules and regulations that apply countywide, or they allocate State and Federal tax monies to the individual cities.

Having a representative for your city sitting and voting on these boards is important.

The City’s list of discretionary board positions is two-and-a-half pages long and the burden is shared by all members.

Also, each Council member is assigned as a liaison to one of the City’s advisory boards. Attending those monthly meetings adds to the time constraints.

And on top of that are several council sub-committees one might be assigned to or volunteer for. Some of which are project specific and relatively short termed. However, some sub-committees, like the Vistra Energy battery project, could last for years.

These are created by a simple majority council vote and can happen at any time for just about any purpose.

In the past, the Morro Bay City Council has been split philosophically, and at times at actual odds with each other, which might make for lively television (the meetings are broadcast live), but that kind of conflict can be hard to stomach over time.

But it appears the City’s past reputation for contentious council meetings is at a lull.

“I believe in the last four years that I have served,” Mayor Wixom said, “we have had a very functional council that has worked collaboratively with staff and community to move our goals forward.”

In her first term, Mayor Wixom sat on a council with four other women, including Landrum and Edwards. That all-female council was a first in Morro Bay. The next Council will be 3-2 male. But no matter who sits on the dais, the issues can be huge.

“We have many large projects,” she continued, “such as purchasing Morro Elementary, decommissioning the old sewer plant, as well as the largest road paving investment in our city’s history, with several million dollars more allocated to begin the next phase in the coming months.”

She continued, “We also have a uniqueness in learning and advocating for the many needs of our harbor at local, state, and federal levels. It is a lot.”

The Mayor, who is officially retired from her restaurant, but still works part time in the family’s country store gift shop next door to Carla’s Country Kitchen, is grateful for the vote of confidence.

“I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me as your Mayor,” she addressed the public. “Thank you for your support and I promise to keep working hard on your behalf. We are truly blessed to live in such an incredible community.”

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(PG) 1 hr 43 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed
7 pm ONLY
Sun 4 pm ONLY

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VS. ACME
(PG) 1 hr 43 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 4:15 pm & 7 pm
Sun 1:15 pm & 4 pm

9/4 - 9/9
COYOTE VS. ACME
(PG) 1 hr 43 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 4:15 pm & 7 pm
Sun 1:15 pm & 4 pm

SPECIALS * ONE SHOWING ONLY

8/29
FREE WILLY
(PG) (1993)
1 hr. 52 min.
Sun. at 1 p.m.

9/7
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