

Dolphins Rescued from Back Bay Mud



A team of trained responders from The Marine Mammal Center use a tarp at Cuesta Inlet to carry a stranded dolphin to a response vehicle for transport to Morro Bay where it, along with two others, were released into Estero Bay, with help from the Harbor Patrol. Photo © The Marine Mammal Center, NOAA MMHSRP #24359

By Neil Farrell

Everyone is celebrating the rescue of a trio of stranded wayward dolphins that got stuck in the Back Bay mud at low tide last week, and one dolphin that didn't make it, will be studied to see if they can figure out why the animals were so far from their normal environs.

It all started in the early morning of Tuesday, Sept. 29 when someone spotted several dolphins swimming and foraging near Cuesta Inlet, a small tidal inlet south of Baywood Park in the far southern end of Morro Bay.

"At least five dolphins were initially seen swimming freely and actively foraging in the bay throughout the day," said Gi-

ancarlo Rulli, the associate director of public relations for The Marine Mammal Center, "before several animals became stranded on mudflats as the tide receded in the late afternoon."

Of the five dolphins that were spotted, four were at Cuesta Inlet and one at Shark Inlet, which is at the extreme south end of the Bay Back by Sea Pines Golf Resort.

The MMC was called about the dolphins and sent volunteers to monitor what they positively identified were common dolphins.

That species of dolphin isn't supposed to be in an inlet miles from the ocean. Normally the black and white marine mammals are found in open water, fairly close to shore but still in the open ocean. They aren't supposed to be at Cuesta Inlet.

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Harbor Rescue Boat Needs Rescuing



Members of the Harbor Patrol and staff from the Marine Mammal Center celebrate the successful release of three dolphins that were rescued from the Back Bay mud at Cuesta Inlet last week. Submitted photo

By Neil Farrell

The Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and a non-profit support group are raising money to give their main workhorse patrol boat an extensive overhaul and, hopefully, keep it saving lives and property for decades to come.

The department's Patrol Boat No. 3864, or just "Boat 64," is in need of an extensive refurbishing, including new inboard diesel engines and a total re-wiring, and while they've been able to piece together much of the money they need, they still need to raise some \$100,000 to get over the finish line.

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Local Visits Every National Park and US States



Brant Schmidt in his vest covered with badges from National Parks he has visited and other favorite places. Photo by Theresa-Marie Wilson

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A Los Osos resident has encountered bears in Alaska, saw prairie dogs in the Badlands and witnessed hundreds of thousands of bats emerge into the night at Carlsbad Caverns — he's 10 years old.

At 6-years-old, Brant Schmidt set a goal for himself to visit all 63 national parks and 50 states by the time he hit his first decade.

The idea came to him during a Thanksgiving family trip through Fern Canyon in Redwood National and State Parks. At the time, Brant's family was already working toward a goal of visiting all 50 states, so his parents, Jamie and Todd Schmidt, embraced the added challenge of seeing all 63 national parks along the way.

"I liked the ones I was going to," Brant, a fifth grader at Teach Elementary in San Luis Obispo, told Estero Bay News. "So, then I asked if I could go to the others, and my mom said 'yeah.' Then she asked by what time? I said 10. So, I gave her four years."

Brant turned 10 this summer at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska, completing both goals.

Young child and long-term goals don't often go together, but Brant has some advice for others.

"Stay with it, and don't just stop. What's the point of starting

Visits Every National Park Continued on page 20

Los Osos Bookstore Owner Honored at Writers Conference

By Judy Salamacha



Each year the Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference presents the Lillian Dean Inspiration Award to an individual who has gone the distance to encourage writers to write and authors to produce their books. At the 42nd annual conference the 2025 honoree Teri Bayus, a past director of CCWC and the published author of "The Greatest of Ease, a Circus Story" introduced the 2026 honoree, Carroll Leslie, the owner/operator of Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe in Los Osos.

As a longtime attendee of CCWC, I've learned "words mat-

Bookstore Owner Honored Continued on page 22

No Sign of Crashed Navy Training Jet

By Neil Farrell



There have been no reports thus far of debris in the ocean northwest of Morro Bay after a Navy training jet crashed into the sea on Sept. 22.

According to a notice from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the early evening of Tuesday, Sept. 22 a Hunter Hawk military training jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean some 6 miles northwest of Morro Bay. The pilot successfully ejected from the plane.

Navy Training Jet Continued on page 23

Common Murres in Need Inundate Pacific Wildlife Care



A common murre taken in by Pacific Wildlife Care is among hundreds needing lifesaving care. Photo by Pacific Wildlife Care
By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The recent occurrences of Marine life in distress have been on the minds of wildlife rescue organizations and concerned community members. Dolphins stranded in the Back Bay made news across the Nation (see story on page one) and the sheer number of common murres needing rehabilitation is causing alarm within the county.

On Sept 28, Pacific Wildlife Care admitted 48 common murres, the largest number of murres the rescue organization has ever taken in in a single day in nearly four decades of operation. The birds are coming to beaches throughout the county with a larger population found in Oceano and Cayucos.

Since September 1, PWC has admitted 421 murres, the vast majority arriving severely underweight.

“Finding a murre stranded on the beach is not normal,” Kristin Howland, executive director of PCW told Estero Bay News. “At Pacific Wildlife Care, we generally see common murres coming into care in small numbers throughout the year, but more often during the winter months when storms and high swell churn up natural seep oil, and oiled birds wash up to shore.”

These seabirds spend most of their lives on the open ocean, so finding one stranded on the beach is a sign that something is wrong. Extremely warm ocean temperatures may be contributing, as the fish murres depend on move into deeper, colder water where they’re harder to reach. Ocean temperatures are expected to remain unusually warm as this year’s El Niño develops.

The murres found on local shores are young, first-year birds who are still developing their diving skills. Chicks leave the breeding colony and continue to be cared for by the adult males, but if prey is scarce or hard to reach, it’s possible that the adults are struggling to provide enough food for themselves and their young, potentially leading to chick abandonment.

“Another possible factor is that the adults are molting right now,” Howland said. “Murres replace many of their feathers at once, which leaves them unable to fly for a period of time as they grow in their new flight feathers. Therefore, they aren’t able to easily travel to other places where fish might be more abundant and, since murres use their wings to ‘fly’ under water, they probably are not able to forage as efficiently or dive as deeply as they normally are. Plus, it’s energetically expensive to grow fresh feathers.”

Murres are capable of extremely deep dives, however, murres have extremely high energy demands and lose body reserves quickly when adequate prey isn’t available.

“If prey becomes less abundant or moves farther away/deeper, birds have to spend more time and energy searching for food,” Howland said. “When birds can’t get enough food, they have even less energy available for energetically expensive activities like prolonged/deep dives.”

The water isn’t likely to drop to needed cooler temperatures prior to the birds being ready for release.

“We will work with other organizations/individuals to identify groups of wild murres that appear to be doing well to release with those groups,” Howland said. “We can’t keep them indefinitely to when water temperatures normalize because the birds are susceptible to captivity-related problems.”

The budget needed to care for such a large influx of birds was unexpected and remains costly.

I don’t have a complete dollar amount for the cost of care yet, but it is already significant, and the longer this crisis contin-

ues, the greater the expense becomes,” Howland said. “Our staff are working overtime to respond to the crisis. We have called in additional support from our part-time rehabilitation technicians, added a part-time fill-in rehabilitation technician to the team, and extended the contracts of our seasonal staff. Staff and volunteers are working long days to make sure these birds receive the care they need.

“Food is another major expense. Common Murres are fed smelt, a type of fish with relatively low oil content which helps minimize the risk of contaminating the water in their pools. Since September 24, we have gone through 25 boxes of smelt at a cost of \$875, or about \$35 per box. At the current pace, our food costs will add up quickly, and we are now down to our last few boxes of smelt. Plus, smelt is a declining fishery, so sourcing enough frozen smelt for this many birds is a challenge.

The birds also require nutritional supplements, medications, and other specialized supplies. Donations would help cover these costs and can be made at pacificwildlifecare.org/give.

“We are so grateful to everyone in our community who has already stepped up to help support the care of these birds,” Howland said.

Morro Bay Shell Station to be Refurbished

A photograph of a yellow sign that says "SORRY OUT OF SERVICE" in bold black letters. The sign is hanging from a gas pump nozzle. In the background, there is a building and other gas pumps.

The price of gas didn’t surpass the available space in the Morro Bay Shell Station’s marque sign, forcing it to go black. The station isn’t pumping gas in anticipation of a refurbishing project.
Photo by Neil Farrell

By Neil Farrell

Motorists in Morro Bay have one less option for filling up, after a local gas station ceased pumping gas in advance of a major refurbishing of the fueling system.

The Shell Station at the corner of Morro Bay Boulevard and Kern Avenue hasn’t been selling gasoline for several weeks now, though the little mini mart store has remained open for business.

According to the City Planning Director the station is to undergo an expansion and refurbishing.

Community Development Director Airlin Singewald forwarded a permit that station owner 7-11 Inc., was issued in May.

Under “Description” the permit said, “DIGEPLAN — Various site and demolition work to existing underground fuel tanks. Electrical, wiring, update existing dispensers, vapor and vent piping systems, vacuum lines, four new stainless-steel islands, new overfill alarm.”

The permit lists a value for the overall job of \$150,000 for which the City charged \$4,122 in fees that was paid with a credit card by Allison McConnell of Petro Builders, Inc., the agent listed on the permit. And, 7-Eleven, Inc., of Dallas, Texas is listed as the property owner.

When it gets underway, which could be as soon as this week, working hours for the job are limited to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

While the station is down for repairs, that will leave the city with just four gas stations, two on Morro Bay Boulevard — Mobile and Sinclair, and two on North Main Street — Anchor Gas (formerly Lucky 7) and USA Gas (formerly Chevron).

Director Singewald said the City hasn’t been told if the station would reopen as a Shell or 7-Eleven.

“We haven’t received a sign permit or business license application to convert the Shell station to a 7-Eleven,” Singewald said adding “7-Eleven was the owner of the Shell station before they applied for this renovation permit.”

That site has long been a service station and change is not new. Over its long life it was formerly a Beacon station, Valero, and BP before becoming a Shell station.

Estero Bay News sent inquiries to McConnell via email, and asking about the timeline, but she didn’t respond before deadline.

LOCSD Board to Appoint Dist. Engineer to County WRAC



LOCSD Assistant GM and District Engineer, Eric Riddiough was expected to be named the District’s alternate member to the Water Resources Advisory Committee. Logo courtesy SLO County
By Neil Farrell

Board members of the Los Osos Community Services District were expected to appoint their new district engineer to a key County water board at its Oct. 1 meeting.

LOCSD General Manager Greg Kwolek asked the board to appoint Assistant General Manager/District Engineer, Eric Riddiough, to be the alternate to the SLO County Water Resources Advisory Committee or WRAC.

Riddiough had also worked under Kwolek in the Morro Bay Public Works Department before leaving the City to work for Caltrans on the Hwy 46/41 interchange project, which has now wrapped up construction.

He was hired by Kwolek again a couple of months ago to join him at the LOCSD. Kwolek had left his position as Public Works Director in Morro Bay this past spring to take the top job in Los Osos, replacing the now-retired Ron Munds. Munds had been the WRAC alternate for Los Osos.

“The alternate representative,” Kwolek’s report to the board



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A small image of the Estero Bay News publication, showing the masthead and some text.

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A portrait of Linnea Anderson, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a white sweater, sitting outdoors.

News

said, “provides continuity of District representation on the WRAC when the primary representative, currently Director [Chuck] Cesena, is unavailable.

“Upon Board approval, the nomination will be submitted to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors for confirmation.”

According to the County’s WRAC webpage, “The WRAC advises the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and recommends specific water resource and conservation programs.”

The WRAC consists of some 37 members plus alternates for each seat, representing the five Supervisorial Districts, the seven incorporated cities, and every CSD in the County.

It also has seats for two Resource Conservation Districts, three agriculture representatives, three representatives from the environmental community, one developer, and seven seats representing water agencies and districts. Several of these seats are currently vacant.

The WRAC meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at the SLO City/County Library on Palm Street and its meetings are open to the public.

“WRAC,” Kwolek said, “provides a forum

for representatives of local agencies, organizations, and interested parties to discuss water resource issues affecting San Luis Obispo County.

“The CSD’s participation allows it to remain informed and engaged in county wide water resource discussions and provides an opportunity to represent the CSD’s interests on matters related to water resources.”

Among the bigger issues currently under consideration is potentially building desalination facilities to supplement the fresh water supply. The LOCSD is also preparing to build a pipeline from Hwy 1 and the Chorro Valley Pipeline to bring fully treated state water to town.

The Flood Control and Water Conservation District is a County agency in charge of major water projects and programs like the Nacimiento Lake Project, and the State Water Project and its thousands of acre feet of unused allocation, among other issues.

The County Public Works Department provides the staff support for the WRAC and delivers its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors along with water-related agenda items. Though the WRAC has some 37 members, the Flood Control District’s Board consists of just the five County Supervisors, who make all the decisions on water supply and flooding issues within the District’s authority.

Hwy 46 Interchange Gets Renamed

By Neil Farrell

He was the most famous victim and his death the most infamous accident ever on Hwy 46, and now 71-years after his tragic death, Caltrans is honoring Hollywood legend, James Dean, and renaming a segment of the highway where he died in his honor.

It’s also taking the opportunity to use the tragedy to promote highway safety and possibly prevent more death on a stretch of highway that picked up the moniker, Blood Alley.

“On the 71st Anniversary of James Dean’s fatal crash,” reads a news release from Caltrans Dist. 5, “local transportation leaders, elected officials, and James Dean Family representatives will announce a resolution designating a portion of the new Highway 46 alignment in San Luis Obispo County as the James Dean Memorial Highway.

“The resolution, sponsored by State Assembly Member Dawn Addis (D — 30th



The new signs erected on a stretch of Hwy 46 at the Hwy 41 interchange are dedicated to the late actor James Dean who died in a crash there in 1955. Submitted photo

District), honors the legacy of American actor James Dean, who tragically lost his life in a car accident on this stretch of roadway in 1955.”

The dedication was made official at a Sept. 30 ceremony held at the James Dean Memorial near the Jack Ranch Café in Cholame.

“In addition to commemorating Dean’s cultural impact,” Caltrans said, “the announcement also highlights the importance of roadway safety along this corridor.

“Over the decades, numerous motorists have lost their lives near the Highway 46/41 interchange. The designation serves not only as a tribute, but also as a reminder of the ongoing

need for vigilance, continued safety improvements, and community awareness to help prevent future tragedies.”

The Hwy 46/41 “Y” had over the years seen countless tragic crashes, as cars and trucks turning onto Hwy 41 towards Fresno had to cross traffic coming down the Polonio Pass at highway speeds. But that’s changed now.

Caltrans just last year completed a new interchange and eliminated the “Y” with a proper, modern, interchange and removed the dangerous cross-traffic turn.

Also, closer to Paso Robles, Caltrans has for many years been widening the roadway, adding new lanes of traffic in each direction and turning what was once a 2-lane rural highway into a 4-lane road with a wide center divider.

That work continues, but the danger on Hwy 46 continues at several spots including a major rest stop with a cross-traffic turn just a few miles out of Paso Robles.

On Sept. 30, 1955, Dean had just wrapped filming the classic movie, Giant, co-starring Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson, and was driving his Porsche Speedster (Spyder) race car, nicknamed “Little Bastard,” from Southern California to Salinas, CA, where he planned to drive in a sports car race at Laguna Sega Raceway.

At the Hwy 46/41 “Y” intersection, he collided nearly head-on with a 1950 Ford Tudor driven by 23-year-old Navy veteran and Cal Poly student Donald Turnupseed, who was heading home to Tulare at the time.

The Porsche reportedly cartwheeled sev-

eral times and came to rest in a ditch, a mangled wreck.

Dean was critically injured and had to be extricated from the wreck, suffering massive injuries including a broken back, a crushed foot, and internal and external injuries.

A passenger, Porsche mechanic, Rolf Wütherich, was thrown clear of the sports car and landed a short distance away and was also seriously injured.

Both were taken to a Paso Robles hospital and Dean died en route. Wütherich suffered a broken jaw, hip and broken femur bone that required several surgeries, but he survived the crash.

A monument was erected in 1977 to James Dean and sits outside the Jack Ranch Café. In 2005, the “Y” intersection was renamed the James Dean Memorial Junction. With that now gone, Caltrans is renaming the new interchange in Dean’s honor.

It should be noted that Hwys 46 and 41 continue to be heavily used by visitors from both the Fresno and Bakersfield areas heading to San Luis Obispo County for vacations.

On holiday weekends, both highways can be extremely heavy with traffic. Both routes also continue to pile up crashes and deaths.

Caltrans continues to make extensive safety improvements on both roads including expanding the 2-lane segments to 4-lanes with medians. Both roads are among the main, east-west routes for the Central Valley residents to visit the Coast.

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News

Cayucos Picks New CSD Board Member

By Neil Farrell

The mess of the November Election has cleared a little, after the Cayucos Sanitary District Board voted to approve one of two applicants vying for an open seat. But their tenure could be short-lived.

Jim Billings, a retired civil engineer and business owner got the nod over Charles Bergson who is also a civil engineer and former public works director.

Billings takes over the final months of long-time Board Member Shirley Lyons' Division 2 seat, after Lyons stepped down from the board earlier this year. Her term officially ends in December, and Billings would have to step away if his candidacy is unsuccessful.

Billings and Bergson are slated to run for the full 4-year term in the November General Election and both will appear on the ballot. And while both men's resume is impressive, only one of them will be able to serve.

Meanwhile, the CSD's other two empty seats, Divs. 2 and 3 still have no one that has come forward to serve. No one put in nomination papers to run for either seat, and the CSD Board is in the process of trying to recruit applicants to be appointed.

It will go over the applications (the next meeting is Oct. 15) assuming they can find people to apply and eventually make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, who will be called upon to appoint someone to fill both of those seats.

Essentially, whoever is chosen to represent two-fifths of the Cayucos community will be decided by a 3-person majority of the Board of Supervisors.

The CSD Board is actively searching for people to come forward and apply for the seats and in all likelihood, barring some disqualifying scandal, potentially be a shoo-in to get appointed to the seat.

Of course, as an appointed member to an elected board, they would have to run for the seat at the next available election, which would be in November 2028. But by then they would have gained experience sitting on the board and be better educated as to what the position entails and all that is required of them to serve.

Again, the question arises as to why are so few people willing to step up and take a leadership role in their community?

Morro Bay also had only three people put in nomination papers for its three opens seats — Mayor and two Council seats — with two of them being incumbents.

But instead of canceling the election and simply awarding the seats to the three who sought them, the City Council voted to go ahead with the election to allow for people to sign up as write-in candidates that will not appear on the ballot.

And in Los Osos, the Community Services District also had only two people seek three open seats, with both of those folks already incumbents, so the LOCSD had to appoint someone to fill an open seat.

Los Osos, like Cayucos, is divided into five districts, called "Areas" in their bylaws, and every board seat represents a specific segment of the overall community, and narrowing down even further what is already a relatively small pool of potential candidates.

But while being a divided community would appear to be a likely reason for why candidates are so few, Morro Bay still elects its leaders on an at-large basis, with the entire town voting for each position.

In 2004, voters were asked to approve Measure F, which would have divided Morro Bay into five voting districts. That citizen's initiative was soundly defeated with a 76.23% "No," vote in the March 2004 Primary Election.

So, while Morro Bay rejected the effort to divide the town into voting districts, some 20-plus years later it suffers from the same apparent lack of interest to serve in elective office.

Behavioral Health Encourages Inclusive Services during Latino Month

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, observed September 15 through October 15, the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Behavioral Health is highlighting the importance of culturally inclusive services and care for the Latino community.

Mental health affects every community, but stigma, language differences, cultural barriers, and access to care make it more difficult for some Hispanic and Latino individuals and families to seek support. According to Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 21.4% Hispanic and Latino individuals experienced mental illness yet only 15.4% received treatment. This discrepancy in data highlights the importance of having open conversations around mental health and substance use so loved ones feel supported when reaching out for support.

Equally as important to having open conversations is the ensuring Hispanic and Latino community members are represented directly in the care they receive. "When individuals see themselves reflected in their healthcare providers, it fosters trust and encourages them to seek help," said Laura Zarate, public information officer with County Behavioral Health. "By having professionals who share similar backgrounds and experiences, we can help break down these barriers, create welcoming and safe spaces for dialogue, and promote mental wellness within our communities."

The SLO Department of Behavioral Health offers services in Spanish language through bi-lingual staff and the use of language lines. The Department's Latino Outreach Program has bilingual staff and bilingual therapists who work to increase access to mental health care for monolingual Latinos and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and treatment amongst the Latino population. The free and confidential Central Coast Hotline 1-800-783-0607 also serves Spanish speaking community members by text or phone, which is especially important given 10.8% of all Hispanic high school students reported attempting suicide within the past year, which is significantly higher rate than that of white students 8.3% (SAMHSA).

"As a proud Latina, I believe everyone has the right to receive caring services that support their diverse identities," Zarate said. "By having representation in our clinics and services we can enhance our quality of care and make sure all Latinos are supported in their journey towards wellbeing."

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month and year-round, the Department of Behavioral Health encourages residents to talk openly about mental health, help reduce stigma, and learn about available resources. Community members are welcome to follow the Department on social media for up-to-date service announcements and resources. Spanish health information is also shared on the radio weekly Friday afternoons from 1 – 2 p.m. on La Mexicana 102.9 FM / 1490 AM.

Geotechnical Study to Begin on Limekiln Creek Bridge



Photo shows the Limekiln Creek Bridge on Hwy 1 at Limekiln State Park. Caltrans is beginning a major study as part of a \$102 million bridge replacement project. Photo courtesy Caltrans

By Neil Farrell

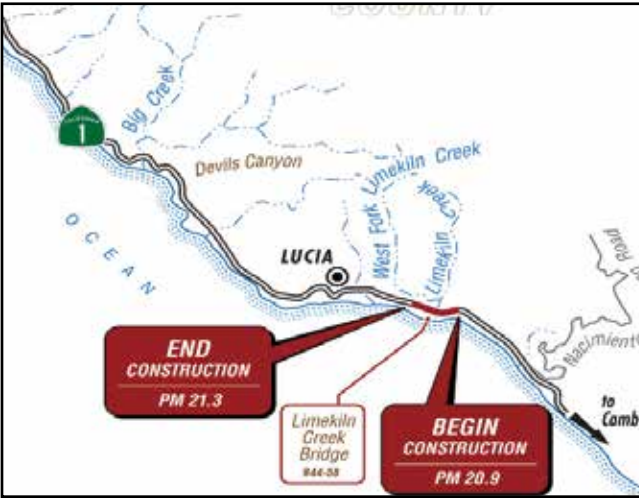
Caltrans is starting another major bridge project on Hwy 1 through Big Sur and motorists will again face traffic controls for the next few months.

Caltrans is working on a project to replace the Limekiln Creek Bridge in Monterey County, a spot just south of Lucia.

"The proposed project," reads a project description on the project webpage, "lies exclusively within the Limekiln State Park property. The entrance to Limekiln State Park is directly off the highway at the southern abutment of the bridge. There is also access to the beach from Limekiln State Park underneath the Limekiln Creek Bridge."

Caltrans began a geotechnical study of the creek bed on Sept. 28. It has set up 1-way alternating traffic controls over the bridge while the survey work is being done.

"A northbound lane and shoulder closure along the bridge," said a news release from Dist. 5 spokesman Ashton Harris "will result in flagged one-way reversing traffic control from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Drilling takes place during daytime



Caltrans map shows the location on Hwy 1 of the Limekiln Creek Bridge. Map courtesy Caltrans

hours to follow all state and local requirements to protect groundwater and the environment."

They plan to bore six small test holes through the deck of the current bridge, in order to check out the soil and underlying rock before finishing the design and engineering of the new bridge.

Harris explained, "This work uses a closed, water circulating drilling system and rock coring methods to safely obtain samples. The investigation ensures that engineers have the information they need to design a safe and durable replacement bridge."

The traffic controls will include message boards and directional signage warning of the construction zone ahead. Travelers can expect a 10-minute delay through the area, which will be open again at night. The work is slated to continue through mid-November but access to Limekiln State Park will remain open.

The actual replacement project is still a couple years off though.

"The project," Harris told Estero Bay News. "Is currently in the Plans, Specifications, & Estimates phase. The project is estimated to go out to bid in late 2028, and construction is estimated to run from 2029 to 2034."

The bridge was completed in 1957 and according to the project website, the estimated construction cost to replace it is listed as \$102.36 million.

Though it may still look sturdy enough, Caltrans has known for over a decade now that it's rusting away from the inside out

"The existing bridge consists of eight piers and two abutments and is approximately 580-feet long and experiencing deterioration," the website explained. "The project is needed due to chloride intrusion in the concrete of Limekiln Creek Bridge, which was confirmed with concrete core testing and inspections by Caltrans' Structure Maintenance and Investigations Team in 2012."

Damage to the superstructure and the bridge's substructure (rebar) was caused by chloride intrusion "from pervasive salt-laden fog," Caltrans said. "This has resulted in frequent concrete cracking and reinforced steel and cable corrosion. There have also been recurring slope stability problems at the north abutment caused by powerful waves. There have been attempts to stabilize this slope; however, it is not possible to permanently stabilize it."

Caltrans wanted to better stabilize the eroding north abutment slope but they hit a seawall — the Coastal Commission.

"There is a permit requirement (Coastal Development Permit 3-09-020) from the California Coastal Commission to remove the existing slope armoring," Caltrans said. "As a result of these issues, the need for replacing the existing bridge was identified by the Structure Maintenance and Investigations peer review committee in its October 2012 meeting."

The drilling is anticipated to be pretty noisy and Caltrans is warning the public. State Parks will close a handful of campsites near the work zone.

"California State Parks," Harris said, "will temporarily close Limekiln State Park campsites four through 12 during the geotechnical operations. Public access to the beach will remain open throughout this period, and all other State Parks services and operations will continue without interruption."

EBN asked Harris for a rendering of what the new bridge will look like but he said they don't yet have one, as the design work hasn't gotten that far.

"We do not have a rendering at this time," he said, "and will update the project website as graphics become available."

Harris said project information, photos, cost breakdowns and environmental documents are or will be posted on the project website, see: dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-current-projects/05-1f510.

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Candidate Forum And More Voter Info

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County will moderate a forum for candidates for the San Luis Coastal USD Board of Trustees on Wednesday, October 14, from 5:30 to 7 pm. in the library at Los Osos Middle School, 1555 El Moro Avenue. The forum will be livestreamed on SLO-Span by AGP Video and available for later viewing on SLO-Span and on the League's YouTube channel.

Community members are encouraged to attend the forum and to submit questions for the candidates. Questions should be on the issues and applicable to all candidates.

For additional information contact the League of Women Voters at (805) 242-6990 or info@lwvslo.org.

The League encourages everyone to register and vote. Visit www.slovote.gov to check your registration status, register to vote, or change your address. When checking their registration status, voters can sign up for "Where's My Ballot" to track their ballots.

The General Election is Tuesday, November 3, and SLO County voters have a big ballot: 14 statewide propositions and local measures that vary by community, plus federal, state, county, and city races. SLO to the Polls, lwvslo.org/voter-info-2026, is the League's nonpartisan campaign to get every county voter ready, has key dates, registration help, and a rundown of your ballot on the Voter Information page.

Dates to Know

October 5: Ballots sent out and early voting begins at SLO Elections Office

October 6: Drop boxes open

October 19: Last day to register online or by mail

October 20 to November 3: Same-day (conditional) registration at the County Elections Office in SLO, or at any polling location

October 26 to November 3: Same-day (conditional) registration at Atascadero satellite Elections Office

San Miguel Man Arrested for Murder

Sheriff's Investigators arrested a San Miguel man accused of murdering a domestic partner and then fleeing the county before being apprehended in Wasco.

According to Sheriff's Spokesman, Tony Cipolla, deputies were sent to a home in the 500 block of River Rd., in San Miguel at about 10 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, for a report of shots fired.

When they arrived, they discovered a 60-year-old woman had been shot multiple times. Paramedics and deputies tried to save her, but she died at the scene.

"Detectives responded to the scene," Cipolla said, "and began an immediate investigation. The suspect, identified as 66-year-old Jose Sevilla Ruiz of San Miguel, had fled the location before Deputies arrived. Ruiz was believed to be driving a gold, Ford F-150 pickup truck."

Estero Bay New Briefs

By Theresa-Maria Wilson

November 3: Election Day; polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

November 10: Last day for mailed ballots to arrive (they must be postmarked by November 3)

Mail Early: SLO County's nearest postal hub is in Goleta, more than 50 miles away. Mail your ballot 7 to 10 days early, ask for a hand-stamped postmark inside a post office, or use an official drop box.

Poly Ranked #1 in West

Cal Poly has again ranked No. 1 overall in the West among public and private master's-level universities in U.S. News & World Report's 2027 Best Colleges rankings. The recognition marks the fourth consecutive year Cal Poly has earned the top overall position in the region of 15 western states and the 34th as No. 1 among regional public institutions.

Cal Poly also earned No.1 regional rankings for Best Colleges for Veterans (for the seventh straight year) as well as for Best Value for In-State Students (a new ranking).

"Cal Poly's continued recognition in these and other rankings reflects the dedication of our students, faculty and staff in pairing rigorous academics with hands-on learning, resulting in graduates who are ready to address the pressing problems of California, the nation and the world," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong in a news release.

This year's rankings also place Cal Poly at No. 1 in computer engineering and electrical/electronic/communications engineering programs, tied for first in civil engineering, and at No. 2 in mechanical engineering and aerospace/aeronautical/astronautical programs.

And this year, the university is tied for 55th place regionally in enrolling and supporting lower income students — up 17 places from 2025.

The 2027 U.S. News Best Colleges rankings evaluated more than 1,700 higher education institutions nationwide on indicators that measure student outcomes (including retention and graduation rates as well as graduate earnings); peer assessment; faculty resources; and other factors. For more on the 2027 rankings, visit U.S. News & World Report at <https://bit.ly/4rFe978>.

Early Childhood Educators to Get Federal Tax Deductions

A new law will allow early childhood educators to claim the same federal tax deduction currently available to K-12 teachers.

Supporting Early-Childhood Educators' Deductions (SEED) Act led by United States Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) was signed into law in September.

"I'm proud that our bipartisan, bicameral SEED Act has been signed into law, delivering long-overdue tax relief to early childhood educators," said Rep. Panetta in a new release. "Pre-K teachers routinely dip into their own pockets to purchase classroom supplies, but until now, they were denied the same educator expense deduction available to K-12 teachers. This new law closes that gap and recognizes the essential role early childhood educators play in giving our youngest learners a strong start."

Research shows that educators spend an average of \$895 annually on supplies for their students. Yet, until the SEED Act became law, early childhood educators could not deduct those out-of-pocket expenses. The SEED Act will correct this and provide tax relief to the teachers working with America's youngest learners.

The new legislation will expand the above-the-line \$350 educator expense deduction, established for K-12 teachers in 2002, to also include pre-K and early childhood educators.

"This deduction helps offset the hundreds of dollars teachers spend out of their own pockets each year on classroom supplies, books, and learning materials," Panetta said.

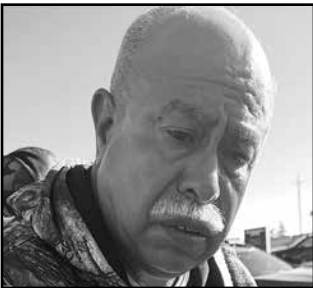
The SEED Act is supported by a broad coalition of education and child advocacy organizations, including the Center for American Progress, the American Federation of Teachers, Teach For America, the First Five Years Fund, and Trying Together.

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.

Cipolla said the investigation turned up leads and witnesses and concluded the murder was the result of "a domestic disturbance and verbal argument between Ruiz and the victim."

They also determined that Ruiz was fleeing eastbound out of SLO County.

At about 8:45 a.m. Sept. 29, Cipolla said, Ruiz was arrested in Wasco, Calif., which is in Kern County about 25 miles north of Bakersfield, by the Sheriff's Office's Special Operations Unit, with help from the



Murder suspect, Jose Sevilla Ruiz, 66 of San Miguel is shown shortly after being apprehended in Wasco and charged in the shooting death of Reyna Espinosa on Sept. 28. Photo courtesy SLO County Sheriff's Department

Wasco Police Department and the Highway Patrol.

Cipolla said investigators believe the murder was an isolated incident and the general public is not in danger. The victim was later identified as Reyna Espinosa, 60 of San Miguel.

Questions have arisen as to why the department didn't immediately issue a public statement while Ruiz was at large and a potential danger?

"The Sheriff's Office did not issue an initial public statement while investigators and law enforcement personnel were actively working to locate the outstanding murder suspect," Cipolla said. "Releasing information prematurely could have compromised investigative strategies, alerted the suspect to law enforcement efforts, or otherwise interfered with the safe and successful apprehension of the suspect."

The case is still being investigated, and the Sheriff's Department is asking anyone with information regarding the incident to contact the Detective Division at 805-781-4500.

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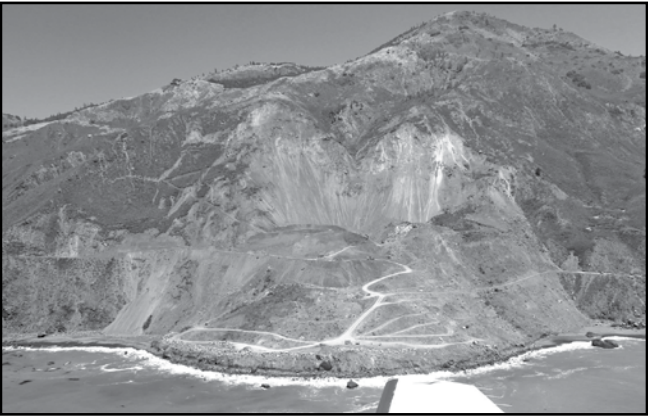
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Community

More Repairs at Mud Creek Slide



Aerial photo taken in August 2017 by John Madonna, the contractor on the Mud Creek Slide repair job, shows the extent of the massive landslide that happened just a couple of months prior. Photo courtesy Caltrans

By Neil Farrell

Travelers on Hwy 1 through the site of the massive Mud Creek Landslide on Hwy 1 will encounter traffic controls that started this past Monday (Oct. 5) and will continue to an undisclosed time in the future.

“Travelers on Highway 1 near Mud Creek,” reads a news release from Dist. 5 Spokesman Ashton Harris, “will encounter one-way reversing traffic control for roadway restoration.”

He added, “The repairs will take place from Post Mile 8.5 to 9.5 Mondays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a potential for work on Sundays.”



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The Mud Creek Slide, which happened in May 2017, was the largest recorded landslide in California history.

The hillside, hundreds of feet above the roadway, came crashing down in a late-season rainstorm, burying the highway 45-feet deep in mud and debris, and washing some 1,500 feet down the slope to the ocean below.

So much debris came down and settled at the water’s edge that it changed the shape of the Coastline.

The landslide took over two years to clear so the road could reopen. Now they have to further repair the scar.

“Crews will work to realign the roadway away from the historical Mud Creek slide prone area and install geotechnical monitoring equipment,” Harris said. He did not release a target date for finishing the work.

Caltrans is putting out message and directional signs to alert motorists of the traffic controls. Drivers can expect delays of up to 10 minutes.

Road information and updates are posted on Caltrans Dist. 5 Social Media platforms: on X at: @CaltransD5; on Facebook at: Caltrans Central Coast (District 5); and on Instagram at: Caltrans_D5.

Sheriff to Auction Bikes



If you need a new bike, the Sheriff’s Department is having an auction to benefit its Christmas Kids Bike Program.

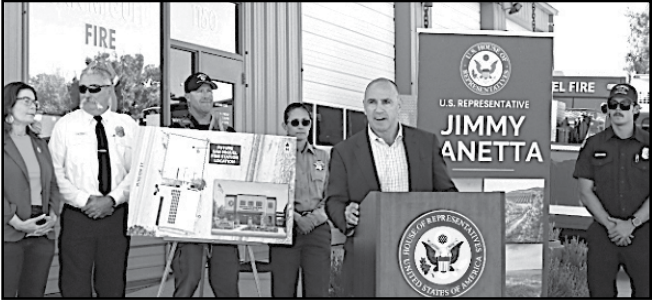
The department has 20 adult-sized bikes that were donated by the public and have been refurbished by inmates at the County Honor Farm, who also work on the Christmas Bike Giveaway Program.

Honor Farm inmates learn to work on donated bikes making them like new with new parts all around. The bikes are then given away to area children whose parents have applied to the program or local law enforcement officers have identified as needing a bike.

The bikes being auctioned look from the poster to be multi-speed mountain bikes (fat tires), with men’s and women’s models. Sale terms are cash or credit card at time of purchase.

The auction is set for Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon at the County Honor Farm, 880 Oklahoma Ave. The Honor Farm is located off Hwy 1 at Kansas Avenue. Take the first left off the highway onto Oklahoma Avenue and the Honor Farm is on the left hand side.

More Money to Help San Miguel



Congressman Jimmy Panetta (at the podium) address the crowd on Sept. 29 at the San Miguel Firehouse. Assemblywoman Dawn Addis is at far left. Submitted photo

A local Congressman and State Assemblywoman celebrated a big boost for the San Miguel Fire Department that will help build a proper Emergency Operations Center for the far northern corner of SLO County.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D — 19th District), was joined by Assemblywoman Dawn Addis (D — 30th), San Miguel Fire Chief Scott Young and other local officials for the announcement of \$1.03 million in federal funding that Panetta secured to help the tiny department be prepared for big fires and other natural disasters.

“The construction of a local EOC at the northernmost point of San Miguel,” reads a news release from Panetta’s Office, “will provide necessary emergency support as the community expands. By equipping the San Miguel Fire Department with its own EOC, this funding will help ensure that local authorities have the resources necessary to respond effectively to complex, multi-jurisdictional emergencies, including fires, flooding, severe storms, and earthquakes for years to come.”

The EOC money is the second, sizable grant that Panetta has recently secured for the San Miguel Fire Department. Previously he announced securing \$1 million to help the department purchase a new fire engine.

The San Miguel Fire Department is a division of the San Miguel Community Services District. SMCS D is responsible for providing the North County unincorporated community with the normal services of a full CSD — fire protection, water, wastewater treatment, street lighting and landscaping and garbage service.

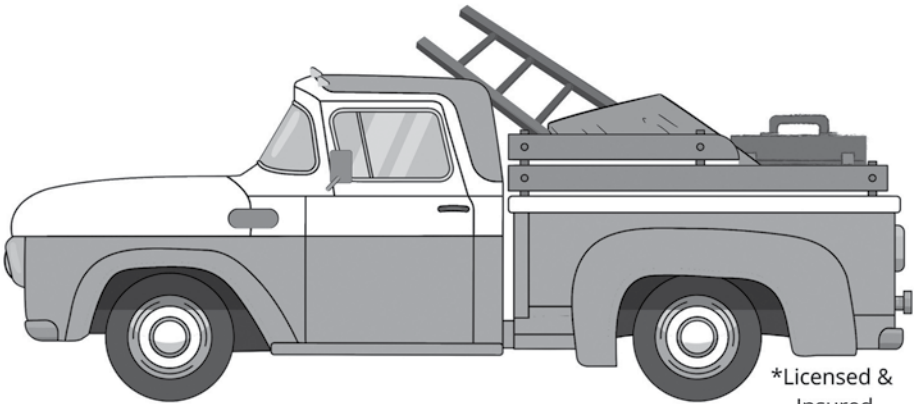
It’s funding comes through property assessments. San Miguel is one of the faster-growing areas of SLO County.

Panetta’s 19th District is an elongated area that stretches from San Jose in the north to the Coast, including Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, and crossing east to encompass about half of the North Coast including Cambria stopping just north of Cayucos. Much of the North County Area including Paso Robles, San Miguel, Templeton and Atascadero are at the southern edge of the 19th District.

Addis’ 30th State Assembly District also includes a slice of of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties and all of SLO County, including San Miguel.

Both Addis and Panetta are currently up for re-election in the November General Election.

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Help Support Solar Project at the South Bay Community Center



The South Bay Community Center, in concert with the Los Osos Community Services District, is currently working on a backup energy system for the center. Currently, though the center is designated as an emergency relocation center by SLO County, there is no provision for backup power. Richard Margetson of People Helping People, Ron Munds, former director of the LOCSD, and the Emergency Services committee of the LOCSD, began the process a year ago and allocated funds to the project. Viva Energy has designed and contracted for the construction of a solar/battery backup power solution, and funding from various donors and the SBCC itself have made up the balance of the funds. This will allow the center to be fully utilized in case of emergency, in coordination with the LOCSD and Cal Fire. You can help with this important project by donating at the link below. If you are a Ralph’s shopper, you can also support the center for free by designating the SBCC as the recipient of your community donation. There is no cost to you, instructions are at the same link. With a super El Nino event on the horizon, we in Los Osos need this more than ever. Help us help you!

South Bay Community Center Board of Directors
<https://southbaycommunitycenter.com/donate/>



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Police Blotter



• **Sept. 27:** At 3:54 p.m. police responded to an undisclosed location where someone’s had passed away.

• **Sept. 27:** At 4:44 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject at some apparently super secret location and cited the slacker for a bench warrant.

• **Sept. 26:** At 8:25 p.m. police responded to an undisclosed location for a disturbance report. Logs indicated some apparent ruffian allegedly committed battery on a spouse or cohabitant and falsely imprisoned her, which sounds very serious but both are misdemeanors.

• **Sept. 26:** Police responded at 2:53 p.m. to an unlisted location for a disturbance. Logs indicated some fallstaffian fool was nicked for suspicion of being on the razzle and scaring all the straights.

• **Sept. 26:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 10:53 p.m. at an undisclosed location. According to logs, the driver got hit with an avalanche of charges — drunk driving, open container, no license, possession of drugs and most seriously in this State — expired registration. He or she will now spend eternity locked in the purgatory of County DAS and the State DMV.

• **Sept. 25:** Police were asked to render assistance to another agency at 5:31 p.m. No word on the assistance rendered.

• **Sept. 25:** Police responded at 3:23 p.m. to a traffic collision somewhere in town. No word on who was involved, the extent of injuries or any other information of even passing interest was released.

• **Sept. 25:** There was another car crash at 10:37 a.m. and police responded. No useful information was released, as usual.

• **Sept. 24:** At 11:36 p.m. someone’s time was apparently up at Anytime Fitness on Quintana Road, after police nicked the squat for a bench warrant.

• **Sept. 24:** Police responded at 3:40 p.m. to a local business, address undisclosed, after they reported a burglary. The case was listed as a felony, so a task force was no doubt formed immediately

to hunt down the despicable desperado.

• **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 5 p.m. to an undisclosed location for a report of someone receiving a “threat of retaliation,” a felony. According to California Penal Code PC 261(A)(6): “As used in this paragraph, ‘threatening to retaliate’ means a threat to kidnap or falsely imprison, or to inflict extreme pain, serious bodily injury, or death.” Logs didn’t indicate whether this terrorist was arrested, but let’s hope so.

• **Sept. 23:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 7:50 p.m. at an undisclosed location in town. Logs indicated the driver was cited for allegedly being honked, and possession of drug paraphernalia, all misdemeanors.

• **Sept. 22:** At 7:52 p.m. police responded to a report of felony burglary and breaking and entering, a felony. No further juicy details were available.

• **Sept. 22:** Police responded to a disturbance at 3:56 p.m. somewhere in town. Logs indicated some sinister secret agent Double-O I.Q. violated a domestic violence restraining order.

• **Sept. 22:** Police contacted a regular customer at 1:10 p.m. in City Park who had a pair of warrants, one a felony and the other a bench warrant.

• **Sept. 21:** Police were called at 3:32 p.m. to deal with some apparently slapdash lazybones hanging around at Subway Sandwiches on Quintana. Logs indicated he had a bench warrant.

• **Sept. 21:** At 2:11 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject somewhere in town. Logs indicated the apparent Swagman was arrested for resisting arrest and for allegedly being a public nuisance.

• **Sept. 20:** Some roustabout was causing a ruckus at 5:40 p.m. somewhere in town. Police ran the bloody fool in for suspicion of being bent in public.

• **Sept. 20:** Someone found something sometime before 10:05 a.m. somewhere in town.

• **Sept. 18:** Police responded to a disturbance at 11:55 p.m. at the La Serena Inn at Morro and Dunes. Logs indicated some disagreeable cur allegedly violated a restraining order, smashed a cell phone, and committed assault. He was hopefully hauled to the cooler to cool his jets.

• **Sept. 18:** Police responded at 1 p.m. to a report of someone having exited Paradise for Heaven.

• **Sept. 18:** Police were called at 7:59 a.m. to the 400 block of

Quintana where some apparent pest was refusing to leave Albertson’s Market. He was cited and advised to take his shoes for a walk.

• **Sept. 17:** Police were called at 11:49 p.m. to a disturbed individual causing a kerfuffle. He or she was nicked for their boorish behavior.

• **Sept. 17:** Police responded at 6:15 p.m. to another loud disturbance at Lila Keiser Park. Logs indicated the repeat Moonraker had violated a domestic violence restraining order and was of course drunk as a skunk.

• **Sept. 17:** Police responded to a reported felony identity theft case at 11:30 a.m. somewhere in town, for which the only successful prevention is abject poverty and crappy credit.

• **Sept. 17:** Police responded at 11:15 a.m. to a traffic collision. Logs didn’t say where it happened, who was involved or the extent of any injuries.

• **Sept. 16:** Police took a report for suspicion of credit card fraud, a possible preview of what’s in store with a cashless economy.

• **Sept. 16:** Here’s one you don’t see every day... Police responded at 5:50 p.m. to a Penal Code No. 148(A)(2), which logs indicated was someone obstructing or disrupting “public safety radio frequency.”

• **Sept. 15:** Police responded at 1:16 p.m. to an injury traffic accident somewhere in town. Logs indicated the allegedly intoxicated driver was nicked for being under-21 and schnookered, causing a crash with great bodily injury, a case of say good-bye to that license for a while.

• **Sept. 15:** At 9:16 p.m. police contacted a suspicious subject somewhere in town who naturally had a bench warrant. He or she was issued another see-ya-later-alligator ticket and released.

• **Sept. 15:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 8:36 a.m. at an undisclosed location and cited the scofflaw driver for no registration.

• **Sept. 14:** Police contacted a couple of suspicious subjects with bench warrants. The first was at 2:29 p.m. at the library and the second at 4:34 p.m. at City Park, as the riff-raff continue to run wild.

• **Sept. 14:** Someone handed over to police something they’d found sometime before 10:47 a.m. of some undisclosed value for no doubt some very good reason.

Cat Noir CC

Ant Trouble

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Boris is not thrilled with the human’s fall leaf display idea. He is a snarky cat and getting more so by the minute, which is just one of the many reasons I love him.

Breakfast was a fast delivery of slop on three plates for the three gods I share my space with. Daisy and Virgil’s bowls were in the sink, but last night I had forgotten to put Boris’ bucket in soak mode.

I filled Big B’s bowl, set Daisy’s down, then followed Virgil into the living room to see where he wanted to dine for the morning. I turned around and Boris was suddenly blocking me. I knew he hadn’t eaten that fast. I was concerned because the food was a flavor that Virgil had decided was not worthy of his palate a few weeks ago.

I asked B to come with me to eat his food, but he veered and went into the kitchen to eat from Daisy’s bowl. I gave a lecture about how the bowls are different, but the food is the same as Daisy went over to the bigger B bowl. Before I was done yammering, she was at my ankles. I looked to see if she had turned into a

vacuum overnight, then headed over to see what the problem was.

In the 20 seconds it took me to scoop Boris’ food into the bowl and walk away, ants had covered it. The mystery was solved; Boris does not eat ants. With food bowl in hand and ants taking over my arm, I ran to the outside trash and tossed the food followed by a spray and soak with the garden hose.

Once back in the house Boris and Daisy stared at me like they were starving and Virgil walked by licking his chops ready for an after-meal nap.

Follow CatNoirCC on Instagram and Facebook for daily photos.



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Community
Oktoberfest set
for Oct. 25



A pair of junge frau were enjoying a previous Oktoberfest.
Photos and story by Neil Farrell

Oh, mein gott! Baywood Park’s biggest party of the year is coming up soon.
The Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Annual Oktoberfest set for all day Sunday, Oct. 25 on 2nd Street in Baywood Park.
Coordinator Gary Freiberg said they plan to get the party started early this year with the Annual Oktoberfest Fun Run that steps off at 9 a.m. by the Pier. The run is a fundraiser for the Morro Bay High School Cross Country Program and men and women, boys and girls of all ages are all invited to participate.
The 19th Annual Oktoberfest Car Show returns from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with registration for the cars starting at 7 a.m. Estero Bay News’ Publisher Dean Sullivan is the Car Show coordinator, contact him via email at: dean@esterobaynews.com or call 805-528-6011 to pre-register. Proceeds benefit the Chamber of Commerce.
Freiberg said they’ve added something new this year — a Morning Biergarten Party with the eclectic local favorite band Funk Junket. Starting at 9 a.m. this is a non-alcohol-focused event, Freiberg said. “The first 100 people will receive half a dozen mini



The Santa Cruz Family Band will perform at Oktoberfest in Baywood Park on Oct. 25. Submitted photo
donuts from Sweet Lips Donuts, and a cup of SLO Roast coffee.”
The music will be awesome. “They’re a great group to dance or listen to,” Freiberg said, “or to hear as a person walks along 2nd Street checking out the vendors with their coffee and donuts.” There is no admission charge for the morning party.
The Morro Bay High Cheerleaders will get everyone in the spirit with a cheer demonstration. It’s the fifth year they will perform. Cheering is a competitive sport at the high school.
At 11 a.m., Freiberg added, they’ll be doing something else new. “Oktober taste,” Freiberg said, “a panel of five Oktobertasters will be served a flight with a taste from all eight brewers in the Biergarten.
“The tasters will be decided by raffle. A hundred tickets will be available at \$5 each for the opportunity to be a judge and give your opinion of which brew you like best.”
He added that the tastings amount to about a full pint of beer drunk over about an hour’s time. Raffle tickets will be available at the gate and from assistants in the crowd. Proceeds benefit the Chamber.
Second Street will be lined with various vendors selling craft items and food stuffs along with local non-profits manning information booths.
Freiberg, who also emcees the Saturday Concerts on the Green at Sea Pines, said he gets to see and hear a lot of different bands and has chosen some of the better ones to play Oktoberfest.
From noon-2 p.m. is B & The Hive. They’ve headlined shows at Mission Plaza in SLO, he said. The group is great and lead



They were cuttin’ the rug at a previous Oktoberfest.
singer Briana “is dynamite,” he said, adding she is among the best female vocalists around.
“B & The Hive do originals and covers,” Freiberg said, “and again are good enough other musicians attend their gigs. That truly is a comment on their talent.”
From 2-3 p.m. there’s a costume contest that Freiberg said, “Is a combination of cuteness and hilarity. Categories are Kids, Pets and Adults. Winners are chosen by crowd applause.” The event is an Oktoberfest, German festival so lederhosen for die Männer and dirndl dresses with bodices, skirts and aprons for die junge frau.
At 3:30 the Santa Cruz Family Band, featuring papa Bob-by Santa Cruz and daughter Rachel Santa Cruz, will perform. Freiberg noted that all three bands on the main stage — located in the Biergarten at 2nd Street and Santa Maria Avenue — are from Los Osos.
They’re also having a second stage set up down by the 2nd Street Pier and coordinated by Billy Burke. There will be an assortment of entertaining activities including a jiu jitsu demonstration and dance demos.
Freiberg added they would also have a photo op booth set up with a harvest theme and a kid’s play zone.
Admission to Oktoberfest is free but unlike Germany, where the legal age to drink beer and wine is 16, you must be at least 21-years old to imbibe at Oktoberfest in Baywood Park.

Takin’ Care of BUSINESS

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

PG&E Donates to Food Banks
With food insecurity affecting one in five Californians, The PG&E Corporation Foundation is providing \$1.32 million to local organizations on the front lines of hunger relief. The funding will help more than 50 food banks, tribal food banks and senior meal programs across 45 counties provide the equivalent of approximately 3.13 million meals to families and individuals in need. Grant amounts consider county poverty and unemployment levels, using the California Department of Social Services’ formula, to promote equity among counties with higher need.
“Food banks are often on the front lines when a crisis strikes, and meeting a sudden surge in need requires more than food alone. It takes the resources, people and partnerships to respond

Takin’ Care of Business Continued on page 10

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Community

Takin' Care of Business From page 9

quickly and effectively,” said Stacia Levenfeld, CEO of California Association of Food Banks. “We’re deeply grateful for partners like PG&E who understand that in times of need, we are stronger and better prepared when we respond together.”

The grants come as food insecurity remains a persistent challenge across California. According to the California Association of Food Banks, one in five Californians, about 8.8 million, reported experiencing food insecurity, despite the state producing nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables. Food banks across the state are serving record levels of need as families continue to face increased costs for housing, groceries and other essentials. Communities of color, seniors and working families are disproportionately affected, with many turning to food assistance for the first time. The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County recieved \$21, 650 and the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County received \$27,230, among others.

In addition to the support for local food banks throughout PG&E’s service area, the company has agreements with 25 food banks in high fire-risk areas to provide food replacement during and up to three days after a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). These PSPS events may be called when dry, windy weather is forecast, and PG&E may need to turn off power in certain areas to prevent wildfires and keep customers safe.

You can find a food bank in your county at PGE.com. Check with your local food bank to learn if they have income restrictions. Food is available while supplies last.

Meals on Wheels delivers meals to seniors enrolled in the program. Seniors who are enrolled and experience a public safety power shutoff will receive an extra meal for each day of an emergency outage. Readers can register at mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

PG&E also opens Community Resource Centers during PSPS events to provide basic supplies, charging stations and information to customers. Transportation support, hotel accommodations and discounts may also be available. You can learn more here and sign up for outage alerts.

Annual Day of Hope Shatters Records, Raising \$681,057

The spirit of generosity on the Central Coast has reached a new pinnacle. Dignity Health announced that the 13th annual Day of Hope event raised a record-breaking \$681,779 with all proceeds benefitting Mission Hope Cancer Center, marking the most successful fundraising effort in the event’s history. This monumental achievement was officially unveiled during a celebration on Tuesday, September 22.

This year’s fundraising total represents a remarkable 44% increase over the 2025 outcome of \$473,215, demonstrating an unwavering commitment from the community to support those battling cancer.

“Day of Hope is a profound testament to the compassion of our community,” said Sue Andersen, president and CEO of Marian Regional Medical Center and Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, in a press release. “The support we’ve received goes far beyond a financial gift; it represents a wave of hope for those facing a cancer diagnosis. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed; your generosity ensures that our patients and their families have the expert care and unwavering support they need throughout their healing journey.”

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The impact of this year’s success is distributed across both campuses to ensure local care remains world-class.

For the event total, the Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation raised \$542,057 to support Mission Hope Cancer Center’s Santa Maria location and the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation raised \$139,722 to support Mission Hope Cancer Center’s Arroyo Grande location.

Even though the official Day of Hope event has concluded, community members are still encouraged to make donations in support of local cancer patients and families receiving care at Mission Hope Cancer Center in Santa Maria and Arroyo Grande. For more information on how to contribute, contact the Marian Regional Medical Center Foundation at (805) 739-3595 and the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation at (805) 994-5421.

Poly Receives Land Donation

The historic 390-acre Brughelli Ranch, located just south of the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, will become Cal Poly’s newest agricultural land following the Brughelli Estate land donation to the university.

Brughelli Ranch is a working agricultural property in San Luis Obispo, rich in history, productive farmland and water resources. For Cal Poly, the gift offers hundreds of acres of farmland near campus where students can apply classroom knowledge in real-world environments and collaborate with growers, industry partners and researchers.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity to provide our students with a place where agriculture, conservation and natural resource stewardship come together,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong in a news release. “The ranch has been cared for by generations before us, and now Cal Poly will continue that stewardship while preparing students to care for California’s working landscapes in the future.”

For 150 years, the ranch has supported leafy greens agriculture, livestock, irrigated cropland and dry farming with additional plantable acreage available. About 60% of the ranch is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as prime agricultural land, including 100 acres of irrigated Class I soils that support a broad

range of crops. Existing irrigated-land leases with established farming operators continue to support active agricultural operations and provide a revenue base.

The farmstead fronts Buckley Road and extends between Davenport Creek Road and Jespersen Road. Irrigated cropland occupies the northern portion of the ranch, while additional dry-farm and plantable acreage extend south and west across gently rolling terrain. The San Luis Creek and Buckley Creek cross portions of the property, and the ranch’s water infrastructure includes four interconnected wells and a 7-acre reservoir.

The Brughelli land is permanently protected through an agricultural conservation easement, established in 2015 by the Ercole and Naomie Brughelli Trust in partnership with the city of San Luis Obispo and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. The property is also enrolled in the Williamson Act, reinforcing its long-term agricultural identity. The property will be managed in accordance with the conservation easement, Williamson Act requirements, the donor’s intentions and Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing mission.

The ranch’s history dates to a U.S. government land patent acquired by John Anderson in July 1875. William Buckley later acquired the ranch, followed by Dave McKeen around 1882. Aurelio Brughelli began working on the ranch in 1928 and acquired it two decades later from the McKeen estate.

Aurelio’s son, Ercole Charles Brughelli, was born on the ranch in 1928 and remained closely connected with the land throughout his 95 years. Ercole grew up there and, after serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War (where he received a Purple Heart), he returned to the family farm. He married Naomie Jones in 1965. For the next 40 years the couple managed the ranch, often working with local youth interested in agriculture and the environment. Following the deaths of Naomie in 2008 and Ercole in 2023, the Brughelli estate trustees have managed the ranchland.

“The Brughelli Ranch and Cal Poly both have deep roots in San Luis Obispo — and when it came time to decide how to ensure our land’s vitality into the future, Cal Poly was the clear choice,” said Brughelli Trustee Mark Amos. “We are excited to see how future Cal Poly students will learn on this land and then take that learning forward into their careers and positively impact California, the nation and the world.”

Takin' Care of Business Continued on page 12

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“As your Assemblymember, I’m working hard to secure a fair share of funding and resources for Cambria, Cayucos, Los Osos, Morro Bay, and San Simeon. *I hope to earn your vote and continue serving our special communities.*” –Dawn

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Equality Champion Award
Equality California

Ocean Champion Award
Monterey Bay Aquarium

Transparency Award
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)



DAWN ADDIS is a former Morro Bay Councilmember and co-founder of Women’s March SLO who has represented the Central Coast in the State Assembly since 2022. Prior to her election, Dawn taught in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District for over 20 years.

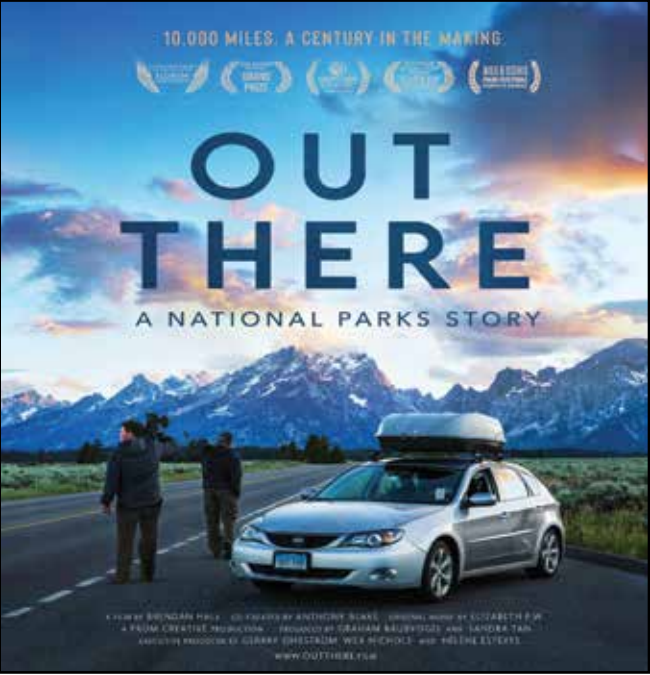
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Takin' Care of Business From page 11

'Out there: A National Parks Story' Forms New Partnerships



Filmmaker Brendan Hall, director of the award-winning documentary, "Out there: A National Parks Story," announced the next wave of nonprofit partners and alliances that will benefit from a portion of the film's rental and purchase proceeds (\$5 from each rental and \$8 from each purchase). At the time of rental or purchase, viewers can choose which participating nonprofit or alliance partner will receive their contribution, further expanding the filmmaker's mission of supporting public land preservation, education and conservation efforts.

The new partnerships represent a cross-section of America's public lands community, from organizations supporting more than 70 national park sites across 12 states to stewards of a 1,000-mile National Scenic Trail, historic battlefields and heavily traveled urban trails. Collectively, these organizations reach millions of park visitors and students each year and have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours in conservation, education and public-land stewardship.

- The new nonprofit partners include:
- Central California State Parks Association (California) partners with California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County to support interpretation, education and volunteer efforts while fostering stewardship of the Central Coast's natural and cultural resources.
 - Western National Parks (National) supports over 70 national park sites across 12 Western states through education, research, visitor services and community engagement. Since its founding in 1938, the organization has provided more than \$176 million in support.
 - Expeditions in Education (National) connects students and educators with national parks and public lands through free

lessons, live broadcasts and hands-on learning experiences. Since 2020, its programs have reached more than six million students, bringing the stories, science, history and people of public lands into classrooms across the country.

- Oregon Parks Forever (Oregon) supports programs and projects that enhance visitor experiences and expand opportunities for everyone to enjoy Oregon's parks, forests and natural spaces, serving as a fundraiser, partner and catalyst for projects that preserve these places for generations to come.
- Ice Age Trail Alliance (Wisconsin) supports Wisconsin's Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a roughly 1,000-mile trail tracing a landscape shaped by the state's most recent glacier. Staff, members and volunteers help steward the trail and connect people with Wisconsin's glacial landscape.
- Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail (Virginia/Washington, D.C. region) works in partnership with the National Park Service to keep the Mount Vernon Trail safe and welcoming through trail maintenance, resource protection, education and community events.
- Friends of Kennesaw Mountain (Georgia) works in partnership with the National Park Service to support Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, raising funds for trail improvements, living-history programs and projects that enhance access and visitor experiences for more than 2.5 million annual visits.

Valley Forge Park Alliance (Pennsylvania) is the philanthropic and stewardship partner of Valley Forge National Historical Park, supporting preservation, education, park programs and community engagement while encouraging citizen stewardship. "From the beginning, "Out there: A National Parks Story," has been about more than visiting beautiful places," said Hall. "It's about the people who dedicate their lives to protecting these places and the connections that inspire all of us to care for them. These partnerships allow the film to continue that work beyond the screen."

The film began with Hall's 2016, 10,000-mile road trip through America's national parks and has since reached audiences through film festivals and sold-out community screenings across the country. The film is now available to rent or purchase via its custom-built platform at www.outthere.film.

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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 Salomacha and Susan Vasquez

RV Camping in Your Own Backyard: Camping in Sedona



The red-rock hiking around Sedona is spectacular. Photo by Debbie Black

By Debbie Black

Continue with us to Stop #4 of our "Circle of the Southwest"—Sedona, AZ. We'd wanted to stay at Rancho Sedona RV Resort, a short 1/4-mile stroll to downtown Sedona. Apparently, so did everyone else. It was completely booked months ahead. We

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Community



Locals and tourist flock to Sedona's butte-top airport every night to witness the sunset event. Photo by Debbie Black

could have parked the RV at the downtown Elks Lodge but we're not members. So, we booked at LoLoMai Springs family-run campground just south of Sedona for rigs under 40'. It was perfect—woodsy hookup campsites shaded by ancient cottonwoods and sycamores, friendly staff, a good camp store, laundry, swimming pool and spa. But the best thing was the ¼-mile frontage on Oak Creek where dogs are not only allowed to swim, they are encouraged to swim! When we asked the owner if it was okay, he answered, "It would be a shame not to let a dog like her do what comes naturally." Chase, our golden retriever, was beside herself!

We luckily got campsite #77, off by itself and close to the creek. Chase ran and swam until she shook from exhaustion. The three of us were happy campers, all set for the next day — Sedona. We'd never met a person who didn't love Sedona. Would it live up to the hype?

After a scenic 20-minute drive the next morning, we reached Sedona. Wow! What struck us first was the jaw-dropping beauty of the mountains surrounding the town—towering rock buttes and steep canyon walls in intense colors of red, brown, gold, and cream, all aglow in the morning sun. It was as though someone had turned the color saturation to maximum. Vivid colors. Contrasts. A deep blue sky. Dark green junipers and piñon pines. Then the earthy brown hues of the buildings whose Southwest architecture seamlessly create the impression that the buildings themselves simply rose up out of the ground, pulling with them the materials from which they were crafted — dirt, stone, and timber. Sedona immediately won us over.

We stopped at the Visitors Center for info and maps on local hikes, of which there are many! But before hiking, we wanted to check out downtown and do some shopping, of which there is plenty. Besides exciting street shops, there's the architecturally beautiful Tlaquepaque Village to explore. Bring your wallet!

Throughout the tastefully landscaped downtown are artful curved mosaic benches and public chimes that we enjoyed playing. After several hours of strolling and shopping, we had lunch on the back deck of dog-friendly Hideaway House, overlooking the cottonwoods of Oak Creek with a view of Snoopy Rock. A great experience! Our convivial waitress schooled us on the renowned Sedona vortexes (or vortices)—concentrations of swirling masculine and feminine energy that stimulate creative power, meditation and healing.

After lunch, we drove out Hwy 179 to hike, stopping along the way to see the extraordinary Chapel of the Holy Cross, built right into the red rock. Then we hiked with Chase the short 1-mile Coconino Trail along the base of a canyon wall, followed by the Bell Rock hike and Courthouse Butte loop — scenic red dirt trails through pines, junipers, Yucca and wildflowers with panoramic views of colorful, rock formations.

After hiking, we headed toward the airport. Several locals

had told us that's the place to be at sunset. "There's a vortex there too," they said. Who were we to argue? The airport sits atop a downtown butte with a commanding view of Sedona and its surrounding mountains. Crowds gather to watch the setting sun's peachy glow climb the red canyon walls. We were advised to arrive well before sunset. We joined the gathering crowd of locals and tourists, standing at the hilltop's edge, cameras poised. Unfortunately, that particular day's sunset was a muted disappointment. But we got a kick out of watching everyone snap 'meh' photos, drink wine, play music and visit. We walked around the entire hilltop, thinking maybe the mystical sunset hour would reveal the vortex...

I wish I could report that we'd experienced even one well-known vortex—at the airport, post office, Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock—anywhere! But alas, no. However, I will say that there is something tingly about Sedona—whether it's the creative energy concentrated around each vortex or the awe-inspiring natural beauty of the land itself. Sedona did not disappoint. And I have a feeling...if you spent a bit of time there, things would start happening to you and for you—and the place would become an inspiration. I hope after reading this, you're inspired to visit Sedona, and give it time to do its magic.

For more camping articles, visit www.debbienobleblack.com/rv-camping-in-your-own-backyard.

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



As the summer concert season quickly comes to a close, there is no better way to celebrate than with the infectious "CaliCubano" sound of the Zongo All-Stars at Sea Pines Golf Resort in Los Osos on Saturday, October 17. Taking the stage as part of the popular "Barefoot on the Green Series," this powerhouse seven-piece ensemble blends Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin, jazz, and funk influences into an irresistible, high-energy dance groove. Fueled by a top-tier rhythm section, horn section, and steel drums, this highly anticipated show marks the band's final performance of the year. Kick off your dancing shoes, gather your friends, and head out to the scenic greens for one last vibrant outdoor party against the beautiful backdrop of the bay before the season ends.

Curtis & Friends will be opening the show, which runs from 2 – 6 p.m. is family-friendly, and free.

Join Cal Poly's Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble for an evening of unforgettable music from the stage and screen. This exciting concert celebrates some of the most beloved cinematic scores ever written, featuring selections from the legendary John Williams catalogue, including music from "Star Wars," "Lord of the Rings," "Far and Away" and "Pirates of the Caribbean." The audience will also experience the grandeur and brilliance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's iconic "Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini" in a wind band setting of the masterpiece that has inspired generations of composers and film scorers alike. From sweeping adventures and magical worlds to majestic symphonic traditions, this program promises an inspiring journey through music that continues to captivate audiences of all ages.

Tickets are \$17 and \$22 general, and \$12 students. Get them at pacslo.org.



The Morro Coast Audubon Society's October Zoom Community Program is "RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors," presented by Scott Harris. Join them on Monday, October 19, from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. via Zoom. For Zoom information, go to morrocoastaudubon.org and click on the MCAS Events Calendar for the link.

Scott Harris spent 17 months chasing 53 Raptor species across 34 states — his version of a Raptor Big Year. RaptorQuest is about his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. From -36 days, to ones over 100 , to getting on the bird just in time, to the frustrations of missing one by minutes. It's about the birds — of course — but it's also about the people he met, the things he learned, and why he's already working on his next adventure.

Harris became an avid birder when he and his wife, Randi, retired to South Carolina in March of 2020. It was a hobby he never imagined himself participating in but now can't imagine living without. He has since added a fascination with mammals and has sold his photographs around the world.

His most recent book, "RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors," is the story of his year-long adventure tracking down every species of Raptor in the Lower 48 states. In addition to his writing, Scott also hosts a podcast, NaturallyScott, that focuses on birds, wildlife and the great outdoors. His interests and hobbies include the largest collection of John Steinbeck's "Travels with Charley" in the world, playing harmonica in a blues band, and he has written more than fifty books in the past ten years - though the one he'll be discussing today is his first entrée into the world of birding and birds.

Events Continued on page 15

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Community

Events From page 13

Bear Valley Quilters' Holiday Boutique takes place on Sunday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The community is invited to join this event for unique hand-crafted items at South Bay Community Center. Admission is free. We will have quilts, holiday themed items, and many other handmade items for sale. It's a great time to start shopping for that one-of-a-kind gift! Our opportunity quilt will be on display, and tickets will be available to purchase. We will draw random winner's name at 3 p.m. Rain or shine – the event goes on!

Bear Valley Quilters supports our community through our Bear Hugs program. Bear Hugs are quilts made by members that are given to local groups such as Los Osos Cares and Morro Bay Community Resource Connection for distribution to families, senior homes and other agencies in Los Osos and Morro Bay. We typically donate 90-100 quilts every year in support of our community. Our Boutique helps fund our projects.

Bear Valley Quilters is dedicated to promoting the art, practice, and history of quilting by bringing together quilters, fiber artists, and sewists for social interaction, education, and creative sharing in a supportive community setting. We welcome those who have similar interests. The guild is a non-profit organization. We meet in person at the SBCC on the second Friday of most months and by Zoom the third Sunday of the month starting at 1 p.m. Visit us at bearvalleyquilters.org.



Pianist Elizabeth Dorman will be the soloist with the Cal Poly Symphony at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in the Performing Arts Center for Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. The symphony will also perform Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol," and collaborate with the San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony for a performance of Mikhail Glinka's "Overture to Ruslan and Lyudmila." Dorman will give two free presentations on Oct. 9 in the Davidson Music Center.

A finalist of the 2018 Leipzig International Bach Competition, Dorman has been widely recognized as a leading performer for her inquisitive interpretations of Bach's music on the modern piano.

Tickets are \$17 and \$22 general, and \$12 students. Get them at pacslo.org.

Free programs at the Los Osos Library for October at 2075 Palisades Ave.

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

Make a Spooky Skeleton Puppet – Thursday, October 8, 3 – 4 p.m. Assemble, color and decorate a spooky (or cute) paper skeleton puppet. All materials provided! School age, tween.

Legos – Friday, October 9, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Kids ages 5-11 are invited to engineer, build, and create with Legos. All bricks provided by the library. Self-directed.

Bears Book Club – Tuesday, October 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m. "Frankenstein" by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. Adult, drop in. Costume Exchange – Tuesday, October 13 – Saturday, October 17.

The Los Osos Library is having a weeklong costume exchange for all families! Come pick up some new-to-you Halloween costume supplies and bring good condition past costumes to donate if you want. It's totally free! Children, baby, toddler, school age, tween, teen.

Winne the Pooh's 100th Birthday Party – Wednesday, October 14, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Come celebrate Winnie the Pooh's 100th Birthday! We will have a scavenger hunt, games, crafts, and videos. You do not want to miss this special event! All ages.

Read Together – Thursday, October 15, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Come read a play script with like-minded enthusiasts. Jonniepat Mobley will provide the scripts and assign roles for a fun and entertaining read through for all. Adults.

Origami – Friday, October 16, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Origami folding activity. Bring your adult and work together to make a crane, a frog, and other fun projects. Paper and printed instructions provided by the library. Self-directed. School age and tweens.

Kinetic Sand Box – Friday, October 23, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Play and build with easy-to-mold Kinetic Sand. Children up to school age.

Spooky Cartooning Workshop – Friday, October 23, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Join cartoonist Kane Lynch for a spooky cartooning workshop. Tweens, teens.

Interactive Ofrenda Program – Saturday, October 31, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Maria Belen Luzuriaga presents the meaning and history behind the tradition, while also helping attendees construct their own ofrenda with provided materials. Adults, teens, school age with adult. Registration required.

The American Association of University Women Morro Bay Branch meets on Saturday October 10, at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, 545 Shasta in Morro Bay, at 10 a.m. This month Brynn Albanese will play her captivating violin and inform us of her incredible musical journey, from an international concert mistress to a transition doula using music as medicine. Whether it's Beethoven, or the Blues, or anything in between, music affects us all.

We welcome anyone to attend our meetings who is interested in the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy and education. For membership information, contact Linda Briney, membership chairperson, at (805)225-1063.



The nationally touring Emo Kids Live Experience returns to Morro Bay for a full-band emo night at The Siren in Morro Bay on Friday, October 23 from 7 to 10:30 p.m. This is not a DJ night – it's a high-energy live show featuring the songs people grew up with from My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Taking Back Sunday, Blink-182, The All-American Rejects, and more. This is a 21 and over show. General admission is \$23.27. Tickets can be purchased at the sirenmorrobay.com.



Local photographer and artisan Linda Detwiler Burner opens their studio workshop doors to the public during the SLO County Arts - Open Studio Art Tour on October 10 - 11 and October 17 - 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1850 10th St, Los Osos, Artist #41.

Visitors to the open workshop will get a firsthand look at the intricate processes behind handcrafted glasswork and high-definition sublimation printing – a method that uses heat and pressure to permanently fuse vibrant imagery into metal, ceramics, and textiles.

In addition to exploring the studio workspace, attendees can witness a live portrait studio in action. Burner has transformed a

Events Continued on page 16

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Community

Events From page 15

portion of the workshop into a fully styled, real prop “Fall Harvest” portrait set, featuring authentic autumn haystacks, heirloom pumpkins, and professional studio lighting. Local families can partake in a short-format mini-sessions during the weekend, in costume or not, walking away with both digital memories and custom-sublimated holiday art pieces baked available for pick up within a few days after the event. Remaining family portrait time slots are highly limited. Casual browsers, art lovers, and families looking for a unique holiday experience are invited to stop by throughout the weekend. For more information, to view art displays, or to secure a portrait time slot, contact Burner at 805-776-3223 or visit www.LindaDetwilerBurner.com.

...

Join Lunch with the League (League of Women Voters) for Election Daze: Making Sense of Recent SCOTUS Decisions on Elections and Vote-By-Mail Ballots

The Supreme Court’s 2026 term reshaped American democracy in real time. Recent judicial rulings affecting the November election raised as many issues as they settled. Where do we stand with challenges to mail-in ballots and the states’ authority to determine how elections are run? Retired federal judge Alex Karlin will break down the Court’s most consequential rulings of the year and what they mean for all of us on Monday, October 19 from 12 – 1 p.m. on Zoom. Free, but registration is required at lww.org.

...

The pressure to see people as “other” seems to be growing. This concerning trend makes the recent publication of “See Us, Know Us: Profiles of Disability” all the more important. Join author Jennifer “Jenn” Chassman Browne at Volumes of Pleasure Bookshop, Saturday, October 17 from 1 - 2 p.m. for a book reading, discussion, and signing of her book.

Jenn invites readers to connect with real people who happen to have disabilities.

She does this through her narrative biographies and original poems for each of the 30 individuals featured; these are then matched with captivating black-and-white portraits by photographer Natalie Brescia.

The stories enable readers to connect with the people being featured and to see them first as human beings, rather than their disabilities.

It is a diverse group of people profiled with a broad range of identities and challenges that will help readers see the commonalities they have with each person.

This book is timely and important. Case in point, the U.S. Department of Justice just released a memo this past June questioning decades of civil rights protections for Americans with disabilities by calling into question whether states need to provide in- home or community-based care to support their ability to continue to “live, learn and work at home or in their own communities, among family and friends.” (NPR 6/20/2026).

Light, homemade refreshments will be served. For more information about Jenn, go to jennifer-chassmanbrowne.com.



...

Central Coast Dance Community Presents: “Western BBQ and Dance” on October 21, Morro Bay Community Center from Noon – 3 p.m. with The Rockin’ B’s band. There will be a Country Two-Step lesson taught by Shari Fortino at 12:30. Join us for a delicious BBQ featuring ham-burgers and salads! This annual fundraiser supports the Central Coast Dance Community’s expenses for the year. The funds raised will help cover the expenses for bands, teachers, and the facility. Come enjoy a great time with food and a dancing lesson while supporting dancing and live music! You can pay at the door. Normal admission is \$10. Barbeque for singles is \$25, couples are \$45. Entry donations help support the non-profit.



...

Cal Poly Choirs to Present ‘Songs of Joy and Remembrance’ Concert on Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, in the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church. Acting choral directors Meredith Brammeier and Julie Dana will lead the program. Cantabile will premiere Brammeier’s “Hark to the Wind of the World,” the University Singers will sing Paul Basler’s “Alleluia,” the Chamber Choir will perform “Dance, Dance My Heart” by Emma Lou Diemer, and PolyPhonics will close the concert with Hans Bridger Heruth’s “Joy.” Tickets are \$22 general and \$12 students. Get them at pacslo.org.



...

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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1941: The War Comes to the Central Coast

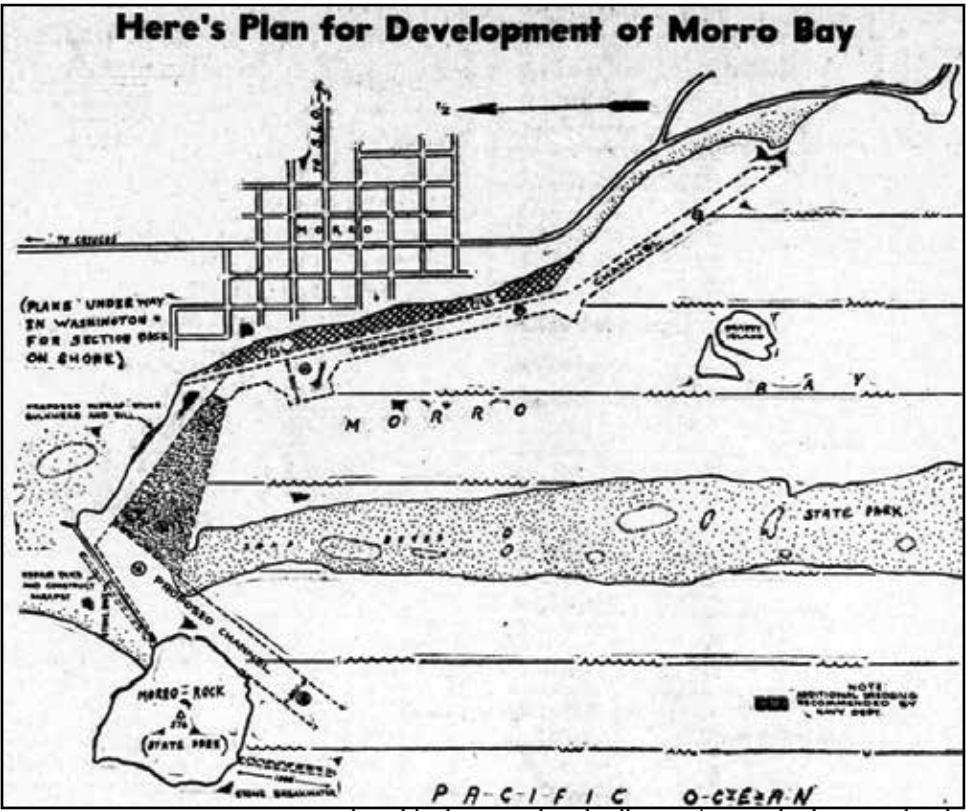
Our previous story detailed how the Central Coast was built up militarily to defend the West Coast and support a possible war in the Pacific. On Sunday, December 7, 1941, it happened: President Roosevelt told the nation that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from the air: “The attack ... was made on all naval and military ‘activities’ on the Island of Oahu.” (SLO County Telegram-Tribune).

Although initial details were sketchy, the impact was immediate on the Central Coast. Radio stations went off the air to prevent their use as guide beacons for Japanese airplanes. The General of the 4th Interceptor Command ordered all 50 aircraft observation posts in San Luis Obispo County manned on a 24-hour basis. He placed guards at critical infrastructure and instituted black-out conditions.

Citizens living along the coast were instructed to drive with the vehicle’s lights turned off. Coast Guard trucks patrolled the coastline to enforce the rules. Trenches were dug at strategic points overlooking potential beach landing sites. People gathered outside the fence at Camp San Luis Obispo to say goodbye to their soldier loved ones who they might never see again.

The sheriff’s and district attorney’s offices had met with the oil companies to plan security measures before the Pearl Harbor attack. The oil companies also took their own security precautions at Avila Beach and Estero Bay. For several months Japanese tankers had been loading oil here. The companies were concerned they would be targets of saboteurs who would know about the location, size and value of the oil lines, and storage and pumping facilities in the county.

Soon after Pearl Harbor and before the end of 1941, the Japanese attacked ten American ships along the California coast, two of which occurred off our coast. On December 23, 1941, one Japanese submarine chased the Richfield Oil ship Larry Doheny just off Morro Bay and fired two torpedoes that missed. One exploded prematurely, and its concussion broke



the cabin doors on the wheelhouse. A second sub pursued and sank the 800-ton Union Oil tanker Montebello near San Simon and fired on the men as they left the sinking ship in lifeboats. Miraculously, all 36 members of the crew were uninjured and rescued. The Standard Oil tugboat Alma (on display at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum) rescued 22 crew members.

The biggest change that came to Morro Bay was the Navy section base that totally redefined the city. The base was dedicated on November 16, 1941, in a ceremony near the site of the new base. The ceremony included a parade, the unveiling of a dedicatory stone, the cutting of a ribbon to put a dredger to work, a flag-raising, a concert by the 40th Division’s 270-piece band, and short talks by officials. The plan, shown in the picture, eventually transformed the Morro Bay harbor into what it is today, and it is the subject of our next story in this series. The 85th anniversary of this event will be celebrated November 7 at 3 p.m. in the Vets Hall of Morro Bay. All are invited.

Image source: SLO County Telegram-Tribune, August 21, 1941. Do you have a photo or story about Estero Bay to share? Contact HSMB at info@historicalmorrobay.org.

home. What I mean is that fear and anxiety are exponentially increased in those situations and, depending on how long they’ve been there, and the dog’s true temperament and personality might be totally shut down. Behavior may be totally different once they feel safe and connected in their new home.

Respect the dog in the cage. That means no finger poking or teasing. Be sure to use caution and common sense when meeting and engaging with the dog at the shelter. Be aware of any critical space the dog might need. Perhaps it isn’t comfortable with hugs or direct eye contact or quick sudden movements. Again, the shelter can be an overwhelming, chaotic, scary place for many dogs and they’re not themselves.

Realize the process of adopting from a rescue and a shelter are different. At a shelter it’s pretty much pay and go, and you can easily return the dog if things don’t work out. When adopting from rescues, there is usually a questionnaire, a meet and greet and a home inspection.

Expect an adjustment period after bringing the new pup home. Animals from shelters can have very fragile psyches, so be patient and gentle. Use the 7/7/7 rule as a general guideline. There’s also a 3/3/3, but I prefer the former. Seven days of decompression, 7 weeks to learn the new routines and structure of the household and 7 months to secure trust, gain confidence and establish the lifelong bond.

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

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Rescue Me

By Lisa Ellman

When you adopt a shelter or rescue dog, you save more than one life. Not only do you save that dog, but you’re making room for another to fill its space, increasing the chances of adoption and decreasing the chance of euthanasia. In the USA, around 500,000 dogs are euthanized every year. Many shelters now work

together, sharing and moving animals around to increase the chance of their adoption and helping to mitigate overcrowding.

The majority of dogs in shelters are not there because something is wrong with them. They end up there for a variety of human reasons including loss of home/eviction, divorce, new babies, or running away/escaping. In my opinion, if a dog consistently runs away from home, it’s because they don’t feel connected or included in the pack. That tells me the owner has not made any effort to establish a relationship or build trust.

If you find yourself looking for a dog, from a shelter or rescue organization, consider the following information. Don’t ever choose a dog based on your emotions or judge the animal based on breed. Use common sense and gut instinct. Make wise, common-sense choices based on your lifestyle. Are you a couch potato, a jogger, a hiker? Do you have loud, active kids? Is anyone home during the day? So many factors to consider to make a good match.

Shelter staff should be familiar with the animal, depending on how long it’s been there. Talk with them and ask questions. Has the dog been returned to the shelter by any adopters? Was it a surrender or a stray? How many (foster) homes has it had? In a shelter, there are usually cards on the cages. Read them. They’re there for a reason.

Keep in mind that the dog you see and engage with in the shelter or rescue may not be the same dog after a few days in your

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Letters To The Editor



Vote for Rodger for School Board

San Luis Coastal District 1 School Board Candidate, Betty Winholtz, thinks our students are stupid and said so on the record twice! At the 4/22/25 Morro Bay City Council meeting she said: “I have tutored for 30 years or more and kids are stupid.” At the 5/27/25 City Council meeting, she doubled down and said of our students, “They do stupid things.” And, continuing, said, “I base that on my interactions with you for over 30 years.” Unbelievably, she didn’t stop there and insulted the high school students in attendance by saying they were only there for extra credit.

Of course, Ms. Winholtz is entitled to her opinion, but should a person with such disparaging and mean-spirited views of our students win our vote to represent Morro Bay and Los Osos on the school board? We believe these comments, repeatedly expressed in a public forum and recorded on the City’s YouTube page, entirely disqualify Ms. Winholtz from consideration. Please join us in voting for candidate Marilyn Rodger to represent all of us in District 1.

*Christine and Lee Johnson
Morro Bay*

Editor’s note – During the 04/22/25 meeting, Betty Winholtz spoke about safety and against the Morro Bay roundabout that students would be expected to navigate. During the 05/27/25 meeting, Winholtz apologized for calling students stupid saying, “I can say that they do stupid things. So, their actions can be stupid, but, maybe, they’re not stupid.”

In Support of Community and Marilyn Rodger

Thanks to Estero Bay News for publishing the article celebrating the achievements of Morro Bay High School and their recent recognition in the top 10% of high schools in the nation! This is a reflection of the hard work of students, teachers, staff, administrators, board of trustees, families, and community.

As a Morro Bay local and a 32-year educator in San Luis Coastal, including 14 years as principal of Del Mar Elementary, I have had the privilege of watching our students grow and develop.

Our community also deserves recognition. By passing Measure D and entrusting the school district with those funds, residents made an important investment in our future.

Strong schools are built through strong leadership at every level. Here in Morro Bay, along with a portion of Los Osos, we

are represented by School Board Trustee Marilyn Rodger. I have witnessed first-hand Marilyn’s tireless advocacy for our students and was very pleased to hear that she would seek re-election. I am proud to support Marilyn Rodger, and she has my vote. Let’s keep great things happening for our amazing students!

*Janet Gould
Morro Bay*

Rodger Has the Expertise we Need

Marilyn Rodger has over 20 years’ experience as a Trustee on the San Luis Coastal Unified School District Board and she is still passionate about serving the students.

That’s the main point: it’s about the students and the schools they attend, no matter where they are. We need to re-elect her to the Board for District 1.

Her passion for service to our students is not the only thing that matters. She also has the expertise in the complex policies and finances of the District that help her make effective in the job. The District is going through important changes, such as the need to replace its successful long-time Superintendent Eric Prater. Marilyn’s steady hand on the tiller is crucial right now.

As a resident of Morro Bay, I thank Marilyn for helping make Morro Bay High one of the best schools in the nation; for support of low-cost financing so Morro Bay can purchase the old elementary school; for her emphasis on making school programs available to all students, including those from lower income households.

Please vote for Marilyn Rodger for SLCUSD Board of Trustees for District 1.

*Marlys McPherson and Glenn Silloway
Morro Bay*

Letter Policy

Please include your full name and town you live in on all letters sent. Although we do welcome longer opinion pieces, publishing is as space permits. Estero Bay News reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

The views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the newspaper, its staff, or its publisher. Email letters to editor@esterobaynews.com.

Learn about Pollinators with Garden Club

Did you know that 80% of flowers depend upon pollinators? Did you know that one third of the food we eat needs pollinators?

Learn about the critical role of pollinators in our web of life. Explore an initiative in Central California to mobilize community groups to restore habitat in partnership with Monarch Joint Venture. See how collaboration with the Los Osos Valley Garden Club, Los Osos Rotary, and St. Benedict’s Episcopal Church is bringing plants, technical resources, and educational opportunities to our community.



String trimming with Don Maruska and a fellow Rotary Club member. Photo submitted

Check out “Why Pollinators Need Our Help and What We Can Do?” presented by Don Maruska and “How to Design and Plant a Pollinator Garden - The Process”, presented by Wendy McKeown on Sunday, October 18, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Los Osos (rear building), 1900 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos. No signup/registration required to attend. Visit lovgardenclub.org/calendar or email us at info@lovgardenclub.org, for more information.

What does it take to turn a patch of weedy clay soil into a haven for bees and butterflies? See how two native pollinator gardens in Los Osos went from idea to planting day, as part of a Monarch Joint Venture project. Attendees will follow the whole process, from scouting sites and testing soil by feel, to building a bloom-all-season plant list and laying out a garden plan. Also see how sheet mulching smothers weeds without chemicals, and how clever gopher-and-squirrel baskets protect young plants. Along the way, you’ll learn why native plants attract far more native bees, butterflies, and moths than nonnative plants. Whether you have a whole yard or a sunny corner, you’ll leave with practical steps and the inspiration to plant something that gives back to the pollinators around you.

Maruska is the author of “Solve Climate Change Now: Do What You Love for a Healthy Planet.” He loves finding nature-based solutions to the challenges we face. He’s also the author of “How Great Decisions Get Made: 10 Steps to Reach Agreement on Even the Toughest Issues;” “Take Charge of Your Talent: Three Keys to Thriving in Your Career, Organization, and Life;” and eBook “Grow and Enjoy Your Business: Proven Tools for Success.” The first in his family to attend college, Don earned his bachelor’s magna cum laude from Harvard and his MBA and JD from Stanford University.

McKeown is passionate about promoting a healthy environment for all – humans, plants, and wildlife. She grew up on Long Island, NY, received her botany degree at the University of WI-Madison, worked for the Forest Service in the Sierras, taught high school science in Fresno, and middle school science in Atascadero. After retiring in 2017, she has volunteered for various local organizations such as Morro Coast Audubon Society, Friends of Los Osos Library, SLO Botanical Garden, LOCAC Tree and Landscape Committee and Los Osos Valley Garden Club.

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News

Cambria Rides High in History



A bucking bronco at the Native Sons of the Golden West Rodeo. Photo submitted

By Consuelo Macedo

The Cambria Historical Society’s mission is to preserve and convey information about the fascinating history of the Central Coast area as well as the town. Each year they are the focal point for community celebrations such as Heritage Day and the upcoming Harvest Festival. The free event will be held Saturday, October 10 on the grounds of the Historical Museum at the corner of Burton Drive and Center Street from 11- 3 p.m. The gardens will be filled with booths by creative vendors, live music by Bob and Joey Benjamin and friends, adult beverages, and fun for the kids.

A special feature is a benefit Sampling of a flight of Six Soups served by local restaurants.

Though the site is famous for the pit barbecue of the last resident of the restored 1870s home, Eugenio Bianchini, there will be no barbecue this year.

After the Gold Rush and Civil War, settlers began establishing small pine homes and businesses near the intersection of the

county road and the old Coast road out of the Santa Lucias to Cayucos. Conditions were ripe to officially establish the town in 1866. It grew so rapidly it became the second largest one in San Luis Obispo County, the larger one was built up around the Mission.

By the 1880s, descendants of California’s, rancheros, Spanish settlers, and immigrants from Ireland, the border of Switzerland and Italy, and China joined folks moving west. They established two churches and several fraternal organizations and celebrated mightily on Swiss Independence Day and the Fourth of July with festivities attracting folks to its central location. Early-on there were also several two-story hotels and five saloons.

The biggest events in the 1880s were held up Bridge Street at the Phelan Grove where the present Covell Ranch is located. Goods and people were hauled up in horse and buggies, and in later years, cattle were run down Bridge and Center Streets in such great numbers that residents had to erect white picket fences to protect their little homes.

The celebrations included Bianchini’s open pit barbecue, a queen contest, parade, and dances. The Native Sons of the Golden West began a huge Rodeo as a “Tribute to the American Cowboy” complete with draft horses, roping horses, and bucking broncos.

By 1928 the Rodeo had grown so large it was then internationally known, and participants could win \$300 prizes from the sponsoring Cattleman’s Association. That was big money in the days when admission was \$1 for adults and 50 cents for kids, including the complete BBQ Dinner.

In the 1930s, women joined in while riding side saddle, the Hearst Corporation introduced Arabian horses, and the Jones Brothers of Hollywood began to market their development in the west end of the village as “Cambria Pines by the Sea,” yet the census of 1950 listed only 800 residents in the entire town. In 1933, the American Legion joined in, and as the event outgrew Phelan



A flyer for a rodeo in Cambria. Photo submitted

Grove, it was moved to Rigdon Flats at the base of Lodge Hill; the Rodeo Grounds are now known as the east Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.

According to the 1934 headlines in The Cambrian News, the high point occurred when 10,000 people came by car — 101 competitors vied for \$150-\$200 prizes for bronco busting, bull riding, steer wrestling, and the women’s quarter mile race; 200 folks marched in the parade. And yes, Eugenio’s barbecue with his daughter Palmyra officiated as queen.

By 1947, the era of the Rodeos ended, and was succeeded by the Lions’ Club’s Pinedorado near the new Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. It was initiated as a fun time for students as they returned to school right after Labor Day with a big parade and the famous barbecued top sirloin steak and chicken. But that’s another story.

Thanks to Melody Coe, we benefited for this article from her research as the CHS Museum Curator and principal presenter at this summer’s Speaker Series, which sold out. Stay tuned for news of the fall event, the presentation about Cambria’s three cemeteries on October 30, followed by a walk through the Community Cemetery up at the end of Bridge Street on October 31, with docents telling tales about some of Cambria’s earliest residents. For information and reservations, go to cambriahistoricalsociety.com for information.

Scarecrows Return to Cambria



Photos by Connie Pendleton

Celebrate creativity, community, and fall fun at the annual Cambria Scarecrow Festival throughout October.

Since its debut in 2009, the festival has grown from just 30 scarecrows into a beloved month-long event featuring over 200 handcrafted creations. Locals and visitors can explore the scarecrows throughout Cambria Village, along Moonstone Drive, and on Castillo and Hearst Drive in San Simeon.

Returning this year is the “Fantastical Cove” display — a collection of mystical creatures, a unicorn, sea serpent and colorful mushrooms and gnomes along with the “Crowchella” display — a star-studded musical experience featuring the KISS band members, Sunny and Sher, Taylor, and Ozzie, the Prince of Darkness, just to name a few. “PJ’s in the Patch” brand-new sleep-themed display in San Simeon will showcase bedtime storytelling, a granny pillow fight, an overnight camping adventure and more.

“The Scarecrow Festival is truly a labor of love created by an incredible team of volunteers, artists, and community supporters,” said Shelley Holden, president of the Cambria Scarecrow Festival. “Every year we look forward to surprising visitors with new scarecrows and displays while bringing back some of the characters people have grown to love.”

The Cambria Scarecrow Festival continues to be a community-driven event, made possible by the generosity of local residents and businesses. Through the Friends of the Cambria Scarecrow Festival Program, individuals and organizations can make tax-deductible donations and even adopt a scarecrow.

“The Friends Program gives businesses and individuals a fun and meaningful way to support the festival and become part of the experience,” said Patty Wallace Rixman. “It’s wonderful to see the community come together each year to help keep this tradition growing.”

Donations support the creativity and growth of this unique event and can be made online at Friends of the Cambria Scarecrow Festival Program.



Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce

Oktoberfest

Sunday
October 25,
2026

Car Show by the Bay

Cooler Little Car Show on The Bay

19th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show by the Bay

Date: Sunday, October 25th. 2026
Day of Registration: 7:00 am
Car Show: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cars and motorcycles will be on display at
2nd Street & Santa Maria in the heart of Baywood Park.

Proceeds from this event fund the car show, the Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, Bay Osos Kiwanis and help provide local school donations and scholarships.

We appreciate your participation in this event

If you have any car show questions, contact:
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The Schmidt family at Wrangell-St.Elias National Park, Alaska during one of their visits to national parks. Pictured are Todd, Brant, and Jamie. Photo by Jamie Schmidt

if you stop?”

Jaimie said she spent countless hours planning routes, coordinating travel around school schedules and building a detailed spreadsheet to make the four-year goal possible. The family homeschooled for a year and a half, giving them more flexibility to travel during less-crowded times. They flew standby on many trips and spent long hours in airports, but the family says the effort was worth it.

Beyond the extraordinary landscapes, animal encounters, fascinating people and many memories, life lessons were learned.

“It taught me that kind of every place is unique or has something unexpected,” Brant said sharing about Kobuk Valley National Park in Alaska that is known for its massive arctic sand dunes. “There’s so much sand, and it’s in the middle of Alaska. There can be unusual things in places that you will never expect. For example, you’re at Carl’s Bad Caverns, there’s just millions and millions of bats coming out each night, and Yosemite, it’s crowded, but like some parts of it isn’t — it’s just amazing. So, each park kind of has its own special part about it in a way. Just like each person is special in their own way.”

Why national parks over state parks?

“In my opinion, national parks are a little bit more boldly protected [including federal funding to protect animals and natural landscapes] versus a state park, which is more like a piece of land being protected,” Brant said. “

Brant’s top three parks are the U.S. Virgin Islands, Yosemite in California, and Katmai in Alaska.

To document their travels, the family used a national park passport book to collect stickers and Brant earned various badges by completing educational books for each park. They all took a bear class in Alaska where Brant found a clump of bear fur while hiking that he shared with this reporter.

The importance of his experience goes beyond that, Jamie said.

“I think a lot of what he learned is adaptability, just being able to go new places and be out of his comfort zone,” she said. “He did some hard hikes and other hard things, and he also made a lot of friends along the way. I just feel like no matter what you do in life, whether you travel far or near, just being able to get



Brant Schmidt takes an oath from a ranger at Denali National Park in Alaska. Photo by Jamie Schmidt

outside is important. We learn a lot from the world around us, and I think his naturalistic intelligence has developed a lot from being outside.”

Asked if he knows what he wants to be when he is an adult, Brant said, “This is the one thing that everyone asks, but I haven’t really thought of.”

To share his adventures and love of national parks, Brant has an Instagram account at nationalparksforkids and he and Jamie also launched a podcast, “National Parks for Kids,” which has released 46 episodes and received more than 20,000 downloads.

Brant says he doesn’t currently have his next goal in mind.

“The next thing I want to do is probably take a break from doing all that stuff,” he said but quickly added, “Or maybe, ooh, I have an idea, but it would cost a little bit, I could do them all again.”

For now, Brant will continue doing the hobbies he loves including basketball, soccer, karate and making dragons and other creatures on his 3-D printer.

Dolphins Rescued From page 1

Rulli said they more often encounter California bottlenose dolphin or harbor porpoises in bay waters like this. Seeing common dolphin there was, “A bit of a mystery.”

The dolphins were swimming around just fine until the tide turned around. “Unfortunately,” Rulli said, “as tidal conditions worsened Tuesday afternoon, four dolphins at Cuesta Inlet became stuck in the mudflats and were unable to navigate back to deeper water.”

They don’t know what became of the one seen at Shark Inlet. Normally, in these situations they would try and shoo the dolphins back into deeper water, but that didn’t work this time.

“Conditions late Tuesday,” Rulli said, “were too poor and unsafe for trained response personnel to attempt to haze the animals toward open water.”

The animals were stranded and spent the night stuck in the sticky, oozing Back Bay mud.

By morning, three of the dolphins had managed to struggle close enough to shore for rescuers to get them. One was already

dead.

“On Wednesday morning (Sept. 30),” Rulli said, “Center experts safely responded to three of the four dolphins at Cuesta Inlet.”

They were gathered into canvas slings and carried to an MMC rescue truck and then driven to Morro Bay and loaded onto a Harbor Patrol boat docked at the North T-pier.

MMC personnel monitored the animals, which were wrapped in blankets and watered down to keep them hydrated, and motored them out of the harbor for release.

Harbor Patrolman Dana Stein told Estero Bay News that they took the animals north of Morro Rock and were about a mile offshore, when they came across a feeding frenzy of whales and a large pod of common dolphins.

That’s where the rescued animals were released back into the water. Rulli said it’s possible that dolphin pod is the same one these three may have been separated from in the first place.

The dolphin that didn’t make it through the night was collected and taken to MMC’s hospital for a necropsy to see if they can determine whether any illnesses or environmental conditions might have caused them to wander so far from their normal habitat.

One issue that most marine mammals — especially seals and sea lions — have been dealing with is domoic acid poisoning, a naturally occurring disease from red tides (algae blooms) that gets concentrated in bait fish and passes up the food chain.

Rulli said none of the dolphins they rescued showed the typical symptoms of domoic acid poisoning, like abnormal behavior and severe twitching. That’s good because, unlike with seals and sea lions, the MMC isn’t equipped to treat dolphins for the disease.

Seals and sea lions they can take in for treatment, but when they take in a dolphin with domoic acid poisoning, it usually gets euthanized.

“It’s quite a different approach [to treatment] with porpoises and dolphins,” he explained. “Our belief is that they were foraging but had gone in the wrong direction. The condition of the three this morning [Sept. 30] was actually quite good.”

Initial reports said one of the stranded dolphins was a calf [a baby] and the others were “older individuals of unknown sex.” Rulli said they don’t know what happened to the baby.

“The calf that was sighted yesterday swimming with its mother in the small pod of common dolphins,” Rulli said, “was not found today and was not part of the three released individuals or the lone carcass collected.”

The hope is that it found its own way out.

“It’s unclear,” he said, “whether it swam out on its own prior to low tide late Tuesday or was the unidentified individual at Shark Inlet that was not found today [Wednesday]. It’s also unclear at this point, which of the four other individuals was its mother. A bit of a mystery on that front.”

The MMC is praising all the folks that reported the matter and stayed around out of concern, with no doubt a bit of awe and wonder at the rare sighting, until the tide went out.

Sarah Pattison, director of hospital operations at The Marine Mammal Center said, “Seeing an animal in distress is emotionally difficult, and our team feels that too.

“This has been a heroic effort by many partners, including Harbor Patrol and the community, to give these animals a second chance. We’re grateful that three of these dolphins were able to be safely returned to the ocean, and we continue to monitor the situation closely.”

The MMC awaits the results of the necropsy to see if they can determine why the animals were in the Back Bay to begin with.

“The cause of these strandings remains unclear,” Rulli said. “Domoic acid toxicosis levels are currently quite low off the immediate San Luis Obispo County Coast, according to experts at Cal Poly, and it is not known whether the disease is impacting any

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Obituaries

Julie Gatewood Miller

Julie Gatewood Miller passed away on Monday, September 14 peacefully in her home at age 71 due to pancreatic cancer. Julie grew up in Saratoga, California. She attended Cal Poly and received an elementary teaching credential. After moving to Los Osos, she taught for the Atascadero Unified School district. Later, Julie returned to Cal Poly and earned a special education credential. She was employed by the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education Infant Development Program which served children with special needs and their families.

Julie's greatest passion was her family, which brought her great joy. She was a vegetarian and believed strongly in the ethical treatment of animals. She enjoyed gardening, dogs, and hiking on the Central Coast. Julie and Larry enjoyed watching professional baseball together. They attended a least one game in every major league ballpark from Seattle to San Diego.

Julie is survived by her husband, Larry, son Michael, daughters Dana and Emily and grandchildren, Wesley and Zola.

Julie has requested that instead of flowers that people take the time to donate to the Adventure Club in San Luis Obispo: 395 Zanzibar Morro Bay, CA 93442.

Donations may also be made to United Cerebral Palsy, 3620 Sacramento Dr #201, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.



Nikki Ion-Overall

1935 - 2026

Nikki Ion-Overall passed away peacefully on September 23, 2026, at the age of 91. She was born on July 18, 1935, in Santa Monica, California. A longtime resident of Los Osos, California, she lived there for 63 years.

Nikki's greatest passion was her family, which brought her immense joy. She was especially grateful that her children and grandchildren remained close by, allowing her to share many special moments with them throughout her life.

Nikki had a creative spirit and loved painting, especially painting rocks, an art she learned from her dear friend Dorothy Dana. She shared her colorful creations with friends and family and generously donated more than 2,000 small painted rocks featuring cartoon characters, landscapes, and holiday scenes to the SLO Oncology & Hematology Health Center, where they brought a little cheer to patients undergoing chemotherapy. Nikki was a cancer survivor and had received treatment at the center herself.

She was often joined in her search for the perfect rocks to paint by her dear friends Connie Lilly, Gladys Porter, Cynthia



Renner and Donna Skibba. Nikki also had a special love for dogs and found great happiness in their companionship.

Nikki and her husband, Gregg Ion, were longtime members of the Los Osos community. In 1963, they opened Bay Osos Hardware at the location where Carlock's Bakery is now located. In 1968, they built and moved their business to 2101 9th Street, where they continued serving the community until the family sold the store in 1991.

Another of Nikki's great joys was playing Bunco. Her Bunco group has been playing together for an incredible 50 years and continues to meet and play today, a testament to the lasting friendships and wonderful memories they shared.

Nikki was preceded in death by her first husband of 42 years, Gregg Ion, and her second husband of 17 years, Vern Overall.

She is survived by her children, son David (Deanna) Ion, daughter Laurie Ion, and son Ron (Clare) Ion; and her grandchildren, including Michael Ion and his wife, Saba Gerami, and Gina Ion.

Nikki will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends for her generous heart, creativity, sense of community, and the joy she brought to the lives of those around her.



Four common dolphins are pictured live stranded at low tide at Cuesta Inlet in Los Osos on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Photo © The Marine Mammal Center, NOAA MMHSRP #24359

of the stranded animals.

"It is also important to note that dolphins, like other marine mammals, can travel long distances in a short period of time."

They have a lot of people to thank. "The Center," he said, "is incredibly thankful to our partners at Harbor Patrol, Morro Bay Police Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (warden) and the local community for their assistance in the effort."

He added that the last time they responded to a report of a stranded dolphin in the Back Bay was in October 2013.

Retired Harbor Patrol Officer, Jim Kroll, contacted EBN after this latest stranding incident. He reminded us that back in October 1994, a dolphin was swimming in Cuesta Inlet, a story that ran in the old Sun Bulletin newspaper.

His three sons (now all adults) went into the water and swam



The dolphins are almost on board the Harbor Patrol boat that will take them out to sea. Photo by Meagan Friberg

with the dolphin. He said it was very tame and towed the boys around the water seemingly having fun.

That animal also got stranded by the tide and stuck in the mud. One son, Kyle, stayed out there with the animal to help it through what must have been a terrifying ordeal.

Marine mammals like dolphins, even though they breathe air, are not built to lie flat on the solid ground and will die if they stay like that for too long.

Kroll said his boy held it up to allow it to breathe. That dolphin swam out with the next high tide, and Kyle returned home after midnight, covered from head to toe in mud. Kroll said he hosed him off with the garden hose out in the yard.

Other animals have been caught in the mud, too. Kroll once helped rescue a horse that got stuck in the mud, during his long career with the Harbor Patrol.



Experts with The Marine Mammal Center monitor three rescued common dolphins while onboard a Morro Bay Harbor Patrol boat en route to release them in Estero Bay. Photo © The Marine Mammal Center, NOAA MMHSRP #24359



One of the rescued common dolphins found stranded at Cuesta Inlet sits wrapped in blankets on a Harbor Patrol boat, ready to be released back into the sea. Photo courtesy MBHP



Rescuers with the Harbor Patrol and Marine Mammal Center release a rescued dolphin back into the ocean amongst a large pod of common dolphin, possibly the same pod they originally got separated from and ended up stranded at Cuesta Inlet in Los Osos. Photo courtesy MBHP

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Boat Need Rescuing From page 1

Boat 64 is a 28-foot fiberglass-hulled Radon surf rescue and firefighting boat and the first-out response vessel for the Harbor Patrol.

Its main use is as an emergency response and rescue vessel, often racing out the harbor mouth for emergencies involving surfers, swimmers, and vessels in distress from Estero Point north of Cayucos to Point Buchon at Montaña de Oro to the south.

She's a 2013 model Radon that officially went into service in March 2014. It was equipped to be both a water rescue and fire-fighting boat with a water cannon mounted on the wheelhouse. The vessel also pulls double or perhaps triple duty as a tow boat for disabled vessels, and a rescue vessel for medical emergencies, human or otherwise.

Just last week, Boat 64 was used to transport three common dolphins that were rescued after being stuck overnight in the Back Bay mud at Cuesta Inlet. Boat 64 carried the animals, Harbor Patrol and two staffers with The Marine Mammal Center to a spot a mile north of Morro Rock and about a mile offshore, where the dolphins were released near a huge bait ball amidst a large pod of their brethren dolphins.

The boat serves as diverse a list of purposes as the Harbor Patrol performs daily duties.

How important is Boat 64? The Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department listed the many duties it has performed: surf rescues, vessel assists, marine fires, marine law enforcement, wildlife rescues, drowning responses, pollution spill responses, and sinking vessels.

The boat cost some \$410,000 when they ordered it from D.R. Radon Boat Builders in Goleta, a figure that some old timers on the waterfront scoffed about at the time.

The vessel now needs some \$450,000 worth of work. If that sounds like a lot, it really isn't once you break down all the work listed in the work program.

Harbor Patrolman Dana Stein, who is spearheading the refurbishing project, said a new boat outfitted the same as Boat 64 would now run about \$950,000.

Stein was able to secure a \$170,000 grant from the State Department of Boating and Waterways, and they have \$187,000 that the Harbor Department has socked away over several years. And if the Friends group can successfully raise the remaining \$100,000, 'We're golden,' Stein said.

The Friends group, which was started largely by Councilman Bill Luffee when he was on the Harbor Advisory Board, has done some amazing work supporting the department and buying specialty gear and vehicles to aid them in their public safety mission.

The biggest single expense with the refurbishing is going to be the engines.

"The engines," Stein said, "have 8,000 hours on them. There's no real standard [expected life span] on them, but the manufacturer said we've got the highest number of hours that anyone has ever put on them. It's time to replace the engines."

The twin diesel engines are made by Yanmar, which is the marine division of Toyota. They are Toyota's diesel engines made especially for marine use, and the pair is going to cost \$108,000, add in labor and Stein said replacing the old engines with the same model power plants will total about \$187,000 installed.

They anticipate spending \$25,000 to work on the out drives, another \$25,000 for new lighting and electronics, plus what Stein called minor layout changes.

They are also having the fiberglass hull stripped of paint and inspected for weakened spots, hoping to avoid the fate of their last workhorse boat, No. 3868.

Boat 68 was in service for over 30 years but on an emergency call to Montaña de Oro a few years ago, a large piece of the hull was ripped away, "delaminated" as it's called. That boat eventually was sold at auction, after Morro Bay bought a used Radon, smaller than Boat 64 (28-feet vs. 24-feet), from the Port San Luis Harbor District. The proceeds from the sale of Boat 68 were used to equip the boat they got from PSL.

Called Boat 69, that one is the department's second-out response vessel and becomes first out when Boat 64 is hauled out for maintenance or otherwise busy on another call.

The department also recently purchased a "Pacific Skiff," an aluminum hulled outboard motorboat they got surplus from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department.

That boat is used as a backup for whenever one of the Radon's is out of service and mostly for responses within the harbor. It doesn't have firefighting equipment, like both of the Radons do.

The department also has two Kawasaki personal watercraft or PWCs that Stein said they refer to as "Rescue Watercraft." Each has a sled tied to it to tow rescue swimmers out and victims in. The Harbor Patrol and fire department do specialized training with the RWCs.

What needs to be done to Boat 64 that costs nearly half a million dollars and that Stein estimates will take a full year to finish? The refurbishing list includes:



Boat 64 the Morro Bay Harbor Patrol's first out fire rescue vessel needs nearly a half-million dollars in repairs, and fundraising is being done now to keep her saving people and fighting fires for decades to come. Photo by Neil Farrell

- replacing both inboard diesel engines;
- a comprehensive inspection of the fiberglass hull and repairs as needed;
- modernizing the electronics, navigation gear, and communications systems;
- replacing the firefighting system's piping and hoses;
- replacing the deck hardware and exterior equipment including lighting, antennas and the rub rail;
- modifications to the layout to improve crew safety and operational efficiency; and,
- a complete cosmetic refurbishing, including repainting the high-wear areas of the hull.

Inspecting the hull to check for cracking or tearing of the fiberglass layers and repairing them before repainting the hull could extend the boat's life by decades.

Stein said they do regular maintenance on all their boats and haul out Boat 64 every other year to scrape sea life off the bottom and re-paint the hull. They also regularly change the filters and oil and other regular maintenance items.

But big stuff like changing out inboard engines, that takes a specialty shop and the only one nearby that sells or works on Yanmar diesels is Radon down in Goleta, the same people that built it in the first place.

Stein said they know that \$450,000 is a lot of money but they hope that by spending money now, they can keep Boat 64 in service for a long time to come.

"The idea is that if we do this every 10 or 15 years," Stein said, "we could run this boat for another 40 years, maybe 50."

For information about the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department's fundraising efforts see the website at: www.friendsoftheMBHD.org. As a non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

Bookstore Owner Honored From page 1



Carroll Leslie, owner of Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe, was awarded the Lillian Dean Inspiration Award 2026 at Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference in September. Photo submitted

ter" and when I heard Teri Bayus' perfectly crafted words to introduce this year's honoree, I knew they needed to be documented, shared to a broader audience and celebrated. She mastered the perfect words to describe that unique transitional moment when a writer officially becomes an author.

"The Lillian Dean Inspiration Award is named for the Cuesta College instructor who founded the Central Coast Writers Conference more than four decades ago," Teri began. "Lillian believed

Cayucos Chamber to Host Fall Antique Street Faire

Free community event will draw hundreds of visitors to SLO County coastal beach town.

The Cayucos Chamber of Commerce will host its twice-yearly annual Antique Street Faire 7am-3pm on Sunday October 18, in downtown Cayucos.

"We are excited to be hosting antique and vintage vendors from up and down the state" says Marshall Moens, Antique Faire event manager. He adds, "We are expecting a large turnout, the event is free to the public, and our antique malls will be open for additional antique and vintage treasurer hunting".

A fun, family-friendly event for antique and vintage enthusiasts, the faire will host more than 100 dealer booths and food vendors. Shoppers will find antiques, collectibles, historical, furniture, art, décor, apparel, and more for sale from independent retailers.

Vehicle traffic along N. Ocean Ave will be closed from Cayucos Drive to E Street along N. Ocean Ave and parts of D Street, with detours posted between the hours of 3a.m. and 6p.m.

The event is free to visitors with free parking throughout downtown. Many businesses and services in downtown will remain open for standard Sunday hours. Visitors can enjoy the street faire, hang out at the beach, and support the town's unique shops, restaurants, and activity centers. Proceeds from vendors



booth fees help support Cayucos Chamber programs and services.

The May 2027 event will be held Sunday May 2, 2027.

Details regarding the event are available at www.cayucos-chamber.com/antique-faire.

Celebrate Los Osos Thank You

A massive thank you to your incredible weed-pulling energy!!! We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for dedicating your Saturday morning to transforming our town's entry median.

Our 1,100-linear-foot median strip was covered in weeds, long suckers were growing from the base of the oak trees and trash lay hidden under and around the senecio succulents.

It was a big undertaking, but your lively energy and extraordinary teamwork turned a daunting chore into an absolute triumph.

Thanks to all, in just two short hours we cleared out bags and bags of weeds, litter, and stubborn oak tree suckers. The entrance to our town looks refreshed and welcoming once again.

We would like to thank::

- Bryan Allen
- Michael Glavan
- George Janeway
- Ellie Malyknot
- Jean Moelter
- Pandora Nash-Karner
- Esther Patagve
- Lynette Tornatzky
- Jamie Wallace
- Nora Wallace

Beyond the immediate visual transformation, your efforts have given our new landscape contractor — coming soon — a big head start on keeping this area well maintained and beautiful.

We are incredibly fortunate to have neighbors like you who care so deeply about our community. We thank your for your time, hard work, and fantastic spirit.

With sincere gratitude,
Celebrate Los Osos





Central Coast Writers Conference Directors surround the 2026 Lillian Dean Inspiration Award Winner. Meagan Friberg, current director; Teri Bayus, past director; Carroll Leslie, award winner; and past directors Judy Salamacha, Brian Schwartz and Cathe Fein-Olson. Photo submitted

writers should be encouraged, educated and given every possible opportunity to succeed.

“Writers are needy people. We need editors, readers, agents, publishers and somebody to tell us that chapter three is brilliant and somebody brave enough to tell us chapter four has to go. And eventually, after all the writing, rewriting, rejection, caffeine, despair and occasional irrational confidence, we need somebody willing to put our book on a shelf. That brings me to Carroll Leslie.

“This award honors someone who carries that spirit forward, someone who helps writers grow, flourish and keep tapping those keys even on the days when absolutely nothing worth reading seems to be coming out of them.”

Teri continued, “Carroll is, quite simply, a saint to people who put pen to paper and frankly, writers require saints. For more than 20 years, Carroll’s bookstore, Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe, has been the official bookstore of the CCWC. Every year, Carroll and her team perform what those of us who have worked behind the scenes know is a minor miracle. Dozens of faculty members arrive. They all have books, usually several books. Some have new books. Some have old books. Some suddenly remember another book they published twelve years ago that absolutely must be there. And somehow Volumes of Pleasure gathers them all, organizes them, displays them and sells them with a smile.

“Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe itself has an extraordinary story. The bookstore was founded in 1979, and 34 years ago Carroll and her life partner, Barbara Stauss, took a leap of faith and bought it. Barbara died in 2012, but anyone who has spent time in Volumes of Pleasure knows that her presence remains. It lives in the warmth of the place — its personality, humor, and that unmistakable feeling that you have walked into somewhere that welcomes you exactly as you are.

“Now, keeping an independent bookstore alive for more than three decades is impressive under any circumstances, but consider what Carroll has survived: big-box bookstores, online shopping, E-books, Amazon, changing reading habits, and probably thousands of people who walked in, spent 45 minutes browsing, asked for a recommendation, and then said, ‘Great! I’ll order it online.’ And yet, the doors are still open.

“That takes good business sense plus beautiful and glorious literary stubbornness. It also takes community bonding. And above all, it takes someone who truly believes that books matter. Carroll believes all writers matter. That has made Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe something far greater than a bookstore. It is a gathering place; a refuge; a treasure hunt.

“It is a place for the curious, the creative, the unconventional and the wonderfully book obsessed. You may go in looking for a novel and come out with a scarf, some essential oil, a wonderfully progressive sign, three books you didn’t know you needed and absolutely no memory of what you originally went in for.

“That’s the magic of Volumes of Pleasure. But for writers, there is another kind of magic to this book shop. More than 50 local authors currently have their books available on those shelves. Including mine! Think about that for a moment. Because many of us in this room remember the first time it happened. You spend months or years writing a book. You question it, rewrite it, obsess over it and finally publish it and one day walk into a real bookstore, and there it is — your book on the shelf with your name on the cover sitting beside the authors you’ve been reading all your life.

“For a first-time author, that moment is almost impossible to describe. It says: You did it! You’re here! You’re a writer! And a published author! And Carroll Leslie has given that moment to writer, after writer for nearly 30 years. Volumes of Pleasure is part of the cultural heartbeat of our community.

“It is one of those increasingly rare places where strangers talk about books, someone finds a new favorite author, a child discovers a story, a reader finds exactly the book they didn’t know they needed, and where a nervous new writer can walk in and discover that someone believes enough in their work to put their book on a shelf.

“And that brings us back to Carroll quietly encouraging us, supporting us, selling our books, celebrating our successes and giving local writers a place to belong. Writers spend their lives searching for the right words, but sometimes the most important people in a writer’s life are the people who simply say, ‘Keep going. I believe in you.’ Carroll Leslie has dedicated herself to making sure those voices have somewhere to be heard. Thank you for being one of the great champions of writers on the Central Coast.”

After a boisterous standing ovation, Carroll shared how reading books became her lifelong passion. “I was raised by my grand-

parents from age two to six. I can still hear some radio programs I used to listen to with my grandfather.” She mentioned “The Lone Ranger” and “The Shadow Radio Show.” “As an only child for years I was an anomaly in my family. All the adults liked to read me stories. When I spent a month with my cousin, I decided my uncle was a frustrated actor when he read “Peter Pan” to us and performed all the voices. That book came alive for me.”

That memory would become Carroll’s aha-moment. For-evermore, she knew “words on the page could create pictures in the mind.” And yet, she would discover her younger sister had no idea what she meant and she was stunned. Her sister had grown up with television images rather than visualizing the story while reading a great book. That realization became the catalyst to eventually needing to share books with others. Once Carroll retired from the health food industry, she invested in her passion project, Volumes of Pleasure Book Shoppe.

Carroll admits she now relies on her “amazing” staff – all part-time employees she wanted all to know -- who love books and reading as much as their boss. “Ellen Perryess has been with me the longest then Christine Ahearn joined us. There is also Kristofer Stehli, Gina Pieruci, Rosie Morris and Susan Hoffman recently joined us.” They manage daily operations and continue the traditional activities developed by Carroll and Barbara over the years, including transporting boxes of books written by the presenters of CCWC.

Who will be CCWC’s 2027 Lillian Dean Inspiration Award recipient? Writers, are you on this path to publishing or totally understand the inspiration gleaned from other writers learning together as a community at a conference. Believe me, it can be your golden ticket to publishing. Calendar the end of September with a note to check back in the spring for registration information at cuesta.edu.

Navy Training Jet From page 1



A Mk-58 Hawker Hunter Navy training jet like this one crashed into the ocean northwest of Morro Bay on Sept. 22 Photo from ATAC

By chance a Navy, UH-60 search-and-rescue helicopter from the Lemoore Naval Air Station was parked at the SLO County Airport at the time and responded, arriving on scene in about eight minutes and rescuing the pilot, who was reportedly uninjured.

The helicopter crew had been conducting water rescue training with the Morro Bay Harbor Patrol a few days before the jet crash, which is why it was at SLO County Airport and not back home in Lemoore.

Coast Guard Station Morro Bay also responded to the scene arriving after the pilot was rescued but the plane had already sunk to the bottom. There were no reports of debris as one might expect if a jet fighter crashes into the sea and blasts apart on impact.

The Coast Guard out of the Long Beach Station contacted the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, “requesting a trajectory analysis for 977 gallons of JP-5 (Jet Propellant-5),” the NOAA notice reads.

The jet, a MK-58 Hawker Hunter training jet was owned by Airborne Tactical Advantage Company or ATAC, a defense contractor, and had taken off from Point Mugu Naval Air Station and flew northwest. The pilot reportedly issued an alert before ejecting from the doomed aircraft.

“In audio captured by liveatc.net, the pilot can be heard radioing a distress signal, saying ‘Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! I have lost thrust in my engine,’” one news report said.

Since the crash there have been no reports of debris in the water or washing up on shore as of last Friday, according to the Officer of the Day at USCG Station Morro Bay.

And, NOAA hasn’t issued any notices to mariners thus far about avoiding debris in the water. No fuel slicks on the water have been reported either.

It’s unclear whether the jet broke up on impact or sank to the bottom intact. There has also been no indication whether the jet was carrying any munitions when it went down.

If the jet sank intact, it’s possible that winter storms could churn up the sea floor and potentially break off pieces of the jet, which the current would likely wash ashore somewhere between Cayucos and Montaña de Oro, if it follows the normal southerly current.

Estero Bay News attempted to contact ATAC, which is headquartered in Virginia, to ask about the jet’s exact crash location, whether it broke apart, whether there were munitions on board, and if they plan to try and recover the aircraft, which may have crashed within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. They did not respond before deadline.

According to ATAC’s website, the Hawker Hunter, was “Originally designed as an air superiority fighter in the 1950s” and “went on to become the most successful post-war British Military aircraft with almost 2,000 units being produced.

“Of these, about one third were later rebuilt by the manufacturer to zero time standards, the last leaving the Dunsfold Factory in 1976. Aided by its high thrust to weight ratio, as well as inher-

ent strength and adaptability, the design evolved from a pure air defense fighter into a superlative ground attack aircraft, the pinnacle of the design being the Swiss Mk-58 Hunters. This version was continuously updated to accommodate the latest weapons systems prior to being prematurely retired in the mid-1990s due to the Cold War ending.”

As to the jet’s specs, “The Hawker Hunter is a transonic single seat fighter/ground attack monoplane, with swept back wings, variable incidence tail plane, powered by flying controls and cabin pressurization. It is powered by a 15-stage axial flow Rolls Royce Avon MK 207 turbine engine, producing 10,150 pounds of thrust.”

ATAC, “Deploys the Hawker Hunter in a variety of roles. The aircraft’s steady performance allows ATAC to use it as a transonic fighter in the air-to-air role, as a stable, precise platform in the air-to-surface role. And the aircraft is a versatile opponent in all fleet integrated training exercises.”

However, even with its impressive history and capabilities, it can’t fly if the engine quits.

Dog Dies in Los Osos House Fire



Photo by Dean Sullivan

A house fire was reported at about 10 a.m. on the 2200 block of Los Osos Valley Road at on October 5.

One family dog reportedly died in the structure fire, while others survived. The residents were not home at the time.

The fire was contained within an hour. Firefighters from South Bay, Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo County put out the blaze.

The Red Cross has been called to help the family find shelter.



PG&E cuts power to the house for safety.

BAY

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

10/02 - 10/14
DIGGER
(R) 2 hr 8 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 3:45 pm & 7 pm
Sun 12:45 pm & 4 pm

10/15 - 10/28
SENSE & SENSIBILITY
(PG) 2 hr 12 min
Fri/Sat/Tues/Wed 3:45 pm & 7 pm
Sun 12:45 pm & 4 pm

MONDAY SPECIALS * ONE SHOWING ONLY AT 5:30 PM

10/12
'OF MARSHES AND MORROS' & 'SPEARA'
2 Films Total (NR)
1 hr. + Q&A Session
PRESENTED BY MORRO BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

10/19
PANS LABYRINTH
(R) (2006)
1 hr. 58 min.
PRESENTED BY CENTRAL COAST FILM SOCIETY

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

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TAVERNER

Trustworthy &
Community
Focused...

TIM
COWAN



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Tim's SOLD

1107 Balboa St.,
489 Paseo Bella Montana #B,
193 Main St.,
6400 San Gabriel,
3302 Beachcomber Dr.,
490 Fresno Ave.,

Morro Bay \$1,300,000
SLO \$562,700
Morro Bay \$2,499,000
Atascadero \$1,550,000
Morro Bay \$2,589,000
Morro Bay \$780,000

Represented Seller
Represented Buyer
Represented Buyer/Seller
Represented Seller
Represented Buyer/Seller
Represented Buyer

Kathy's SOLD

1140 12th St.,
365 Arbutus Ave.,
3352 Studio Dr.,
168 Sandpiper Lane,
6040 Via Colonia Ct.,
1847 8th St.,

Los Osos \$965,000
Morro Bay \$1,200,000
Cayucos \$4,350,000
Morro Bay \$920,000
Atascadero \$906,263
Los Osos \$800,000

Represented Seller
Represented Buyer
Represented Seller
Represented Buyer/Seller
Represented Buyer
Represented Seller

CENTRAL COAST EL NIÑO & SAFETY GUIDE

Public Preparedness Advisory for Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & Los Osos

EMERGENCY 24/7
Dial 911

1. UNDERSTANDING THE CENTRAL COAST EL NIÑO CYCLE

The Climate Driver: El Niño is characterized by unusual warming of equatorial Pacific ocean waters, weakening trade winds, and shifting the jet stream southward. This acts as a "subtropical firehose," targeting California with powerful, moisture-laden atmospheric rivers.

NOAA & Local Impacts: NOAA projects a >90% chance of a very strong winter season. Coastal communities like Morro Bay, Cambria, and Cayucos face extreme high surf, king tides, and coastal erosion, while saturated slopes threaten inland roads and hillside homes.

2. HOME & PROPERTY STORM-PROOFING CHECKLIST

Drainage & Water Diversion

- Clear gutters & downspouts; extend drains 3-5 ft from foundation.
- Inspect surface swales, catch basins & French drains for silt buildup.
- Grade exterior soil away from walls (6" drop over 10 ft).

Roof & Structural Shielding

- Check roof tiles/shingles and flashing around vents and skylights.
- Seal window/door weatherstripping against wind-driven rain.
- Inspect crawlspace vents; ensure proper post-storm drying clearance.

Trees & Slope Stability

- Prune overhanging limbs away from roofs and power lines.
- Monitor hillside properties for ground creep and saturation.
- Maintain deep-root native vegetation; avoid over-watering slopes.

3. EMERGENCY RESPONSE, ALERTS & SANDBAG STATIONS (COASTAL REGION)

AGENCY / MUNICIPAL SERVICE	DIRECT CONTACT NUMBER	COASTAL SANDBAG & RESOURCE LOCATIONS
Morro Bay Police / Fire Admin	(805) 772-6225 / (805) 772-6240	Morro Bay: Self-fill sand across from Wastewater Treatment Plant (170 Atascadero Rd) & Cloisters Park.
Harbor Patrol & CAL FIRE	Harbor: (805) 772-6254 Cambria: (805) 927-3833	Los Osos: South Bay CAL FIRE Station 15 & Water District yard.
County Public Works & Caltrans	Public Works: (805) 781-5252 Caltrans Highways: 1-800-427-7623	Cambria: Lampton Park staging point. Empty bags available at local hardware stores.
AlertSLO / Citizen Notifications	Voice Alert ID: (833) 419-3463	Register address at ReadySLO.org for localized flash-flood warnings and evacuation notices.

PG&E Outages: 1-800-743-5002

Weather Tracking Apps: FEMA App & MyRadar (iOS/Android)

Emergency Portal: ReadySLO.org

Are you prepared for

El Niño

Here is a guide to keep you
and your family safe

Please Join Us:

Join Better Homes and Gardens
Real Estate | Haven Properties on
November 12th at 6:00 PM
for an informative public
presentation by John
Lindsey on navigating the
upcoming El Niño winter.

805 Main St., Morro Bay
RSVP to save your seat



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