

COAST NEWS



YOUR COMMUNITY IN YOUR HANDS

AVILA BEACH • SHELL BEACH • PISMO BEACH • GROVER BEACH • ARROYO GRANDE • HALCYON • OCEANO

A radiant array of colors filled the skies over Pismo Beach last week creating one of the most beautiful sunsets of the New Year. Photo by Vivian Krug



New Bill Could Help Save Redevelopment Agencies

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A proposed state senate bill could give added life to redevelopment agencies (RDA) in the wake of California's court-ordered dissolution.

The Arroyo Grande City Council recently approved a resolution to send a letter to Governor Jerry Brown in support of SB 659 that proposes postponing the deadline date from Feb. 1 to April 15.

In part the letter states, "Temporarily postponing this February deadline will allow time for the Legislature and governor to develop a new job creation and neighborhood renewal program, and to develop a solution that ensures that schools and the state budget receive the funding intended by the Legislature when they passed the redevelopment budget legislation last year.

See Bill, page 21

Pooper Scooper Ordinance In AG

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

A Dog may be considered man's best friend, but dog waste could create problems in the City of Arroyo Grande's waterways. Pet owners who fail to scoop the poop may be cited following an ordinance under consideration by the City Council.

The ordinance is part of the city's Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) adopted in 2009 and approved by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The goals of the five-year plan are to reduce the volume of storm water runoff into area creeks and streams and eliminate the discharge of pollutants to the city's storm water collection system.

Dogs are not the only animals taking the heat. The ordinance also makes it a violation to feed animals, including cats and birds, or leave food of any kind within 100 feet of the city's creeks, retention basins or other body of water unless it is in a trashcan.

See Scooper, page 22

Grover Chamber Names Citizen Of The Year

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce honored several people for outstanding contributions to the city at their annual installation dinner on Friday.

Marianne Conner was recognized as the 2011 Citizen of the Year.

"It's quite an honor," said the 42-year-old longtime Five Cities resident. "I wasn't expecting it at all."

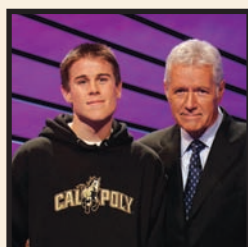
Marianne, who was born in San Luis Obispo and graduated from Arroyo Grande High School in 1987, is a retired EMT who spends much of her free time helping others in the community. Eleven years ago, she and Larry Conner, her husband of 16 years, started the Christmas Program. They began by purchasing gifts for underprivileged children in their neighborhood. The program soon expanded and the couple joined forces with Linda McClure, owner of American Property Services.

See Citizen, page 22

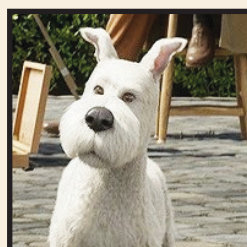
INSIDE INFORMATION



Mountain Lion Cubs Arrive page 4



Local Student on Jeopardy page 8



Tintin Misses the Mark page 12



Looking to Stay on Top page 28