Editor’s note: Several readers responded to the piece in our last newsletter. “The Promise,” written by local writer Denise Solters, touched all the dog lovers among us. I would like to follow up with these words from Sue Hutchison of Arroyo Grande. This piece was in a short story competition written several years ago. I am touched every time I read it.

**HER FRIEND IS GONE**

By Sue Hutchison

If you happen to travel on Orcutt Road (in San Luis Obispo), between Tank Farm Road and Johnson Avenue, early in the morning, you may have seen them. One was wearing a red jacket and her friend was in a golden coat with a red scarf. The one in red was holding onto her friend as they walked along.

For nine years, regulars going by waved at them and received a cheerful wave back. Frequently they stopped to observe something. The one in the gold coat especially liked to smell things. The affection between them was obvious – in a smile or a turned head.

Today, the friend in red is walking alone.

When asked where her friend is, with tears streaming down her cheeks, she says she died. It was cancer. It was fast. She says it hurts so much. It’s been several days and it still hurts just as much. Some people don’t understand she said, “She was family.” I think I see her in the living room and I can feel and hear her walking with me (spirits do let us know they are still with us). The friend in the red jacket continues to walk.

She says she feels it’s good for her and she thinks her friend in the golden coat feels the same way. And in her hand she holds her friend’s red scarf and leash.

**THE WHEEL OF LIFE**

By Richard Hannibal

It was a chance meeting as I drove my patrol car through Albertson’s parking lot. First there was suspicious eye contact followed by faint smiles. I stopped, rolled down my window and said, “How ya doing?” Here I was, an aging police officer looking into the soft brown eyes of an aging dark skinned black man with white beard and dreadlocks. We exchanged tentative, but pleasant words and went on our way. Thus began a brief friendship and a long evolution of thought.

I was raised in the East Los Angeles area and though I was acquainted with the Hispanic culture, I had absolutely no interaction with African Americans. My parents were not prejudice, but like me, they had little interaction with black folks. And that was who I was until I became a police officer in Los Angeles County.

I was a kid-cop with little or no exposure to African Americans and suddenly I was thrust into a tough, black gang area. The poverty and despair of the “projects” was palpable. As a white police officer, I was subjected to the vilest hate that I had ever known. I was soon drawn into the violence of the time and of the area. A couple of shoot-outs with black gang members...
resulted in graffiti being sprayed on decaying walls, “Hannibal, wanted dead or alive,” signed by one of the local gangs. Throughout my L.A. County career, because of the area I worked, about the only contacts I had with African Americans were negative; an arrest, a riot or other violent confrontation.

One day I was handed a photograph depicting me innocently standing at the scene of a routine traffic citation. I did not know that someone had taken my picture. The police officers told me they had just raided the local Black Panther Headquarters and this 8 X 10 photograph was sitting on top of a desk. There was little doubt that I was marked for death. My anxiety, along with my dislike for blacks in general, and the Black Panthers in particular, grew. And, it was further fueled by police officers getting shot and killed by Black Panthers in vicious confrontations of the time.

With the help of friends, black, white and brown, I evolved through the years. I mellowed and gained wisdom that only age can bring. And then, I was brought to this moment; this meeting with an aging black man named John Walker. John Walker and I stopped and visited every time we saw each other. I would see him straining to see through the reflections on my police car windshield and when he saw it was me, he would light up with a big smile; and, I did the same. I got to know John Walker better than most folks during my casual meetings on the street. I was introduced to Gretchen, the love of his life. And, I learned that Mr. John Walker, in his youth, was an active member of the Black Panther Party. I tried to reconcile how this mild-mannered man with the soft brown eyes and generous smile could have engaged me in a fatal confrontation so many years ago. Then, I realized how far I had come since those times. Life went full circle, from an angry, young black man and an angry young cop to gentle brown and blue eyes gazing at each other.

Time went by and I intended to spend some off-duty time with John Walker. I wanted to hear where he had been through the years and share where I had been. I wanted to hear about his evolution and tell him about mine. We continued to meet, me in my police car and him at the post office, or in a parking lot, or merely passing each other and waving. I grew to be very fond of Mr. John Walker. Every time I saw him I made a mental note to arrange a time when he and I would sit down and talk. Life is so busy and the ‘time’ never came. A couple weeks ago, I came to work and learned that Mr. John Walker passed away in his north Morro Bay home, the result of a medical condition. This ended the opportunity for the angry, young black militant and the angry, young white cop to ever share the years and what had brought them to this point of understanding, love and acceptance.

Since then, Gretchen and I have been close through her grieving period. I was comforted to hear that John liked and respected me. I certainly liked and respected him. And though our friendship was brief, I really miss him and the opportunity to learn from each other. My deepest regret is that I put off what could have been a sacred visit with this man.

Gretchen has since moved away. On her way out of town she stopped by the police station to see me. She gave me a photo of John and a copy of his favorite music CD. And, with tears in our eyes, she gave me John’s cherished possession, a beautiful carved wood, black panther.

**Words from John Walker’s favorite song:**

*Wake up everybody no more sleepin in bed.  
No more backward thinkin time for thinkin ahead.  
The world has changed so very much  
From what it used to be so  
there is so much hatred war an’ poverty  
The world won’t get no better if we just let it be  
The world won’t get no better we gotta change it yeah, just you and me.*

---

*Mr. John Walker*
MORRO BAY POLICE HAPPENINGS

Part-time Property / Evidence Technician Lori Stilts is leaving us. That’s the bad news. The good news is that Lori accepted a full-time job, with benefits, at the Morro Bay Harbor Department. Even with this wonderful offer it was a hard decision for Lori, because she loves working with the Morro Bay Police family. Chief Tim Olivas said, “I can assure you, if there was any way we could offer Lori a full-time position here, we would not hesitate. Unfortunately our City budget will not allow me that opportunity.”

In my 30-year career I have observed that many police scandals begin in the evidence / property room. In addition, many cases have been lost nationwide by sloppy evidence handling. Therefore, it is absolutely critical to find someone with high ethics and outstanding job performance to manage this important function. And, Lori was that person. And then, we all benefited from her pleasing personality and beautiful smile that never seemed to fade. Cops goof up with their paperwork on occasion, but Lori was always there with quick, but gentle correction and education.

Lori will be with us until about the middle of July 2011. If the budget allows we will soon start testing for someone to take over the duties that Lori so admirably fulfilled.

MORRO BAY POLICE EXPLORERS, POST #43, COMPETE IN LAS VEGAS

By Explorer Coordinator, Senior Officer Jeremy Douglas

The Morro Bay Explorer Post recently went to Las Vegas to compete in the annual Ex-Con (Explorer Conference) Competition. It has been three years since Morro Bay sent their Explorer team to the competition. This year’s team consisted of Captain Brett Mobley, David Rosen, Amanda Newport, Ryan Drummond and Ashlee Dyson. Only Explorer Captain Mobley had experience with the competition. Amanda, Ryan and Ashlee are new arrivals to our Explorer Post. In spite of the lack of experience, our team did very well.

The Competition consisted of five police scenarios; unknown risk vehicle stops, active shooter response, downed officer rescue, crime scene response and suspicious person contact. There were six additional events; team rock wall climb, obstacle course, bicycle obstacle course, air-soft shooting competition, police Simulator and a tug-of-war.

Once again Morro Bay came home with awards. The Explorers took 5th place in Unknown Risk Traffic Stop, 2nd place in Explorer Bicycle Obstacle course, 3rd place in Advisor Bicycle Obstacle course and Officer Stephanie Pipan took 3rd place in female Advisor Obstacle course. This was done against 42 teams from around the U.S. and in 96 degree Vegas heat.

Morro Bay’s Explorer Post received numerous commendations for their response to critical issues like an active shooter at a high school and downed officer rescue. What I brought back from this year’s competition is the validation that “little ole” Morro Bay is training and raising respectful young adults and preparing them for a future in law enforcement.

I was able to see young men and women get stretched from their comfort zone and not give up. This year’s scenario’s caused the teams to have to think and adapt on the move. I was encouraged to see that our Explorer Post had the common sense and confidence to lead when it was necessary and to follow when needed. More importantly, they knew “NOT TO GIVE UP!”

L to R: Senior Officer Jeremy Douglas, Explorer Capt. Brett Mobley, Officer Stephanie Pipan, Explorers David Rosen, Ashlee Dyson, Amanda Ryan, Ryan Drummond and Officer Sam Rodriguez
SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

The SPECIAL OLYMPICS annual TORCH RUN came through Morro Bay on June 6th 2011. Morro Bay Police Officers and other volunteers received the torch from California State Park Rangers and carried it to Highway One and San Bernardo where it was passed on to Cuesta College Police representatives. The Special Olympics Torch Run began in 1981 and has become a public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics ever since.

Senior Officer Jeremy Douglas coordinated the event. The MBPD participants were: Sergeant Dave Bergantzel (13th year!), Corporal Mark Martin, Officer Stephanie Pipan, Officer Sam Rodriguez, Explorer Captain Brett Mobley, Explorer David Rosen and our guest from the Harbor Department, Supervisor Becka Kelly. Police Volunteer John Lewan assisted with traffic control. Property Tech Lori Stilts and Support Services Manager Mary Sponhaltz were the transportation coordinators.

DOG WALK EVENT FOR THE MBPD K-9 PROGRAM

A community Dog Walk to help fund the future Morro Bay Police K-9 was held on Saturday, June 18th. This event was put on by the non-profit organization, “Friends of the Morro Bay Police Department.” The preparation and promotion of the event came from the energies of off-duty Officer Stephanie Pipan, her mother, Donna, Friends of MBPD Claire Grantham, Debbie Black, Elaine Giannini and Virginia Hiramatsu. The event was a huge success, bringing in over $5,000 to the K-9 fund. In addition, it was a heck of a lot of fun. The actual dog walk began at the Morro Rock parking lot and went up the Embarcadero, through downtown and back again to the Rock. In addition to the K-9 Walk, there were afternoon mini-events and shirt / souvenir sales with profits going to the K-9 fund. A K-9 demonstration by an Arroyo Grande Officer and his K-9 partner was very informative. Other vendors included Lost World Pets and Woods Humane Society who rented dogs for the walk.

With this recent event the MBPD is very near their goal of $60,000 to train and equip a police K-9 and Police Officer Handler. Once the K-9 program is up and running, the MBPD is planning to have 3 to 4 events a year to cover operating expenses.
MORE MBPD HAPPENINGS
Sergeant Rick Catlett attended Dean Bob Schwenoha’s retirement luncheon at Morro Bay High School on behalf of Chief Olivas who was out of town. Sgt. Catlett thanked Bob for his many years of dedicated service to Morro Bay High School and his close working relationship with the police department and the community. Rick presented Bob with a shadow box from the Police Department containing a MBPD patch and challenge coin.

The Police Department participated once again with the Del Mar School “Ride of a Lifetime”. The “Ride of a Life Time” is an auction item at the Del Mar PTA fundraising event. The winning class was treated to a trolley ride on the last day of school from the City Park to the Rock parking lot to Del Mar Elementary School. The trolley is typically escorted by a Police and Fire vehicle as well as the Police and Fire Chief. Officer Leslie Daily provided the Police escort on behalf of Chief Olivas who was out of town.

ATTACK-BOYS & ATTACK-GIRLS
We must be doing something right, once again we have a lot of them.

Senior Officer Doug Collins was recognized for his labor-intensive work of organizing the department’s vast training video library. There are many training opportunities within and outside the department. Our very important training videos needed user-friendly organization and Doug volunteered for the task.

Police Volunteer Vicki Landis received a Letter of Appreciation and lots of praise for her work on our patrol-ready, Tactical Manual. Every officer now has their own Tactical Manual that shows critical physical layouts and emergency contacts for all of our financial institutions, schools and public buildings. By using photographs, diagrams and important information that will be critical in any type of tactical operation, Vicki painstakingly put the manual together. Her efforts were on a par with a highly paid professional, and yet she did the job as a volunteer. The Tactical Manual will not only save time and effort during an emergency, but may actually save the life of an officer or citizen.

Senior Officer Jeremy Douglas received thanks from a citizen and praise from his supervisors for his handling of a potential domestic violence situation. An ex-husband, who is prohibited from contacting the female by a court-ordered Protective Order, left a note on the woman’s car. Officer Douglas contacted the ex-husband, reminding him of the Protective Order. Officer Douglas remained in communication with the woman, which greatly alleviated her fears. The woman said, “I really appreciated the officer’s help, and the care and compassion he showed me.”

Senior Officer Doug Collins, Officer Gene Stuart, Detective Leslie Daily and Detective Dale Cullum were recognized for their teamwork in bringing a thief to justice. It began as a simply lost wallet. The case escalated to officers watching in-store surveillance video, identifying the person that stole the wallet and obtaining a search warrant for the suspect’s home. The investigation resulted in charges filed against the suspect and the return of property to the victim.
Detective Leslie Daily was recognized for her work in going through past open criminal cases. Having only one detective for such a long period of time created a backlog that Leslie was able to alleviate.

Detective Dale Cullum received a Letter of Appreciation for working with a distraught woman who reported a possible Elder Abuse of a family member occurring in Arizona. Though out of our jurisdiction, Dale worked with the woman in ascertaining the police agency having jurisdiction and then contacting that agency. Dale could have simply told the woman the case was out of our jurisdiction, but he took the extra step to assist, rather than a curt reply, “We can't help you.” Dale's actions showed a high level of professionalism and empathy for all our citizens. This is a perfect example of what is so special about the service MBPD gives to all our citizens.

THE CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

REFLECTIONS
By Pastor Randy Ponder
Morro Bay Police Chaplain
Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship

I just returned from a two-week trip to one of the poorest places on earth: Ethiopia! I think this has been my 23rd or 24th trip to Africa and every time I come home I'm simply amazed, stunned and somewhat bewildered for what life has afforded me here in the West. Namely, the freedom I have to worship my God openly and to live in a place that is so abundant, so rich, and so plentiful. Let me be honest though, I think I'm blessed with what I have. You see, I've met so many folks who've been persecuted, beaten and have suffered greatly for their faith & they seem to have an intimacy with their Creator that I dream of having. It really seems that in their sufferings, they have found a deeper connection to their faith, which I aspire to. Further, I know all too well that the abundance of things cannot buy my happiness or my fulfillment, no question! My confession — some of the richest people I've met have been some of the poorest people on this here planet; some of the most fulfilled, content people I've ever met have been brutally beaten because of their unrelenting commitment to their faith. Here's a snap shot of my trip:

Once again, we were arrested in a small village outside of Gondar. This time, we were held for over two hours because we were simply talking about our faith. Ethiopia is supposed to be a free country, however, when one is out in the bush, all bets are off; if you will. The Chief of Police told us to leave the area and if we wanted to proclaim our religion, we'd better do it in a church or a synagogue — not openly. His words, "Let this be a warning; if you're caught again, you will do jail time!" Our translators informed us that jail time this time around could be up to one month — go figure. Last time, we did spend two days in jail. My Ethiopian friends spent five days and when they were released, they told us that they sang all night and shared their faith with the local prisoners. (I seriously remember laying on a floor that one night wondering if there would be coffee waiting for me in the morning — I really did think this!)

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. — James Allen
When I return from a developing country, I purposefully walk through Morro Bay’s Albertson’s Market to —, well — take it all in. Seriously, if I were to take some of my friends in East Africa to one of our stores here on the West Coast, dude — they would be speechless. And, I frequent coffee shops and restaurants to — well ... take it all in. When we are in the countryside, most people have never heard of a Bob’s Big Boy or a Starbucks, let alone an establishment that sells food or drink while you wait. And yet, in their simplicity, such a deep communal friendship is almost intimidating to a Westerner. (Question for you: when is the last time you had coffee or tea with your neighbor? This is an everyday experience for my friends in Ethiopia; convicting, huh?)

As I prepare to go to the office in an hour or so, with emails to return, phone calls to make, a sermon to finish — my hope is that I can embrace what my friends have over there; namely, a deeper appreciation for the life I have and an intentional devotion to developing my relationships. You see, when it is all said and done, all we really have is a God that is madly in love with us and friends that we can link arms with and be grateful.

Thanks for letting me ramble, this isn't the most profound article, just some thoughts I'm formulating! I think the picture below sums it all up for me; these kids have nothing according to world standards, yet the joy in their faces tells me they really have it all.

Joy comes from within, not without!

The following are merely highlights taken from hundreds of hours of work output of the Morro Bay Police Department’s routine law enforcement, investigations, contacts and follow-ups; if you can call anything in law enforcement “routine.”

- On May 20th, Officers responded to a traffic collision at Quintana and Kennedy Way. Though there were no injuries, the roadway had to be closed for approximately 40 minutes.
- On May 21st, Officers assisted the Harbor Patrol and the United States Coast Guard with a search for two overdue kayakers. The kayakers rented kayaks at about 11am and never returned. The search went on until midnight and resumed the next morning. An investigation revealed that the subjects who rented the kayaks may have provided false information to the owner of the shop and stole the kayaks.
- On May 21st, Officers responded to the 400 block of Oahu to investigate a report of an aggressive subject at the location. The Fire Department first responded to the call as a medical aid for a female who fell down the stairs. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of the husband for domestic violence.
- On May 24th, Officers responded to a report of a wallet stolen from the counter at a business in the 400 block of Quintana. Officers viewed surveillance video and a suspect was identified and contacted at his residence. The investigation resulted in theft charges filed by the District Attorney. The wallet was returned to the victim who was extremely grateful. Inside the wallet she had an irreplaceable wedding photo from 40 years ago.
• In the morning of June 10th, Officers stopped a vehicle in the area of Island and Java streets for expired registration. Further investigation revealed the driver was unlicensed and on felony probation. After a search, one subject was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and being under the influence of a drug. A second subject in the vehicle was arrested for possession of marijuana without a prescription.

• In the afternoon of June 11th, Officers responded to the 1500 block of Main Street to investigate a report of a quad runner that was stolen from an unlocked storage unit.

• In the afternoon of June 13th, Officers investigated a report of elder abuse at a residence in the 300 block of Kern Ave.

• In the early evening of June 13th, Officers responded to City Park to investigate a report of two female juveniles who were possibly under the influence. One of the juveniles was determined to be so intoxicated she was unable to care for her safety and was on the verge of a medical emergency.

• In the afternoon of June 15th, Officers received a late report of possible child abuse involving a minor who is now in foster care in Morro Bay. Officers initiated an investigation.

• In the evening of June 18th, Officers responded to a residence in the 2200 block of Emerald Circle to investigate a report of a disturbance. This residence has multi-family generations living at one location that have not been getting along. Officers have responded to this residence numerous times over the past week. An assault report was taken and as filed with the District Attorney’s Office. On June 21st, Officers again responded to this location and investigated a report of elder abuse.

• In the evening of June 19th, Officers responded to the 600 block of Fresno Ave. to investigate a report of a male subject who was exposing himself to other members of the residence. Officers responded and the male subject came outside and began exposing his private parts to the Officers. Officers arrested the subject for indecent exposure.

• In the morning of June 20th, Officers responded to the 2000 block of Ironwood to investigate a report of thefts from unlocked vehicles. LEAVING CARS AND HOMES UNLOCKED INVITES THEFT. LOCK UP!

In the evening of June 20th, Officers responded to the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd to investigate a late report of theft. Officers took a report of stolen computer, camera and camping equipment from an unlocked vehicle. The property was valued at $9,000.

• In the early morning of June 21st, Officers responded to a disabled vehicle in the 900 block of Morro Bay Blvd. Investigation at the scene resulted in one subject being arrested for possession of methamphetamine and hypodermic needles.

• In the afternoon of June 22nd, Officers responded to a report of a gunshot victim at a residence in the 400 block of South Bay Blvd. Fire and ambulance personnel were staged nearby. Officers secured the scene and determined the call was related to self inflicted gunshot wounds. Fire and ambulance treated the subject and the victim was transported to Sierra Vista Hospital.

• In the afternoon of June 23rd, Officers with the assistance of SLO County probation personnel conducted a probation search of a residence in the 400 block of Kings Ave. One subject was arrested for possession of a controlled narcotic and paraphernalia.

The Morro Bay Police are working possible nuisance violations at three residences in our city. These locations have generated several calls from neighbors and calls for service. The residences are located in the 300 block of Shasta, 400 block of Java and 400 block of Kings. We are actively investigating these locations and looking into possible public nuisance violations.

**TRAINING**

Officers attended 88 hours of training related to advanced hazardous materials investigation and standardized field sobriety tests. An addition 40 hours of training was focused on Field Training Officer duties and responsibilities.

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. — Albert Einstein
STATE PARK RANGER’S CORNER
Editor’s note: The Morro Bay Police Department considers State Park Rangers valuable members of the team that keeps the citizens and visitors of Morro Bay safe. This is a continuation of information and writings from our brother peace officers.

INTRODUCING PARK RANGER TRAINEE JUSTIN OLENIK
Submitted by Robert Colligan, Supervising State Park Peace Officer

State Park Ranger Trainee Justin Olenik will be spending much of his time training in the Morro Bay area. He brings much optimism and eagerness to his new position, so please say hello to him when you see him out and about with his Field Training Officer. The photo shows Justin Olenik with California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman at his recent academy graduation.

Justin grew up in north San Diego County where he spent his summers at the beach and in Colorado. Justin likes camping, surfing, spear fishing, hiking, and driving his truck on bumpy roads.

Justin went to a small college in Prescott Arizona where he studied marine science. He spent the last ten years working in outdoor education, aquariums and as a fisheries observer here in Morro Bay.

Justin said he has always enjoyed California’s state parks. He grew up going to Torrey Pines and Anza Borrego state park. Being a Ranger seems to be a good fit with his beliefs in protecting natural resources and helping people connect with nature. Justin said he always enjoyed the central coast and liked living here the past three years. He added, “Getting to work in this area is a dream for me and was my first pick. I love the open space and low-key life style. I am looking forward to starting my new career here and getting to know my coworkers.” The Morro Bay Police Department welcomes Justin to the overall ‘team’ of protecting the citizens and visitors of Morro Bay.

ELDER ABUSE: A SILENT PROBLEM
Submitted by Meredith Bates, MC, CMC, of Bates Care Management.

Meredith works with families who want to keep their elderly loved ones safe at home or move them to a good quality assisted living facility. Meredith’s web site is: http://www.batescare.com/

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, at least one million, and as many as two million Americans 65 years and older have been abused, neglected or exploited, and only one in 14 cases is reported to law enforcement or social services. In Napa County, Diane Warrick was recently sentenced for fatally stabbing a 70-year-old woman in her care. Warrick had answered an ad on Craigslist seeking a caregiver. You may suspect that an elderly person you know is being harmed physically or emotionally or preyed upon financially. By learning some basic facts about elder abuse, you may be able to recognize this and take an action that could make a difference.

Elder abuse can come in a variety of forms. Following are the most common signs and symptoms. If you suspect elder abuse, but aren’t sure, look for repetition of these physical and behavioral signs:

Physical Abuse:
- Unexplained signs of injury
- Report of drug overdose or apparent failure to take medication regularly (a prescription has more remaining than it should)
- Caregiver’s refusal to allow you to see the elder alone

Emotional Abuse:
- Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver behavior that you witness
- Behavior from the elder that mimics dementia, such as rocking, sucking, or mumbling to oneself

Sexual Abuse is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
Neglect and Self-Neglect:
- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration
- Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores
- Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes
- Being left dirty

Financial Abuse:
- Significant withdrawals from the elder's account(s)
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition
- Items or cash missing from the senior's household
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, or policies
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care, when the elder has enough money to pay for them
- Financial activity the senior could not have done, such as an ATM withdrawal when the account holder is bedridden

If you suspect that an elderly person you know or love is a victim of elder abuse, or if you are the subject of such abuse, it is important to report it. The agencies that respond to reports of elder abuse are your local police department or Adult Protective Services (805) 781.1790. Whenever there is immediate threat to life — CALL 9-1-1.

If calling Adult Protective Services on behalf of a friend or loved one, you may remain anonymous. Once a report is made and Adult Protective Services determines that there is a violation of elder abuse laws, a caseworker is assigned to conduct an investigation. If abuse is verified, Adult Protective Services will arrange for services to be put in place and monitors them to ensure that the abuse does not continue. It is important to know that the elder does have the right to refuse help.

Recently, in our own Morro Bay, the excellent judgment of Officer Richard Hannibal saved a local couple from hiring a Craigslist caregiver who had a criminal record. In-home care is one of the 5 hottest jobs and there is no oversight; even convicted felons can do it. Elder abuse is any intentional or negligent act by anyone that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.

MORRO BAY'S RELAY FOR LIFE is coming to the Morro Bay High School athletic field on August 6th, 2011. The opening ceremony will take place at 10 am. The event will last over night until August 7th at 9 am. This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer a little of your time to help raise funds in the fight against all types of cancer. You can walk for as little or as much of the event as you have time for. Families are encouraged to attend. There will be activities for children as well as the incredible learning / volunteer / community experience. Our Morro Bay team is "Arrest Cancer" which is being captained this year by Virginia Hiramatsu. You can sign up easily through the online link attached below. The complete sign up takes less than 5 minutes, and the registration fee is just $10. Sign up at the following link – http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=31445&pg=entry For more information, contact: Virginia at (805) 722-6157 vhiramatsu@me.com or Andrea at (805) 772-6188

Police Volunteer Don Anderson submitted the following story to a 55-words-or-less fiction writing competition. I liked it and he gave me permission to reprint it here.

In 1930s Kenosha, Wisconsin, Steam Locomotive trains came through town. When they crossed an open field area, local boys would gather along below and make disrespectful gestures at the engine crew. The crew would throw chunks of coal at them. The boys took the coal home for heating and cooking. Everybody knew...

Chief Tim Olivas just made another trip around the sun.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
“THIS IS MY DAD, SAM BURKE”

Ann’s father, Sam Burke, was in the last stages of cancer, and his needs had gone beyond what she could provide at home. She was distraught at the thought of placing him in a convalescent home.

The check-in process confirmed her worst fears. Administrators, nurses, and doctors who seemed bothered, bored, or burned out quickly transformed Sam Burke into just another patient.

Driving home with tears in her eyes, she remembered when she told her dad that she hated her dorm during her first year of college. “Never accept the unacceptable,” he had told her. “There’s nothing you can’t make br if you put your mind to it.”

Determined to make his last days better, Ann got the names of every person at the convalescent home who might work with her father and delivered a personally addressed envelope to each of them. It contained a note and pictures of her dad getting married, posing with his children, and in military uniform. The note said, “This is my dad, Sam Burke, a good and proud man who fought for his country and worked hard for his family. I know you will treat him with kindness and dignity. I am very grateful.”

During her next few visits, she made sure to introduce her father to everyone: “This is my dad, Sam Burke.” Soon, the looks of suspicion disappeared, and the staff returned her smiles and personally greeted Sam. Each time they did, Sam squeezed Ann’s hand.

When he died months later, Ann received a card signed by the entire staff: “Thanks for entrusting us with your dad, Sam, and for reminding us why we do what we do. He must have been a great father because you sure are a great daughter.”

MORRO BAY POLICE SERVICES

- **Live Scan Fingerprinting** is available by appointment Monday–Friday, 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Call 772-6289 for an appointment.
- **Operation Medicine Cabinet** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Drop off unused prescription medications at our drop-box in the police station lobby. If after hours, use the phone next to the front door for admittance. For more information on these services go to [http://www.mbpd.info](http://www.mbpd.info) and look under “News & Services.”

We encourage anyone who is interested to attend the Neighborhood Watch Association meetings at Dorn’s Restaurant on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. It is a great opportunity for citizens to be updated on what is occurring in our police department and community. **Help solve a crime:**


**CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES**

- The Morro Bay Police website at [http://www.mbpd.info](http://www.mbpd.info)
- The City of Morro Bay website [http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/)

It is the mission of the Morro Bay Peace Officer’s Association to organize, support and unite its members in common objectives and fellowship, and to promote positive public relations with the residents, businesses and administration of the City of Morro Bay.

We welcome all comments regarding the content of this newsletter and thoughts on improving ‘your’ Morro Bay Police Department.  
**Morro Bay Peace Officer’s Association**  
Post Office Box 276, Morro Bay, CA 93443  
(805) 772-6225  
mbpoanewsletter@charter.net
In Memoriam – California Officers
Killed in the Line of Duty
15 to date in 2010 - 2011

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

2010 In-The-Line-Of-duty Deaths: Police Officers 158 / Firefighters 87
2011 to date In-The-Line-Of-Duty Deaths: Police Officers 90 / Firefighters 47

CALIFORNIA OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN-THE-LINE-OF-DUTY SINCE JANUARY 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orange County Sheriff Sgt. Ira G. Essoe</th>
<th>Fresno County Deputy Sheriff Joel Wahlenmaier</th>
<th>San Diego County Deputy Sheriff Ken Collier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Watch: 2-4-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 2-25-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 2-28-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death: Gunfire</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Gunfire</td>
<td>Cause of Death: High speed pursuit collision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reedley Police Officer Javier Bejar</th>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Danny Benavides</th>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Tom Coleman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Watch: 3-1-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 5-7-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 6-11-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death: Gunfire</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Aircraft accident</td>
<td>Cause of Death: High speed pursuit collision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Phillip Ortiz</th>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Justin McGrory</th>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Brett Oswald</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death: Struck by a vehicle</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Struck by a vehicle</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Struck by a vehicle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Diego Police Officer Christopher A. Wilson</th>
<th>Riverside Police Officer Ryan Bonaminio</th>
<th>Calif. Highway Patrol Officer Thomas Adams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Watch: 10-27-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 11-7-2010</td>
<td>End of Watch: 2-15-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death: Gunfire</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Gunfire</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Traffic Collision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cathedral City Police Officer Jermaine Gibson</th>
<th>Hawthorne Police Officer Andrew Garton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Watch: 3-19-2011</td>
<td>End of Watch: 5-26-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of Death: High speed pursuit collision</td>
<td>Cause of Death: Traffic Collision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Pasadena, California Police Officer Kevin “Sandy” Sandoval died on 6-14-2011, after suffering a head injury from a fall during a training exercise. The 23-year-old officer was training with other South Pasadena Police Department officers at the police firing range. Officer Sandoval was given first aid at the scene and flown to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. At this time it is unclear why Officer Sandoval fell, but it could involve a medical condition. Sandoval, a Covina resident, had been an officer with the department for two years. Prior to that, he was a cadet. Sandoval is survived by his mother, father, and sister.