Politicians take shots in debate

By Otto Moe Beal
Summer Staff Writer

Last week's debate between the four candidates for the 22nd Congressional District highlighted both their differences and similarities. A boisterous crowd made up largely of senior citizens clapped and booed as the candidates answered questions posed by an independent mediator. Incumbent Andrea Seastrand faced-off against Democratic challenger Walter Capps, Reform Party candidate Richard "Dick" Porter and independent runner Steve Wheeler.

The event was held last Thursday at the San Luis Obispo Senior Center under the auspice of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). About 100 citizens and members of the media attended the event. Capps began by distinguishing himself from Seastrand claiming he voted against bills aimed at curbing child molestation—a claim later denied by Seastrand. He also aligned himself with Constitution framer Thomas Jefferson. Independent candidate Wheeler countered by suggesting he has demonstrated a certain naiveté in his attempt to run on a nonpartisan platform claiming his underdog status as a candidate untainted by PACs and special interests.

Dick Porter, running on Perot's Reform Party, raised the specter of gridlock partisan politics claiming the Republican's and Democrat's inability to compromise has resulted in an ineffective federal government. He also stated he backed Reform Party presidential hopeful Richard D. Lamm, the former Governor of Colorado.

Lamm lost his bid for the Reform Party nomination to Perot last weekend, days after the local debate. Seastrand highlighted her congressional voting record, noting that much of the legislation she backed was later vetoed by President Clinton.

The heart of the debate began... See DEBATE page 3

Seastrand sued over false promises made in '94 race

By Otto Moe Beal
Summer Staff Writer

Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand was recently sued by her 1994 campaign manager who claimed the Congresswoman reneged on her promise of a high-paying job for him if she was elected to the House of Representatives. Brad Kyle's lawsuit claims that on several occasions Seastrand promised him $45,000 to $50,000 per year job if she won the election. According to Kyle, and confirmed by a letter written by Seastrand's lawyer of record in October of '95, Seastrand's chief-of-staff instead offered him a less attractive $38,000 per year job. See LAWSUIT page 2

CIA funneled crack profits to Nicaraguan rebels, newspaper says

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Authorities were slow to react to halt the flow of crack cocaine into Los Angeles black neighborhoods, where a U.S. informant says he sold thousands of kilograms of the drug to local dealers over 10 years, the San Jose Mercury News reported Thursday.

The newspaper's yearlong investigation showed how the drug ring, with ties to the San Francisco Bay area, sold tons of cocaine to Los Angeles gangs throughout the 1980s and funneled the profits to a Nicaraguan guerrilla army run by the CIA.

In a 1990 taped interview with U.S. drug agents, Nicaraguan drug dealer Danilo Blandón told authorities about how he began selling cocaine to black drug dealers a decade earlier.

"These people have been working with me 10 years," Blandón said. "I've sold them about 2,000 or 4,000 (kilos). I don't know. I don't remember how many."

Blandón told the agents that he was selling to black drug dealers who "control L.A."

The newspaper's research focused on recently declassified federal reports, court testimony and interviews to reveal the unlikely alliance between area drug dealers, the Fuerza Democrática Nicaragüense (Nicaraguan Democratic Force) and the notorious Los Angeles gangs, the Crips and Bloods.

The report raises many questions about the government's failure to prosecute the drug ring's kingspins. It also alleges that the drug network was partially responsible for crack cocaine's invasion of Los Angeles, a problem that continues to plague the city and has made entire city blocks into gangland war zones.

Blandón worked for Juan Néstor Meneses Cantarero, an internationally-known drug dealer and smuggler who ran the FDN operation out of his homes in Burlingame and Pacifica. Meneses is currently serving time in a Nicaraguan prison on drug charges and has never served time in a U.S. jail.

But it was Blandón who told Drug Enforcement Administration agents that he met Rick Ross, a well-known Los Angeles drug dealer, and began a long-term business relationship.

Blandón, who later became an informant for U.S. authorities, is free in Nicaragua. Ross has been convicted of conspiracy to sell drugs and is scheduled to be sentenced in San Diego on Friday. A former Los Angeles narcotics officer, Ross was convicted in 1986 of murder.

Yom Kippur, fall classes will collide

No penalties for students observing Jewish holy day

By Michael Kaufman
Summer Staff Writer

University policies on the observance of religious holy days will save many Cal Poly students from being dropped from the first day of classes.

On September 23, the first day of the fall quarter, some students and faculty will be observing the Jewish high-holy day of Yom Kippur.

It is custom for professors to drop students who fail to attend first class sessions to allow spaces for those who wish to add. This fall though, an exception to the rule will be adhered to on the request of Provost Paul Zing.

Academic Senate Chair Harvey Greenland said that a letter by Zing is being drafted to inform faculty of the problem. The letter will encourage faculty... See YOM KIPPUR page 2
Fate of Wildlife Center put on hold

By Katrina Ritche
Summar Staff Writer

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors postponed a decision on whether or not to grant the North County Wildlife Center in Paso Robles a county minor use permit on Tuesday.

A tentative vote set for the next board meeting on September 24.

The Wildlife Center rescues, rehabilitates and then releases animals into their natural habitats, and has been owned and operated by Jeff and Kathy Johannsen since 1982.

In April, neighbors of the Wildlife Center filed suit against the Johannsons demanding the closure of the center saying that the Johannsons did not have a county minor use permit, even though the center needs federal, state and local requirements.

During the five hour hearing, the board heard from lawyers representing the Johannsons and their public testimony from the near capacity crowd.

Kathy Johannsen announced at the hearing that the two Bengal tigers who had lived at the Wildlife Center for the past four years were removed on Sunday and sent to actress Tippi Hedren's Shambala Preserve in Los Angeles County.

The tigers had been an issue regarding the center from the beginning. One of the neighbors concerns had been that the tigers could escape, said Annie Mueller, head of the volunteers at the North County Wildlife Center.

Originally, the neighbors did not want the tigers, now they just want to close down the center, Mueller said.

The board split the Wildlife Center issue into two votes. One vote was about the minor use permit and one vote was about the Indemnity Provisions.

"If we lose the center where are these animals going to go?"

--Dottie Weaver,
Wildlife Center volunteer

Clause.

The clause was established by the Planning Commission during a meeting in May. It stated that if the neighbors did not like the outcome of Tuesday's board meeting they could sue the county and the Johannsons would have to pay for the legal costs.

The board voted 3-2 to disregard the clause.

Mueller said the Johannsons were not aware they needed the minor use permit from the county.

"They have every state and federal license you can imagine, but not the minor use permit," Mueller said.

James Weed, an Arroyo Grande resident, said that even though the Johannsons do not have the permit, they have been inspected and approved by the State and Federal Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, SLO County Animal Services, SLO County Environmental and Health Agency and the SLO Department of Planning.

"This is the only federally permitted rehab facility in the Tri-Counties area," Weed said.

Weed has been writing letters to local newspapers and county supervisors in support of the center.

"I have heard nothing but good things about the center," Weed said. "I cannot imagine why anyone would want it closed down."

Dottie Weaver has been a volunteer to Save the North County Wildlife Center since March.

"I went to see the center and saw that the animals were well taken care of and received top notch treatment," Weaver said. "If we lose the center where are these animals going to go?"

Mueller said the Wildlife Center is like a home for the animals.

"Animals with any kind of injuries from being hit by a car to being caught in a trap are taken to the center for medical attention," Mueller said. "When they feel well they are turned loose to their natural habitat."

Mueller owns Infinite Computer Services, ITD, which provides a telephone hotline with information on the center.

The number is 534-9622 extention 41.

LAWSUIT: Kyle is seeking $93,195 in damages

From page 1

Kyle's reputation became painfully obvious that I had been raped," said Kyle during a recent phone interview. "She never had any intention of hiring me. Basically, she sucked out my blood out of me in her run for congress and then breached her promise."

The lawsuit—seeking a combined $93,195 in damages, out-of-pocket expenses accrued by Kyle during the campaign and lost benefits from a leave of absence from his county job—was filed in Superior Court nearly a month ago.

After a recent debate between the incumbent and three congressional hopefuls last week at the San Luis Obispo Senior Center, Seastrand said it could not offer practice to offer campaign workers employment after an election.

Kyle declined comment in response to whether or not she had offered Brad Kyle a job and whether or not she had offered Brad Kyle her campaign worker's position in the Tri-Counties area," Weed said.

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LAWSUIT: Kyle is seeking $93,195 in damages

The answer was repeated with the same words. Kyle asked the letter incorrectly stated Seastrand's comments and intentions to her campaign workers. Calls to Seastrand's office were not returned.

"I feel my own intention for this to go so far," Kyle said. "I'm clearly upset. I was thinking about it. In my opinion she votes right—she supports the right legislation. But this issue is her character, and I think Democrats and Republicans alike have a right to know what kind of person she is."

Despite what President Clinton thinks, Charles Krauthammer wrote. "She was incredibly dishonest to me," he continued. "This was a total breach of contract. I thought she was a friend."

"She was incredibly dishonest to me,"" Kyle said. "This was a total breach of contract. I thought she was a friend."

Brad Kyle, Andrea Seastrand's 1994 Campaign Manager

Kyle isn't the first disgruntled Seastrand campaign worker. Another 1994 campaign employee alleged Seastrand with a lawsuit following her election. Ralph Wunder, a senior adviser, claimed he wasn't paid for approximately $10,000 in salary he agreed to defer until after the November 1994 election. The claim was settled out of court days after it became public.

"I've heard through the grapevine that she's got other similar problems (with former campaign workers)," Kyle said. "But I can't really comment on that."

According to Kyle, no settlement has been reached in his lawsuit against Seastrand.

YOM KIPUR: Jewish students can miss first day

From page 1

not to penalize students who don't attend the first day of classes because of the holiday.

According to Stuart Goldenberg, professor of mathematics and Hillel advisor, Yom Kipur is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people.

"It is the day we ask God for forgiveness for sins we have committed against God, not against man," Goldenberg said.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar. It comes on the tenth day of the Jewish month of Tishri and is the last day of the Ten Days of Repentance.

It is believed that those who have not been good enough to be written in the Book of Life immediately on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, are given 10 days to repent and pray for forgiveness until Yom Kippur, when their fate will be decided.

For some, the entire day of Yom Kippur is spent fasting and praying.

Goldenberg will not be attending classes on the first day of the quarter and stressed that it would have been better to move the starting date of school to observe Yom Kippur.

Journalism senior Gil Sery will be among those who will be staying home in observance of the holy day and echoed the views of Goldenberg by expressing his displeasure with university policy.

"I think it is cheeky and very inconsiderate of the university to begin (classes) on that day," Sery said. "I don't think there are some things are stronger than manmade laws."

Greenwald noted that it would be too difficult to change the starting date of the quarter and urged students to contact their professors to tell them of their absence.
DEBATE: Seniors boo, cheer candidates

with the question of campaign reform. Each candidate objected to give specific examples of what types of reform they would back.

Both Capps and Seastrand stated they wanted the majority of campaign funds to be raised within a candidate's district.

“Our goal is to raise 60 to 70 percent of our funds from individ­ual contributions and support from the 22nd District,” Capps said. “Look at our legislators. You’ll find we’re in conformity with that.”

Capps also pledged that he

know the letters you receive from Seastrand come at your expense? Her (correspondence allowance) was set up as a way to respond to letters from constituents. That’s it.” Porter claims Seastrand has been abusing her correspondence allowance by using it for cam­paign purposes.

Wheeler countered by stating that the Reform Party, as I see it, is an answer to the two-party system as we know it. Steve [Wheeler], the two-party system is a problem. The Reform Party, as I see it, is an answer to that. There is a problem. The Reform Party is set up to end the maj­ority reign of the two-party system as we know it.

Porter, Seastrand, the mediator, Wheeler and Capps duked it out verbally last week at San Luis Obispo. The four are candidates for the 22nd Congressional District. / Summer photos by Otto Moe Beal

Porter said, “Yes, Walter [Capps],” responded Porter. “Special inter­ests do dominate congress. Yes, Steve [Wheeler], the two-party system is a problem. The Reform Party is set up to end the majority reign of the two-party system as we know it. We hope to get 10 to 15 members in congress, insuring that neither the democrats nor the republicans can have a majority of the seats. Only then can we change the rules of the House which cause the gridlock we see.”

“What kind of America do I want? The kind where dreams are fulfilled for families and chil­dren.”

Wildfires continue to scorch Western states

By Karyn Hunt
Associated Press

A group of historic homestead­er cabins, a grove of ancient sequoias and a condor habitat in California were all threatened Wednesday as this year’s fire season continued to rage across the Western states.

A stubborn, 73,600-acre wild­fire eating its way around Clear Lake, a popular vacation spot in Northern California, still threat­ened at least one community and was just 30 percent contained.

Firefighters eliminated the danger to homes and other struc­tures located in the path of the 11­day-old Fork fire by starving it of fuel between its front flanks and most of the buildings.

But the human-caused flames continued to move in other direc­tions. And if the winds picked up in the afternoon, as they often do, one last stand of homes could be in trouble, Mendocino National Forest spokeswoman La Von Perez said.

Many of the estimated 200 or 300 people evacuated from Clear Lake, 100 miles north of San Francisco, were allowed to return home Tuesday night. But some were told their houses are still in too much danger.

“Hopefully, if we have a good day today, we’ll be able to let some of those other folks back in,” Perez said. More than 4,000 firefighters from as far away as Alaska and Alabama — including 600 3rd Brigade combat soldiers from Colorado — worked mostly on the perimeter, clearing lines around the flames to prevent them from moving forward.

They couldn’t do much about the burning inside because the terrain is too steep and danger­ous. Attempts to douse the inter­ior fell to the 20 helicopters and eight air tankers.

The weather was cooperating. Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s tem­peratures were lower and winds were calmer than over the week­end, when the fire flared out of control and more than tripled in size. It has burned one vacant home and an historic cabin.

Meanwhile, 200 miles south­
The next one by Jamie Trueblood

...If you could not take a look...

When everyone at the party found out Todd was a proctologist, they all came to him with their little problems.
BiCk swap offers choice to recycle your bicycle

By Trad Bradi
Summer Staff Writer

When the word recycling is mentioned environment friendly thoughts probably come to mind, but this Sunday recycling means trading bicycles with Art’s Cyclery.

Bicycles brought into the SLO Cyclery on Santa Barbara St. between August 17 and August 24 will be sold for in-store credit or cash. If bikes are sold recyclers will receive 100 percent in-store credit or may receive cash for 75 percent of the selling price.

“We get all kinds of bikes,” Eric Benson of Art’s Cyclery said. “We’ve done this for two or three years now,” Benson said.

San Luis Obispo wraps up another alternative for lunch and dinner. This time it’s not just fast food, it’s gourmet and healthy. SLO Wrap’s burritos and smoothies are making the business a strong success since its June 10 opening.

“Get nothing but rants and raves about the place,” owner and chef, Jerry Wold said.

The food is burritos, but it’s not Mexican. An extra step has been taken to offer the common burrito to customers with an international flavor.

There are over 15 food selections on the menu, ranging from Thai Chicken or Mango Snagper to Teriyaki Tofu and Bombay Curry. Each is wrapped with either a whole wheat, spinach or tomato tortilla.

The recycling sale is a popular one. This Sunday the cyclery staff expects a line at the door before the store opens at 9 a.m. like there has been in the past.

If bikes aren’t sold on August 25, then owners must pick them up within one week or the shop will charge a storage fee of $1 per day. Once the cyclery sees a bike there are no refunds.

People bring in $25 ten-speeds or $8 for members.

Jackie Chan made his movies famous for its live action and Wesley Snipes for its soundtrack is far from the ordinary. This soundtrack follows in this same tradition.

“American Song” moves to future performances in PCPA Theaterfest with “Feel Good,” which is gourmet and low fat,” Wold said.

“The menu also offers six vegetarian burritos which are 90 percent safe, however none of the bicycles have been inspected.

“We’ve done this for two or three years now,” Benson said.

Robert Altman’s new film “Kansas City” brings life to the beginning sounds of singing and horns through the instruments of some of this generation’s most profound jazz musicians: David Murray, Coleman Hawkins, Nicholas Payton and Joshua Redman. Despite the differences between 30’s swing and 90’s free jazz, the soundtracks that put them in unique connection between these two different musical eras.

Crowd unites at feel-good performance

By Trad Bradi
Summer Staff Writer

Together under one roof, the young and old rock out. Songs, dances, hugs and sign language were spread through the crowd under the guidance of Karl and Jeanne Anthony.

Through the sponsorship of the SLO Unity Church, singer-songwriter-musician Karl Anthony returned to San Luis Obispo August 19 to perform his characteristically different and group oriented music.

His musical philosophy, “I’m the solution and so are you,” took hold among the all-ages crowd of nearly 100.

“The idea is that ideology that we try to pass along. Sharon Mesker, Unity Church Administrator said. “The answer is for all of us to work together.”

During the two hour performance Anthony did much more than just play acoustic guitar and sing. He demanded participation and the audience was more than happy to oblige him.

Volunteers using song lists, created hand gestures to the words of some of his songs, and the audience sang-along throughout most of the show.

During the song “Bear Hug,” there were no less than 50 songs given throughout the audience. “Life is a Dance,” put the crowd to lock arms or hold hands and away with the music.

The songs that reached the audience the deepest were, “We

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELLED...

Up coming events

• The Famous Jazz Artist Series presents legendary pianist Bill Miller, known for over 40 years of work with Frank Sinatra, on Sunday, August 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets are $15. For reservations call 927-0567.

• A Retrospective in San Luis Obispo opens August 25. A Celebration of Art with live music by “Tapa Krima Marty and the三次人材” and work by 12 contemporary artists from Southern California. The exhibit runs from September 6 to October 20.

• SLO JazzFest presents the 11th Annual Jazz Picnic at the Basin House, on August 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Stone Soup Festival comes to the Central Coast September 24, 20 and 21. For more information call 594-8866.

• Up a member of nationally recognized performers and storytellers for the first Pacific Storytelling Festival at Montana De Oro State Park on September 20 and 21. For more information call 594-8866.

• PCPA Theaterfest presents “Wendy Gethin’s American Song” in celebration of the American Experience and the great folk artist. The performance opens August 22 with a preview at the Festival Theatre in Salinas and opens Friday, August 25 for two weeks. “American Song” moves to Santa Maria’s Marian Theatre for encore performances in September. For more information call 1-800-549-PCPA.

• See REVIEW page 6
From page 3 east of San Francisco, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt donned a flame-proof suit to sweat alongside firefighters battling the Kaweah fire in Tulare County. That 4,479-acre blaze started when three drivers pulled off the road and left their idling cars on top of some dry grass, which ignited. It has cost $3 million to fight and is threatening a stand of giant sequoias worth an estimated $140 million. It was nine miles from the historic General Sherman tree, one of the oldest and largest in the state at 275 feet tall and at least 3,000 years old. "They don't make them like this anymore," U.S. Forest Service spokesman Steve Weldon said. "It takes thousands of years to make them this big. These trees are gigantic." Elsewhere in California, flames sweeping through the Los Padres National Forest near San Luis Obispo had blackened 100,000 acres and burned a cabin where biologists kept an eye on 17 zoo-hatched condors. None of the birds or researchers were hurt because it was unoccupied at the time.

WOLDS: Eatery opens with the help of other SLO restaurant owner

From page 5 gourmet burritos. That coupled with input from his employees and a 50 percent financial partnership with Denis Blume, owner of Mustache Pete's Italian Eatery in Cambria, led to the creation of SLO Wraps.

Within a four-week period Wold turned a failing Porky's into a popular wrap restaurant. Wold attributes much of the restaurant's early success to the price and what you get," Jim Wold said. "It takes thousands of years for its Windows 95 operating system to PC makers who agree to make other Web browser programs less accessible to computer users.

"The tactic prompted Hitachi to drop a program from a new laptop computer because the software included Netscape's Navigator Web browser, the letter said. "If estimates are correct that Windows 95 is selling at a rate of 40 million copies a year, it will cost computer users $150 million a year to offer their customers non-Netscape Internet software on an equal footing with that of Microsoft," the letter said.

With unique burritos, SLO Wraps eatery is one of the newest additions to San Luis Obispo's food market / Summer photo by Soshi Hebshi

REVIEW: Anthony self-produced all seven albums

From page 8 Already singing, dancing, juggling as well as playing the guitar, piano and drums. Today he has performed all over the world including Japan, California's affirmative action programs if passed in November. According to chapter member Gary Whitsett, the campus NOW chapter which is scattered during the summer, will sometime work in conjunction with the San Luis Obispo chapter.

The 50-60 members of the campus organization focus on equal representation of women in teaching positions and a balanced student body.

Justice Department asked to investigate Microsoft

In 1994, Microsoft settled antitrust charges by agreeing to halt a discount promotion that discouraged PC makers from installing operating systems of other software companies. The Justice Department said immediate action is needed to prevent Microsoft from using its dominance over the Internet software competitors. A Justice Department spokesman said it had no comment on the letter.

"The general tone and the specific allegations, as far as anything I can tell, are dangerous," said Brad Chase, vice president of developer relations in Microsoft's Internet platform group.

The rivalry between Netscape and Microsoft has become the most intense in the software industry, due to the increasing popularity of the World Wide Web.

Microsoft dominated the business software market with Windows and Windows operating programs became popular for running basic operations of a PC. That allowed it to influence how other software was designed and data was organized.

But Netscape's dominance in the Web software industry is under attack by Netscape navigator browser is used by more than 80

NOW: Will hold a silent auction August 26

From page 8 Also speaking will be local ACLU head Hank Albert. Silent auction items such as books, jewelry, overnight stays at bed and breakfasts, and a variety of new or used software services as such massages have been donated from women owned businesses. Proposition 209 will also be addressed at the meeting. The proposal will eliminate all of
NETSCAPE: Wants FTC to investigate Microsoft

From page 6

percent of Web surfers — worries Microsoft because the Internet is prompting software developers and computer system designers to rethink how data is organized and used. Eventually, their ideas and products may rely less on Windows as a design standard.

To catch up, Microsoft has publicly forged deals with a number of online companies, including CompuServe and America Online, to feature Microsoft's Explorer browser instead of Netscape's. In return, Microsoft plans eventual­ly to combine the software needed to access those services into Windows 95.

In the letter to the Justice Department, Netscape said Microsoft has also privately offered free software and comput­ers to smaller Internet access companies if they agree to make Netscape's Web browser less accessible to customers.

While the Justice Department's settlement with Microsoft two years ago forced the software company to change its discounting practices, it came too late to change the competitive landscape in PC operating sys­tems.

Netscape is worried the antitrust division doesn't have enough people or resources to look into Microsoft's actions in a timely fashion and suggested the Federal Trade Commission might be better equipped to investigate.

FEAR OF CRACK

Frofn page 6

In 1987, after crack cocaine had spread to several major U.S. cities, that the Los Angeles police department formed the "Freeway Rick Task Force." It was aimed at finding Ross and putting him behind bars.

Around that time, Ross, in Cincinnati, and Blandon, in Miami, decided to lay low. But Ross didn't stay still for long. He eventually cornered the Midwest cocaine market, authorities said.

Meanwhile, Blandon was con­stantly dogged by police. He later landed in jail on charges of com­spiracy to distribute cocaine but was released after agreeing to be a fulltime U.S. informant.

The pair met up again in San Diego, after Blandon, saying he was broke, told Ross that he needed someone to buy 100 kilograms of cocaine. Ross, also saying he didn't have any money, agreed to help find some one to purchase the load.

On March 2, 1995, Ross went to inspect the shipment in a Chevy Blazer parked in a shopping center lot in National City, near San Diego.

Ross tried to flee, but was caught after the truck he was rid­ing in crashed.

U.S. authorities paid Blandon $45,500 for his efforts, the Mercury News said.

Blandon declined to be inter­viewed for the newspaper's series, which ended Tuesday. But friends told the paper that he is often seen in Managua's better restau­rants, drinking and telling people of his "escape" from U.S. authori­ties.

CIA: Crack-cocaine spread to several major U.S. cities in January 1987.
Marijuana activists show support for Prop. 215

Supporters for the Medical Marijuana Initiative hope the proposition will get the 17 million votes necessary for it to pass.

By Trudi Ranch
Summer Staff Writer

Marijuana supporters and advocates gathered for the California Activist's "Get out the Vote" conference and workshop last weekend at San Luis Obispo's Monday Club.

The attendees and speakers discussed why medical marijuana use is important and how they can pass Proposition 215, the Medical Marijuana Initiative.

"This is not a substance abuse issue," Michelle Aldrich of Friends of Proposition 215 said. "It is a patient issue; a medical issue."

Four-hundred thirty-three thousand petition signatures put Proposition 215 on the ballot.

If seven million voters pass it in November then the state could not punish patients and caregivers for marijuana cultivation and possession, as long as it is under a physician's recommendation for medical purposes.

Physicians who recommend marijuana use would also be exempt from the laws.

According to Aldrich and other panel speakers, marijuana is a medical necessity.

"We definitely need drug treatment in the United States for people who want it," Aldrich said. "This was the first statewide workshop. Participants included Californians for Medical Rights, Friends of the Medical Marijuana Initiative, cannabis buyers clubs, California NORML, Hemp for Victory, and others."

Their purpose was to plan campaign strategies and foster endorsement for the up-and-coming election. "We're running on a shoestring budget," Aldrich said.

According to Fratello, 25 to 30 percent of registered voters support marijuana legalization and 70 percent support marijuana for medical use.

The initiative is only for medical access and patients' rights. "This is not a drug war," Fratello said. "This was the first statewide conference and workshop. Participants included Californians for Medical Rights, cannabis buyers clubs, California NORML, Hemp for Victory, and others."

Their purpose was to plan campaign strategies and foster endorsement for the up-and-coming election. "We're running on a shoestring budget," Fratello said.

Activists openly told stories of their experience with marijuana as a reliever for symptoms of AIDS, glaucoma, cancer and other diseases.

Evy Musikka currently receives medical marijuana treatment for glaucoma. She said that she has been using marijuana for 20 years.

"Although I lost one eye, marijuana worked on treating my symptoms," Musikka said.

She was treated illegally for 12 years until she was brought before a court of law. However, in 1988 Musikka was acquitted because she had total medical justification and no criminal intent.

"Tens of millions of patients are using daily," Musikka said. "I traveled the U.S. several times and nowhere are there people not using. We are not criminals...we have not broken any other laws."

Other workshop activities included voter registration, collecting endorsements, handling the media, local medical use stories, patient panels and marijuana expert speakers.

NOW celebrates Women's Equality day, anniversary

By Michael Karlan
Summer Staff Writer

The San Luis Obispo County chapter of the National Organization for Women will be celebrating Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of the inception of 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

The 1920 Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.

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The 1920 Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.

The event will be held at the San Luis Obispo County Library and will begin at 9 a.m.

The auction will be held as a fund-raiser to generate funds for the local chapter and is free of charge and open to the public.

"The fund-raiser is to allow us to take action to put women into the mainstream of American society," King said.

"We will be focusing on women in nontraditional jobs," Chapter Coordinator Angie King said.

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"The fund-raiser is to allow us to take action to put women into the mainstream of American society," King said.

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