

Atascadero News

50 cents

Atascadero, California

July 19, 2013

www.atascaderonews.com

Vol. 97 No. 58

Inside COMMUNITY



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43 years
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‘Save Atascadero’ appeals Walmart judgment *Group insists city did not meet CEQA requirements*

Paula McCambridge
FOR THE ATASCADERO NEWS

ATASCADERO — Citizens’ group, Save Atascadero, was not ready to take ‘no’ for an answer as it appealed Judge Jac Crawford’s June 10 decision siding with the city of Atascadero over whether Walmart development’s and the city were acknowledging what

Save members claimed are negative environmental impact and mitigation.

Save Atascadero cites excessive truck emissions and traffic congestion as two of the problems being overlooked in development of the retail site planned for land at El Camino Real and Del Rio in Atascadero.

“I can say that Save Atascadero believes, respectfully,

that Judge Crawford was incorrect in concluding the city had fully complied with CEQA and applicable planning and zoning laws,” said Mark Wolfe, attorney for Save Atascadero. “We believe the record plainly shows that the Environmental Impact Report failed to include a legally adequate analysis of the project’s cumulative air-

quality impacts with regard to emissions of toxic air contaminants from diesel-powered heavy truck deliveries. We also believe the record is clear that approval of the project violated the general plan’s prohibition on allowing new projects with significant unmitigated traffic impacts. We believe the Court of Appeal, who will review the record with fresh eyes, will ul-

timately agree with us.”

On Tuesday, the city of Atascadero received notice of the appeal against the city, Walmart and Montecito Bank and Rottman Group (the “Annex”) regarding the Del Rio Specific Plan Project. According to the Petition filed on August 9, 2012, the members of Petitioner Save Atascadero

See WALMART, A3

Making musical history *The community will gather for “The Colony”*



Atascadero News photo by Kerry Mayling

The cast of “The Colony: The Musical” performs a dress rehearsal in the Sunken Gardens in preparation for this weekend’s two performances. The cast has rehearsed for four days, five days a week for two weeks in preparation of the free shows this weekend. It will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 20 and again Sunday, July 21. Folks can bring their own chairs and blankets, but 500 chairs will be set up for the audience. At 5 p.m. on Saturday, a beard competition will be judged to kick the event off.



Glean SLO rescues food, feeds the hungry

Creig P. Sherburne
OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS

NORTH COUNTY — Weekend after weekend, Paso Robles resident Gail McNicholas takes a team of volunteers to the Templeton Farmers Market to ask growers for fruits and vegetables. Once collected, the team delivers the produce to the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo’s Paso Robles location. From there, that fruit is distributed to food pantries and organizations which put the food into hungry mouths all around San Luis Obispo County.

“We want to rescue food and give it to the needy,” McNicholas said. “It was people recognizing that we had a lot of wasted food.”

The idea, she said, started with a loose organization of gardeners called Backyard Harvest.

“It was a group of people talking and realizing that there were so many fruit trees in our neighborhoods where the fruit was going to waste,” she said. “Anybody who’s a backyard gardener knows they get an overabundance of zucchinis and tomatoes and apples. It

was all about sharing.”

So McNicholas and her group began harvesting fruit that would otherwise have just fallen off the tree to rot, and donating it. More and more people got involved, making their trees available for folks to harvest and donate their fruit.

Backyard Harvest grew. A chapter opened up over the Cuesta Grade, and it evolved into what is now Glean SLO. It has the same mission and methods, but is better organized and has a stronger relationship with

See GLEAN, A3



Atascadero News photo contributed

Glean SLO volunteer, Rosalie, picks organic corn at Steve Lechuga’s farm in Templeton.

19 arrested in probation operation

Probation teams up with APD for successful compliance check

Creig P. Sherburne
OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS

NORTH COUNTY — The San Luis Obispo County Probation Department teamed up with a wide variety of North County law enforcement agencies to conduct a large-scale parole compliance operation on Tuesday. Of the 61 parolees contacted, 19 were arrested for probation or parole violations or on new charges.

According to a press release issued by the Probation Department, during the sweep officers confiscated one firearm, a variety of other weapons, some methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and possible evidence of narcotics sales and gang indications.

Child Protective Services was required to respond to one location to assist with a case in which two children had been exposed to drugs.

“How we measure success in general in Probation is if they’re committing a new law violations on probation,” said Chief Deputy Probation Officer Michael Dutra. “Are they making new victims?”

He said that the sweep itself was successful. Law enforcement made contact with 61 high-risk individuals and 42 of them were clean.

“Part of what the probation officer is supposed to do when they’re in compliance is give them kudos,” Dutra said. “You know, ‘Hey, Bob, you look good. You look like you put some weight on, your house is

See PROBATION, A2

Red Light Roundup

Monday, July 8

00:31 — Somebody reported a loud party taking place on the 7700 block of San Andres Avenue. An officer advised the partiers of the complaint and they quieted down.

08:59 — A woman on the 7300 block of Sonora Avenue reported that her estranged husband was threatening her. An officer spoke to both people and peace was kept.

11:23 — A citizen asked to speak to an officer regarding a suspicious person taking photos of a neighbor’s house. The request was granted.

13:05 — Somebody reported the theft of an auger. An officer spoke to all parties involved and determined that an auger had not been stolen after all.

13:39 — Somebody reported that a young man was stumbling under the Highway 41 overpass. Subsequently, Kejuan Bynum, 20, was arrested on three counts, including a burglary charge. He was taken to San Luis Obispo County Jail.

14:39 — A caller reported being constantly harassed by neighbors. An officer gave the caller some options.

16:41 — After somebody reported that a man broke a glass bottle on the wall of and yelling at people at Rite Aid, Carey Vasquez, 28, was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property. He was taken to jail.

19:57 — A caller reported that three men in a white Ford Taurus assaulted his friend and then tried to run him over. The victim declined to make a report.

Tuesday, July 9

02:22 — A caller reported that the front door to Jack In the Box was ajar. An officer checked the restaurant and it was secured.

08:16 — A caller reported that every Tuesday at about the time of the call, a group of bicyclists create a traffic hazard in the area of Lake View Drive and Santa Rosa Road. The report was turned over to the traffic division.

09:08 — Somebody at Rite Aid reported that a man with a beanie and shorts had stolen a bottle of vodka and some iced tea. The loss was valued at \$20.

10:01 — A man said that some tenants he had evicted from the 4100 block of San Anselmo Avenue were sending letters to neighbors.

12:31 — Somebody at the Chevron gas station on Morro Road reported that the person allegedly responsible for a theft at Rite Aid previously was at the station. Subsequently, Jonathan Garza, 26, was arrested on suspicion of burglary. He was taken to jail.

17:40 — Somebody reported that some people were throwing items out of a second story building and making a hole in the wall on the 7600 block of Navajoa Avenue. Subsequently, Nicholas Livermore, 31, was arrested on suspicion of causing damage to property in excess of \$400. He was taken to jail.

22:21 — A caller on the 9300 block of Bocina Lane reported the ongoing problem of a neighbor slamming his or her door.

Wednesday, July 10

04:59 — Somebody at Albertsons reported that a man in a newer model Volkswagen Beetle was circling the parking lot. An officer determined that the man was waiting for the grocery store to open.

08:57 — A man reported that all of his personal belongings were stolen by known subjects while he was incarcerated.

09:37 — Somebody reported that the traffic signal near Santa Rosa and West Front roads was not cycling correctly. It cycled correctly for the officer who investigated.

11:26 — A caller reported that several people were riding dirtbikes in the creek near Morro and San Gabriel roads.

15:53 — Somebody at Round Table Pizza reported that there was an intoxicated woman on the north side of the business. An officer spoke to the woman who was able to care for herself.

18:27 — A caller from the 6500 block of Nacimiento Avenue asked to document some vandalism to her car. The caller said a neighbor was supposed to replace a damaged tire but didn’t do that.

19:46 — A concerned citizen on the 4600 block of Lobos Avenue called 911 to report that her sprinklers would not turn off.

Notice:

The names and incidents printed in the Red Light Roundup are obtained from the daily log of the Atascadero Police Department, which is a public record. The listing of a name here does not imply a person’s guilt or innocence; that can only be determined in a court of law.

GLEAN

Continued from Page A1

Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo.

Through its evolution, the mission has stayed the same: rescue food and give it to the hungry. That happens in three different ways.

First, volunteers like McNichols go to farmers markets and ask farmers for fruit that is destined for the compost heap.

“It’s very humbling to ask people for food,” McNichols said.

But week after week, that’s exactly what she does. She offers boxes to vendors, builds relationships with growers and, when she’s successful, collects literally hundreds of pounds of produce.

“We only take food that will be used,” she said. “Food that I would eat.”

Rebecca Pfiefer of Cody Farms said it’s a painless proposition, donating.

“They just come in and ask if we have anything to donate,” she said. “They bring us boxes and we fill them up. They take the extra we can’t sell. It’s going to human consumption instead of the ground for chick-

WALMART

Continued from Page A1

include, but are not limited to, Tom Comar, Gloria Boyd, Madeline Rothman and Ron Rothman, according to an Atascadero city press release.

The Walmart project has been a long and contentious. In 2008, voters rejected Measure D-08, also known as the Shield Initiative, that would have prohibited stores of more than 150,000 square feet from coming to Atascadero and would have restricted stores with greater than 90,000 square feet of floor space from devoting more than five percent of that space to non-taxable products, such as groceries — in essence, it would have stopped Walmart from coming to Atascadero.

At that time, Tom Comar, was one of the representatives of the group, Yes on Measure D-08. Now he’s a key player for Save Atascadero, which filed the latest lawsuit and most recently, the appeal. In 2008, he said, “This is a very long process, and this was just one battle. The process is really just beginning. We’ll be considering our options. We’re not going to go away.”

That has been the case.

Atascadero City Attorney Brian Pierik said the appeal does not necessarily affect whether the Walmart project will proceed, that it simply is a request for a review of Crawford’s decision.

“The appeal means the court of appeal is being asked to review the decision,” Pierik said. “An environmental review is required. Right now we have a trial court judgment — the petition was denied — so they’re now exercising their right to appeal that.”

Now that Save Atascadero

ens or pigs.”

It’s also more convenient for her to donate — food they can’t sell has to get trucked back to the farm.

Mike Broadhurst of Dragon Spring Farms is another regular donor, but he also helps Glean SLO in the next way they collect food: they harvest it from farms themselves.

“I had really good crops this year,” Broadhurst said. “More than I could get rid of. I sell exclusively at farmers markets. If I can’t sell it, I hate to see it go to waste.”

He said that knowing he has the excess, he doesn’t pay people to pick everything. Instead, he makes the fields available to Glean SLO volunteers to harvest once he’s gotten all the crops he intended.

A variation of that relationship is the last way Glean SLO collects food: from private citizens like new Templeton resident Michelle Martinet. Martinet volunteered her orchard to Glean SLO when she overheard McNichols talking about what Glean SLO does at a recent Templeton farmers market.

Marinet said that she and her fiancé recently bought a house in Templeton that has an

has filed an appeal of Crawford’s judgment, the next steps will include the preparation of a record of the trial court proceedings which will be submitted to the Court of Appeal.

“That process will be followed by briefs filed by parties and thereafter a hearing with the Court of Appeal. The hearing date with the Court of Appeal will not be known for some months, but it is expected that the hearing would be sometime in the Spring or Summer of 2014,” the city said in a press release.

When Save Atascadero files its brief, the city will then file a brief in response to its allegations.

Pierik said if this appeal is denied, the group would have the right to take it to the California Supreme Court.

orchard she is simply not prepared to handle just yet.

“We’re from Orange County,” Martinet said. “We have 30 fruit trees on the property; I thought there had to be somewhere the fruit could go.”

There is. McNichols said that a group of volunteers would get together and head out to the Martinet orchard and harvest fruit that would otherwise go to waste. It’s similar to how the volunteers go to farms such as Dragon Spring Farms.

Foodbank Coalition Community Relations Director Chris Aho said it’s that Glean

SLO is a huge, important resource for the food bank. The food bank tries to make 50-percent of what it distributes be fresh produce. Last year, fresh produce accounted for 48 percent.

“This year, we’re shooting for 200,000 pounds,” Aho said. “It just makes so much sense. Why should food rot on the ground here when we’re trucking in fruits and vegetables from other counties.”

To volunteer your field, orchard or time, go to www.gleanslo.org.

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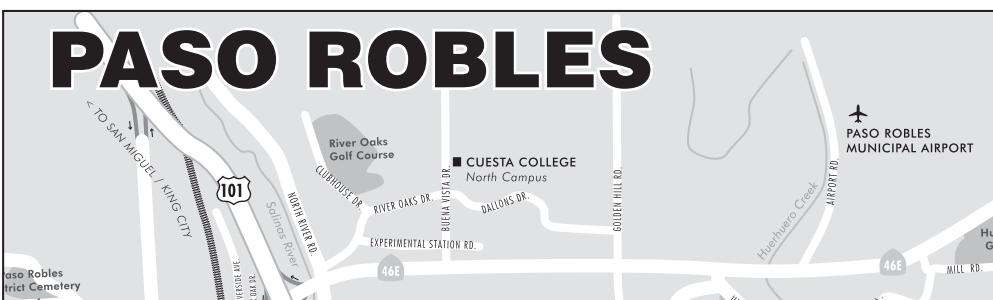
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| R.I.P.D. | In 3D Friday thru Wednesday 7:15-9:45 Thursday 7:15 In 2D Friday thru Thursday 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 |
| RED 2 | Friday thru Thursday 11:00-1:30-4:15-7:00-9:30 |
| THE CONJURING | Friday thru Thursday 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:15-9:45 |
| DESPICABLE ME 2 | In 2D Daily 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30 |
| GROWN UPS 2 | Daily 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30 |
| PACIFIC RIM | In 3D Friday thru Thursday 12:30-9:45 In 2D Friday thru Thursday 3:30-6:45 |
| THE HEAT | Friday thru Thursday 1:45-4:15-7:00-9:45 |
| THE LONE RANGER | Daily 10:45AM |
| WORLD WAR Z | ENDS WEDNESDAY Friday thru Wednesday 9:30 pm |
| STARTS FRIDAY 7/26 THE WOLVERINE Advance Screenings in 2D or 3D Thursday 7/25 10:00 pm | |

THIS WEEKEND'S GARAGE Sales



1

Yard Sale

1623 Poppy Lane, Paso Robles

Friday 7/19 - Sunday 7/21 | 7am-?

dinning room table, dressers, couch/ love seat/ end table pkg

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★ **The Conjuring** (R)

Fri. - Wed. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45

★ **The Wolverine** (PG-13)

Thu. 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05

★ **The Wolverine 3D** (PG-13)

Thu. 10:00, 12:00

★ **Red 2** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35

★ **R.I.P.D.** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 10:00, 12:25, 2:40, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

★ **Grown Ups 2** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

★ **Turbo** (PG)

Fri. - Thu. 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45

★ **Turbo 3D** (PG)

Fri. - Thu. 9:15

★ **Pacific Rim** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 10:55, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35

★ **Pacific Rim 3D** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 10:30

★ **Despicable Me 2** (PG)

Fri. - Thu. 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20

★ **Despicable Me 2 3D** (PG)

Fri. - Wed. 9:45

★ **Monsters University** (G)

Fri. - Thu. 9:40, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55

★ **World War Z** (PG-13)

Fri. - Wed. 10:30

★ **The Lone Ranger** (PG-13)

D-Box Motion Seating

Fri. - Thu. 7:20, 10:30

V-FIX THEATRE

Box Office Under 21, Adult Only

★ **Red 2** (PG-13)

Fri. - Thu. 10:50, 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50

★ **The Heat** (R)

Fri. - Thu. 11:40, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

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