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July 8, 2022

Los Banos City Council hires former Merced County administrative officer as new interim city manager

Third time's a charm

By Justin Collins, Reporter

During the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday night, July 6, the Los Banos City Council in their third closed session in two weeks, voted unanimously to hire former Merced County Administrative Officer Gregory Wellman as interim city manager beginning Monday, July 11.

Wellman retired in 2010 after serving eight years as Atwater city manager. According to his LinkedIn profile, following his retirement, for almost two years he served as the interim city manager for Oakdale until May 2013, and then as the general manager



Gregory Wellman. Source: LinkedIn

for the Delhi Water District for a year. Wellman has worked in the private sector since 2014, first for seven years as V.P. for the Western States for Algix, Inc., a company focused on revitalizing and maintaining healthy ecosystems and since July 2020 as the owner of Wellman Advisors, Inc. During part of that time, he served as interim general manager for the Franklin Water District for five years until September 2021.

Wellman graduated valedictorian from Brigham Young University in two years, 10 months and 11 days, as well as served as an assistant county administrator, a social worker, drug abuse coordinator, a human services agency director and UC Merced project

director. He was also given an award in Monterey in 2014 by the California League of Cities for his 43 years of work in local government. Wellman is approximately 76 years old.

According to the city by-laws, a gap in time between city managers is not allowed. There must always be at the very least someone appointed to act as interim city manager. The council's action will put an end to what will be 25 days in which the city will have had no interim city manager, after the split 3-2 decision to fire the former City Manager Josh Pinheiro on June 15.

Allen D. Payton contributed to this report.

Los Banos lights up the sky to celebrate July 4th

By Allen D. Payton

Los Banos residents came out to celebrate Independence Day at Henry Miller Plaza on Saturday, July 2 and enjoyed music from the live bands, shopping arts and crafts booths, and good eats from a variety of food trucks and booths

Then, just as it was promoted by the Los Banos Downtown Associ-

ation which sponsored the days activities, the fireworks show lit up the sky to the delight of the crowd.

See more photos on the Facebook pages of the City of Los Banos Park and Rec Division and the Los Banos Enterprise.



Stardust band entertained those in attendance. *Photo by Allen D. Payton*



Fireworks light up the sky over Henry Miller Plaza on Saturday night, July 2, 2022. *Photo courtesy of City of Los Banos Park and Rec Division.*

Candidate filing opens for city, school district elections July 18

By Allen D. Payton

Who wants to run for and serve in public office in Los Banos?

Filing for candidates in the November 8 election for mayor, city council, city clerk and city treasurer, as well as school board opens on Monday, July 18. That's the first day candidates can obtain nomination papers to complete by gathering 20 or more signatures from registered voters within the district they're running to represent. A filing fee is required but that can be reduced by gathering what are known as

in-lieu of signatures.

Filing closes on August 12 in races where the incumbent is running for re-election and is extended until August 17 for races with an open seat.

In the city races, Mayor Tom Faria and Councilmembers Refugio Llamas in District 2 and Brett Jones in District 3 are up for election in November, as well as City Clerk Lucy Mallonee and City Treasurer Kimberly Ann Tomas. Candidates for mayor run for a two-year term, all others run for four-year terms.

See Candidate p.2



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Los Banos Council adopts Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan, 16 multi-family homes

By Allen D. Payton

During their meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, the Los Banos City Council unanimously adopted the First Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan to address four potential deficiencies and approved a two structure, eight-unit multi-family housing project by Stonefield Home on E Street.

(209) 384-6000

Approve Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan

During a public hearing, the council adopted the First Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSP Group in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. According to the 1,750-page city staff report on the agenda item, the

BUILT FOR THE WORLD.

City of Los Banos resides within the Delta-Mendota Sub-basin. The Delta-Mendota limits are roughly from Tracy in the north to Tranquility in the south. It is essentially bounded on the west by the coastal range and the east by the San Joaquin River.

The City of Los Banos is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the portion of

the Delta-Mendota Subbasin within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City. The GSP Group of the City of Los Banos GSA is in collaboration with the following: City of Dos Palos GSA, City of Newman GSA, City of Firebaugh GSA, City of Gustine GSA, City of Mendota GSA, portion of Merced County GSA, portion of Fresno County Area B GSA, portion of Madera County 3 GSA, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA and the Turner Island Water District GSA.

The state Department of Water

Rendered by Benchmark Engineering of 2 eightunit, multi-family housing structures on of F Street and Santa Rita Avenue approved by Los Banos City Council Wed. night, July 6. Source: Stonefield Home

> Resources identified four potential deficiencies in the city's GSP. The amended plan is intended to address those deficiencies.

Approve 16 Multi-Family Residential Units

The council held another public hearing in which they approved the re-zoning and modifications to the general plan in order to allow for the development of two multi-family structures with a total of 16 residential units by Stone-field Home at 1133 F Street on the corner of Santa Rita Ave.

<u>Candidate from p.1</u> The qualifications of a nominee and of an elective officer of the City are as follows: Must be a resident of and qualified elector in the City of Los Banos.

For the Los Banos Unified School District Board of Trustees, Area 1 Trustee Gene Lieb, Area 3 Trustee Marlene Smith, Area 5 Trustee Anthony Parreira and Area 7 Trustee Ray Martinez are up for election on November 8, all for four-year terms.

According to City Clerk Mallonee, forms for declaring candidacy are available at the Registrar of Voters office located at 2222 "M" Street, Room 14, Merced, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on July 18, 2022 and shall be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2022 (except as noted above).

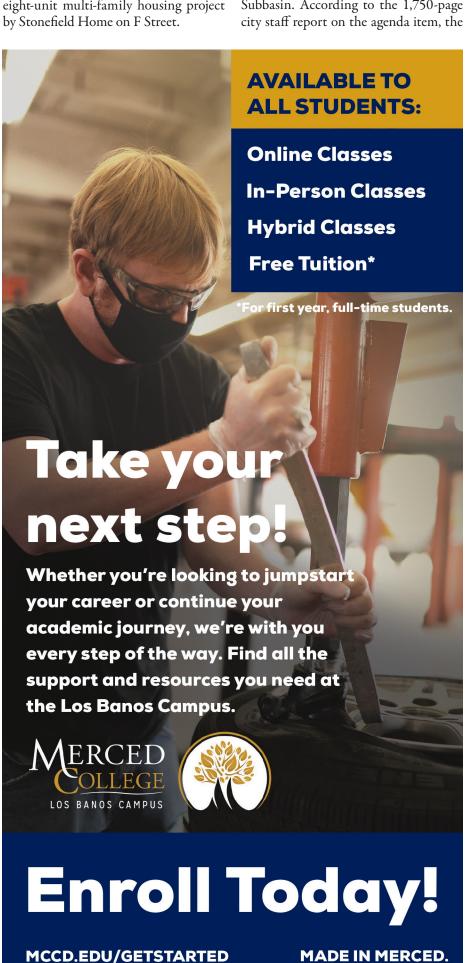
To obtain additional information call the Merced County Registrar of Voters office at (209) 385-7541 or visit www.countyofmerced.com/3632/Elections.



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The Restaurant **Whisperer** Andy English



Over the course of time, this "foodie" column will take readers on a culinary journey to some of the scores of local family-owned dining restau-

rants in Los Banos. We will gain an objective and insightful history on the evolution of their locations and menus, including their 'hidden" menus. We will highlight their signature dishes. Most importantly we will meet the customer-facing (front of house or FOH) front line and also behind-the-scenes (back of house or BOH) hard-working people who provide you highvalue meals with healthy options and delivered with excellent service. We might even share a restaurant recipe now and again. Bon Voyage!

Let's start with some local history. The first restaurants in Los Banos were dining halls in country inns, boarding houses, saloons and canteens. They provided hard labor nourishment to the initial German, Irish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Mexican and Chinese immigrants with trades predominantly in ranching, farming, and the railway. As the population increased and evolved, many family-owned restaurants came and went as the demographic melting pot shifted to a now predominantly Hispanic population. Many of the original immigrants have left their mark and are still represented by many other independently owned and franchised family restaurants that have moved into the area.

This column is dedicated to you, the customer and the restaurant employees that are trying their very best to provide you with a wonderful dining experience. The restaurants 'reviewed' in no particular order and will



Who are the "two bears" at one of the most popular family restaurants in Los Banos?

only be looked at based on the objective positive contribution they provide community. Statistically it well documented that about 99% of all restaurants fail within the first six months. This industry as a whole is one of the most difficult business models

from an investment perspective. Many people enter and most fail. The sad thing is most investors think they can extrapolate their mother's recipes or personal food choices to a restaurant business model. That is not how it works. It requires more dedication and hours than any other business after healthcare. That's because food is required for energy sustenance, health and wisdom.

I am not a restaurant reviewer or critic. I am an objective local resident restaurant customer of local cuisine at the hardest working family



Who is this customer-facing cook at this historic family restaurant in Los Banos and what artisanal food does he serve?

restaurants with over thirty years restaurants come and go while the who has seen the best restaurant rest have languished under the protective umbrella of the goal for

corporate profits. Food should be about the people, not the corporations. Food should remind you about your favorite dishes and what you culturally were brought up with. Food should be fresh and served with flair. Food has been passionately epitomized by my favourite movie "Ratatouille". Let's start our journey together in Los Banos and enjoy the best.





Good News, Los Banos!

You are now receiving **cleaner** electricity at lower rates from Peninsula Clean Energy

"When we heard that there is another choice for our electricity provider and that it will save us some money, you bet we got excited about the good news."

Jerry Knoester, Los Banos Resident & Business Owner

Now that the City of Los Banos has joined Peninsula Clean Energy, the average Los Banos household automatically saves a few dollars each month. You are also helping the environment with clean energy. And it's easy because you don't need to do anything!

You will see a new line item on your PG&E bill, but it's not an extra charge. Your electricity charges are now itemized in two lines. You are now saving 5% on the electricity generation part of your PG&E bill.

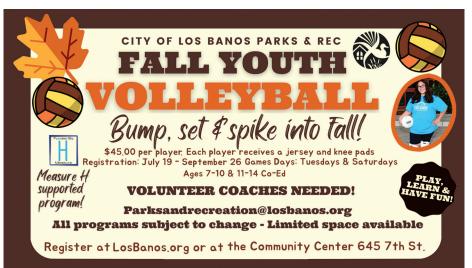
CARE and other discounts automatically continue. If you are a solar customer, enrollment is after your PG&E true-up date. You may qualify for up to thousands of dollars in savings through our various rebate programs as well.

PenCleanEnergy.com/Los-Banos (209) 592-0870



Work for the Los Banos Enterprise!

Needed: Publisher/Editor & Ad Sales Reps (p/torf/t) Call Interim Publisher Allen Payton (209) 519-0230 Send resume to publisher@losbanosenterprise.com













Police arrest Los Banos man for attempted murder

Following altercation runs Los Banos Airport and air lifted over victim with car

By Los Banos Polic Department

On June 22, 2022 at approximately

5:51 p.m., the Los Banos Police Department responded to the 300 Block of Kumquat Avenue for a report of vehicle versus pedestrian collision

Los Banos Police and Fire crews arrived and located a 38-year-old male suffering from major injuries to his head and body. Emergency personnel began to render aid to the victim at the scene before he was transported to the Banos



21-year-old Zachary Phillip Patina of Los

to a Modesto area hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses reported that the victim was in an altercation with 21-year-old Zachary

> Phillip Patina of Los Banos, shortly before the collision. As Patina fled the scene in a Gold Buick Sedan, he intentionally ran over the victim while traveling at speeds estimated to be over 45 miles per hour.

Detectives located the suspect vehicle abandoned a short distance away from the crime scene. The vehicle had damage consistent with the collision and evidence was located on the windshield.

Merced Co Sheriff's Office warns CCW holders of data breach

CA Dept of Justice issues update

Attention CCW Holders! The Merced County Sheriff's Office was made aware that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) had could have been shared elsewhere. experienced a data breach. The The State Attorney General's Office California DOJ had launched a new is working to determine the scope Firearms Dashboard Portal, and during of the breach. They will contact CCW that launch, the CCW holders' personal holders directly to inform them information was made available. That of the breach and the next steps. information includes name, age, address, Criminal Identification Index updates as they become available. (CII) number, and license type.

breach, they pulled down the dash- Office at 209.385.7445. board site and all related links. However, some of the private Justice announced that personal information that was made public information was



We will continue to provide more If your identity has been stolen because Once DOJ learned about the of this breach, please report it to our

The California Department of

See Breach p.5



Los Banos crime report for June 19-25, 2022: Three arrested, one man for contact with a minor for sex

By Allen D. Payton

According to the Los Banos Police Department's website three arrests were made, and the following crimes occurred in the city from Sunday through Saturday, June 19-25, 2022. There was one stolen vehicle, 11 assaults, eight thefts, five burglaries (two vehicle, three residential), five calls for vandalism, and 56 calls for disturbing the peace, most for loud music and parties and two for indecent exposure.

An arrest for assault was made

following a domestic violence call on Monday, June 20 at 4:20 pm in the 500 block of Merlot Court. (Incident #: 2206200018) LBPD did not provide any name(s).

In addition, on Friday, June 24 at 8:22pm, Filiberto Zamora Martinez, age 28, was arrested in the 1300 block of E. Pacheco Blvd. for a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge (Case #2204492) and on Saturday, June 25 at 10:35am in the 500 block of Elmwood Drive, Brian Josue Delatorre, age 26, was arrested on an outside felony arrest warrant (Case #2204500).

According to recentlybooked. com Martinez is also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and a controlled substance, and larceny-petty theft. According to localcrimenews. com, he was also arrested in 2016 by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for 647(F) being intoxicated in public.

According to recentlybooked.com Delatorre is charged with contact with a minor for sexual intent. (Booking #2022-00003331) He was also arrested on June 23 for possession with intent to send and/or sell obscene matter with prior and with a minor. (Booking #2022-00003283)

Los Banos crime report for June 26-July 2, 2022, **Seven Arrested**

By Allen D. Payton

According to the Los Banos Police Department's website seven arrests were made, and the following police calls for service occurred in the city from Sunday through Saturday, June 26-July 2, 2022.

There was one call for a stolen vehicle; six assaults including one aggravated and three labeled physical domestic; there were 25 thefts including two by shoplifters who were detained, two thefts from vehicles and six locations with multiple thefts; two burglaries - one vehicle, one commercial; five reports of vandalism

with three for vehicle vandalism; and 38 calls for disturbing the peace, 14 for loud music and parties, two for verbal domestic and one for which an arrest was made.

ARRESTS

As previously reported, on Wednesday, June 30 at 10:51 p.m., 21-year-old Zachary Patina was arrested for premeditated attempted murder in the 500 block of J Street for running down a man with his car following an argument. (See related article)

Also, on June 30 at 2:36 p.m., Juan Manuel Saavedra, age 46, was arrested in Walmart for trespassing. On Friday, July 1 at 1:04 a.m., Ernesto Reyes, age 35, was arrested at E. Pacheco Blvd. and Nickel Street for an outstanding arrest warrant on a DUI. Later that day at 4:28 p.m. 26-year-old Abel Anthony Lopez was arrested in the 500 block of Castlerock Avenue for battery of a spouse/ex-spouse/date.

As referred to above in the disturbing the peace calls, on Saturday, July 2 at 8:55 a.m., Derek John Duni, age 34, was arrested in the 700 Block of D Street for disorderly conduct, intoxicated with drugs and alcohol, drug/narcotics violations. However, he was later released due to insufficient evidence to charge him.

At 12:59 p.m. that same day, 20-year-old Malachi Mullins was arrested in near Mendocino Court and Woodbridge Street for carrying a concealed weapon on person and for carrying a loaded handgun for which he wasn't the registered owner. Then at 6:05 p.m. that evening, Liborio Saille, Jr., age 35, was arrested in the 1700 block of E. Pacheco Blvd. for obstruction and resisting arrest by a peace officer.



Los Banos man charged with drug trafficking while on probation

Suspect with history of arrests pills, and a digital scale. faces up to 40 years in prison, \$5 million fine

By U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California

FRESNO, Calif. — A Federal Grand Jury returned a one-count indictment on May 26 against Joshymar Estrada, 33, of Los Banos, charging him with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

On April 28, 2022, the Los Banos Police Department, along with members of the Merced County Probation Department and Special Agents with the Department of Homeland Security conducted a probation compliance check at Estrada's home in the 500 Block of Hardwood Court. While officers attempted to contact Estrada at the front door, he ran out of the back door and threw two canvas bags over his backyard fence. The bags contained more than a kilogram of cocaine, including approximately 380 bags in various quantities packaged for distribution.

Officers detained Estrada and conducted a search of his residence according to the conditions of his probation. Officers also seized additional cocaine, a number of unidentified

Estrada was booked into the Los Banos Police Department, without bail, charged with possession of cocaine for the purposes of sales and violation of probation conditions.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Los Banos Police in prison and a \$5 million fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed



Drugs seized by Los Banos Police during probation compliance check at Joshymar Estrada's home on April 28, 2022. Photo: LBPD

Department, the Merced County Probation Department, and Homeland Security Investigations. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica A. Massey is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Estrada faces a maximum statutory penalty of 40 years innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suspect has History of Arrests

According to localcrimenews.com, Estrada has a history of arrests dating back to 2015, including by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for revocation of probation in May of that year, 11350(A) - Possession of Narcotic Controlled Substance, 1203.2 - Revocation of Probation, 273A(A) - Child Endangerment, 496(A) - Receiving Or Concealing Stolen Property, 11370.1 -Possessing a Controlled Substance While Armed with Loaded Firearm, and 11353(C) - Adult Sell Controlled Substance to Minor on Oct. 29, 2015; and for 11378 - Possessing a Controlled Substance For Sale 11379 - Transportation/Selling A Controlled Substance, 11351 - Possession Controlled Substance for Sale, and 11352 - Sale or Transportation of a Controlled Substance on March 7, 2019.

Then on Feb. 29, 2020, Estrada was arrested by Los Banos Police for 11350(A) - Possession of Narcotic Controlled Substance, 23152(A) -DUI Alcohol/Drugs, 23152(B) - DUI Alcohol with BAC greater than .08 and 23550(A) - Driving While Under Influence with Prior Specified April 4, this year, by West Covina Police for 11370.9A - Knowingly Receiving or Acquiring Proceeds With The Intent to Conceal Nature or Ownership which is defined as money laundering in connection with drug crimes. Allen D. Payton contributed to this report.

See Breach from p.4

disclosed in connection with the June 27, 2022 update of its Firearms Dashboard Portal. Based on the Department's current investigation, the incident exposed the personal information of individuals who were granted or denied a concealed and carry weapons (CCW) permit between 2011-2021.

Information exposed included names, date of birth, gender, race, driver's license number, addresses, criminal history. Social Security numbers or any financial information were not disclosed as a result of this event. Additionally, data from the following dashboards were also impacted: Assault Weapon Registry, Handguns Certified for Sale, Dealer Record of Sale, Firearm Safety Certificate, and Gun Violence Restraining Order dashboards. DOJ is investigating the extent to which any personally identifiable information could have been exposed from those dashboards and will report additional information as soon as confirmed.

"This unauthorized release of personal information is unacceptable and falls far short of my expectations for this department," said Attorney General Rob Bonta. "I immediately launched an investigation into how

this occurred at the California Department of Justice and will take strong corrective measures Calinecessary. The where Department of Justice is entrusted to protect Californians and their data. We acknowledge the stress this may cause those individuals whose information was exposed. I am deeply disturbed and angered."

On the afternoon of June 27, 2022, DOJ posted updates to the Firearms Dashboard Portal. DOJ was made aware of a disclosure of personal information that was accessible in a spreadsheet on the portal. After DOJ learned of the data exposure, the department took steps to remove the information from public view and shut down the Firearms Dashboard yesterday morning. The dashboard and data were available for less than 24 hours.

In the coming days, the Department will notify those individuals whose data was exposed and provide additional information and resources. California law requires a business or state agency to notify any California resident whose unencrypted personal information, as defined, was acquired, or reasonably believed to have been acquired, by an unauthorized person.

DOJ asks that anyone who accessed such information respect the privacy

of the individuals involved and not share or disseminate any of the personal information. In addition, possession of or use of personal identifying information for an unlawful purpose may be a crime. (See Cal Penal Code Sec. 530.5.)

We are communicating with law enforcement partners throughout the state. In collaboration, we will provide support to those whose information has been exposed.

In an abundance of caution, the Department of Justice will provide credit monitoring services for individuals whose data was exposed as a result of this incident. DOJ will directly contact individuals who have been impacted by this incident and will provide instructions to sign up for this service.

Any Californian may take the following steps to immediately protect their information related to credit:

Monitor your credit. One of the best ways to protect yourself from identity theft is to monitor your credit history. To obtain free copies of your credit reports from the three major credit bureaus go to https://www.annualcreditreport.com. Consider placing a free credit freeze on your credit report. Identity thieves will not be able to open a new credit account in your name while the freeze is in place. You can place a credit freeze by contacting each of the three major credit bureaus:

Equifax: https://www.equifax. com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/; 888-766-0008 Experian: https://www.experian.com/ freeze/center.html; 888-397-3742

https://www. TransUnion: transunion.com/credit-freeze; 800-680-7289

Place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert helps protect you against the possibility of someone opening new credit accounts in your name. A fraud alert lasts 90 days and can be renewed. To post a fraud alert on your credit file, you must contact one of the three major credit reporting agencies listed above. Keep in mind that if place a fraud alert with any one of the three major credit reporting agencies, the alert will be automatically added by the other two agencies as well.

Additional Resources. If you are a victim of identity theft, contact your local police department or sheriff's office right away. You may also report identity theft and generate a recovery plan using the Federal Trade Commission's website at identitytheft.gov. For more information and resources visit the Attorney General's website at oag. ca.gov/idtheft.

Five Strike Fitness martial artists represent Los Banos at national Muay Thai competition

By Amber Pope and Ben Hudson

The Strike Fight Team took five home grown athletes to the highest level of Muay Thai competition available in the United States, the Thai Boxing Association Classic (TBA) at the Muay Thai World Expo in Des Moines, Iowa June 22-26. Muay Thai is the Art of the Eight Limbs and clinch. The legal weapons are punches, elbows, kicks, and knees. The clinch has been referred to as stand-up grappling where both opponents are fighting for posture, position, and control to land dominating strikes in close range.



Head Coach Amber Pope gives instructions to Nashi Ramirez.



The ref raises the hand of "Nasty" Nashi Ramirez as she shouts for joy following the victory in her first bout of the national competition. Photos by Strike Fitness

The TBA has just completed their 15th year and continues to help advance Muay Thai in the US. The TBA offers Class A (13+ bouts), B (4-12 bouts) and C (0-3 bouts). This year they had over 1,000 athletes register, which is a record high for this event and shows how fast Muay Thai is growing year over year.

After registrations and final weigh-ins the TBA had over 800 competitors and did over 400 fights in four days. This is also the only tournament in the US that allows professional Muay Thai fighters to register for Class A.

We would like to take a moment and introduce to you those athletes that represented Los Banos at the TBAs this

Patrick Zapien walked into Strike in 2019 in search of a new fitness experi-ence. Patrick is a teacher in Los Banos, an artist, fitness guru, and now a martial artist. When he started, he could not kick the pads above leg level, but he was determined to improve.

As his passion grew so did his drive. Patrick is hands down one of the hardest workers on the team and what he found was a new challenge that changed his lifestyle. In January 2020 he decided he wanted to compete, and he did everything that was asked of him and more. Patrick has transformed from an average athlete to an elite athlete and is becoming the best version of himself he can be.

He has competed in seven point Muay Thai bouts and one amateur bout. For his second amateur bout at the TBAs he competed in Class B at 147-153 lbs. and went against a more experienced opponent from a tough camp. Mr. Z didn't get the win due to a TKO but what he learned from the loss is much more valuable than a win, metal or trophy. He is back to the grind working towards his third amateur bout.

Isabel Diaz walked into Strike in 2019 because her brother told her she needed to workout. She was quiet, uncomfortable and nervous for she was not physical and did not play sports. Isabel picked up the technique quickly, but didn't believe in

her potential. She started competing in September 2019 and has competed in 14 point Muay Thai bouts, eight amateur bouts and two grappling tournaments. Many will choose the easy road or fight, but she has competed against some of the top fighters from the very beginning of her fight career. Isabel also competed in multiple weight classes. At TBAs, Izzy competed in Class A 102-107 lbs. and faced a top ranked opponent with roughly 20+ amateur bouts. Isabel's mental game is starting to match her

See Muay Thai p.7



Before one of her bouts, Isabel "Izzy" Diaz spars with head coach Amber Pope.

The California State **Fair & Food Festival** returns July 15-31 in **Sacramento**

Tickets now available!

After a two-vear hiatus the California State Fair & Food Festival is back July 15-31 at the Cal Expo. It will include exhibits, programs, competitions, thoroughbred horse racing, carnival rides, freestyle motocross shows, the Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage and lots of food!

SPECIAL FAIR DAYS

\$2 Taste of the Fair Wednesdays & Thursdays, 11 am-4 pm. Sample a variety of fair foods with \$2 menu specials from your favorite food vendors.

Senior Savings Friday Discount admission of \$10 for seniors

Tuesday Kids Free Day & \$2 Rides for All - July 19 & 26 FREE

admission for kids 12 and under. Rides FOOD FESTIVAL cost \$2 each for all fair goers.

Military, Veteran & Responder Appreciation Day -Thursday, July 21 - FREE admission all day for active duty, reserve and veterans from all branches of the military, active first responders.

SMUD Giving Mondays at the Fair - Monday, July 18 & Monday, July 25 -BRING 3 nonperishable, non-expired food items to the Fair Gates before 3 p.m. and receive FREE admission. The collected food items will benefit delicious entries! the Elk Grove Food Bank.



Over thirty food vendors will have a First special Food Festival item for you to eat by yourself or share! There's something delicious for every palate.

From savory – like sweet BBQ pulled pork, to sweet - like the bacon and pecan cinnamon roll, and fried of course! - deep fried apple pie anvone?

Come visit all of our award-winning Food Festival Pass participants, see their well-deserved ribbons displayed at their booths and taste their

Main Gate Hours

Mon - Thursday: 11 am - 10 pm

Friday - Sunday: 10 am - 10 pm Carnival Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Opens at 2pm

Tues., Sat., Sun.: Opens at 11am

Kids Park Hours

Mon., Wed., Thurs, Fri.: Opens at 1pm Tues., Sat., Sunday: Opens at 11am

The California State Fair & Food Festival is located at the Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. in Sacramento. For more information and details on all events, activities competitions visit http:// calexpostatefair.com/event/ca-state-fair.



Muay Thai from p.6

skill game and it showed in this bout. She was dominating from the outside but lost but lost in the clinch. Isabel coming back stronger and preparing for her MMA debut in August.

Nashi Ramirez walked into Strike in 2019 because she thought it sounded

overcome but her improvement shows in every fight.

She has competed in 17 point Muay Thai bouts, two amateur Muay Thai bouts, three amateur MMA bouts, and one grappling tournament. At the TBAs "Nasty" Nashi competed in Class A at 112-117 lbs. and fought twice. She won her first bout on a split decision on Day 2, but lost her second, facing two very different style fighters and didn't make the proper adjustments. We are already seeing the value of this loss in Nashi's current training, and she will be back more polished for her fourth MMA bout this September.

Isaiah and Elijah Cortez walked into Strike in 2019 and quickly moved through our kids' program to our adults' program. The twins are ranked junior wrestling champions and are on their way to becoming Muay Thai champions, as well. At 16 years old they have competed in seven point

> Muay Thai bouts. USMTO and

Class B at 107-112 lbs. Blue.

but did not get the wins. How Isaiah and Elijah processed the loss leaves us speechless. As disappointing as a loss can be, they both handled it like the high-level athletes they are. It was an amazing experience to introduce

Walking into the TBAs these young warriors had never experienced an amateur bout, a ring or ropes but fought in Class B against current champions from great camps. Isaiah competed in the Junior Class B at 117-122 lbs. Red Elijah competed in the Junior

Mr. Z, Patrick Zapien with the twin warriors, Isaiah (left) and Elijah Cortez.

Thai community.

Our wins are amazing, but our losses have more value for our growth. We are a young camp, taking on camps that have been around for decades and competing against some of the best in the United States. We will continue to build, learn, and grow! We are thankful to our 2022 sponsors for making this trip possible and that the entire team came home healthy with no injuries. The Strike

these young warriors into the Muay Fight Team will be taking two adults and six to eight juniors to the USMTO tournament this September in Arizona!

About Strike Fitness

Strike Fitness was founded by fivetime Muay Thai champion Amber Pope and her brother-in-law Ben Hudson.

Strike Fitness is located at 115 W. G Street, Unit C in Los Banos. For more information call (209) 710-0824 or visit www.strikefit.fit.



cool and wanted to challenge herself. Nashi was quiet but intense. She is an amazing artist and tattoo artist, loves anime and decided she wanted to fight. Nashi started competing in July 2019 and had a rough start. She quickly realized how important the mental game is to the process. This is something Nashi will always have to

They had dominating performances





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