



Los Banos Councilman Jones announces run for re-election

Faria, LLamas, Mallonee, Tomas, not running, yet

By Allen D. Payton

Los Banos District 3 Councilman Brett Jones has announced he will be running for re-election to a second term. Filing opened on Monday July 18 for the November elections.

In a post on his official Facebook page, that day, he wrote:

"It's been a privilege representing

Los Banos District 3 these last 4 years. The time has come again for me to continue my public service and run again in my mission to help improve this little town we all call home. I'm current seeking nominations and your support is greatly appreciated. Please send me a direct message or call me on my cell and I would be more than happy to come to

you for your signature.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brett Jones
(209) 769-2738"

He shared a graphic of the map of District 3 and a copy of his nomination papers for which he needed signatures of registered voters who live in the district.

When reached for additional comment about his re-election bid, Jones said, "I already have enough signatures to qualify and have an appointment set up for Thursday at the county elections office."

Asked what his major issues are he responded, "what we really need is commercial industry, from shopping amenities to jobs. We have a ton of homes. We need a number of revenue streams of sales and property taxes from businesses. So, commercial development is the key to bolster the economy. The number one thing is making it easier for businesses to come into town."

Filing will close on Friday, August



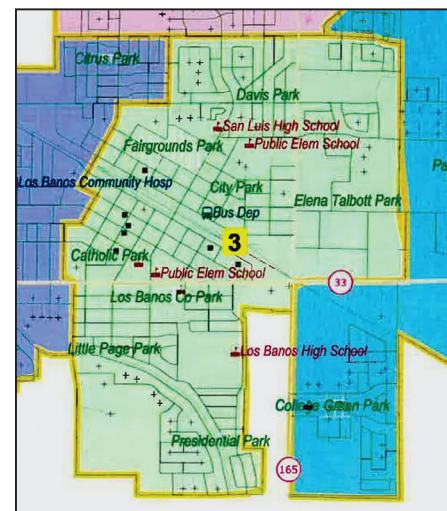
12 for District 3 since the incumbent is running, again.

Asked on Wednesday, July 27 if he was running for re-election and if so, had he announced, yet District 2 Councilman Refugio LLamas responded, "Good afternoon. Thank you very reaching out. Nothing as of yet." Pressed further asking, "So, you haven't decided or just haven't announced, yet?" he did not respond.

A review on July 28 of the list of candidates for the November election on the Merced County Registrar of Voters website shows neither LLamas nor Faria had taken out their nomination papers, nor had City Clerk Lucy Mallonee or City Treasurer Kim Tomas. Jones pulled his required nomination papers on July 18, then filed them and paid the filing fee on July 21 to run for re-election.

Asked if she's running for re-election, Mallonee said, "I haven't really decided, yet. But I have until the 12th. I have time."

An effort to reach Faria and efforts to reach Tomas were unsuccessful prior to publication time.



Map of District 3. Source: Brett Lewis

AD27 from p.4

Rail/Mass Transit, Search and Rescue and the State Threat Assessment System.

In third place was Dos Palos native and Firebaugh resident, Republican Amanda Fleming, who works for her family's Ag & Industrial Supply Company, with 8,527 votes or 16.8% of the vote. In last place was another Fresno Councilmember, Democrat Mike Karbassi who represents District 1 and is part owner of his family's Persian rug business. He received 4,096

votes or 8.1%.

In Merced County, the race was much closer with Soria, also placing first, garnering 10,695 votes or 39.27% to Pazin's 10,302 votes or 37.83% of the vote. Fleming had 4,272 votes or 15.69% and Karbassi received 1,909 or 7.1% of the vote. There were a total of 57 write-in votes for just 0.21%.

For more information about Soria's campaign visit www.soriaforcalifornia.com and about Pazin's campaign, visit www.markpazin.com.



AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS:

- Online Classes
- In-Person Classes
- Hybrid Classes
- Free Tuition*

*For first year, full-time students.

Take your next step!

Whether you're looking to jumpstart your career or continue your academic journey, we're with you every step of the way. Find all the support and resources you need at the Los Banos Campus.

MERCED COLLEGE
LOS BANOS CAMPUS



Enroll Today!

MCCD.EDU/GETSTARTED
(209) 384-6000

MADE IN MERCED.
BUILT FOR THE WORLD.



Work for the Los Banos Enterprise!

Needed: Publisher/Editor & Ad Sales Reps (p/t or f/t)

Call Interim Publisher Allen Payton (209) 519-0230

Send resume to publisher@losbanosenterprise.com

Merced County's first 100 Day Challenge finds housing for homeless in Los Banos

Multi-agency effort

By Mike Dunbar, Office of Assemblymember Adam Gray and Mike North, PIO, County of Merced

More than 150 Merced County children call motel rooms home. Another 41 people under age 24 live unsheltered in cars, under highway bridges or in tents along the roadside.

Living in such conditions leads to poor health, poor nutrition and poor grades for those in school. Some, as they get older, can be at higher risk of turning to crime or substance abuse. The human and financial costs of people living in these conditions are enormous, both for those experiencing it and for the community.

Merced County, its cities, several non-profits and many volunteers have committed to addressing the problem of child and youth homelessness through a second 100-Day Challenge, which began July 6.

The goal is to find housing for 100 children and young people and their families in 100 days.

The effort will concentrate on those living in temporary shelters with an emphasis on racial equity.

"Since 2020 we have seen a 170 percent increase in families experiencing homelessness," said Lloyd Pereira, Chairman of the Merced County Board of Super-



Photo: Merced County

visors. "They are residing in motels being used as emergency shelters by the county. We believe by focusing on finding stable housing for at least 100 children and youth in the next 100 days, we can make a real difference for those kids and for our county."

Merced Mayor Matt Serratto, who chairs the city-county Continuum of Care, was encouraged by the number of agencies, volunteer groups and others involved – including the Housing Authority, Merced County Office of Education, Assemblymember Adam Gray's office, Healthy House, Turning Point Community Programs, Merced Rescue Mission, the Community Action Agency, Worknet, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

and the Human Services Agency.

"This is exactly the kind of effort we need to address the often-complex needs of families experiencing homelessness," said Serratto.

In May, Merced County completed its first 100-Day Challenge – a state-sponsored program assisting local residents develop unique solutions to homelessness within their communities. Working with REINSTITUTE coaches, local teams were asked to define the problems, set goals and then implement solutions in their specific communities. REINSTITUTE works with four counties at a time, and Merced's cohort included San Bernardino, Santa Cruz and Sacramento.

Helped Homeless Find Housing in Los Banos

Merced County's goal was to find permanent housing for 20 individuals who had been living in Los Banos homeless encampments. The Challenge team – which included county staff, Los Banos public safety, members of Assemblymember Gray's staff and many others – visited two large encampments, compiling profiles of each of the 151 people living in them. Other Challenge team members described the problem to community organizations while others searched for suitable, affordable housing.

At the end of the 100 days, Merced County had reached its goal, finding housing for 13 percent of Los Banos' homeless population. The team also helped

65 more adults enter a pathway to safe and stable housing by finding them emergency shelter or connecting them with family or service providers. The Challenge was judged an enormous success.

"Once again, when given the opportunity and resources, Valley folks proved that their hearts are as strong as their arms," said Gray, who has helped find state funding for homelessness programs in both Merced and Stanislaus counties and annually participates in the Point-in-Time census. "It wasn't just finding homes for those individuals, the Challenge team helped them find hope and direction."

Merced County Superintendent of Schools Steve Tietjen was clear on the importance of meeting the Challenge.

"Succeeding in school is hard enough for most kids," said Tietjen. "It's hard to imagine how much more difficult that is if you're worried about where you'll be sleeping that night or what you're going to have to eat. By helping these kids and their families, we can make real difference."

Making a difference is the real goal, said Gray: "Our next Challenge – getting young people into stable living situations – helps our communities now and far into the future."

In this new journey, Merced will join the communities of Santa Barbara, Eureka, Lake County, Los Angeles, Richmond and Santa Cruz.

For more information on the Challenge, contact Christy McCommond at (209) 385-3000, ext. 5144.





20

22

FARM TO TABLE

Presented by the Los Banos Downtown Association

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER

22ND

TICKETS

\$85.00

FOOD PREPARED BY:

IN GOOD TASTE CATERING CO

BY BERNIE MEDEIROS

FARMER/AGRICULTURAL LEADER OF THE YEAR:

TBD

HENRY MILLER PLAZA

600 H STREET

LOS BANOS

SIX TO NINE O'CLOCK

IN THE EVENING

LIVE & SILENT

AUCTION

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS







FOR TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION,

CALL 209.710.9022 | 907 6TH STREET, LOS BANOS



Register today for the Los Banos spay and neuter clinic for cats Aug. 24

By Los Banos Animal Shelter

Feral Freedom Northern California has secured a spay and neuter clinic for Wednesday, August 24th. Space is limited! Request your appointment today via the link provided.

Eligibility

Any cat adopted from the Los Banos Animal Shelter

- Adult Cats
- Kittens over 8 weeks old
- Feral Cats for TNR

Drop off for your babies will be at the Los Banos Animal Shelter

at 1010 Airport Road at 6:30 am. The cats will be transported to the Snip bus in Prunedale. Males are \$60 and females are \$120. In addition to the spay/neuter, each cat will receive a microchip, FVRCP vaccines, and a rabies vaccine (if over four months old).

Thank you, Feral Freedom and SNIP Bus! www.fffnc.live/events/

For more information about the Los Banos Animal Shelter visit facebook.com/LBAnimalShelterdog-sandcats or call (209) 827-7089.

LOS BANOS ENTERPRISE

**WEEKLY
CRIME
REPORT**

Los Banos Weekly Crime Report
for July 3-9, eight arrested

**19-year-old loses his freedom on
Independence Day for shoplifting,
drug possession, resisting arrest**

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, July 3-9, 2022. There were reports of six stolen vehicles; seven assaults - six for domestic violence; three burglaries - one commercial and two vehicles; 60 calls for disturbing the peace many for loud parties (people, turn the music down!); 16 reports of thefts including four from vehicles and two for shoplifting; and six reports of vandalism including two to vehicles and one for graffiti/ tagging.

Arrests

A total of eight arrests were made in Los Banos during the week.

On Monday, July 4 at 10:59 a.m., David Gaona Medina, age 19, was arrested in the 2000 block of Rail Trail for petty theft - shoplifting.

Commander Ray Reyna provided additional details about the arrest. "On July 4th at approximately 9:54 a.m., Officer Cody May and Officer Juan Soriano responded to the ARCO gas station on E. Pacheco Blvd. regarding a theft. The clerk

reported a male suspect, later identified as Medina, entered the store and stole several food items from the business without paying.

Officers located the male suspect a short time later on S. Place Road and attempted to stop him. Medina attempted to run from the officers on foot, but he was caught after a short chase. Medina still had some of the stolen property in his possession and he was also in possession of suspected methamphetamine. Medina was booked into the LCPD jail for petty theft, resisting arrest and possession of a controlled substance."

On Wednesday, July 6 at 12:22 p.m., 29-year-old Melvin Swepson was arrested in the 1300 Block of San Luis Street for a misdemeanor parole violation.

Also, on July 6 at 10:32 p.m., 31-year-old Lawrence Norbert Arechiga was arrested at 4th and J Streets for DUI.

Three arrests were made on Thursday, July 7. First, at 12:58 a.m., 40-year-old Joseph Paul Amaro was arrested in the 1700 block of E. Pacheco Blvd. on multiple charges including: giving false ID to police, false pretenses/ swindle/ confidence game, battery of a spouse/ ex-spouse/ date/ etc. and two outstanding warrants, one for a felony, the other for a misdemeanor. According to localcrimenews.com, Amaro was also arrested in January 2014 by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department for inflicting corporal injury on a spouse/cohabitant, then again, in May 2021 for possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia.

Joshua Matthew Evans, age 25, was also arrested on July 7 at 10:15 a.m. by Merced Police for first degree robbery. According to localcrimenews.com, he has a history of arrests dating back to 2016, including by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for street terrorism, vandalism of \$5,000 or more and possession of drug paraphernalia; three times in 2017 by Antioch Police for possession of a controlled substance, receiving stolen property - motor vehicle and auto theft, as well as robbery and assault with a deadly weapon or assault with force likely to cause great bodily harm; five times in 2018 by the Merced County Sheriff's Department and Merced Police for driving without a license, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, auto theft and inflicting corporal injury on a spouse/cohabitant; in 2019 by the Merced County Sheriff's Department on a warrant/ hold; and twice in 2021, once by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department for possession of a

controlled substance, contempt of court: disobeying a court order/ process, conspiracy to commit a crime, carrying a concealed dirk or dagger and shoplifting; then by Merced Police for disobeying a domestic relations court order, driving without a license, and evasion - wanton disregard for safety.

The third person arrested in Los Banos on July 7 was 40-year-old Antonio Jose Contreras at 3:35 p.m. at Home Depot on a bench warrant for a failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge.

On Friday, July 8 at 11:16 p.m. 32-year-old Crystal Monique Ramirez was arrested in the 100 block of N. Santa Rita Street for an outside misdemeanor warrant.

Finally, on Saturday, July 9 at 2:13 a.m., 53-year-old Raul Barros Aguirre was arrested in the 100 block of W. Pacheco Blvd. for DUI and an outside misdemeanor warrant.

Los Banos Weekly Crime Report
for July 10-16, nine arrested

**One man arrested for
false imprisonment
inflicting aggravated
corporal injury, more,**

By Allen D. Payton

According to the Los Banos Police Department's website nine people were arrested, and the following police calls for service occurred in the city from Sunday through Saturday, July 10-16, 2022. There were reports of seven stolen vehicles; nine assaults - four for domestic violence; three burglaries - one residential and two vehicles; 45 calls for disturbing the peace including one for indecent exposure, several for verbal domestic, and many for loud parties; 14 reports of theft including four from vehicles; and eight reports of vandalism including four to vehicles and one for graffiti/ tagging.

Arrests

A total of nine arrests were made in Los Banos during the week.

On Sunday, July 10 at 12:25 a.m., 39-year-old Lourdes Torresmungia was arrested in the 2000 block of E. Pacheco Blvd. for DUI.

On Monday, July 11 at 1:52 p.m. 34-year-old Brian Justin Gifford was arrested in the 700 block of Skylark Avenue for vandalism - defacing property. According to localcrimenews.com he has a history of arrests all by the Merced Co. Sheriff's Department dating back to 2014 including for disturbing the peace by fighting, drugs, vandalism

See CRIME p.6

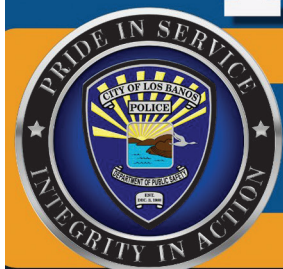
**STRIKE
FITNESS**

**Muay Thai Martial Arts
Fitness · Self-Defense**

115 W. G St Unit C · Los Banos
209.710.0824 · strikefit.fit



**NOW
HIRING**



JOIN OUR TEAM
OPEN POSITIONS

Salary as of July 1, 2022

Police Officer \$5,962 - \$7,075
Dispatcher \$3,955 - \$5,047
Community \$2,904 - \$3,705
Service Officer

BENEFITS

Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance
Education / POST Incentive Pay
Training & Equipment Provided
Tuition Reimbursement - up to \$3,000/yr
CAL PERS Pension



FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL: recruitment@losbanos.org
PHONE: 209-827-2500
TO APPLY VISIT:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/losbanos>

WWW.LOSBANOS.ORG

Police arrest Los Banos man for domestic violence, gun charges

By Los Banos Police Department

On July 10, 2022 the Los Banos Police Department responded to the 1600 Block of Foxmeadow Court to investigate a report of domestic violence. During the course of the investigation, officers learned the victim's husband, 44-year-old Thomas Michael Komarek of Los Banos, assaulted her and threatened her with a shotgun. The victim also reported Komarek took her cellular phone as she was attempting to call 9-1-1 for help.

An arrest warrant was obtained through the Merced County Superior Court and on July 14, Sergeant Jesus Parras and a Federal Agent spotted Komarek walking in the area of San Luis and Jeffery Road. As the officers attempted to arrest Komarek, he ran from the area but was caught and placed under arrest a short distance away.

Officers served a search warrant at Komarek's residence and located a loaded shotgun. Komarek is currently the subject of a court restraining order and therefore prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm.

Komarek was booked into the Los

Banos Police Department Jail, pending \$50,000.00 bail, charged with domestic violence, brandishing a firearm, preventing the use of 911, violation of a domestic violence restraining order, resisting arrest and prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

According to recentlybooked.com he also faces charges of resisting arrest.

According to localcrimenews.com, Komarek has a history of arrests over the past five years all by the Merced County Sheriff's Department for drugs, public intoxication, violating a court order on domestic violence charges and vandalism of \$5,000 or more.

To leave an anonymous crime tip call 209-827-2545. If you have access to a computer and the internet you can also leave an anonymous tip at the Police Department's web page at www.losbanos.org. At the bottom of the "Contact" page simply click on the "report graffiti and other crime" link or visit the Merced Area Crime Stoppers by telephone at 1-855-725-2420, or at www.mercedareacrimestoppers.org.

Allen D. Payton contributed to this report.



Source: Los Banos Police Department

Four new LBPD Officer Trainees at police academy

By Los Banos Police Department

Keep them in your prayers LB!

Just a couple weeks ago, LBPD's newest Police Officer Trainees began the six-month journey through the police academy in Fresno.

Trainees Isael Lopez, Carlos Gomes, Michael Leyva and Arturo Solis. They will be attending the academy for the next several months, learning the ways of a professional law enforcement officer...

It's not an easy path LB, I'm sure they'd love to hear your support as they run, read, write and push (up) their way

to success!

And we see their haircuts too 🤖 ...we're pretty sure that's because they are attempting to eliminate any and all reasons for their Recruit Training Officer to make them do push-ups 😊!

If you, or someone you know is interested in a career in law enforcement visit the City jobs page here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/losbanos>.

Offer your comment on the Los Banos Police Department Facebook page.



Los Banos Police Trainees (L-R) Isael Lopez, Carlos Gomes, Michael Leyva and Arturo Solis are currently in the police academy in Fresno. Photo: LBPD



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



Owner from p.1 Bachelor of Arts degree. Braa later earned a law degree in 1997 and practiced law until 2008.

In 2011 he started the Atlantis Detective Agency in Fresno and in 2018 changed the name to Atlantis Private Investigations which he owns and operates, today. Then in 2020 Braa formed Talon Insights, a political watchdog organization. Through the years, he has been working in Los Banos and the surrounding areas with several clients on a variety of issues.

After McClatchy, the previous owner of the Enterprise, filed for bankruptcy and the new owners, a hedge fund, offered it for sale earlier this year, Braa saw an opportunity to purchase the 131-year-old paper. His desire was to change it back to focusing on local issues that affect the residents and businesses in Los Banos.

"I purchased the Enterprise with a simple idea, to uncouple the nation-wide, socially driven, 15-minute news cycle from the local news," he shared. "When I was a kid growing up in the Valley, each community had its own newspaper. The front page of those

papers usually gave us stories about our town – our neighbors, our students, our city Council. To see the national news, you had to turn to page three."

"One of my favorite memories reading a local paper was a 300-word article about a resident who had



Los Banos Enterprise owner Michael Braa at a fundraising event.

been pulled over for having a fake license plate on his truck," Braa

said. "The would-be offender was an older resident of the city who had lost his rear plate and, concerned about complying with the law, fashioned a replacement out of wood and painted it to match. As I recall, he was instructed by the officer that he needed to contact the DMV for a

replacement and promised to check back with him in a few weeks."

"Of course, when major news broke that affected us all, it would supersede the local news and 'make the fold'. But these were rare occasions, such as the assassination of JFK or the end

See Owner p.7

Search from p.1

According to the city staff report, the council could either direct staff to schedule interviews (either at an adjourned meeting, special meeting or the next regular meeting) with all of the three recruiting firms or in the alternative, the city council could select a preferred group of less than all three to be interviewed. Or the council could select one of the firms based upon the proposals received without conducting interviews and direct the interim city manager to enter into a professional services agreement with the selected firm.

"The only one that fit the criteria... would be the agency out of Berkeley," said Lewis. "They have given us a list of their successful recruitment.

The others did not. I don't know interviewing all these three would serve any purpose."

The other four council members wanted a public interview of all three search firms.

On a motion by District 3 Councilman Brett Jones with a seconded by District 2 Councilman Kenneth Lambert, the council voted 4-1, with Lewis opposed, to interview all three firms at a future council meeting, preferably the next regular meeting and if necessary, by Zoom to accommodate the out-of-state firm.

Funds are not currently budgeted for this expense; therefore, staff will continue to analyze the fiscal impact and prepare a budget adjustment at a later date, if needed.

CRIME from p.4

of \$5,000 or more, trespassing and begin intoxicated in public.

Also, on July 11 at 9:03 p.m. 24-year-old Cody Pearse was arrested in the 1400 Block of S. Mercey Springs Road for a bench warrant/failure to appear on a misdemeanor charge. According to localcrimenews.com, he had previously been arrested in Merced by the Merced County Sheriff's office on April 5, 2019 for vandalism totaling \$5,000 or more.

On Thursday, July 14 at 4:36 p.m. 42-year-old John Robert Desa was arrested near W. Pacheco Blvd. and Iowa Avenue for violating a court order on domestic violence. According to recentlybooked.com he was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and a controlled session.

Also, on Thursday, July 14, 44-year-old Thomas Michael Komarek of Los Banos was arrested pending \$50,000.00 bail, for domestic violence, brandishing a firearm, preventing the use of 911, violation of a domestic violence restraining order, resisting arrest and prohibited person in possession of a firearm. (See related article)

Saturday, July 16 was a busy day for LBPD with four arrests.

At 4:16 a.m. 21-year-old Sergio Herrera Ibarra was arrested in the 1400 block of S. Nevada Avenue for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant by the Merced County Sheriff's Department. According to recentlybooked.com his probation was revoked. According to localcrimenews.com

Herrera Ibarra was previously arrested by MCSD on April 30 for disturbing the peace by fighting. Herrera Ibarra was also arrested by MCSD in April 2021 for child endangerment and DUI. He was also arrested by MCSD in Sept. 2020 on another DUI.

At 9:28 a.m. 47-year-old Thomas Lee Marquez was arrested in the 100 block of N. Santa Rita Street for petty theft – shoplifting. According to localcrimenews.com he has a history of arrests dating back to 2014 by the Merced County Sheriff's Department, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department and Santa Cruz CHP, including drugs, speeding, driving with a suspended license, possessing an open container while driving, burglary, resisting/obstructing/delaying a peace officer, receiving or concealing stolen property, vandalism, and hit-and-run resulting in property damage.

At 7:00 p.m. that same evening, 50-year-old Daniel Gonzales was arrested near Badger Flat Road and W. Pacheco Blvd. for driving without a license or while his license was suspended for DUI.

Finally, at 10:43 p.m., 31-year-old Mario Negrette Navarro was arrested in the 1000 block of Peachwood Court for false imprisonment with violence, etc., inflicting aggravated corporal injury on a spouse / cohabitant / dating relationship, and damage to or destroying a wireless communication device - destruction/damage/vandalism of property with intent to prevent help.

City of Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California
LOS BANOS PARKS & RECREATION

Movie Night at the Park

JOIN US FOR MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK!
FREE TO ATTEND

AUGUST 6th, 2022
College Greens Park (1815 Scripps Dr.)
Saturday | 6:00pm-10:00pm
Movie Begins at Dusk
Arrive early to enjoy
fun games and activities!

ENCANTO
AUGUST 6TH

These are free events to attend
For best seats, it is recommended
you arrive at least 1/2 hour early
Bring a blanket or chairs for this event.
Concessions, fun games and inflatables will be
available to enjoy!

Parks Make Life Better!

Community Center - 645 7th St. • LosBanos.Org All programs subject to change

Letters: Writer wants Kaiser to locate in Los Banos

Dear Editor:

I like having this little newspaper and I hope you are successful.

I wrote a letter to the mayor, recently. I asked him please if Los Banos can get Kaiser to come to our town.

I spoke with an employee of Kaiser, and she said that Los Banos is one of the cities they were considering to open a facility. I told the mayor it would be great to have Kaiser, here since we have nothing comparable and not only for its health benefits but also for a skilled workforce.



This could someday become a training facility for our young kids, a job with great, promised potential.

This would put in those new houses,

doctors, nurses, technicians, house-keeping, maintenance and so on.

I used to work for San Marcos School District in San Diego County. They offered Kaiser a large plot of land, a long-term lease and no taxes. Kaiser jumped. Now, years later a big hospital is there.

Our city is growing and needs a major medical player.

I asked the mayor who are you building all these homes for – not retirees from San Jose – we need to find bigger fish to fry!

Not only would a Kaiser be a great partner, but it would be at a major crossroad. The CHP told me they have to fly people to Merced or Fresno, or drive them far away.

Sincerely,
Irene Gray
Los Banos

Send your letter to the editor to publisher@losbanosenterprise.com and please include your name and phone number so we can verify you sent it.

Owner from p.6

of the war in Vietnam,” he added.

Braa’s other interest in owning the paper is one of the media’s main

of Government,’ he stated. “ The philosophy of any local news organization should be to tell the stories of the community and to hold those

“When I was a kid growing up in the Valley, each community had its own newspaper. The front page of those papers usually gave us stories about our town...”

roles, holding government officials accountable and keeping the public informed of the decisions and actions that affect their families, businesses and community.

“I remember a golden age of the press when they were generally recognized as the ‘Fourth Branch

in power accountable. The purpose of the former is to remind us of our common interests and the latter to remind those who govern and protect us, that they serve at the pleasure of the residents.”

Braa lives in Fresno and has four adult children.

Damian Ramos

June 5, 1977 – July 4, 2022

Damian Ramos was born in San Jose, CA on June 5, 1977, the first-born son of Sonia Ramos.

He passed from this life on July 4, 2022.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1025 Woodbridge Street in Los Banos, CA on Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



LOS BANOS ENTERPRISE
THE NEWS OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

Allen D. Payton, Interim Publisher & Editor - publisher@losbanosenterprise.com

Justin Collins, Reporter - news@losbanosenterprise.com

Ana Valdovinos, Reporter - news@losbanosenterprise.com

Markus Machado, Production Artist • A.J. Griem, Webmaster

Founding Publishers: P.H. Higgins & Carlos C.O. Freeman

To Advertise Call **209.519.0230** or email sales@losbanosenterprise.com

Mailing Address: 1350 E. Pacheco Blvd, Unit B230 • Los Banos, CA 93635

© 2022 Los Banos Enterprise, LLC • Subscribe to our website for updates by email.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/losbanosenterprise) @losbanosenterprise • [t](https://www.twitter.com/losbanosnews) @losbanosnews • www.LosBanosEnterprise.com

Ronnys

25th

ANNIVERSARY

ronnysinc.com
809197

Margaret Franco Gonzalez

February 22, 1929 – July 9, 2022

On Saturday, July 9, 2022, Margaret Franco Gonzalez, loving wife and mother of three passed away peacefully at the age of 93. Margaret was born on February 22, 1929, in Fowler, CA. She met her soon to be husband Moises Gonzalez at a dance held at the Rainbow ballroom in Fresno, CA. Margaret and Moises were married on August 18, 1957. They raised two daughters Lupe and Linda, as well as a son Hector.

While working at least one job and often two to provide for her family, Margaret would always find time to help others. Whether as a member of the American Legion Woman’s Auxiliary group and their community outreach programs or as a tutor for non-English speaking children, Margaret’s passion and can-do spirit was obvious and infectious to all.

Her can-do attitude helped greatly with advancement in her job as she become one of the first female machinist at Dexter Magnetics. Whether it was by exploring how to cook unfamiliar cuisines or picking up a paint brush later in life, Margaret’s ever inquisitive nature led to a life of continuous growth and learning. Many cherish her hand-painted cards that adorn their mantles during the holidays.

Margaret is survived by children Lupe, Linda and Hector; Grandchildren Raymond, Vanessa, and Amber; Great grandchildren Angel, Ricky and Xavier as well as many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services were held on July 28, 2022, at St. Joseph’s Church, Los Banos, CA. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to mom’s favorite charity St. Jude Shriners at (410) 685-6026.



What Are You Waiting For?



We're The Keys
To Your
New Home!



Sunrise Ranch | Los Banos



STARTING at \$449,990
Call 209.710.9228 **Move In Ready!**

The Villas | Los Banos



STARTING at \$499,990
Call 209.710.9390 **Move In Ready!**

Bellevue Ranch | Merced



STARTING at \$506,990
Call 209.626.5558 **Move In Ready!**

Cypress Terrace | Merced



STARTING at \$349,990
Call 209.626.5455 **Move In Ready!**

Deals like these won't last!

For more information on available homes,
visit stonefieldhome.com

