



Est. 1891

LOS BANOS ENTERPRISE

THE NEWS OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

@losbanosenterprise • @losbanosnews www.LosBanosEnterprise.com • Los Banos, CA November 11, 2022

Election 2022 Results

Begonia defeats LLamas in District 2 race

By Allen D. Payton

In the race for the Los Banos City Council District 2 seat, challenger and local teacher Douglas Begonia, Jr. was leading appointed incumbent Refugio LLamas as of the latest results update on Wednesday morning, Nov. 9 at 12:37 a.m.

According to the Merced County Elections website, with 100% of precincts reporting, Begonia had 575 votes to 391

[See District p.5](#)

Paul Llanez elected Mayor of Los Banos

Jones, Mallonee re-elected without opposition

By Allen D. Payton

As of the latest update on the Merced County Elections website on Tuesday night, Nov. 8, businessman Paul Llanez won the race for Mayor of Los Banos handily defeating write-in candidate and whale watching boat captain Jim Davis.

With 100% of precincts reporting, Llanez had 3,325 votes in his second bid for the position, to 399 write-in votes which may, or may not all be for Davis, who entered the race in early October. That's a

[See Mayor p.4](#)



LB Mayor Paul Llanez Source LinkedIn

Valadao defeats Martinez in Area 7 school board race

By Allen D. Payton

In the race for the Los Banos School Board Area 7 race, challenger Dayna Valadao defeated incumbent Ray Martinez with 100% of precincts reporting, as of Tuesday night, Nov. 8. According to the Merced County Elections website, Valadao had 461 votes or 69.22% to 196 votes or 29.43% of the vote for Martinez. There were also nine write-in votes, but those won't count

[See School p.4](#)

Duarte leads Gray in tight race for Congress

By Allen D. Payton

After leading since the early returns in the newly drawn 13th Congressional District race, as of 9:44 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9 local Democrat Assemblyman Adam Duarte is now trailing Republican farmer John Gray by 203 votes or just 0.2% of the vote. As of that time Duarte had 34,715 votes or 50.1% to Gray's 34,512 or 49.9% of the vote.

The district includes Los Banos and all or portions of Merced, Madera, Fresno, San

[See Congress p.5](#)

Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. The Cook Political Report has had the district leaning Republican and predicting Duarte had a good chance to win.

When reached for comment just before midnight Tuesday night when he was still in the lead, Gray said, "It's looking very optimistic. Great results tonight. I'm very honored and humbled to have the support of the voters. We'll let them keep counting the

Soria has slim lead over Pazin for Assembly

By Allen D. Payton

As of the latest update on the California Secretary of State's website at 11:14 p.m. Tuesday night, Nov. 8, Democrat Fresno Councilwoman Esmeralda Soria was ahead of Republican former Merced County Sheriff Mark Pazin in the 27th State Assembly race. The district includes Los Banos and all or portions of Merced,

Madera and Fresno counties.

With 100% of precincts partially reporting there was just a 2.2% or 1,010-vote gap separating the two candidates. Soria had 22,782 votes to 21,772 for Pazin.

A message on the Secretary of State's

[See Assembly p.5](#)

Council approves urban forestation plan, updated on Pioneer Road project

New Fire Chief Paul Tualla attends meeting; started Nov. 1

By Justin Collins, Reporter

During their meeting on November 2, 2022, the Los Banos City Council approved the Urban Forest Management Plan and received updates on recycled water and the rebranded Pioneer Road Complete Street Project.

In addition, new Fire Chief Paul Tualla was in attendance. The 30-year fire department leader and sworn peace officer started in his new position the day before replacing retired chief Mason Hurley. In the interim, Police Commander Ray Reyna served as Acting Fire Chief and was honored for his service at the meeting by representatives of the Los Banos Fire Department.

The meeting began with the approval of two proclamations honoring Veterans Day and recognizing Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Shortly after the floor was opened to the public.



New Los Banos Fire Chief Paul Tualla in a photo from 2017. Courtesy of Tracy Press.

Management Plan "is a guide to maintain,

[See Council p.4](#)

Incumbent Caballero defeating challenger Shor in 14th State Senate race

By Allen D. Payton

As of the latest update on the California Secretary of State's website at 10:41 p.m. Tuesday night, Nov. 8, Democrat incumbent State Senator Anna Caballero was soundly defeating Republican challenger, businessman and Rabbi Amnon Shor in the race for the

newly drawn 14th District.

That update shows 306 of the 706 precincts in the district reporting or 43.3%.

Caballero had 44,283 votes or 57.3% of the vote to Shor's 33,056 and 42.7%.

The district includes Los Banos and

[See Senate p.4](#)



848 6th Street, Suite 7
Los Banos, CA 93635

PRSRT STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 WESCO GRAPHICS, INC
 ECRWSS

Postal Customer

Charleston Elementary's Learn and Treat Day

Provided by Lou Ruiz, Principal

On October 27th, Melissa Brandi and Elizabeth Erratchu's first grade classes at Charleston Elementary participated together in a Halloween Room Transformation Learn and Treat Day!

They set up 12 Fall and Halloween themed activities for their students to complete during the day. Students rotated around their decorated classrooms, through 12 stations, completing Halloween

syllable counts, pumpkin part labeling, ghost counting, alphabet pumpkins, fall sentences, candy corn literacy puzzles, fall math facts, a costume writing, a bat craft, and more! After each activity was complete, the students took their punch card to the treat table and got to pick from bracelets, stampers, candy, necklaces, punch balloons, sticky hands, fruit snacks, and more! All 50 students were engaged and excited to be able to

complete their activity, get their card punched, and get a treat, as they learned, and applied previously learned concepts!

Mrs. Brandi and Mrs. Erratchu love being able to plan and provide fun, engaging lessons for their students. They say it is fun to see them learning and working hard, while they have so much fun! These hardworking students hardly even realize they are learning as they go!



Melissa Brandi and Elizabeth Erratchu's first grade classes at Charleston Elementary. Photo provided by Principal Lou Ruiz



Kalpulli Izkalli Aztec dance performance at the 2022 City of LB Fall Festival. Photo by Brooke Lopez

Residents enjoy Los Banos Fall Festival

By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

On the fall evening of October 29, the City of Los Banos held the 2022 Fall Festival at the Ag Sports Complex located at 700 N. Mercey Springs Rd. The fall themed fun began at 5:00PM with a pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting/art, bounce houses, games, a trunk or treat, a spooky maze and more.

A Kalpulli Izkalli Aztec dance performance was one of the highlights of the evening. According to the City of Los Banos website, "Kalpulli Izkalli is a grass roots, intergenerational,

action and resource group formed to transform the health and environment of our community. Celebrating Culture, Healing & Justice." Various vendors such as Churros DLT, Nana Steph's Delights, Estella's Kettle Corn and Amanduh B Creations were selling food, treats and other items.

Peninsula Clean Energy and City of LB Parks & Recreation were among those giving away prizes and information at their booths. The fun evening ended with the movie "Hocus Pocus" playing on the big screen.

AIKIDO AGES 5-ADULT

Aikido is a Japanese martial art developed by Morihei Ueshiba. This is an art of physical systems and constant movement which involves throws and joint locks that are derived from Jiu-Jitsu and other Kenjutsu techniques. Aikido focuses not on punching or kicking opponents, but on using their opponents energy to gain control of them or throw them away from you.

Location:
Rec. Hall in Pacheco Park
985 Pacheco Blvd.
Benedi Steven Macillas
209.858.2407

\$35 - All Ages:
Friday 6:30-7:30pm

\$35 - All Ages:
Saturday 8:30-9:30a
Saturday 9:30-10:30a

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR THESE CLASSES: CONTACT INSTRUCTOR REGISTER AT LOSBANOS.ORG ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

City of Los Banos
In the Crossroads of California

YOUTH
SPRING 2023

MORALES
GIVE N GO
SOCCER

INDOOR 4 V. 4 SOCCER LEAGUE

SEASON

SPRING 2023

MARCH 18TH
TO MAY 13TH

REGISTRATION: 11/22 - 3/02

Register the Los Banos Community Center (645 7th St.) or online at losbanos.org
Registration closes March 4th, 2023
Saturday games 8:00-2:00pm at the Los Banos Community Center

Practices Thursdays:

- Ages 7-9 3:30pm-4:30pm
- Ages 10-14 4:30-5:30pm
- Ages 4-6 5:30-6:30pm

Price: **\$60.00**

Samuel Morales
(209) 627-6706
givingo4vsoccer@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

All programs subject to change - Limited space available
parksandrecreation@losbanos.org

From Player to Coach – Pacheco Panther's very own Coach Siemiller

By: Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent

Jeremy Siemiller, head coach of the Pacheco Panthers varsity football team, is a dedicated husband and a father of three. Coach Siemiller played high school football for three years from 1996-99 and then went on to college where he continued to play the sport he loves.

Game wise, Jeremy's favorite memory was when his team went up against the Odell Mustangs in 1998, "I had a couple touchdowns in that game. We beat them 35 to 34 and that put us in the playoffs that year."

To most, football is more than just the practices and games. Football is friends and great memories.

"After the home games on Friday

nights, there would be dances that we would go to and we would go to Denny's afterwards. Then, me and a group of guys from my team would go back to my house and play Mario Kart and Golden Eye on Nintendo 64," Jeremy remembered fondly.

After college, he wasn't quite ready to leave the sport of football behind.

"I just liked being around the game and once you're done playing football you can really do anything," Jeremy said. "You can't just get a group together and go out and play. It was a way to stay around and be active in the game and pass down what I learned to future generations."

So, he made the decision to return to

Los Banos with the new title of Coach Siemiller. His career as an Assistant Coach went from 2008-18 where he helped class after class of football players reach their full potential.

Coach Siemiller's favorite memory from being an assistant was in the 2009-2010 season.

"We made the playoffs," he shared. "We had to travel to Tracy where they were the #1 seed while we were the #8 or #9 seed, I can't quite remember which one. They had beat us pretty good that year already, we battled it out and wound up beating them!" Jeremy exclaimed. "We weren't expecting to win at all and yet we came back and won!"

In 2019 Jeremy traded in the title of assistant coach and took over as head coach at Pacheco High School. Siemiller is proud to be a guiding force in Los Banos youth football.

(The second article in a series highlighting reverential coaches of Los Banos.



Coach Jeremy and Veronica Siemiller are frequently seen supporting community events. Source: Facebook

If you know of a special coach to highlight, please email: editor@losbanosenterprise.com. We'd love to feature him/her in our series.)

Surf & Turf Fundraiser Dinner and Auction supports LBHS Sports teams

By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

The Los Banos High School (LBHS) Boys Baseball and Girls Basketball teams held their annual Surf & Turf Fundraiser Dinner and Auction at the DES Hall located at 1155 I Street on Saturday, October 29. The delicious steak and shrimp dinner was provided by Badass Catering & Cali-Q BBQ and was served by the players.

The DJ kept the nostalgic tunes playing, while the silent auction and a live auction were led by Mr. Joe Barcellos, LBHS Athletic Director and teacher. Auction items included, baseball shaped cupcakes, monkey bread and cinnamon rolls, gift baskets, sports memorabilia, gift cards and a VIP table for next year's dinner.

LBHS Boys Baseball and Girls



(L-R) Reina Garza, Mari and Jesse Vasquez, Ray Walton (front), Johnny and Erica Escobar and Sarina Sanchez enjoying the evening. Photo by Brooke Lopez

Basketball thanks all of their sponsors and everyone who helped make this fun night possible and a success for our youth.

Tigers season comes to an end in 1st round of playoffs, 64-48 loss to Buhach

By Michael Cosenza, Sports reporter

The Los Banos Tigers came into the Friday night, Nov. 4th game riding high on an undefeated season and their dominant win in the Crosstown Clash versus Pacheco. They were moved up to Division 4 Competition for playoffs/post season and squared off with Buhach Colony of Atwater. Jaxson Percoats, son of native Los Banos football player, Imani Percoats, led Buhach to a 64-48 win over the Tigers. Percoats had over 170 yards and three touchdowns.

It was a tight score 41-40 for three quarters, then Percoats broke a 40-yard touchdown run to make it 49-40 with about eight minutes left in the game. The Tigers did not score the next drive, and Buhach responded with another touchdown making it 56-40.

With roughly six minutes left to make something happen, Tiger quarterback David Herrera threw an interception. Buhach offense came to

play, as Sophomore Adam Aguilar had over 70 yards and a touchdown. The Tigers defense couldn't stop Percoats and the Thunder rushing attack.

It was the last game for most of the Tiger squad, and they left their all out on the field. This squad had some real talent, and the fact they went undefeated in league was impressive.

Losing in the first round of playoffs brings some lows, but this team should be proud of what they accomplished. They were fun to watch on offense as they just looked like a complete ball club all season. They have a lot of young talent as well, and the fans and coaches have a lot to look forward to, come next year.

Naomi Townsend Follow me on Instagram!

Los Banos Realtor®
Lic. 01829933

408.623.1414

Happy Veterans Day!

kwp PROPERTY TEAM

@soldbynaomi

Dream Vacations
A CRUISELINE COMPANY

Greet and Meet your Fellow Traveler

Christmas OPEN HOUSE

YOU ARE INVITED

848 6TH STREET
LOS BANOS, CA 93635

THURSDAY
NOV. 17, 2022
1:00 PM

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

Tisha Blackwood-Freitas, Editor - editor@losbanosenterprise.com
Justin Collins, Reporter - news@losbanosenterprise.com
Brooke Lopez, Reporter - news@losbanosenterprise.com
Michael Cosenza, Sports Reporter - sports@losbanosenterprise.com
Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent - Karri Reiser, Little Owl Design
A.J. Griem, Webmaster - aj@losbanosenterprise.com
Allen D. Payton, Interim Publisher - publisher@losbanosenterprise.com
Founding Publishers: P.H. Higgins and Carlos C.O. Freeman
Office: 848 6th Street, Suite 7 · Los Banos, CA 93635 · 209.519.0230
Read more each day at LosBanosEnterprise.com. Subscribe for updates by email.
Follow us on Facebook @losbanosenterprise · Twitter @losbanosnews
© 2022 Los Banos Enterprise, LLC

School Board appoints retired teacher Lori Gattuso for District 6 Trustee seat

Fills vacancy due to passing of Margaret Benton; can be challenged and special election ordered

By Allen D. Payton

During a special meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, the Los Banos Unified School District Board of Trustees voted to appoint Lori Gattuso to the District 6 seat to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Trustee Margaret Benton in September. However, the appointment is provisional and can be challenged, with a special election to fill the seat ordered. That would cost the district \$32,500 according to Board President Anthony Parreira.

Two candidates were interviewed during the meeting. A third candidate decided the day before to withdraw, Parreira stated. A copy of their applications with their resume information in it and answers to 10 questions were provided to the trustees immediately before the meeting, according to District 7 Trustee Ray Martinez. The information was also not available for members of the public to review prior to the meeting, as it wasn't included with the agenda packet on the district's website.

Each applicant was allotted 20 minutes to answer the trustees' questions. First up was Dr. Sarah Matouk, a podiatric physician and surgeon in Los Banos followed by Gattuso. Recently retired, she said she's a Los Banos native where she's lived all her life, has a master's degree in Education, and worked for 20 years as a teacher.



New LBUSD District 6 Trustee Lori Gattuso.
Source: Facebook

"I'm ready to dive in and really give back to the community at this time," Gattuso said during her introduction.

Following the interviews and board discussion, Parreira made a motion to appoint the new board member. It passed on a 5-1 vote with Area 4 Trustee Gary Muñoz opposed, followed by applause from those in attendance.

Gattuso was then administered her oath of office to immediately take her position as the newly appointed trustee.

The following notice was issued by the Governing Board of the Los Banos Unified School District on Nov. 1, 2022:

Vacancy and Provisional Appointment

(Education Code Section 5092)

1. A vacancy in the membership of the Governing Board of the Los Banos Unified School District has occurred by reason of the passing of Margaret Benton-Area 6 effective September 14, 2022.

2. Lori Gattuso was appointed by the Governing Board on November 1, 2022, to fill the above named vacancy.

3. To challenge the appointment and order a special election, the following must be filed in the office of the Merced County Superintendent of Schools within 30 days from the date of the provisional appointment:

- File a petition calling for a special election containing the valid signatures of at least 1 ½ percent of the number of registered voters of the district at the time of the last regular election for governing board members held within the Los Banos Unified School District, or 25 registered voters of the district, whichever is greater, or

- In districts with less than 2,000 registered voters, a petition shall be deemed to bear a sufficient number of signatures if signed by at least 5 percent of the number of registered voters of the district at the time of the last regular election for governing board members.

The notice was signed and dated by the Governing Board Secretary/Clerk.

Mayor from p.1

gap of 89.29% to 10.71% of the vote.

On the council dais beginning in December, Llanez will join District 3 Councilman Brett Jones who faced no opponent in his re-election bid and received 95% of the vote. Lucille Mallonee also ran unopposed for the office of City Clerk, and also received 95% of the vote. The city treasurer's race had no one on the ballot, but received 420 write-in votes, but those won't count since no certified write-in candidate entered the race.

Earlier in the day, the mayor-elect said he would be having "a small family gathering" at his home to watch the election returns. On Monday, Llanez posted on his campaign Facebook page the simple comment, "Change starts tomorrow."

Following the latest election results, he issued a statement Wednesday morning offering appreciation for his election.

"I want to thank the citizens of the great city of Los Banos. I look forward to being your voice and representing you for the next two years. I want to thank my amazing wife Brooke for being by my side every step of the way," Llanez shared. "I want to congratulate all of the candidates who put in the effort this election to make a difference for our City and County. Special thank you to

our campaign volunteers who helped with signs, meetings and calls."

"And finally, to the city staff, a positive change in work culture begins very soon. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed and I look forward to working alongside each of you very soon," the mayor-elect added.

Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for any updates to this report and the latest results in this race.

School from p.1

since there wasn't a certified write-in candidate in the race.

The retired teacher will join newly appointed Trustee Lori Gattuso and the three re-elected members, Area 1 Trustee Gene Lieb, Area 3 Trustee Marlene Smith and Area 5 Trustee Anthony Parreira, who faced no opposition in their respective races.

Mail-in and provisional ballots remain to be counted in the election. Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for updates to the results in this race.

Senate from p.1

all or portions of Merced, Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties. Caballero will serve a four-year term representing the new district.

Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for the latest updates in this race.

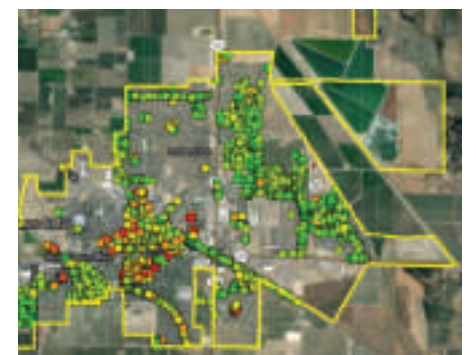
Council from p.1

protect and enhance Los Banos' extensive tree canopy cover resource and the multitude of associated benefits. The... plan extends beyond maintenance and operational guidance to include a variety of long-term goals, strategies, and priorities to achieve optimal levels of urban forest management, sustainability, and equity in a comprehensive and systematic manner. Achieving the goals set forth in this plan requires a shared commitment and partnership between the City and its community to sustain a thriving urban forest providing benefits to Los Banos' environment, economy, and well-being for future generations."

Water Issues

There was a great deal of discussion about water as the council received an update on the city's recycled water efforts. Currently the city is in an "overdraft" state, meaning it is using more water than it technically has likely due to the growing population. One possible solution that was proposed by the Interim City Manager Greg Wellman was to merge with the Grassland Water District and do it in a way that would be a "win-win" situation for both.

Wellman shared some interesting things while discussing the water issue and how a better water treatment plant is necessary but expensive. He remarked that he didn't initially believe that Los Banos had any debt, but it was proven to him that the city does. Wellman said that he can't think of any other district where



Los Banos Urban Forest Management Plan Tree Inventory map 2021.

Source: City of Los Banos

they are not in debt.

Pioneer Road Improvement Project Moves Forward

The rebranded Pioneer Road Complete Street Project is still underway but is in the early stages. Currently it is in Phase 2, which is the environmental impact phase. The plan, approved by the city council about two years ago, adds traffic lights, landscaping, bike ways, and walkways on Pioneer Road as well as widening the road to two lanes and four lanes in one section. The original plan was to make the entire strip a four-lane road, but due to a lack of funds it is being downgraded to two. It was also mentioned that the city does not currently have enough funding to complete this project. According to the slide presentation the project is not expected to be completed until 2045.

The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, November 16.

Allen D. Payton contributed to this report.

Los Banos Chamber of Commerce holds October mixer at Keller Williams

By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

On the lovely fall evening of October 27, the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce held their October mixer at Keller Williams Property Team Real Estate located at 245 H Street, #2. Halloween themed decor and joyful faces filled the office. It was a night of networking, food, games and fun. The MC for the night was Geneva Brett from Century 21 Select Real Estate, Inc.

Some highlights of the evening were the three raffles and the hat contest. In a speech from Keller Williams' owner Moe Jawad, he gratefully spoke about all

of his offices and thanked everyone for being there at the Los Banos office for the mixer.

To learn more about joining the Chamber of Commerce, visit their website: www.losbanos.com



Keller Williams Property Team Los Banos Office manager Norma Lopez with Keller Williams Property Team owner Moe Jawad Photo by Brooke Lopez

“Not So Anonymous with EJ Erreca” A Podcast

By Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent

It is said that admitting you have a problem is the first step. But it could be argued that the first step is gaining the courage to admit you have a problem. That's exactly what EJ Erreca is hoping to do with his new podcast, “Not So Anonymous,” releasing in November 2022.

“The goal is to humanize these struggles. We don't say ‘getting clean’ or ‘getting sober’... instead we say ‘in recovery.’” EJ remarked when talking about the specific lingo he uses within his podcast.

With three episodes already filmed, EJ is beyond grateful to his partner, Jesse Diaz, for helping with his podcast, “I'm just the face. Jesse is the nuts and bolts. He's the one that does the camera work and microphones and edits it and publishes it. He's the driving force behind getting it out to the public. I couldn't have even imagined doing this without him.”

The podcast is meant to be a starting point, not a resource center. EJ states, “There are tons of places that people can look to for information and resources. My goal is to get them to where they are able to ask for support for recovery in the first place. What people don't realize is that you are never going to be completely fixed or recovered. You will always be in recovery. It takes a lot of support and encouragement.”

The duo hopes that this podcast will provide a place of encouragement and



strength for those who are struggling with addiction and that it will provide help to give their listeners the strength to start their own road to recovery. “I have been in recovery myself for six and a half years and am still going strong. Sometimes all it takes is hearing one voice from someone like you who is doing the hard work to recover in order to push you to do the same. That's what I hope to achieve with this podcast,” says Erreca.

You can find them on Instagram at @notsoanonymous_withejerreca and email them at notsoanonymouspodcast@gmail.com. They also host a YouTube channel titled, “Not So Anonymous with EJ Erreca.”

“If people would like to reach out in order to ask questions, donate, or go on the show themselves, they can do so through our Instagram. That's going to be our main contact source other than our email,” EJ stated when asked how people could get in touch with them.

In closing EJ believes, “It's very hard to live in a cloak and dagger society and still get the message out to people. This is a program for people who want it. I'm very excited to see it grow and help people.”

Congress from p.1

ballots. But certainly, feeling great on election night.”

When reached for comment Tuesday night, Duarte said, “We are down 2.4%. There are a lot of ballots to count still. We will need to wait and see.”

However, after learning of the morning results update, he said, “It's a toss-up. It's a 50-50 race. I'd like to serve. We'll have to see how the votes tally up in the next couple

weeks. It's going to be close. I'll be honored to serve if elected.”

According to the California Secretary of State's website, “Election results will change throughout the canvass period as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots (including conditional voter registration provisional ballots), and other ballots are tallied.” So, the lead could switch back.

Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for the latest results in this race.

Los Banos celebrates Veterans Day with the 7th Annual Veterans Parade



American Legion Post 166 and VFW Post 2487 ready to march in the 2022 Veterans Parade in downtown Los Banos. Photos by Brooke Lopez

By Brooke Lopez, Reporter

The Los Banos American Legion Post 166 and the VFW Post 2487 held the seventh annual Veterans Parade in downtown Los Banos, on Saturday, November 5, 2022, the after a two-year break. The morning kicked off with the Veterans Parade Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Veterans Memorial Hall located on E Street.

According to their website, “In 2014, the Los Banos American Legion Post 166 and the VFW Post 2487 joined together to provide a Veterans Parade. As Los Banos is a small town, it was decided to hold the parade the weekend before Veterans Day in an effort to not compete with the festivities of the larger neighboring towns. The primary purpose of our Veterans Parade is to honor all military veterans and their families. Additionally, it is to educate and inspire community awareness while paying tribute to the service and sacrifices all veterans have endured in the pursuit of freedoms. While all veterans

are honored, each year the committee selects a ‘theme’ for the parade.”

This year's theme was “Salute to the Navy.” The U.S. Navy and all veterans were celebrated beautifully this year. From the music to the smiling faces waving at the crowd, to the amazing floats, horse riders and giant, beautiful American flag that members of the Los Banos High School and Pacheco High School FFA were carrying.

There were over seventy entries according to Parade Chairperson and U.S. Air Force veteran, Patricia McCoy.

Participation from various community members and businesses included Los Banos High School, Los Banos Junior High, Our Lady of Fatima, Volta Elementary, Paul Llanez for Mayor, John Duarte for Congress, Merced County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, Dance Explosion, “Farmer Chuck” Edler and more.

There were also various, beautiful cars in the parade, including a 1940

See Veterans p.6

District from p.1

for LLamas or 58.7% to 39.9% of the vote. There were also 14 write-in votes for about 1.4% of the vote, but there was no certified write-in candidate running in the race so those won't count.

When reached for comment following the initial returns which showed him in the lead just after 8:30 p.m., Begonia responded simply, “Looks like a great start!”

Wednesday morning, following the latest results update, he shared additional comments.

“I feel humbled and honored to have had so much support from our community throughout this campaign and on election day. I am excited, and ready to get to work for our city,” Begonia added.

Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for the latest results in this race.

Assembly from p.1

website reads, “Election results will change throughout the canvass period as vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots (including conditional voter registration provisional ballots), and other ballots are tallied.”

Please visit www.losbanosenterprise.com for the latest results in this race.





Jane Harris Kleerup Threlkeld
June 21, 1935 – October 27, 2022

Jane Harris Kleerup Threlkeld passed away on October 27, 2022, at age 87. She was a longtime resident of Los Banos, California.

Born June 21, 1935, on Long Island, New York to Alex and Lillian Kleerup (nee Applegath), her family moved to Fresno, California in 1946. Jane attended Fresno High (class of 1953; Gold Block F award recipient) and graduated from Stanford University (class of 1957).

She married John Handlin Threlkeld (Jack) in 1956 and deeply loved him and their family, which includes three daughters – Susan (Curtis Smith), Debra (James Berge), and Kristi, as well as two Berge grandchildren – Paul and Rachel.

Her family loved her very much and will miss her extraordinarily caring and loving nature and fun-loving sense of adventure.

She is predeceased by her husband and by her sister Ann Coombs of Los Altos. At her request, no services will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.



Ty David Cascia
November 24, 2003 – October 24, 2022

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that we announce the passing of Ty David Cascia. Ty passed peacefully of natural causes in his home on October 24, 2022, at the young age of 18.

Ty is survived by his mother and best friend, Melanie Torres, his brother Kyle Cascia and his father Eric Cascia. Ty is also remembered and loved by a large family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Ty was born November 24, 2003, in Los Banos, CA. He enjoyed cooking, listening to music, duck hunting, and driving. Ty enjoyed driving so much that he dreamt of owning a big rig trucking company. His bond with his mother was incredible and he would often tell people that he and his mother were “like glue, nothing will keep us apart”.

A funeral service and Mass was held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Monday, November 7th followed by a ceremonial burial at the cemetery.

Veterans from p.5

Lincoln that was carrying this year’s Los Banos Veterans Parade Ambassador, Marion George Santos III with his son-in-law Jeff Sousa as driver and grandsons Brody and Ford enjoying the ride.

John Cates and Los Banos School Board Trustee Anthony Parreira served as announcers this year.

Winners of the Most Patriotic School Contest in the three school categories were: Mercey Springs Elementary, Los Banos Junior High and Pacheco High.

“There are three judges for the Most Patriotic School Contest,” McCoy explained. “The judges are from the community and are usually changed each year. They are each seated separately in three different areas of the parade route to keep the integrity of the scoring process. We believe this is the best way to ensure none of the judges will be influenced by another judge sitting next to them.”



Los Banos High School/Pacheco High School FFA carrying American Flag.

“They really had their work cut out for them this year, as all the schools did an amazing job,” she added.

Los Banos American Legion Post 166 and the VFW Post 2487 and their members would like to gratefully thank all of the sponsors, volunteers and everyone who helped make this beautiful event happen. They also have a big thank you to Larry Marques and his team from the Native Sons of the Golden West - Parlor 206 for all of their help and hard work.

And thank you to all of our Veterans! We salute you!

Body of Los Banos man missing since August found in car in canal Oct. 28

By Allen D. Payton

According to the Merced County Sheriff’s Department, on Friday, October 28, 2022, at approximately 5:00 PM, the California Highway Patrol located a gold colored 1999 Honda Accord in the Delta-Mendota Canal just northwest of the City of Los Banos. The body of a deceased Hispanic male adult, later identified as 20-year-old Los Banos resident Santana Moses Rosales, was discovered inside the vehicle.

On August 26, 2022, Rosales was reported as a missing person by family members who had not had contact with him since August 21. According to family, it was unlike Rosales to leave the residence without staying in communication with family members. He lived in Los Banos, but was known to frequent San Jose and Fremont, CA.

Los Banos Police Department investigators had been attempting to locate Rosales since and treating it as an At-Risk Missing Person Case.



Merced County Sheriff’s Office Detectives

are in the early stages of the investigation which is being treated as a homicide. Anyone having information related to this investigation or Rosales is being asked to contact the Sheriff’s Office Investigation Division at (209) 385-7472. Anyone providing information will remain confidential upon request.

Santana Moses Rosales. Source: LBPD

Public Notice

DOWNTOWN BIRD RELOCATION
NOVEMBER, 2022

The City of Los Banos Parks & Recreation Division would like to notify the citizens and businesses in our community that we will be conducting our annual downtown bird relocation effort.

We will be doing this starting November 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and November 14th to the 18th from 7:00pm-10:00pm.

The purpose of this effort is to relocate the crows from the downtown area.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE LOS BANOS PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION AT PARKSANDRECREATION@LOSBANOS.ORG

You want to sell your House

CALL **Supreme Realty**

Mr. R.G. Rodriguez DRE: 00429774

209-693-1140

Email: myhome@supremerealtyonline.com

www.supremerealtyonline.com

Caitlin Boyer Realtor®
Let over 20 years' experience work for you.

Cell: (209) 675-3104
caitlinboyer11@gmail.com
www.homesmartpva.com/caitlin

WE MAKE REAL ESTATE EASY FOR YOU!

DRE LIC: #0140174

OUR FATHERS HOUSE **>Welcome, Come Join Us!**
Serving Los Banos and The Surrounding Westside Area

BE THE CHURCH!

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00AM • 1005 I St. Los Banos, CA 93635
Or Online / Social Media Our Fathers House, Los Banos

The House That Love Built.

We Are A People Committed To Being The Church And Changing The Atmosphere In Our Community.

Holy Bible

www.ofh.church • (209) 829-0496

The Divino Espirito Santo of Los Banos is St. Isabella

By Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent

The D.E.S. Association is a nonprofit religious based organization mostly made up of Portuguese people. Every town's association is centered around a particular Saint and for Los Banos D.E.S. it's St. Isabella. St. Isabella gained her title by going against the wishes of her husband in secret to feed homeless people and give to those who needed it. The D.E.S. Association in Los Banos look up to her humanity and giving spirit.

The D.E.S. Hall is located at 1155 Street and opens its doors to host a variety of occasions; including, weddings, meetings and celebrations. In addition, they host their annual "Festa De Contas."

Every year, six representatives are chosen for the association's annual "Festa De Contas." The representatives are comprised of a Senior Queen and two side maids. A Junior Queen and side maids are also appointed by the Senior Queen. These representatives dress up in elaborate gowns, capes and tiaras, representing St. Isabella. They travel annually to other festas held in various communities. Isabella Faria was chosen as the Senior Queen for 2023-2024 and the D.E.S. Association of Los Banos is looking forward to her reign and representation.

The festa is a reverential and customary tradition. Seven weeks leading up to it are something out of a story book.

A bejeweled crown is passed around seven families who volunteer to host a rosary prayer every night for one week from Sunday to Sunday. Every week, the crown is passed to another volunteer family who will then open up their home to the public or host the rosary prayer in a local chapel.

The festa events start on a Saturday in which, "We have a blessing of the animals and a procession with the old school carts with the bulls pulling them. Then, after that, we have a luncheon which is usually a traditional Portuguese stew that is completely free with no admission. We have a dance on Saturday where we introduce our new queens and other incoming reps. Sunday morning we have our festa where we have a procession from the hall to the church then back. Then, two servings of soup for everyone then another dance in the evening then another sopas. So, we provide three meals for everyone. It's a very elaborate event," Jacquelyn Garcia, Secretary of the D.E.S. Association of Los Banos, explained.

These events, as well as others that are hosted by the D.E.S. Association, are open to the public. This includes their upcoming Crab Dinner which will be held on November 20th and start at 6:30 pm at the D.E.S. Hall.

Jacquelyn commented on the upcoming festivities of the Crab Dinner, "It'll be perfect timing for people who

don't want to cook on Saturday before Thanksgiving! There will be nothing to worry about and it'll be a little bit of stress relief before the holiday kicks in. We'll have crab, shrimp, bread, wine, and salad to eat and a dance that tends to be quite the occasion."

Jacquelyn also expressed with great excitement how much they love when people from outside the D.E.S. Association visit their events, "We love sharing our culture and joy. We have been around for 110 years and hope to continue our traditions and heritage!"

"We feed everyone downstairs, and we do a constant rotation, so you don't have to be there at a set time. We get a lot of people that come just for the dance



The 2023 - 2024 Senior Queen for the D.E.S. Association- Isabella Faria. Photo provided by DES

portion of it, it's a really good time!"

To purchase your tickets for the Cioppino Dinner & Dance call: 209-602-8509

Connect with your baby before they're born with BellaBaby

By Alexis E. Abbott, Correspondent

Ultrasounds are taking us into the future with 4d technology and that's exactly the service that multi-generational Los Banos native, Stacey Brown is providing to the people of Los Banos and the larger Merced County area through her business, "BellaBaby Elective Ultrasound", which officially opened its doors to the public in October 2022.

But what's so wonderful about a 4d ultrasound you might wonder? Stacey had just the thing to say in order to explain why 4d is so magical, "You can connect with your baby before they're even here. It's an in-time movement! If the baby sticks their tongue out or opens their eyes you can see it right there on the screen. It's the best feeling ever and is very rewarding!" Stacey then went on to muse about her ultrasound experiences with her own children, "I wish I had this technology with my twins, but it didn't exist yet because they're twenty-three years old, now. I did get to have a 3d ultrasound done with my 14-year-old."

When asked about her background and why she chose to go into ultrasound, Stacey shared that she has a nursing background with OB Labor Delivery. She then went on to work with a friend



who provides ultrasounds to expectant mothers and their families and loved it so much that she set up her own shop. "It helps a lot because with new COVID-19 restrictions, mothers usually have to go in for an ultrasound alone. This way, the dad and other family members can come in and share the experience together watching the baby on the screen."

BellaBaby provides elective non-medical services such as 4d ultrasounds, gender reveals, recording the baby's heartbeat and blood tests that can determine the gender of the baby as soon as six weeks into the pregnancy. Stacey Brown conducts all services herself to ensure that the services are as individualized and custom as humanly possible.

She's open Tuesday - Saturday during normal business hours as well as Mondays and Sundays by special requests and availability. BellaBaby is located at 374 E Yosemite Ave. Suite 100D Merced, CA 95340 and can be contacted at (209) 455-4169 or BellaBaby4dhd@gmail.com. You can also visit the official website at BellaBaby4dhd.com follow her on Facebook and Instagram by the handle @bellabby4dhd.

MAKERS MARKET
DECEMBER 3, 2022
SATURDAY
 10 AM - ARTS & CRAFTS & MUSIC
 4 PM FOOD & DRINK & MERRIMENT
FREE ADMISSION
 TED FALASCO ARTS CENTER
 1105 5th Street Los Banos
 brought to you by
 THE LOS BANOS ARTS COUNCIL

What Are You Waiting For?



COMING SOON!
SouthPointe | Los Banos

New Home,
New Adventures
Await...

ONLY 5 LEFT



STARTING at \$499,990
Call 209.710.9390

Move In Ready!

**SPECIAL YEAR
END PRICING!**

**2 Floorplans
Available Now**



STARTING at \$506,990
Call 209.626.5558

Move In Ready!

ONLY 4 LEFT



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

