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County Notes

- Take part in the first local Bike Walk Challenge. Launch is at the Government Center on May 11th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Details here or at the Health Department.

County Honors Local Heroes, History

Heroes from Monterey County’s recent and distant past were honored this week as the Board of Supervisors hosted a local football legend as well as tributes to the county’s Asian American heritage.

The Board named May 1st Joe Garcia Kapp Day, in honor of the Salinas-
raised football player who became a football icon. Kapp is the only quarterback in history to have played in the Rose Bowl, Super Bowl and the Canadian Grey Cup. Those credentials aside, he became a hometown hero to Salinas youth when Sports Illustrated gave him a cover and called him the “Toughest Chicano” in 1970 due to his reputation as a hard runner and tackle breaker.

Kapp, accompanied by family, received a resolution and praise from the Board, honoring not only his athletic career but his resolve in taking a stance for fair contracts for football players - a bold move in the 1970s - which eventually changed the contract system between the NFL and its players as well as his continued good works on behalf of youth.

Besides the resolution, Kapp was presented with a key to the County and received commendations from local and state dignitaries. Kapp regaled the crowd with memories of his youth, including how he and his classmate, famed pilot Everett Alvarez, used to shine shoes to earn spending money.

After the ceremony, Kapp signed autographs in the lobby and it was standing room only for fans.

Also at the Tuesday meeting, the County marked Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Local history buff Wellington Lee, who grew up in Salinas’ Chinatown area, gave a special presentation on some of the highlights of the Asian influence on Monterey County. Adding to the cultural flavor of the occasion, the group “The Obon” offered a lively dance demonstration. You can see a sample of this Taiko drum and dance performance on the County’s Facebook page.
Prescription Take Back: an RX for Safer Community

Twice each year, the Sheriff’s Office takes part in the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back event to help locals safely dispose of unused or unneeded medications.

It’s an event the community really appreciates judging from the amount of prescriptions and medications dropped off at the three locations manned by deputies on Saturday, April 28th in King City, Carmel and Prunedale.

When asked how much was collected this year, Crime Prevention Specialist Donna Galletti offered this quiz to see if anyone could guess the weight of medications taken in: it’s more than a baby rhinoceros at birth, but not quite as much as a baby giraffe or elephant at birth.

The answer?

124 pounds, 8 ounces.

That is quite a haul!

Galletti says deputies enjoy the Take Back event, it’s a great opportunity for them to chat with the public and answer questions. This year, a new furry friend came along with a family during a drop off, but we’re betting this one probably was hoping to meet the K9 officers, not the two-legged kind.

Art Illustrates Health Equity Theme

By definition, Health Equity means the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. But, what does it look like?
Come see for yourself!

More than 40 diverse pieces of art, ranging from quilt-textured textiles to digital art, interpret that theme on the walls of the Health Department. The exhibit spans both the first and second floors of the building and a reception to meet the artists was held this week to kick-off the show.

The display is a collaboration with the Arts Council for Monterey County, which also facilitates the juried art exhibit at the County Administration Building each year. Artists were invited to submit works that fit the theme “Visualize Health Equity.” The project was inspired by the National Academy of Medicine’s National Community Art project.

The artwork shows scenes from home and around the world, touching on subjects such as cultural heritage, family life - even swimming for health! Featured artists include Health Department friends such as Marli Melton and Cherie Stock, local artists Edi Matsumoto, Peter F. Collins and Sandie Srigley and up and coming artist Louis Beltran.

Submitted works were juried by Health Department staff including Carmen Gil, Rachell Hester and Christina Santana. Of those selected for the exhibit, three earned prizes from the jury.

Arts Council Executive Director Paulette Lynch and Krista Hanni. Images from the exhibit (below).