

NEWSLETTER

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council

For Information Call (805) 781- 4540

October 1, 2010

Sheriff Patrick Hedges' Update



I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Council who has been involved in making this happen annually. An extra thank you goes to those who participate in preparing the grounds the day before and to those who are present on the day of the event. Your dedication to, and support of, the event is much appreciated.

It looks like we can't rely upon the weather to tell when summer is over, so we will have to look for an indicator that is a little more reliable. **Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch.**

Demonstrations - Displays - Little kids - Big kids. My hat's off to the Sheriff's Advisory Council for yet another end-of-summer event that brings in new displays and plenty of people.

In walking around looking at the various presentations, it remains obvious that the presenters enjoy the day as much as the visitors. Family Day provides the opportunity for those in the various first responder agencies (law, fire and medical) to showcase their equipment and capabilities. Whether it is full-time member or the volunteer, everyone takes advantage of the opportunity to explain their role in providing safe communities in San Luis Obispo County.

And while the outward appearance of this program makes it look like it runs on autopilot, there remains the annual planning and preparation by members of the Council that makes it look easy.

The Sheriff's Day at the Ranch is certainly one of the more visible activities that the Advisory Council engages in. There are, however, other areas where the Council provides needed support for the Sheriff's Department and other local law-enforcement agencies. For all of the members of the Advisory Council, I believe it is important for you to know that the Council has been, and continues to be, instrumental in bringing quality training to the Central Coast.

In closing this month's comments, I want to wish Steve Bolts all the best in his retirement. His last day with the department was September 17th, having been here for 36 years. The impact of him not being here is already being felt as he has significant institutional knowledge that can't be replaced, nor can it be "downloaded and saved" for future reference.

Sheriff Pat Hedges □

Welcome New Board MEMBERS

Sylvia Dodd
Hal Griffin
Josh Riley

Sheriff's Department Website

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department's website was created to better serve the public. It includes a link to the Sheriff's Advisory Council's web pages. The website allows people to check on who is in custody, what crimes have occurred in their unincorporated neighborhood and be notified by email if a specific criminal has been released. "We have incorporated a lot of data in a new format thereby expanding our online footprint." said Sheriff Pat Hedges.

The site provides answers to questions that are commonly asked by the public, along with helpful links and data. The web page joins the current Face book application as part of the Sheriff's Department's public information program.

For information on the services provided by the SLO Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff's Advisory Council, please visit the Sheriff's website: <http://www.slosheriff.org>. Previous Newsletters are on the Website.

New Board and Committee Members Needed

More board members and committee members are needed to carryout the Sheriff's Advisory Council's Goals.

If you are interested in becoming a board member or committee member please contact Kathleen Martinelli at (805) 781-4540.

Members are Welcome to Attend Board Meetings

The monthly Sheriff's Advisory Council's board meetings are held at the Sheriff's Department Honor Farm on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except for the months of July & December. For information, please call Kathleen Martinelli at (805) 781-4540

Sponsors Needed

The Advisory Council is seeking corporate/business sponsors to financially support its activities and to provide funding and additional support to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department and of other law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County, including scholarships for college students going into the Law Enforcement field who are children of the Sheriff's Department personnel and for families of officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Sponsor fees will include placing a Business advertisement in our quarterly newsletter and recognized as a sponsor on the Sheriff's website: <http://www.slosheriff.org/>

We need your help to find sponsors. If you know of any business willing to be a sponsor please contact:
Jim Hunt (805) 481-7437

Events Calendar

Board of Director's Meetings:

- October 12, 2010
- November 9, 2010

Chairman's Message



Francisco Curiel

Hello fellow Sheriff's Advisory Council members, friends and supporters of the Council. The fact that you are reading this newsletter is a testament to all the hard work of Mr. Dan Cashier and his desire to produce this terrific newsletter.

Well, it has certainly been a busy time since the last newsletter was sent out. I hope you had a chance to attend one or both of the big events sponsored by the SAC. On Saturday, September 18th, we hosted the 15th annual Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch. It appeared that a good time was had by all. Thank you for a great team effort led once again by Mr. Bryan DuVall and heavily assisted by Ms. Kathy Martinelli. This was my first time at the event, but I've heard that it was the biggest and best one to date!

Also, on our event calendar was the Candidate's Debate held at the Embassy Suites on Wednesday, September 29th. It was an interesting and informative time that should have either helped you select a candidate you can support or further affirmed that you've already selected the correct candidate. A huge thank you to Mr. Jim Brabeck for his coordinating efforts, The League of Women Voters for their participation and organization, Mr. Josh Riley and El Dorado Broadcasters for their promotional assistance and, of course, Ms. Kathy Martinelli for all the behind the scenes support.

As I reflect back on my time as the chair of this wonderful group, I am constantly mindful of all that each one of you do to insure we continue to grow in numbers and, in turn, further assist the community and the Sheriff do the things that need to be done. Thank You!

Sheriff's Advisory Council's Funding Report -Year 2010

During the Year of 2010, the Sheriff's Advisory Council made donations for requests for funds received from the Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agencies and law enforcement support organizations to:

SLO Sheriff's Department:

Search & Rescue Annual Awards Dinner.....	\$1,500.00
Law Enforcement Training Program.....	\$2,100.00
Service Pins for Sheriff's Employees.....	\$2,312.93
Training Unit.....	\$ 131.86

Other Major Expenses:

Sheriff's Candidate Forum.....	\$1,752.50
Radio Advertising.....	\$1,199.50

Other Law Enforcement Agencies:

Arroyo Grande Police Department	
Canine Fundraiser.....	\$5,000.00
SLO Police Department - Training.....	\$2,000.00
SLO Fire Investigation Strike Team.....	\$3,975.00

Law Enforcement Support Organizations:

Horse Emergency Evacuation Team (HEET)...	\$2,087.19
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Donations Received

We thank the following donors for their generous donations:

- \$700 - America's Finest Television Corp (for Law Enforcement).
- \$150 - The People for Leisure & Youth (for Bike Helmet Program)
- \$250 - Lezlie Labhard (for Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit)

Newsletter Publisher

Dan Cashier
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dcashier@charter.net

Event Photographer

Jay Conner

Flag Donation from Oceano/Five Cities Elks Lodge #2504



We thank the Oceano/Five Cities Elks Lodge #2504, Brad Anderson and its members for donating a 30' x 20' flag. The flag was displayed at the Sheriff's Family Day event and will continue to be displayed with pride at all future events.

AG Police Dept. - K-9 Update



Jusuf



Officer Zak Ayala & Jusuf - Officer Shane Day & Gregor



Gregor

The Arroyo Grande Police Department began its K9 program in 1985. In the ensuing twenty-five years there have been four police service dogs used by the Department, with two new police service dogs and their officer handlers currently deployed in the patrol force. Officer Shane Day has "Gregor" as his partner, while Officer Zak Ayala has "Jusuf" as his partner. By deploying two police service dogs, the Police Department is able to ensure that a K9 is normally available seven days each week. Each dog and its officer handler represent a serious commitment to intensive, expensive and ongoing training to ensure that the team performs at the most disciplined and professional level of service.

These highly trained police service dogs assist in searching for, locating, and apprehending suspects while minimizing the potential danger to officers and the community. By deploying the police service dogs in the

patrol force the Police Department is able to more effectively ensure the safety of the community.

Both police service dogs are also trained in narcotics detection to provide a critical tool in the Police Department's efforts to reduce the narcotics sales and use that threaten the safety of the community and particularly endanger our youth. At the request of the Lucia Mar Unified School District, both police service dogs are used to conduct regular sweeps for illegal narcotics on the Arroyo Grande High School campus.

The Arroyo Grande Police Department police service dogs are available to assist other law enforcement and school district personnel throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Both police service dogs were purchased in 2010 and completed their training with their handlers in the same year. Each selectively bred dog and its intensive training represents

a substantial cost for the Police Department. The cost of each police service dog is \$8,500, while the training in search, protection and narcotics detection, handling equipment and kennel is another \$7,000 per dog. The training in search and protection is one month long; the training in narcotics detection is yet another one month period. For both training sessions, the handler and the police service dog travel to and stay at a training site in the San Francisco Bay area.

Without the generous support of individuals and organizations such as the Sheriff's Advisory Council, the Arroyo Grande Police Department simply could not afford to purchase or train these police service dogs. Even after the initial substantial financial investment in these valuable animals, the ongoing maintenance, support and training costs will remain a considerable burden on the Police Department

budget without continuing support from individuals and organizations in the community.

If a police service dog can find one dangerous criminal threatening our community, locate one lost child or help keep illegal narcotics off the high school campus, that police service dog is well worth the expense.

If you wish to help with the ongoing K-9 maintenance, and training costs please make your check payable to SLOLEAF/AGPD K-9 FUND and mail it to: San Luis Obispo Law Enforcement Assistance Foundation, 200 North Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande CA 93420. For more information call: Arroyo Grande Police Department (805) 473-5120 or visit the **S L O L E A F** website: www.SLOLEAF.org □



SLO Police Department's Non-Stranger Sexual Assault Training Class

The Sheriff's Advisory Council has contributed to the SLO Police Department's Training Program. In a letter received from Deborah Linden, Chief of Police, City of San Luis Obispo, she stated that "the focus of the 2 Day training will be on the investigation and prosecution for non-stranger sexual assault cases, which, as you know, comprise the vast majority of sexual assault cases investigated by our local law enforcement agencies". The training will be free of charge to local law enforcement agencies, and members of partnering agencies.

Patrick Hedges
Sheriff-Coroner

**SLO Sheriff's Advisory
Council**

Officers

2010/2011

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Chairman of the Board

James Brabeck
Chairman - Elect
Council Past Chairman
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Council Past Chairman

San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team

Article written by Lisa Marie Donnahoo



Photo was taken at our ORD training last year which shows a wide variety of our team members.

I became a single mother when my son turned two. It's a long story but not necessary for this article. We managed and survived every obstacle thrown at us. When my son was in 5th grade, I became interested in Search and Rescue and proceeded with the necessary training so I could help others. One night around 9:00 p.m. there was a "call-out" for a missing teenage female. I put on my uniform without a thought. It then dawned on me that I was still a single mother and couldn't leave my son alone. My son had been asking questions about the "call-out" and when I explained to him I wouldn't be going because I couldn't leave him alone, he in all his infinite wisdom, told me that if he was missing I, as his mother, would want everybody possible out looking for him until he was found and brought back home.

Every parent's nightmare – their child is missing, and it isn't limited to parents and their children. The nightmare expands to the child's parent, the business partner, the grandparent with dementia, the schoolmate. It goes even farther – an article you read about someone missing in a different state or country, someone you have never met. Your heart aches for those people, hop-

ing and praying for their safe return.

Behind the scenes, and I can not only talk about Search and Rescue, are volunteers with intensive training who are eager to bring those who are missing home. At the drop of a hat (or should I say the sound of a beeper), there are volunteers ready to drop whatever they are doing and respond to a call of help to ensure everything possible is done to find someone's missing loved one.

San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SLOSAR) consists of highly organized and extensively trained individuals. We bring to the scene our own command post, our own radios, and our own equipment ready to tackle the environment throughout the night, if necessary. We do not get paid for our services; we do it because we want to. We, as a team, wish to assist whatever law enforcement agency is involved, and we do this **for free!!!**

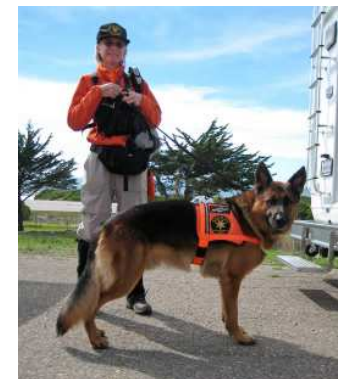
SLOSAR not only responds to searches and rescues in San Luis Obispo County, we have been known to travel anywhere and everywhere a county may need us. This Mutual Aid provides our team with outside experience that allows us to learn (or teach) how other SAR teams work. Even as this writer is working on this article, members of our elite K9 team

are assisting at the San Bruno incident diligently working to help bring closure for families missing their loved ones.

Our goal as members of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Search and Rescue unit is to close chapters, bring the missing home safely, find that crucial piece of evidence that would help law enforcement close their own chapters, and make it home safely ourselves. And as I mentioned before, we are professional volunteers ready and able, with our mountain bikes, our quads, our boots, our dogs, and our gear, to assist those in need. One phone call to our unit starts a domino effect with precise organization and, again, **all for free!**

Lisa Marie Donnahoo

SLOSAR R184



Officers Installation Dinner



As you can see from the photos, our members and guests who attended the July 13, 2010 Installation of Officers Dinner had a fun and informative time. This event gives us an opportunity to share good fellowship with each other and get an update from Sheriff Pat Hedges and other law enforcement agencies in attendance.

Special Agent in Charge Timothy J. Landrum was our guest speaker. He gave us an informative update on the activities of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on its approach to control the on going drug problems.

One of his concerns is that, despite recent reductions in teen drug

use, particularly marijuana, increasing numbers of teens are using prescribed and over-the-counter medications to get high. It's a serious problem that affects all of us.

Many parents don't know enough about this problem, and many teens don't understand the dangers of using these medications to get high. For more information on this problem please read pages 8 and 9 in this newsletter.

Our thanks go to our Secretary, Kathleen Martinelli, for planning this annual event. □□□



DEA Award Presented to Sheriff Patrick Hedges



At the installation dinner event, our guest speaker, Timothy J. Landrum, presented an appreciation award from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to Sheriff Pat Hedges for the Sheriff's Department's good working relationship between the two agencies. □



Installed Officers for Year 2010/2011

On July 13, 2010, Jack Jones installed the following Officers: Francisco Curiel, Chairman , James Brabeck Chairman - Elect, , Howard Weinberg Vice Chairman , Kathleen Martinelli Secretary, John Mihal Treasurer, Michael Morris Legal Council, Daniel Cashier Executive Director. We thanks these volunteers for their time and effort to service as officers to support the goals and objectives of the Council.



Welcome New Members

New Members

Sponsors

Christopher Money.....	Howard Weinberg
Andrea Slover-Sandecki.....	Duane McCormick
Arthur Bridge.....	James Hunt
Josh Riley.....	Franky Curiel
Robert Steuwer.....	Mark Stickley
Tristan Negranti.....	Josh Riley

Thank You for Your Support

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the perfect day to enjoy good times with those who are closest to you. It is also a time to reflect on being thankful for all that you have in your life. There is no better way to enjoy quality time with your loved ones than over a Thanksgiving Dinner.

For many people, this is a holiday of simply being grateful and giving thanks for what they have received during the year. This is the true meaning of Thanksgiving. When everyone is gathered around the table for the holiday meal, they may each be asked to share what they are most thankful for that year. This is actually a tradition in many families that is repeated each year.

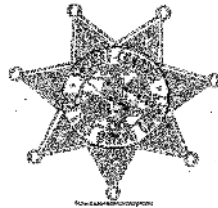


Award Presented to Sheriff Patrick Hedges

At the Officers Installation Dinner on July 13, 2010, Franky Curiel presented Sheriff Pat Hedges an Award of Professional Excellence on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council members and Board of Directors for his 33 years with the Sheriff's Department and 12 years as their Sheriff-Coroner. This was Sheriff Pat Hedges last Sheriff's Advisory

Council's Officer Installation dinner as Sheriff. The plaque presented is displayed below.

We appreciate and thank Sheriff Pat Hedges for his many years of service in keeping our community in a safe environment.



Award of Professional Excellence

With the greatest respect and our deepest appreciation

**San Luis Obispo County Sheriff-Coroner
Pat Hedges**

is recognized for his life's inspiration, passion and dedication to the enhancement of professionalism, ethics and the highest standards in all aspects of the law enforcement personnel and their agencies, and his unselfish commitment to the safety of the residents of San Luis Obispo County during his 33 years with the Sheriff's Department and as their Sheriff-Coroner for the past 12 years.



San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council
Members and Board of Directors

Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine

Published December 2008: A DEA Resource for Parents

Millions of teens are using very powerful pain medications to get high. Some of these are the same medications doctors use to treat pain in terminal cancer patients.

For many teens, using prescription or over-the-counter medications is their first introduction to getting high. Until recently, teens began their drug use with marijuana.

Despite recent reductions in teen drug use, particularly marijuana, increasing numbers of teens are using prescribed and over-the-counter medications to get high. It's a serious problem that affects all of us.

Many parents don't know enough about this problem, and many teens don't understand the dangers of using these medications to get high.

How Teens Abuse Medicine

Recent drug use surveys also provide evidence that the problem of intentional medicine abuse has grown. Seven out of the top 11 drugs abused by 12th graders are prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

What 12th Graders Are Using To Get High:

(non-medical use)

Source: 2007 Monitoring the Future Study

Marijuana 31.7%

Vicodin 9.6%

Amphetamines 7.5%

Sedatives 6.2%

Tranquilizers 6.2%

Cough Medicine 5.8%

Cocaine (any form) 5.2%

OxyContin 5.2%

Cocaine (powder) 4.5%

Ritalin 3.8%

Inhalants 3.7%

The experts give some reasons why teens might turn to prescription drugs to get high:

- Escape and boredom;
- Preservation of friendships, romantic relationships, and family life;
- Competing for college admission, including competition for advanced placement and honors courses in high school;

- The balance between schoolwork, grades, and extracurricular activities like sports and clubs; and
- The desire to have the "ideal" physical appearance.

Source: www.theantidrug.com

Drug Poisoning and Emergency Room Visits

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports in Reuters Health (February 8, 2007) that unintentional deaths due to drug poisoning, primarily with prescription drugs, increased 68.3 percent between 1999 and 2004.

Drug poisoning is second only to motor vehicle crashes as a cause of death from unintentional injury in the U.S. The CDC's Injury Center reports on its website that among people 35 to 54 years old, unintentional poisoning caused more deaths than motor vehicle crashes.

The Injury Center also reports that in 2006, unintentional poisoning caused over 700,000 emergency department visits, with almost 25 percent of those resulting in hospitalization or transfer to another facility.

The Internet, Drugs, and Teens

Many teens obtain illegal drugs, particularly prescription drugs, from their families, friends, or relatives. Since prescription drugs are widely available in the home, teens often do not have to go far to find ways to get high. Other teens turn to the Internet for prescription drugs, and the world wide web plays a big role in providing information and advice to teens.

What You Can Do

Keeping prescription drugs out of the hands of teens is important, and there are things you can do:

Get information about prescription drug medications abused by teens.

Learn what the medication is used for, what it looks like, its effects and interactions, and how teens are using it.

Understand the power and danger of these medications. Many drugs, particularly narcotic painkillers (opioid medications), are extremely powerful and are de-

signed to relieve extreme pain. New medications are continually being approved for medical use, and it is important to be informed about the drugs' uses and properties.

Ask your teens what they are experiencing at school, at friends' homes, and at parties. Share with them what you have learned about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.

Ask your doctor and pharmacist about the medications you are being prescribed. Ask about their side effects and potential addictiveness. Ask which category the drug is: Narcotic, stimulant, depressant, steroid?

Review what is in your medicine cabinet. Keep powerful medications in a safe place, not in the family medicine or kitchen cabinet, under lock if necessary. Count your pills when you receive them, and periodically check to see how many are in the container.

Read the labels. A drug label includes important information about a prescription drug. Many generic prescriptions are substituted for brand name drugs, and it may be easy to overlook the fact that the doctor has prescribed a very powerful narcotic painkiller, for example. Different pharmaceutical companies produce many products that have the same basic ingredients. Usually, the generic name of the drug is printed in addition to the brand name, making it clearer that the customer is receiving ibuprofen/oxycodone HCL, for instance.

Report suspicious Internet pharmacies.

If you or your teen is aware of someone distributing prescription drugs or selling them on a suspicious Internet pharmacy site, please call the DEA hotline. Callers will be able to make confidential reports by dialing toll free 1-877-RxAbuse (1-877-792-2873) around the clock, 365 days per year. The hotline will be staffed by bilingual operators employed by DEA. This is a toll-free call from Mexico as well. During normal business hours, the caller will be connected directly to someone at the responsible DEA Domestic Field Office. After-hours tips will be forwarded by an internal, secure email system for further investigation and follow-up by DEA agents and investigators.

Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine (continued from page 8)

Dispose of your prescription drugs when they are no longer needed.

Federal guidelines recommend ways to do this. Take unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers and throw them in the trash. Mixing prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and putting them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, will further ensure the drugs are not diverted.

The FDA advises that the following drugs be flushed down the toilet instead of thrown in the trash:

- { **fentanyl citrate** } actiq®
- { **methylphenidate** } daytrana transfermal patch®
- { **fentanyl** } duragesic transdermal system®
- { **oxycodone** } oxycontin® tablets
- { **morphine sulfate** } avinza® capsules
- { **entecavir** } baraclude® tablets
- { **atazanavir sulfate** } reyataz® capsules
- { **gatifloxacin** } tequin® tablets
- { **stavudine** } zerit for oral solution®
- { **mepredine hcl tablets** }
- { **oxycodone and acetaminophen** } percocet®
- { **sodium oxybate** } xyrem®
- { **fentanyl buccal tablet** } fentora®

Note: Patients should always refer to printed material accompanying their medication for specific instructions. Flush prescription drugs down the toilet only if the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs doing so.
Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy

DEA plays a critical role in preventing prescription drug abuse.

- DEA investigates physicians who sell prescriptions to drug dealers or abusers; pharmacists who falsify records and subsequently sell the drugs; employees who steal from inventory; executives who falsify orders to cover illicit sales; Prescription forgers; and individuals who commit armed robbery of pharmacies and drug distributors.
- DEA investigates unscrupulous Internet pharmacies. Rogue pharmacies exist to profit from the sale of controlled prescription medications to buyers who have not seen a doctor and don't have a prescription from a registered physician. The pharmacies lack quality assurance and accountability, and their products pose a danger to buyers.
- DEA works with state, local and foreign partners to interdict controlled substances and precursor chemicals.
- DEA's authority to enforce laws and regulations comes from the Controlled Substances Act, Title 21 of the United

States Code. DEA also provides objective and timely information to the public about the dangers of drugs through publications, websites and presentation: www.dea.gov

Local Disposal Option for Unwanted Medications

As part of DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back campaign, each city will provide a lock box for residents who want to safely get rid of leftover narcotics. There are 10 locations in San Luis Obispo County. Residents can drop off unwanted medications at the following police and sheriff's stations:

- **Arroyo Grande, 200 N. Halcyon Rd.**
- **Atascadero, 5505 El Camino**
- **Grover Beach, 711 Rockaway Ave.**
- **Los Osos, 2099 10th St.**
- **Morro Bay, 850 Morro Bay Blvd.**
- **Oceano, 1681 Front St.**
- **Paso Robles, 900 Park St.**
- **Pismo Beach, 1000 Bello St.**
- **San Luis Obispo, 1042 Walnut St.**
- **Templeton, 356 N. Main St.**

After being collected at drop-off locations, medications will be taken to an incineration plant in Long Beach. □□□

Sheriff Candidates Debate



On September 29, 2010, the Advisory Council in conjunction with The League of Women Voters presented a Sheriff Candidates Debate at Embassy Suites. The candidates were Joe Cortez and Ian Parkinson.

The people in attendance were asked by The League of Women Voters to submit questions for the candidates to answer. The questions presented gave each candidate an opportunity to state their qualifications, experience and approach to enhance the services of the Sheriff's Department to im-

prove its effectiveness in dealing with budget constraints, overcrowding in jails, permits for concealed weapons, personnel, gang community problems and other concerns of the residents in the county. As they did in the previous forum, they conducted themselves in a very informative and professional manner with direct answers to all questions.

Again, we thank The League of Women Voters for doing an outstanding job in organizing the questions and conducting the debate. It was done in a very professional and

timely manner. They received and organized questions and presented them to the candidates in a clear and concise manner. Our thanks go to Forum Management: Sara Horne, Vera Wallen, Arlene Powers, Sharon Whitney, Carey Marsh, Glennadean Dovey and Moderator: Janet Kourakis.

In addition, thanks go to Jim Brabeck, Chairman-elect, for doing an excellent job in planning and organizing the debate and special thanks to Josh Riley, El Dorado Broadcasters, for media coverage and broadcasting.

Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch



The Sheriff's Advisory Council recently completed the 18th Sheriff's Family Day at the Ranch. The event experienced a much larger attendance than in the past. This year the Council welcomed three new participants. The event had outstanding support from the (1) Drug Enforcement Agency with a "raid" van, a lab truck, an A Star Helicopter and a mobile jail cell, (2) the County Boy Scout Council held a Scout Jamboree as part of Family Day, and (3) the Council was pleased to have the Surviving Parents Coalition in attendance. This is a national organization and the members are parents of children that have been kidnapped, murdered or assaulted. Their presentation was very moving. Some of their members recounted their experiences and it touched everyone who listened.



The demonstrations provided by the Sheriff's Posse, Sheriff's Bomb Squad and SED (Swat) were very well received by those in attendance.

Again, our thanks go to Bryan DuVall, Jack Jones and Kathleen Martinelli of the Sheriff's Advisory Council for planning, organizing and conducting this event. They continue to an excellent job each year. Also, we thank all of our sponsors, law enforcement and public safety personnel and other participants who set up their displays, distributed materials, and conducted demonstrations. It was a very fun, informative and successful event.





Thanks to Sheriff's Family Day Sponsors

Madonna Inn
Heritage Oaks Bank
KSBY-TV
San Luis Ambulance
S. Lombardi Advertising
San Luis Garbage
San Luis Motor Sports
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Martin's Towing
Farm Supply Company
The Coast News
Santa Lucia Bank
Louie's Crane Service
SLO County Journal
El Dorado Broadcasters
Oceano/Five Cities Elks Lodge #2504
Rich Rolson - Sound System
CHP Officer Marlon Varin - Emcee

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

San Luis Obispo, The Toughest County in the West!"

Provided by Jack Jones

In the latter half of the 19th century, many towns and counties of the "Old West" made their names for the violence and severity of their environs. Tombstone, Arizona, Dodge City and Abilene, Kansas, and Deadwood, South Dakota, to name a few, conjure up visions of dusty frontier towns with "bawdy-houses", saloons and shoot-outs in the middle of the thoroughfare. While much of that was fantasized hyperbole, there was all of darker side of life and more in most towns of the west and San Luis Obispo was no worse nor better.

In fact, San Luis Obispo and its "burbs" had its share of murders, lynchings, shootings, robberies and characters which put many a legendary "Old West" town in 'second place'. For example, between 1850 and 1860, the Vigilance Committee of San Luis Obispo hanged eleven miscreants while the Sheriff only hanged one, and that one was hanged on the oak tree in the old mission courtyard.

One of the leaders of the vigilance committee was Judge Murray, (for whom Murray St. in San Luis Obispo is named) was an upstanding citizen who would have eventually heard the cases of some of those hanged, but eliminated the cost of a trial by "cutting to the chess" and hanging the guilty party. According to local history, the early days of San Luis Obispo suffered from a bit of bias on the part of jurors which up until 1849 had been Mexican citizens and therefore tended to find the former Mexicans innocent in most cases, and the post- 1950 Yankees guilty in all other cases.

Stage coach robberies were rampant between San Luis Obispo and Templeton with most being committed on Cuesta Grade where the stage had to slow down due to curves and grade. Several robbers and a few stage drivers were shot on this leg of the run. Rustling was another major crime in this area with a number of heinous thefts occurring in the Santa Margarita and San Miguel area where cattlemen were slain and their herds stolen. One famous event involving murder and rustling involved Jack Powell, who was a famous bon vivant from Santa Barbara/San Luis

Obispo who was known throughout the west. It seems that he and his confederates were drinking in a San Luis Obispo saloon and learned of large herd of cattle being driven to market up north. It was alleged that Powell and his associates rode to the location of the herd near San Miguel and intercepted it and the partners who own the herd. It was said that the Powell gang opened fire on the two cattlemen and killed them. After robbing the corpses, they drove the herd north to the Monterey area and sold them, returning to San Luis Obispo to celebrate their ill-gotten gains.

San Luis Obispo's fame was not confined to California. It seems that around 1870, a writer for Atlantic magazine was visiting in San Luis Obispo and attended a "fandango" one Saturday evening. As he described the event he told of a young cowboy from Texas attending the dance and becoming immediately infatuated with a beautiful Mexican dancer who completely put him under her spell. They danced and drank throughout the evening and all seemed to be going nicely for the 'love-sick' cowboy until the young lady's Mexican boyfriend appeared. After some terse dialogue the conversation erupted into name-calling and challenges and then a fight. During the fight a knife was produced and before long, one of the two combatants lay dead on the floor. It was very melodramatic and sold a lot of copies of Atlantic magazine.

During the period of 1850-1900 several noted gunmen and outlaws visited San Luis Obispo. To name three, it is believed that Joaquin Murietta once visited the county and spent some time here trying not to attract any attention. It was known that Jesse and Frank James visited their uncle in the Paso Robles area as did the Dalton and Younger brothers who were invited to leave the county at their earliest convenience by the Sheriff of San Luis Obispo County. At any rate, when one speaks of the "Old Wild West", San Luis Obispo stands at the top of the list along with Tombstone and Dodge City!

Jack Jones

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SHERIFF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

The Sheriff's Advisory Council is a non-profit, Section 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation formed to provide funding and additional support to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department and of other law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County

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THE SHERIFF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Council's most immediate goal is to expand our membership to provide the needed funds to support law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County. The Sheriff's Advisory Council urges you to ask your friends, family members and business associates to join the Council by making an investment in the future of law enforcement agencies in San Luis Obispo County. The annual membership fee is \$100.00 and \$25.00 for junior membership to age 21. Applications and contributions should be sent to:

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council
P.O. Box 3752

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

For applications and information, please call

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