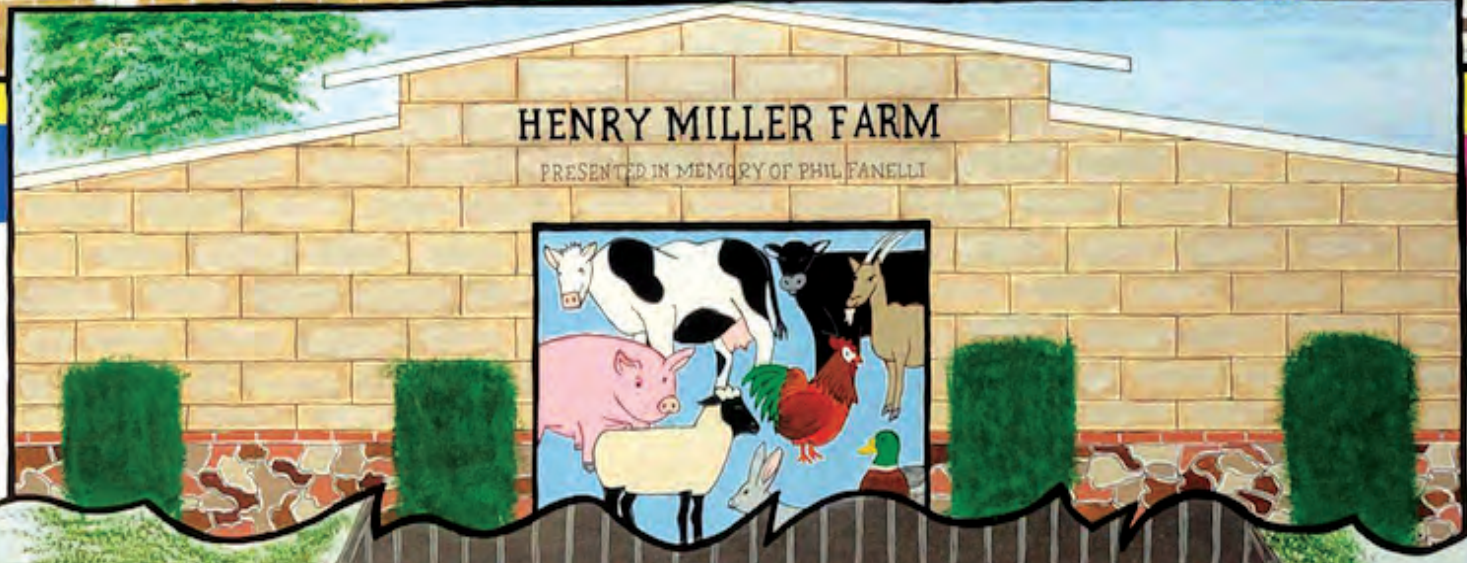


Country Vibes

and

Carnival Rides

May 1 to May 5



Official Guide of the Merced County Spring Fair

Presented by
Sutter Health Memorial Hospital



Opening Day Sponsor by



"Your Leader In Healthcare Since 1980"



K. Devireddy, M.D.
Medical Director



Debbie Perry, R.N.
Administrator



Gopi Polasa, M.D.
Internal Medicine



Arvind Selvan, M.D.
Internal
Medicine/Geriatrics



Tony Gabriels, M.D.
Pediatrics



Shaheer Hamid, M.D.
Pediatrics



Donald Kettlys, M.D.
Family Medicine



Stefan Elazier, M.D.
Family Medicine



Juliette Tamagni,
PA, FNP



Savuth Kem, PA-C.
Family Medicine



Yee Xiong, PA-C.
Family Medicine



Kheng Xiong, PA-C.
Family Medicine



Monif Matouk, D.P.M.
Podiatry



Sarah Matouk, M.D.
Podiatry



APEX MEDICAL GROUP

209.826.2222

311 West | Street • Los Banos, CA 93635

apexmedicalgroup.com

"NOW SEEING NEW PATIENTS"



DOS PALOS APEX HEALTH CENTER

209.392.0022

1549 Golden Gate Avenue • Dos Palos, CA 93620

dospalosapexhealthcenter.org

We can see you—now.

Need medical help? Just walk in! When accidents and sudden illness occur, its good to know convenient medical care is close by.



— APEX ANNEX —
URGENT CARE

400 West "I" Street, Suite A • Los Banos, CA 93635

(209) 827-9999

apexannexhealthcenter.org

DOT Physicals • Worker's Compensation Case Management

BOOKING APPOINTMENTS NOW

YOUR FOUNTAIN
OF YOUTH HAS

Arrived!



AGE DEFYING
MediSpa

- Pearl Laser Skin Resurfacing
- Limelight Laser / Spider Veins / Brown Spots
- Laser Genesis / Rosacea / Scars
- XEO Laser Hair Removal
- AviClear Laser Acne Treatment
- Spa Packages and More.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY

209.826.8200

agedefyingmedispa.com



FEATURES

Grand Marshal - Katherine Crinklaw	5
Fair Amusements	8
Derby Highlights	9
History	10
Fair Poster Design	13
Fair Exhibits	22
4 x 4 Fun	25
May Day Parade	28

Publisher	Designer	Advertisement
Westside Express	Sharon Hoffman	Gene Lieb
Writers		
Kristin Areias	Kathi Hendrickson	Shawn Pintor-Day
Catherine A. Azevedo	Janet Miller	Javier Powell
Camryn Carpenter	Rhianna Irao	Emily Zaragosa



Good news, Los Banos!

Peninsula Clean Energy is your **community partner, providing clean energy at lower rates**

As a community-led electricity provider, we are committed to doing what we can to keep rates affordable. We buy electricity from solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal sources to provide clean, healthier electricity at lower rates compared to PG&E.

Take advantage of rebates on efficient heat pump water heaters, heat pump HVAC, home efficiency upgrades, used EVs, and more.

Please visit our website to learn more about Peninsula Clean Energy benefits and get to know how we serve you!



Learn more

Visit PenCleanEnergy.com/Los-Banos or call 209-592-0870

Pearson's Jewelers
928 Sixth St. • Los Banos • (209) 826-1026

Pearson's Jewelers is here to serve all of your Jewelry needs, from Fashion Jewelry to Fine Jewelry; watches; from Jewelry and Watch Repair, to Custom Design. We also have Loose Diamonds of various shapes and sizes.

IJO MASTER JEWELER
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

Sherry Pearson, Owner



HOTEL MISSION DE ORO

a Modern Classic

Santa Nella, California



Your Oasis Awaits!

Hotel Mission de Oro has transformed into a breathtaking oasis, offering an elegant retreat in a secluded sanctuary. Capturing the essence of Spanish Architecture, this mission-style hotel is perfectly situated in the heart of California. The ultimate destination for travelers, locals, meetings, and celebrations.

We invite you to stay, celebrate, dine, and make the most of your every moment at Hotel Mission de Oro.

Discover.

- 162 fully renovated guest rooms
- On property restaurant and lounge
- Outdoor pool and spa
- 24 hr fitness center and sauna
- Over 17,000 sq. ft. of flexible event space
- Celebratory event space available for all group sizes



Open to the public!



www.hotelmissiondeoro.com

13070 South Highway 33, Santa Nella, CA 95322

Phone: 209.826.4444

Katherine Crinklaw to serve as 2024 May Day Fair Grand Marshal

BY RHIANNA IRAO
The Westside Express

long believed that it is an obligation to use her talent and work to help her community.

Within the past year, however, Crinklaw has become focused on spending more time with her family and her own artwork. She has retired from her position as the poster artist, but she has granted permission to the fair to use her entire catalog of paintings for years to come.

Many of Crinklaw's works are displayed in the Crinklaw Fine Art Gallery in Gustine, a place that she hopes provides the community with an inspiration to create. "I love to see kids and adults leave the gallery with a passion to make something," she said. "It's a gift to see their faces with so much more joy than when they came in."

Crinklaw said she was humbled by her selection as Grand Marshal and honored and amazed to have been selected. "I was shocked that they chose an artist," she said, "but I am so appreciative of this opportunity."

Crinklaw looks forward to taking part in the fair events and particularly enjoys being surrounded by people who do so much for the community. "The fair touches many lives," she said, "and I'll do my best to do my part!"



The May Day Grand Marshal for 2024 is Katherine Crinklaw.

Katherine Crinklaw, a longtime Los Banos and Gustine resident, is the 2024 May Day Fair Grand Marshal, having been selected by the May Day Fair Board in January.

Crinklaw is a professional artist with 47 years of art experience and has been a longstanding, devoted member of the community. She belongs to a family of farmers local to Los Banos and has long used agriculture and nature within her artwork.

Having been raised in the area, Crinklaw has a deep understanding of the importance of the May Day Fair. "The fair brings a tremendous benefit to everyone and is something everyone can enjoy," she said, "especially the children and the groups they're a part of, like FFA and 4-H."

That is why, Crinklaw said, she has for the past 31 years voluntarily provided the artwork for the fair's posters.

In addition to providing poster art, she has donated countless works to be used and auctioned for the benefit of the fair. Crinklaw has

Mason Entertainment provides live entertainment for the Fair

BY CATHERINE A. AZEVEDO
The Westside Express

that "People need entertainment at a fair [and] a place to sit down—stuff that we have is such quality." He concluded by stating, "Entertainment is really important at a fair and all fairs."

Regarding this year's May Day Fair and live entertainment, Thomas feels it will be bittersweet because of Guy Gary's sudden and heart-breaking passing.

According to Thomas, Gary was more than the fair's manager. He was "such a nice person" whom Thomas became good friends with and frequently attended meetings, dinners and conventions with. Seeing how caring and dedicated an individual Gary was, it's no surprise that all the entertainers at the fair will honor his memory.

On a higher note, Thomas says fairgoers can expect various performances this year, including a couple

of return acts. Tribute bands, such as 7 Summers, a tribute to country singer Morgan Wallen, and Sweet Tina Turner, a tribute to the legendary "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll," will perform on May 2 and 3.

Bands like Gotcha Covered and The Outlaw Mariachi will also appear at the fair. Popular ground acts include fan favorites like Violin on Fire, K9 Kings, Jeremy the Juggler, and Tyzen the Comedy Hypnotist, who last performed at the May Day Fair a little over six years ago.

While Mason Entertainment does not book all acts, Thomas emphasizes the necessity of altruism and aid regarding all performances, stating, "You help with all of the acts, no matter if it's yours or not."

Finally, Thomas looks forward to dedicating this year's May Day Fair to Gary and hopes the fair will be successful.



LEFT: Tyzen the Comedy Hypnotist, who last performed at the May Day fair six years ago, is back this year; ABOVE: Outlaw Mariachi will be performing May 4 on the Outdoor Stage.

Welcome to the 2024 May Day Fair!

BY JAVIER POWELL
The Westside Express

Los Banos' proud tradition continues with the 132nd annual Merced County Spring Fair, known by the locals as the May Day Fair. The tradition created by "Cattle King" Henry Miller has grown into an important piece of the local fabric and will be carried on for five days. The fair starts on Wednesday, May 1, and ends on Sunday, May 5. During that time guests at the event can enjoy all the fair food favorites including a new Coffee Truck and Baked Potatoes booth. Miller started the tradition in the 1890s as a 'May Day picnic' for his employees and their families. By the time of his death in 1916, it had grown into a regional event for the Westside of the valley. This year, event organizers expect roughly 50,000 visitors, which is larger than the current population of Los Banos.

Guy Gary, who served as the Manager of the Los Banos Fairgrounds, passed away earlier this year on Jan. 13. Remembered fondly by those around him, Gary will be memorialized by the Fair Board's changing the name of the Grand Drive on the fair's opening day to the "Guy Gary Grand Drive."

According to Jessica Ortega, the fair's coordinator, Gary was working on this year's fair in advance and was very organized. Those associated with the fair "are moving along and just trying to make sure that his vision for this fair is executed," Ortega said in an email to The Westside Express. If you struggle with finding parking at the Los Banos Fairgrounds, you will be able to park in two different locations: the Food 4 Less parking lot and the Target parking lot. There will be a free shuttle from these locations to the fairgrounds. While the exact details haven't been ironed out yet, this is a brand-new service that can help many get to the fair. The service is provided by The Bus, part of the Merced Transit Authority. For the students in FFA and 4-H, this fair started months ago as they prepared to compete in livestock competitions. They will compete with the animals they've raised, including birds, cattle, goats, sheep and rabbits. Their months of hard work will be put to the test in a series of judging within the Arburua Arena, the Pavilion Rings and the Carousel Arena. Throughout the Fairgrounds families can enjoy performances by Jeremy the Juggler, the Swan Brothers Circus, K9 Kings, Violin on Fire, Skip Banks and the Balloon Man.

Performances of Outlaw Mariachi, Encore Dance, Encore Baile De Latinos, Dance Explosion, Tyzen the Hypnotist, a tribute to Tina Turner, Bible Faith Remnant, Emily Corpuz, 7 Summers, Laura Rankin, and K9 Kings will all perform at their respective times at the outdoor stage. Children will enjoy the interactive exhibits in the Little Hands building. A major part of the fun in any fair is the carnival, and this year's carnival ▶▶



Gene Lieb/The Express

Christine Brandi, left, sings the National Anthem while veterans, from left, Benny Gamino, Greg Clower, Lindsey Higby, Patricia McCoy and American Legion Auxiliary members Barbara Cardenas and Sally Hughes help lead the audience during opening ceremony.



Gene Lieb/The Express

Guy Gary, right, was not only the fair manager, he was also a father to his son, who won Grand Champion Market Goat last year.

by Butler Entertainment promises not to disappoint with 24 rides to experience, some for families and little ones to enjoy together and some with great thrills. To enjoy the fair, there will be a one-day "Entry Pack" pass for two adults and two youths for \$25. Individually, a one-day youth pass for ages 6-12 is \$5, and an adult one-day pass at the gate will cost \$15. Adult passes can be bought before the fair for \$12. To experience all days of the event, youth season passes are \$20 with adult season passes at \$40. Additionally, fairgoers can enjoy the Sunday Rodeo for free with their admission ticket. The Friday destruction derby will cost \$25 and the Saturday 4x4 Pulls will cost \$25. To enjoy the 24 carnival rides, unlimited one day wristbands can be bought before the event at \$30, and after the event starts can be purchased for \$35 plus a \$2 service fee. Whether you're part of a family, coming with a group of friends or herding your livestock, the Los Banos May Day Fair has something for you.



ABOVE: Violin On Fire entertainer, Patrick Contreras returns to the May Day Fair this year; LEFT: 4H competitors show sheep during the opening day of the fair last year.



**OFFICE
SUPPLY
EXPRESS**



**COPY
SHIPPING
SOLUTIONS**

OFFICE SUPPLY AND CUSTOM PRINTING HEADQUARTERS

- Office Supplies
- Office Furniture
- Office Machines
- Laser Supplies
- Breakroom Supplies
- Invoices
- Ink Jet Supplies
- Janitorial Supplies
- Self Ink Stamps
- Custom Forms
- Checks
- Statements
- Custom Invitations
- Business Cards
- Custom Vinyl Applications
- White Ink Printing
- Faxing
- High Speed Color Copies
- Laminations
- Binding Services
- Wide Format Color Copies
- Letterhead - Envelopes
- Tickets
- Banners-Posters

1017 I Street • Los Banos

(209) 826-8751

OSE Fax (209) 826-9779
www.oselosbanos.com
order@osecss.com

On Site Notary
Call For Appointment

FREE DELIVERY

Now Offering U.V.
& T-Shirt Printing!

📍 @ose_losbanos 📄 Office Supply Express
📍 @copyshippingsolutions 📄 Copy Shipping Solutions

(209) 826-2828

CSS Fax (209) 826-2629
www.csslosbanos.com
cssart@osecss.com

FedEx

Authorized Shipping Center

Get ready to 'Freak Out' over this year's rides

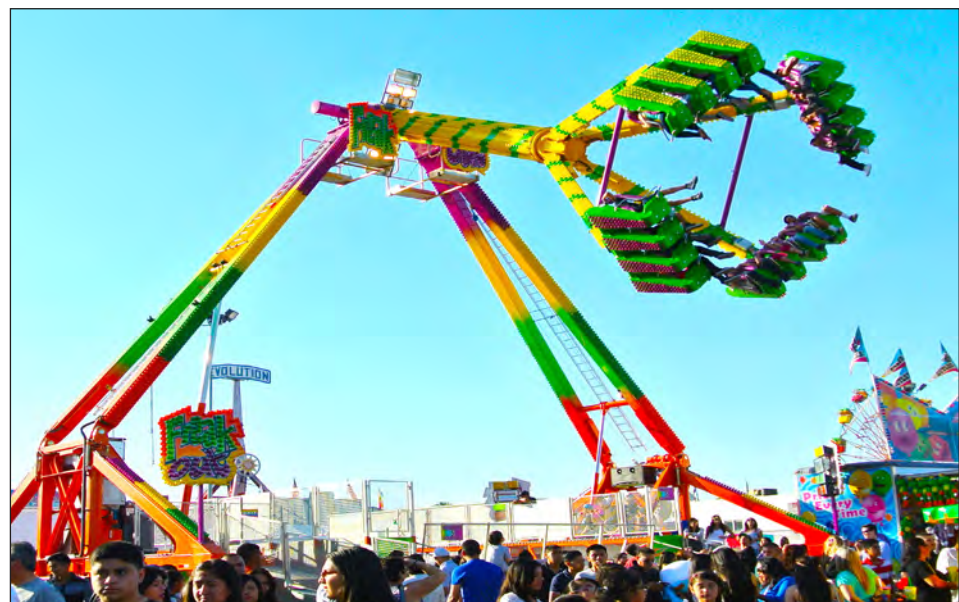
BY JAVIER POWELL
The Westside Express

malaya, Tilt-A-Whirl, Alien Invasion, Orbiter, Dino Loop Funhouse and Cyclone. If you're a family looking to enjoy rides together, you can enjoy fair staples such as the Century Wheel and the Eagle16 Ferris Wheel. Families can also enjoy the Carousel, Bigfoot Trucks, Pirates of Midway, 1st Squadron, Jumping Jumbos, Rocking Tug, and the Dizzy Dragons spinning ride. For the younger kids not yet ready to ride the bigger rides, options include the Dragon Wagon Kid Coaster, Wacky Tracks Funhouse, and flat rides such as the Jet Ski and Ella's Boats rides. To enjoy all 24 rides, script tickets will be sold at \$1 each with rides priced between 3-7 tickets. Alternatively, riders can buy a \$30 unlimited ride wristband, available until April 30, from the fair office. Once the fair starts, prices will rise to \$35 plus a two-dollar service fee totaling \$37. An unlimited wristband only lasts the one day it was redeemed or bought.

To skip long lines, a \$10 Fast-Pass wristband add-on can be bought; they are in limited supply and only available on-site.

Stillwell added, "We appreciate our relationship with the community and the fair as a whole and look forward to a successful 2024 Spring Fair."

For this year's Merced County Spring Fair, Butler Amusements is returning to provide their thrills. Among the many rides and their 75 to 100 person team, Butler Amusements brings a new addition to the fair, "Freak Out." The ride is a 70-foot-tall swinger, where the seat section rotates, bringing riders up to 40 feet in the air, according to Butler Amusements' Director of Marketing and Business Development, Andrea Stillwell. Butler Amusements has been providing their services to the May Day Fair since 1987. With family and staff that live in the area, Stillwell said, "We consider the May Fair our hometown fair!" In the two days before the fair starts on May 1, Butler employees set up a total of 24 rides at the fairgrounds. There will be rides for almost all ages. Kids, teens, adults and families will be sure to enjoy the rides together. Please keep in mind that due to height restrictions, children under 36 inches tall will not be allowed on any adult carnival rides. If you're looking for thrills, the following 11 rides may be what you're after. Stillwell reports that these exciting rides will be The Freak Out, The Zillerator Roller Coaster, Zipper, Viper, Ring of Fire, Hi-



TOP: Children raise their hand while on the Dragon roller coaster; **MIDDLE:** The swings are always a crowd favorite; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The ride, "Freak Out" is a 70-foot tall swinging ride; **BOTTOM LEFT:** Children love to make the plane go up and down as they travel in a circle.

Team Up to Crush Down

BY SHAWN PINTOR-DAY
The Westside Express

The month of May marks both the middle of spring as well as the coming of Cinco de Mayo festivities, and this year, Valley residents can look forward to warm days, blooming flowers and the first two-man destruction derby in the county.

Boss Hog Promotions is holding their second annual Cinco De Mayo Smash event in Los Banos, and participants are eager to get back in the driver's seat.

To liven up the format, the 2024 derby will be a team tournament consisting of 16 teams of two, with 24 participants competing for the chance to win two custom motors.

This shake-up of the typical free-for-all format marks not only the first team event in Merced County, but the first team derby in California. The event will be live streamed via YouTube, so viewers at home can enjoy the carnage, and root for their favorite team, from home.

Herman Prock, who manages Boss Hog Promotions along with his wife, is excited for the potential advancement of the California derby scene that this event will bring.

"Cars do the opposite of fashion, and trends start in the Midwest and creep over to California," Prock explains, "California cars are getting there, but we hope to see more unique events like this one in the future."

Not only does this two-man event help spread the viability of the destruction derby in the Golden State, but it also helps the community that does exist here grow more familiar. No matter who walks away with the grand prize, each of the contestants will, as Prock asserts, "build teamwork, trust, and community."

The engines, though, will definitely come in handy, as despite the emphasis on crashing during the derbies, participants are known to spend a great deal of time and care on each vehicle they enter into an event.

"Some cars take up to two to three months to get built," Prock explains. "Total costs with parts and everything can usually add up to about 12 or 13 thousand all together." Though this seems like a steep amount to spend on something that will ultimately lie totaled in the mud, the derbies are not as destructive to the cars as one might think due to the mobility of the individual parts.

While the "shell" of a vehicle may be completely demolished, engines, converters and even sometimes wheels, can be



Gene Lieb/The Express

Drivers of the fair's destruction derby look to disable the cars of their opponents with hopes of winning the trophy.

reused on a different body. Aside from being the most cost-effective way to crash a vehicle, spending money on parts ensures that no matter how many hits a driver takes, the "spirit" of the car will remain intact, even if the chassis doesn't.

The derby will be held on Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at the Los Banos Fairgrounds Park. The team at Boss Hog are eager to help Los Banos residents begin spring with a smash!



**MID VALLEY
DISPOSAL**

WE ARE PROUD TO BE AT YOUR DISPOSAL

ATWATER | DOS PALOS | LOS BANOS | GUSTINE

**FOR ALL OF YOUR SOLID WASTE
& RECYCLING NEEDS**



**Good Food,
Good Life**

**Make it Espana's tonight!
Come visit us or
order online at Espanas.com**

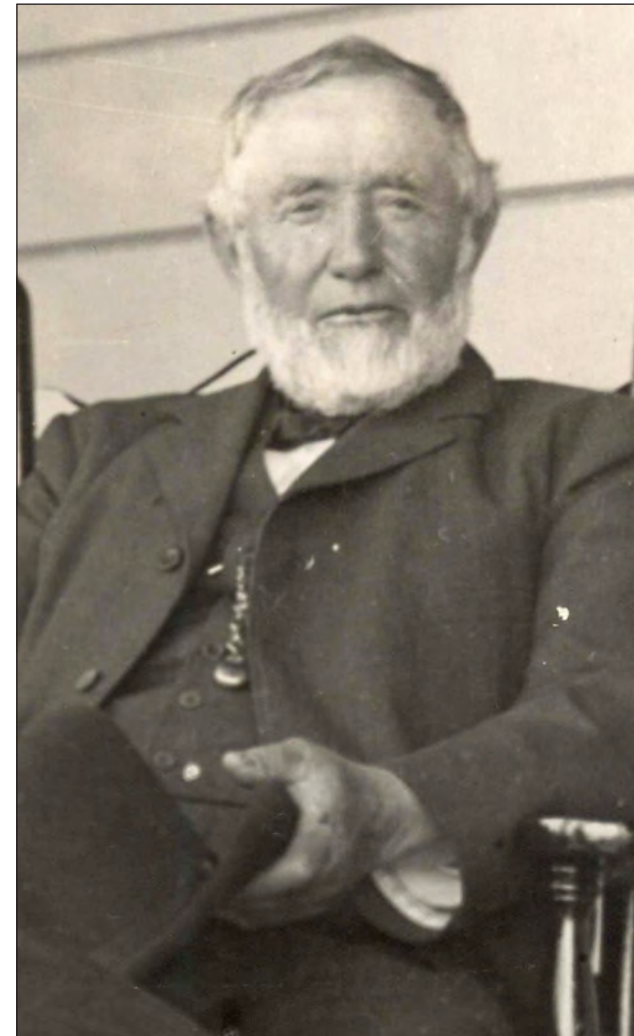
Catering Available

1460 E. Pacheco, Los Banos

826-4041

Espana's
SOUTHWEST
BAR & GRILL

MAY DAY FAIR HAS DEEP ROOTS GOING BACK TO THE LATE 1800S



ABOVE: Henry Miller was the originator of the May Day Fair; LEFT: The May Day Fair began as a barbecue for all of Henry Miller's employees of which he helped prepare.



BY SHAWN PINTOR-DAY
The Westside Express

Los Banos is a community created and maintained by agricultural development, and the annual May Day Fair (also known as the Merced County Spring Fair) is the community's chance to celebrate the town's roots and the future of its commerce.

The May Day Festivities have been hosted within Los Banos since the late 1800s, thanks to the farming endeavors of cattleman Henry Miller. After making his way from Germany to New York, then from New York to California, Miller drew on his farming knowledge in rural Germany and began his own butchering business.

Singling out the land between the Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley for its

“
The spirit of community and collaboration has only increased since the 1800s as various clubs, organizations, and businesses have become May Day staples over the years.

prime cattle and vast stretches of fertile land, Miller quickly set to work organizing his farming empire. Meticulous, thorough, and never willing to compromise the quality of his livestock, Miller had a major impact on shaping the Valley in the 19th (and early 20th) century with his acquisition of the San Joaquin Valley Canal and Irrigation Company.

Using Los Banos as a hub for his business practices, Miller implemented and improved housing projects, established the first town bank, and began building some of the first infrastructure that later Los Banians would continue to expand upon.

Being tied inexorably to the region's agriculture and local food and wildlife, the first May Day event occurred in the late 1800s as a way to celebrate the ►►



Early years of Henry Miller.

completion of the town railroad.

Though Miller died in 1916, the May Day celebration was so beloved by the community that the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce took up the task of maintaining the annual festivities to continue promoting community and progress.

As the years wore on, the May Day festivities were being increasingly supported by various individuals coming together from around the valley, and Los Banos' own American Legion began to play a very large role in the continuation of the annual event.

By 1940 the event was being supported by countless members of the towns and territories in the surrounding areas, and tens of thousands of supporters were streaming into Los Banos each spring to take part in the biggest community event in the valley.

Well over a century after the first celebration of a railroad track, the May Day celebration is stronger than ever. Residents of the San Joaquin Valley still eagerly look forward to the parade and county fair, and the community embraces it as a chance to revel in what the Central Valley has to offer: thousands of guests still flock to Los Banos, and each year promises a new parade theme that spotlights various aspects of Central California.

From saluting the rural Central Valley life, to reverently celebrating "Barn in the USA," and "County Vibes and Carnival Rides," the annual May Day celebration has come to represent more and more of the Central Valley experience with each passing year.

The spirit of community and collaboration has only increased since the 1800s as various clubs, organizations, and businesses have become May Day staples over the years.

Much how the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and Native Sons added their support, so too have various local high schools and local businesses come together to produce innovations like awards for parade participants and vendor booths with near-endless variety.

The food, entertainment, and culture are as diverse as the Central Valley itself, and as participants bustle from one brightly colored booth to the next, one can't help but be reminded that this is an event for Los Banos created by Los Banos.



It was 60 years ago today! Beatlemania swept the nation and the May Day Fair, May 2 and 3, 1964. "The Dos Palos Jr. Beatles", from left, Darrell Fonseca age 7, David Davidson, age 7, Carl Carlucci age 8 and Alan Ricks age 8, won first place in the Saturday Kiddie's Parade, and placed third in the Sunday, May Day Fair Parade. There were two parades in those days. They then performed a short set on the fair's outdoor stage.



CHRISTINE KINSLEY

Realtor®

2017 Readers' Choice Realtor of the Year!

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

HomeServices

Drysdale Properties

1209 South Sixth St., Unit B
Los Banos, CA 93635

C: 209.631.4049

christine.kinsley@yahoo.com

CAL BRE# 01306231







A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Have Fun at the Fair!



thewestsideexpress.com

Visit our website today and subscribe

This year's new and returning food vendors

BY EMILY ZARAGOSA
The Westside Express

This year the May Day Fair will be having a little bit of everything when it comes to vendors.

Returning to the fair are classic booths selling cinnamon rolls, corn dogs, pretzels, and other snacks. There will also be ice cream, shaved ice, Dippin' Dots, cotton candy, and other sweet treats to eat.

If you're not in the mood for a sweet treat or snack, there will be heaps of food ranging from American to Mexican to Chinese food.

Two new additions to the fair include a baked potato stand and a coffee stand. Also new to the fair this year is a Western Wear shop. Vendors will be there from opening to closing every day of the fair, so be sure to check them out.



Gene Lieb/The Express

LEFT: The Los Banos Elks Lodge will have a beer booth at this year's fair. Stop by and say hi to the Barcellos family including, Mark, DJ and Richard; **RIGHT:** Dane Baldwin, owner of Country Fair Cinnamon Rolls, will be back at the May Day Fair.

Los Banos High senior Fallon Hays' idea selected as this year's fair theme

BY SHAWN PINTOR-DAY
The Westside Express

Each year Merced County holds a contest to decide the theme of the annual Merced County Spring Fair, also known as the Los Banos May Day Fair.

This year Fallon Hays, a Los Banos High School senior, won the theme contest with her submission of "Country Vibes and Carnival Rides."

Inspired by a lifetime spent in the Central Valley, Hays said she

appreciates both the agricultural identity of her community as well as the lights and spectacle of the many rides the fair has to offer.

Agriculture is integral to the identity of Los Banos and all of Merced County, she said, with many events celebrating the legacy and roles of farmers and ranchers, from local farmers' markets to FFA programs in just about every school.

"To me, the fair is not just

about showing an animal," Hays said. "It's a whole experience in itself with lots to offer the community.

"In my theme, I wanted to show how the fair is really for everyone," Hays said, "whether you're into the country vibes that fill the fairgrounds with the sounds of animals and country music playing and people walking around in boots or you're into all the carnival rides and entertainments."



Gene Lieb/The Express

Los Banos High School senior, Fallon Hays, left, stands with school principal Jason Waltman.

This year's May Day Fair poster designed by Los Banos artist Kym McAdam

BY RHIANNA IRAO
The Westside Express

The Merced County Spring Fair each year is publicized with a poster created and designed by a local artist, depicting a chosen theme.

This year, the poster selected by the Merced County Fair Board was designed by a Los Banos artist, Kym McAdam. McAdam was born and raised in Los Banos and is a graduate of Los Banos High School.

The 2024 poster she de-

signed captures this year's May Day Fair theme, Country Vibes and Carnival Rides. With a background in creating personalized pieces, McAdam also made sure to add a personalized feel to the poster.

"I really wanted to make sure that people could recognize that this was our local May Day Fair," McAdam said. "The main points are things that I think are people's favorites that will make them connect with the poster and the fair."

The artwork is organized into five memorable parts, including components like the Little Hands exhibit, the petting zoo, roller coasters, and iconic food stands.

McAdam said she is not a professional artist but has always loved drawing and creating various kinds of art. "I really loved taking art classes in school," she said, "and I remember my father helping me make things for my classes."

Now, among other artwork, she paints shoes

and furniture. But most of all, she loves personalizing things for people and seeing the joy on their faces from receiving her unique artwork.

Moving forward, McAdam hopes to be given the opportunity to create the poster again in the future. She said that being chosen was an incredible and exciting honor, yet it was nerve wracking. "I did my best on this poster and hope it's liked by everyone who sees it."



Gene Lieb/The Express

Kym McAdam is proud and honored to be the artist to create this year's Merced County Spring Fair poster.



1890 S. Mercey Springs Rd, Los Banos, CA

NEW Extended Lobby Hours:
Monday8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday.....9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday.....8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday.....9:00 am - 6:00 pm

NEW Drive-Up Teller Lanes:
Open during lobby hours.

NEW Drive-Up & Walk-Up ATMs:
Conveniently available 24/7

We're thrilled to share this new space with the Los Banos Community!
www.mercedschoolcu.org | (209) 383-5550 x155

You Can CHANGE A Child's Story

A CASA volunteer advocates for children who through no fault of their own are in foster care. The people that should love and care for them the most are unable to do so. These children may have been abandoned, abused and neglected. The foster care system and dependency court are rough to navigate, especially for children. The child's life has turned upside down. Sometimes children may be separated from their siblings. Foster children frequently move homes and schools, their Social Workers change, but their Advocate is the one consistent person in their life - and the Advocate is a volunteer!

Carol, Board Member
All children's voices need to be heard.

Cynthia, Advocate
I do it for the kids!

Helena, Advocate
I would highly encourage people to become a CASA volunteer.

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
MERCED COUNTY

For more information on how you can help, call
209-722-2272
visit our website www.mercedcasa.org
or scan the QR codes below



It's Time to Schedule Spring Maintenance!

Put the 'ring' in spring and call Young's Air Conditioning to schedule HVAC system maintenance before temperatures warm up.



**Factory
Authorized
Dealer**

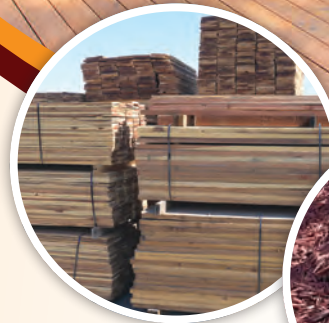
Heating & Cooling Systems

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

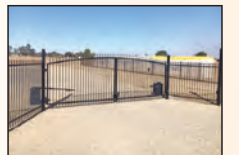
25 West G Street, Los Banos
www.youngsair.com • (209) 826-4807

Lic.# 461520

SOARES LUMBER & P.S.G. FENCING



- Patio Covers ▪ Redwood & Cedar Fencing
 - Landscape / Rock / Bark / Mulch
- Tree Removal ▪ Custom Decks ▪ Concrete
 - Metal Buildings ▪ Installation



Mill Work Available

**Call for a free estimate of your project!
(209) 829-0700**

Lic.#606051

A Family Owned Business For 35 Years

1218 D St., Los Banos, CA 93635
(Located one street over from Premiere Cinemas)

Embark with
Merced College
and **Dreamscape Learn**
on a thrilling adventure
that's almost as fun as
the county fair!



MCCD.EDU/INFO



MERCED
COLLEGE

MADE IN MERCED.
BUILT FOR THE WORLD.



**Agriculture
Commercial
Home | Auto | Health**



Offices in
Turlock, Los Banos & Crescent City
209-634-9031
www.westernvalley.com

SORENSEN'S

ACE
Hardware



We are all committed to being “the Helpful Place” by offering our customers personal service, quality products and a convenient shopping experience from the local experts who know you best. As the helpful hardware folks in your neighborhood, we promise that helping you is the most important thing we have to do today.

Sorensens Ace Hardware

402 Washington Ave., Los Banos • (209) 826-2001 • www.acehardware.com
Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Sat. 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Sun. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



MOVE IN READY HOMES AVAILABLE
Solar & upgraded designer features included



Tour our model homes
1664 Dolomite Drive, Los Banos, CA
(209) 710-0866
www.anderson-homes.com

Prices, terms, and features subject to change without notice. Equal Housing Opportunity. DRE 01080857



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOMES FOR RENT
Washer, dryer, blinds, and landscape maintenance included

(831) 524-3270
info@altareservices.com
www.altareservices.com

Prices, terms, and features subject to change without notice. Equal Housing Opportunity. DRE 02184897





BAKER SUPPLIES AND REPAIRS

WE HAVE BEEN A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1993. WE SELL AND REPAIR ALL OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT. WE STRIVE TO GIVE YOU THE BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE. WE CAN PICK UP AND DELIVER, MAKING YOUR JOB A LITTLE BIT EASIER.

WE HAVE FOUR LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

1576 E PACHECO BLVD.
LOS BANOS, CA 93635
(209) 827-9252

281 SAN FELIPE RD., STE. E
HOLLISTER, CA 95023
(831) 265-7868

2913 GIBSON ST.
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
(661) 370-5929

1201 INDEPENDENCE PLACE, SUITE A
GRIDLEY, CA 95948
(530) 975-4018

OUR TRAVELING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

TODD BAKER
REGIONAL MANAGER
(831) 261-7259

SERVING NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA,
JEFF ROGERS
(530) 695-7275

SERVING CENTRAL
VALLEY & SOUTHERN
BAY AREA
ERIC MANRIGUEZ
(209) 826-2575

SERVING THE
BAY AREA,
NICOLE BAKER
(831) 524-2937

SERVING SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA,
TERRY LAMBERT
(209) 704-8809



★ The All American Difference ★

24/7 SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON

At All American there is **never an overtime charge** on repairs. We offer straight-forward options to fit every need and budget along with a written **100% Guarantees**.



\$129 OFF

YOUR NEW WATER HEATER

Save \$129 with this coupon off the standard upfront price of your new water heater when All American provides and installs your new self cleaning water heater, 6-year complete warranty available.

**No other discounts, special or club membership savings apply.*

24 HOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call any time and speak to a Customer Service Representative, **never an answering service**. We care about serving you, your family and your home by providing you with a **5 star experience** and **5 star service** from professionals.



\$50 OFF

ON YOUR NEXT REPAIR

Present this coupon to save \$50 on your next repair with All American Plumbing Heating & Air.

CHARACTER, HONOR, INTEGRITY, AND TRUST

We believed that to be a caring and responsible service company you need to be there when the client needs you, not just when it's convenient. All American is a **Vets First Verified Vet Owned** Small Company.



\$98

A/C Tune Up Special

To perform 21 point A/C maintenance and inspection, includes standard filter replacement. Enjoy Comfort, Utility Savings & Peace of Mind with Our Exclusive No Breakdown Guarantee for the season. Call Us For Details.



940 G Street, Los Banos, CA 93653

License #840958

© 2018 All American Plumbing Heating & Air.

All right reserved

iAir Conditioning & Heating Website Design & Internet Marketing by iMarket.



Check out our reviews at
AllAmericanpha.com



In the Service of Excellence

209-509-4890 • AllAmericanpha.com

WESTHILL

Real Estate & Property Management



Offering only the best!

TOUGH DECISIONS HONEST ANSWERS
Largest Property Management in town!

**Whatever Your Real Estate Needs Are...
We're Just A Phone Call Away**

OWNER-BROKER

963 E. Pacheco Blvd | Los Banos
(209) 826-9000
(209) 826-4139 FAX



TONY MARTINEZ
Broker
(209) 769-2234
DRE # : 01137797

DOS PALOS OFFICE

2519 Blossom St | Dos Palos
(209) 392-2171
(209) 392-2150 FAX



LUANNE ANDERSON
Realtor
(209) 704-5548
DRE # : 00809851



GALE EDMONDSON
Realtor
(209) 587-2327
DRE # : 01791525

LOS BANOS OFFICE

WESTHILL REAL ESTATE



SALLY HURLEY
Realtor
(209) 769-5200
DRE# 01127709



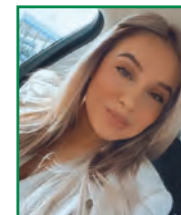
BRIANNA MARTINEZ
Property Manager
(209) 769-4554
DRE# 02104313
Hablo Español



MARY RAMIREZ
Realtor
(209) 628-8337
DRE# 01367552
Hablo Español



RUVI NUNEZ
Office Assistant
(209) 826-9000



ANYSSA CAMPOS
Office Assistant
(209) 826-9000

EMAIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AT: WESTHILLPM@GMAIL.COM

Poultry project to include showmanship this year

BY KATHI HENDRICKSON
Los Banos Community
4-H Club Manager

The Los Banos Community 4-H Club Poultry Project members are excited to show off their skills at the upcoming Merced County Spring Fair.

The poultry project was a learning project for the members until this year when the project members stepped up and said they wanted to compete in poultry showmanship.

The club poultry project is only three years old. It has

been a very long time since we had a poultry project from our club appear at the fair. Bret Hendrickson is the project leader and does an excellent job leading the project.

The kids showing rabbits needed to learn how to show poultry in case they won showmanship and qualified to compete in the 4-H Small Animal Round Robin at the fair.

There are two round-robin competitions at our local fair, one for large animals—beef, dairy, sheep, swine and

goats—and one for small animals, including poultry and rabbits. The winners qualify to compete at the state fair when they win either division of round robin.

We are so proud of these young members trying something new and challenging. With encouragement and positivity, their leaders hope to help them succeed.

Gio Gonzales and Andrew Goins, 4-H members, are examples of young people participating in showmanship

and showing off their skills with beautiful birds.

Gonzales and Goins have worked very hard over the past five months to sharpen their showmanship ability and gain more knowledge in the poultry project. Good luck to these two wonderful young men in this adventure.

The poultry show at the fair is on Friday, May 3 in the pavilion and starts at 9 a.m. If you want to see the poultry show, that is the place to be.



LEFT: Los Banos Community 4-H Club Poultry Project member Gio Gonzales; RIGHT: Los Banos Community 4-H Club Poultry Project member Andrew Goins.

Rabbit projects involve a lot of time and work

BY KATHI HENDRICKSON
Los Banos Community
4-H Club Manager.

The Los Banos Community 4-H Club rabbit kids are on the move and getting ready for the 2024 Merced County Spring Fair. So far, they have attended seven project meetings this year, with two more to go.

There are a few types of 4-H rabbit projects, including pet, breeding and market projects. The Los Banos Community 4-H Club Rabbit Project members raise breeding and market projects.

At project meetings, they learn all about doing rabbit showmanship and preparing to answer judges' questions. There is so much to learn in such a short time.

The April meeting will include a visit from an American Rabbit Breeders Association judge. They have been invited to attend and assist the kids in showmanship and help them learn how to answer questions that are always asked of the show people in rabbit showmanship.

It's so wonderful for the kids to work

with an ARBA judge and get the best knowledge so they're prepared for the fair and the rabbit show.

At our last project meeting, we will have a graduate of the rabbit project tattoo the rabbits' left ears with numbers, letters or both so the rabbits can be identified at the fair.

The kids are excited and ready to head to the fair to show off all their knowledge about rabbits and showmanship. So, if you're at the fair on Friday, May 3, stop by the Arburua Arena to see all the kids and their hard work in action.



Los Banos Community 4-H Club members show off their rabbit project.

Joint mission to provide 'top-notch' security at the Fair

BY JAVIER POWELL
The Westside Express

Security at the Merced County Spring Fair will be "top-notch," according to Merced County Sheriff's Office Lt. Brankel Nobari in a call with The Westside Express. It will be a joint mission of the county's sheriff's office, the Los Banos Police Department, a private security firm, and the Merced County Probation Department.

Despite public staffing issues, Nobari claims that the sheriff's office is determined to keep up the same security it provided at previous fairs,

if not more. Metal detectors, which debuted at the last fair, will also be used. The "state-of-the-art" detectors will be at "every entrance and exit," according to Nobari.

While the exact number of officers on-site varies and hasn't been ironed out yet, the public can expect at least around 20 officers on-site even at the lowest attendance times, not counting officers from the other agencies and the private security firm.

Nobari says a strict "no-tolerance" policy will be enforced with the officers and detectors. That in-

cludes wearing solid gang-affiliated colors, gang attire in general, drugs, troublemakers, fights and anything that may make the fair an unsafe place, like weapons. Nobari states that their goal at the end of the day is for "community members to get together in a wholesome, kid-friendly environment."

"Come on down, have a safe and fun time. We'll keep the trouble out. Let's keep the tradition going," Nobari said. "People should feel safe to come down to the fair and enjoy themselves because we will give it our all like we always do."



Gene Lieb/The Express

ABOVE LEFT: Given the number of law enforcement officers on the Los Banos fairgrounds, the May Day Fair could be considered the safest place to be in Merced County; BELOW LEFT: The Merced County Sheriff has an information trailer near the main entrance of the fair.

Nuts and bolts and chocolate chips in fair exhibits

BY JANET MILLER
The Westside Express

is always featured at the front door display. Other impressive entries are among those first seen at the door.

The Special Cotton Contest is sponsored by the Dos Palos Cooperative Gin. Prizes are donated by the Gallichio family in memory of Frank Gallichio.

First, second and third medals are awarded for 4-H projects made with cotton. These are made with at least 65 percent cotton fabric. Verification of cotton content is made by hangtag, label, selvage print or sales receipt with content stated signed at the store.

The 4-H sewing program begins with a simple project like pajama pants. The youth enjoy their successes as they advance and make more complex projects.

Eileen comments on the importance of the 4-H sewing projects. She reminds us that, “4-Hers are learning lifetime skills. They will forever know how to sew on a button.”

Photography has become popular for projects. Photographs and other artworks are displayed on accordion-fold partitions.

From beginners to advanced, photographs are “beautifully amazing” according to Eileen. “There are photos of animals, people and landscapes. All of them are beautiful.”

Plant Science is another area in which 4-H youth compete. Displays include ornamental horticulture, dish gardens and forestry.

The center aisle of the youth exhibit hall is dedicated to 4-H entries. Visitors will notice the displayed 4-H Record Books and wonder what those are about.

4-Hers are taught to keep accurate records. A book gives the 4-Her’s personal history, documents expenses and time on projects, and states offices held, animals raised, volunteer work and club activity.

The 4-Hers must meet stringent criteria to have books accepted. Fairgoers are encouraged to look at the books and read these interesting stories.

Eileen points out that rocketry is a fascinating exhibit category. Entries are

Although animals take up the spotlight at the Merced County Spring Fair, livestock entries comprise only a portion of the exhibits. The exhibition buildings and grounds are filled with displays known as “Still Exhibits.”

Eileen Vaughn, a Los Banos Fairgrounds staff member, is again in charge of all Still Exhibits from nuts and bolts to chocolate chips. Much of the receiving and organizing is done personally by Eileen. With about 40 years of fair experience, she has a knack for arranging the myriad.

Adults and juniors have an opportunity to exhibit their many skills. Some areas of expertise are food, fine arts, crafts, floriculture, photography and agricultural mechanics. There are many categories within these general areas.

Youth, 19 years and under, can compete with one another to showcase their skills with peers. FFA members and 4-Hers enter through their respective clubs. Independents follow a procedure to enter as well.

The large Agricultural Mechanics projects are most impressive. These are seen around the exhibition area.

Two outstanding youth Ag Mechanic projects each receive a \$1,000 award. One category is the “Outstanding Farm Equipment Project.” The other is the “Outstanding Recreational Equipment Project.”

Youth exhibitors of mechanics projects are enrolled in vocational agriculture programs. Work is part of the daily classroom instruction, performed mostly by the student.

A multitude of youth projects are displayed in the exhibition hall behind the commercial building. Eileen personally arranges an impressive display at the entrance. She calls it, “The best of the best.”

Eileen points out that the varied youth exhibits are the most colorful. The children go all out to make their displays pop.

The winner of the 4-H Cotton Award



Gene Lieb/The Express

TOP: An Easter wreath, one of many wreaths, wins first place; ABOVE: Children exhibitors are very creative as they use arts and crafts to create George Washington.

Paying it forward with animal exhibits at the fair

BY KIRSTEN AREIAS
Contributing Writer

type of youth that helps others, educates their community about their

.....
What you see in the barn doesn't happen overnight, and building character in kids doesn't either!

animals and works hard.

In the sale ring, you will find individuals from our community and businesses that come to the sale with the sole purpose of financially helping a young person or persons in our county with the purchase of an animal.

Sponsored by our community's generosity, hundreds of awards will be awarded at the awards ceremony.

You'll find exhibitors paying it forward by allowing four to eight-year-olds to borrow their show sheep and dairy animals at the Pee Wee Showmanship event, which probably draws the biggest fan base, including proud parents and grandparents.

Using what they learned in their projects and the show ring, the exhibitors share their knowledge with those who may become future exhibitors.

Goodwill is almost everywhere, making the fair special and our community a wonderful and generous one.



Nellie with Pee Wee Dairy Exhibitor Sloane Jackson and Los Banos Community 4-H Dairy Exhibitor Caleb Rocha getting ready for the fair.

We Proudly Support THE LOS BANOS 4H CLUB



**ADVANCED AUTO
GLASS OF LOS BANOS**

**WE PROVIDE FREE MOBILE SERVICE
AND ACCEPT ALL INSURANCE.**

**AUTOS, AG EQUIPMENT, CLASSIC,
CUSTOM, RV'S, OR SUNROOFS.**

Hog Auction and Heritage Foundation raise funds to keep the spirit of the fair alive

BY JANET MILLER
The Westside Express

The Heritage Hog auction is a highlight of the Merced County Spring Fair in Los Banos. The Heritage Hog is auctioned as a special entry during the Junior Livestock Sale on Saturday at the fair.

The auctioned hog is a Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation fundraiser. The proceeds of the Heritage Hog sale are used for the benefit of area youth. No expenses are taken for the raising of the hog. All hog raising costs are donated.

This year's Heritage Hog is donated at no charge by No Limit Genetics, located in Modesto. Owners Adam and Rex Mendonza offer high quality show pigs, breeding stock and boar semen.

Wyatt McBride was selected to raise Heritage Hog 2024. For long hours of work and attentiveness, Wyatt is eligible to receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Farmers Feed provides the hog feed at no charge. Farmers Feed is a fifth-generation family-run feed and pet store in Stockton.

Heritage Hog will be showcased during the Grand Drive through the fair on Wednesday evening. Hopefully, those seeing this amazing animal will be inspired to come to the sale.

There are no administrative costs or salaries connected to the Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation. According to Sonia Falaschi, Foundation volunteer and FFA advisor, "All money goes back to the kids. The goal is to make the fair experience possible and improved for upcoming generations."

Foundation funds never go towards general maintenance but might be used for long-term improvements to fair facilities. Funds recently provided for shade cloths at the auction area and barns.

The Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation is the backbone of the Spring Fair. The foundation dates to 2011, when a cut in state funding threatened the existence of the local fair in Los Banos.

A group of dedicated citizens stepped up. They were concerned for the youth who benefit from fair participation.

Financial support is necessary to provide youth with award premiums, educational exhibit recognition and scholarships. The Heritage Foundation importantly ensures the continuation of youth fair participation.

The original goal of the foundation was to solicit a few thousand dollars from supporters. The money was needed to recognize fair youth participants with awards and prize money. Through various fundraisers, the Heritage Foundation now brings in more than \$200,000 annually to support the Merced County Spring Fair.



Caitlyn Freeman/Special to The Express

LEFT: Pacheco High FFA student, Cassius Gandy stands with the 2023 Heritage Hog; RIGHT: 2023 Miss May Day first runner-up Makenna Silveira displays the Barn in the USA fair poster created by artist, Katherine Crinklaw during the 2023 Fair Kick-Off dinner. (Gene Lieb/The Express)

Besides scholarships and youth awards, Heritage Foundation funds make other aspects of the fair an enjoyment for all youngsters. Fair activities such as Little Hands and The Henry Miller Farm are hands-on experiences that teach an upcoming generation the importance of agriculture.

In these times, fewer families are involved in agriculture in their daily lives. With the changing local demographic, fair activities that educate youngsters about agriculture and encourage them to participate are increasingly important.

The young and the young at heart all have opportunities to shine with still exhibits. Still exhibits are the myriad of displays in fair buildings and outdoor areas.

As exhibitors, children and adults show their skills in all things that speak "agricultural." Foods, crafts, photography, floral design, welding and woodwork are some entry

categories.

Fundraising is only possible with the support of dozens of individuals and businesses. Heritage Foundation events would not be possible without the efforts of countless volunteers.

Members of FFA Chapters and 4-H groups like those in Los Banos and Dos Palos give back. They rally to serve at dinners, help at Little Hands, The Henry Miller Farm and pitch in wherever needed.

Some fundraiser income is generated by auctioning art created by Katherine Crinklaw. Her originals commemorate the fair. An annual car show and the Hometown Barbeque Cookoff have generated funds too.

Merced County Spring Fair Heritage Foundation welcomes new members. Learn how to give support on Facebook. See Spring Fair Heritage Foundation-Merced County.

Four-by-Fun at the Spring Fair

BY SHAWN PINTOR-DAY
The Westside Express

and has taken charge of the event due to his extensive experience with tractors and trucks.

“I didn’t really climb the ladder [of the club] so much as I just learned the ropes,” Avila states. “We have about 100 members, and we all have worked with engines and tractors in one way or another.”

Though the event does not contain as much destruction as a derby, the pullers still promise a line-up of vehicles that is sure to get crowds roaring as loud as the engines.

Aside from the standard 4x4s, the pull features an array of modified cars made specifically for showcase events. “The crowd likes to see the ‘hot stuff,’” assures Avila, “we’ve seen a lot of Pro-mod cars over the years, even a tractor with a V8 once.”

Though participants are not required to refurbish their old and run-down tractors, the modified cars are definitely the stars of the show, and the crowd can never be sure of what they might see.

From flashy rims to im-



Gene Lieb/The Express

ABOVE: Modified tractors are loud and pull a lot of weight at the May Day Fair; RIGHT: The “smokers” are a crowd favorite at the Spring Fair Truck and Tractor show this year on May 4.



possibly high plumes of smoke, these “hot” commodities are typically in no short supply due to local engagement, and the event remains open to any hobbyist mechanic willing to pull their weight (literally).

Held on Saturday, May 4, the event is sure to haul in a truckload of fun to the Los Banos Fairgrounds!

FRESH FILL
A fresh take on convenience.
2270 E PACHECO BLVD LOS BANOS, CA 93635
131 RIVERWALK BLVD S, SUITE 100, MADERA, CA 93636

Now Serving! **Harvest Subs** 11 am - 3 pm
7 Days/Week!

Scan Me To Download

GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store

DOWNLOAD → ORDER → PICK-UP AT DRIVE THRU!

WWW.FRESHFILLSTORES.COM @FreshFill @FreshFillRiverwalk



**GOOD LUCK
To All Fair Participants!**

HEALTHTime

Complete Health Food & Supplement Lines

940 Sixth St. • Los Banos, CA 93635 • **209-826-8503**

State Farm™

Joe G. Gutierrez, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0758271

964 J Street, Los Banos, CA 93635
Bus: 209-826-4963 | Cell: 209-769-7953
joe@joegutierrezinsurance.com

'Little Hands' enable young fairgoers to plant, harvest, milk

BY RHIANNA IRAO
The Westside Express

With agriculture being the heart of the Central Valley, the Merced County Spring Fair aims to

provide agricultural education to all attendees. For the past 21 years, Barbara and Louie Parreira's Little Hands on the Farm exhibit has played a major role in fulfilling this goal.

The exhibit allows people to actively "plant, harvest and sell," which provides a basic understanding of agricultural processes and their role in the economy. Participants "grow" and produce various products, such as carrots, cotton and medicine.

People can even "milk" Maggie, the model milking cow. While going through the process, participants learn the importance of each product and its impact on our lives.

Aside from crop production, an interactive model and robotic display demonstrate the importance of water in ag. Participants can learn where irrigation water in the valley comes from and watch the robot display irrigate plants.

The exhibit also covers pollination, another significant topic, using a real beehive. Through a glass display, bees are seen at work, leaving and entering the hive.

Within the last year, the exhibit has also made a new addition in collaboration with Sarah Lim of the Merced County Courthouse Museum and Dan Nelson of the Los Banos Milliken Museum. With their help, the rich agricultural history of the Central Valley is presented with a historical exhibit, telling tales of Henry Miller and the growth of ag in the area.

Throughout the experience of the ex-

hibit, volunteers of all ages provide fun facts for participants and ask questions to encourage interaction. There are also many features for kids to play and parents to take pictures.

In the Alphabet Farm, kids can spell their names with big, designed letters. Tiny tractors and fire trucks are also available for kids to sit and play with.

In the end, attendees can sell their crops and products for "money," which they can use to "buy" snacks of their choosing, including carrots, honey, cheese and many more. As of last year, children and toddlers may now choose a free book along with their snacks before leaving.

In collaboration with First 5, the exhibit can make vast strides in encouraging literacy to further education. With shared themes regarding the outdoors, agricultural education extends past the fairgrounds and into homes.

Over 21 years, great improvements have been made to the Little Hands exhibit. Alongside the addition of various exhibit features, the cattle barns, which have long hosted the exhibit, are newly renovated. This will allow the exhibit to be displayed all year round, opening up many exciting possibilities to further ag education in the off-season.

Fair board member Christie Hendricks hopes to pursue those opportunities. She states, "Little Hands makes an impact by showing the positive role of agriculture on the community, which highlights the hard work of our farming families." She believes that showcasing that outside the fair would be wonderful.

Barbara and Louie's Little Hands on the Farm is a beloved feature of the annual May Day Fair. As the children of



Gene Lieb/The Express

LEFT: Barbara and Louie Parreira stand with her son Paul, outside the Little Hands exhibit; RIGHT: Barbara Parreira can be found most days of the fair greeting people inside the Little Hands exhibit.

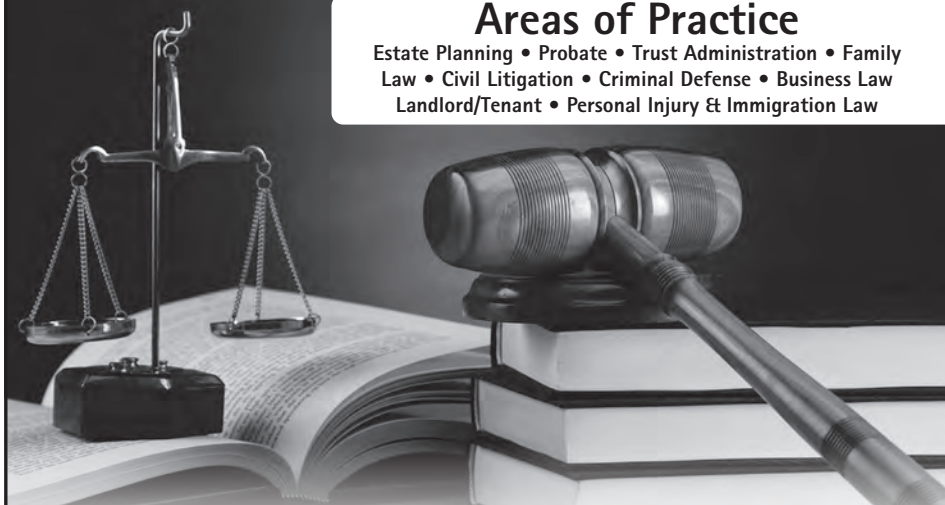
Los Banos grow older and the fair comes around again, memories bring back the wonderful experience of the exhibit. And for many, the appreciation and education of our local agricultural community remains.

The impact of this exhibit would not be possible without the donations of Grimmway Farms, Producers Dairy, Yosemite Farm Credit, First 5, Gene Brandi Apiaries, Merced County Farm Bureau and Woods Transplant Service.

GERMINO, AMARAL JORDAN & SILVA A Professional Law Corporation

Areas of Practice

Estate Planning • Probate • Trust Administration • Family Law • Civil Litigation • Criminal Defense • Business Law
Landlord/Tenant • Personal Injury & Immigration Law



Attorneys

Edward M. Amaral, Scott Jordan & Lisete M. Silva

Visit our website: www.losbanoslawyers.com
(209) 826-5024 • 303 "I" Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

IN MERCED COUNTY AND BEYOND, I CAN HELP WITH ALL YOUR MORTGAGE NEEDS!

Voted #1 as the Best of the Westside 2023 for mortgage services.

Whether you are buying a new home, ready to refinance, or need to tap into your equity, I can get you the financing you need!

MiMutual Mortgage offers:

- In-house processing and underwriting for a fast closing.
- Conventional, FHA, VA and USDA loans
- DSCR, Bank Statement and ITIN loans
- Jumbo loans up to \$4 million
- Reverse and Home Equity Loans
- State and National Down Payment Assistance

Let's connect!



SUSAN "V" FAUSTINO
Producing Branch Manager | NMLS #269245
OFFICE: (209) 862-1717
CELL: (209) 678-2838
sfaustino@mimutual.com



For licensing information, go to: www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. MiMutual Mortgage, NMLS #12901, principal licensed office is 911 Military Street, Port Huron, MI 48060. The content in this advertisement is for informational purposes only. This is not an offer for extension of credit or commitment to lend. All loans must satisfy underwriting guidelines.

Farm exhibit fun and informative for all ages

BY RHIANNA IRAO
The Westside Express



The camel at the Henry Miller Farm exhibit is a favorite for those who can reach his head to pet him.

making it all possible.

“We are very grateful for the people who allow us to feature their animals,” Kat said. “There is a long-established trust between us and the people who take care of them, and we’re glad it can keep going.”

In addition to their stellar work at the fair, the Lightseys also provide opportunities to adults with disabilities through the Stable Living Program. The program was created by Ken and Kat to uplift mentally-challenged adults into becoming successfully independent. People participating in the program become involved in a variety of activities to utilize their skills and build their strengths.

Since 2013, the Henry Miller Farm exhibit has become another opportunity for people of the Stable Living Program. Every year, individuals are able to help out at the exhibit and perform different tasks according to their abilities.

Ken and Kat Lightsey are both dedicated to serving people through the fair and the Stable Living Program. They aim to create positive experiences for all the people they serve and are driven to educate people about agriculture.

“It takes a lot of work and perseverance to set up the exhibit,” Kat said, “but it’s worth it when you see the happy faces of kids or people with disabilities. It really touches our hearts to know we can have such a positive impact on them.”

CENTURY 21



MARIA PINA

Realtor Since 1992

01130617

1155 Pacheco Blvd. | Los Banos, CA 93635

209-769-5388

Hablo Espanol Falo Portugues

mpina@c21selectgroup.com

[HTTPS://Maria-Pina@C21SelectGroup.Com](https://maria-pina@c21selectgroup.com)

 Each office is independently owned and operated.



Celebrate community pride with the May Day Parade

BY CAMRYN CARPENTER
The Westside Express

be sure to meet those expectations.

Each of the 27 categories will be judged individually, where each participant will be competing to win one of the numerous prizes, including plaques, trophies and cash prizes up to \$150.

Additionally, there are four special awards: the Fair Board Award for best group entry for ages 18 years and under, the Fair Board President's Trophy for best individual entry, the Mayor's Trophy and the Horse Division Sweepstakes Trophy.

Participants will be allotted one minute to perform for the judges, and anyone who goes over will be penalized for every 10 seconds over the allotted minute.

Categories range from color guards to marching bands, dance and gymnastic teams, car clubs, equestrians and more. Many local clubs and community members will try to promote laughing, dancing and good health.

The Merced County Spring Fair

Be sure to be out on the streets of downtown Los Banos this year for the 132nd May Day Parade, which will take place on Saturday May 4 beginning at 9 a.m.

What started as a way to celebrate all the hard work of famed Cattle King Henry Miller and all his employees turned into a long-standing tradition that celebrates hometown pride.

The first parade took place in 1890, starting near the railroad station, working its way toward the picnic grounds, bringing food and fun to Miller's many hard-working employees.

Although Miller has long since passed, the celebration continues today as the community looks forward to the Merced County Spring Fair year after year.

This year, the fair's theme is "Country Vibes and Carnival Rides," and participants within the parade's 27 categories will



Gene Lieb/The Express

LEFT: A member of the Merced County Sheriff Posse carries the American flag in the 2023 May Day Fair parade; RIGHT: School marching bands from all around Merced County, such as this one from Dos Palos High School, travel to Los Banos to perform at the May Day Fair parade each year.

board of directors sponsors the parade with the cooperation of Los Banos Parlor No. 206 Native Sons.

Through the years, this event has been a community highlight, so make sure to visit the Milliken Museum to view photos of years past, featuring just some of the

hundreds of antique cars that have filed through the parade and horses pulling buggies decorated with flags and fineries, showcasing local pride.

Don't miss out on continuing one of Los Banos' oldest traditions and celebrate the community with pride!

CENCAL MACHINE & FABRICATION, INC

SPECIALIZING IN:

- STEEL, ALUMINUM & STAINLESS SALES
- CNC PLASMA CUTTING
- FULL MACHINE SHOP
- METAL FORMING
- WELDING REPAIR
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT REPAIR
- TRAILER REPAIR
- PORTABLE / ONSITE SERVICES

Enjoy the fair!



CALL OR STOP BY FOR A FREE QUOTE
1242 G STREET - LOS BANOS, CA 93635
(209) 826-6404

The UPS Store™

Locally owned and operated



- UPS® Shipping
- Mailbox Services
- Printing Services
- Office Supplies
- Packing Services
- Freight Services
- Notary Services
- Moving Supplies
- Packaging Materials
- Live Scan Fingerprinting

Monday - Friday 8am – 6:30pm

Saturday 10am – 4pm

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm

1350 E Pacheco Blvd., Suite B, Los Banos, CA 93635

209.826.3055 Tel • 209.826.3755 Fax

store5477@theupsstore.com

Bonny Howell

REALTOR®



Are you thinking about buying or selling in 2024?

Call Bonny for your complimentary Market Analysis!

Help Bonny collect food for the Los Banos Rotary Club's Feed The Need Program to help feed elementary students in Los Banos. Please drop off non-perishable food to 907 Sixth St., Los Banos.

Your property is my priority.

Experience has its rewards!

408-605-9557

howellbonny@yahoo.com



Equal Housing Opportunity. All offices independently owned and operated. Not intended as a solicitation of other brokers' clients. DRE#01440253

kw PROPERTY TEAM
KELLERWILLIAMS.

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • TRUST SALES
LAND • MOBILE HOMES • BUSINESS SALES
LEASING • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
FORECLOSURES • SHORT SALES**

Languages spoken: Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Hindi.

Serving counties of:

Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito,
Santa Clara, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Valley

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

242 | ST. LOS BANOS, CA
209-826-7777

713 E LAKE AVE. WATSONVILLE, CA
831-722-7131

AldinaRealEstate.com | AldinaPropertyManagement.com



ADAM GRAY FOR CONGRESS

**Adam Gray has always put
the Central Valley first**



**ADAM
GRAY**

For 10 years in the State Assembly, Adam championed bipartisan common-sense solutions to our most critical issues, like access to affordable health care, job creation, education, public safety, and protecting our water.

Adam is the only candidate with a proven track record of fighting and delivering for the Valley. He is running to represent the 13th Congressional District which includes all of Merced County and portions of the counties of Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno and San Joaquin.

P.O. Box 1229, Merced, CA 95341
www.AdamGrayForCongress.com



LOS BANOS ROOFING



CSLB #1093579
Call for your free estimate
(209) 704-7681



Quality work is our number one priority

BBB Rating & Accreditation



Accredited Since: 10/18/2023
Years in Business: 1



@LOS_BANOS_ROOFING





COLDWELL BANKER

KALJIAN & ASSOCIATES

645 E. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos • www.losbanosrealestate.com

(209) 826-1826 or (800) 788-8632

- Over 45 Years of Experience
- Available 7 Days a Week
- Locally Owned and Operated
- Hablamos Español



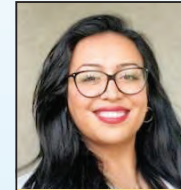
Jennifer Villada
Manager/Realtor
(209) 737-6047
Hablo Espanol
CalDRE#02067713



Theresa Bartholomew
Realtor
(209) 704-0821
CalDRE#01039974



Rita Calderon
Realtor
(209) 509-9192
CalDRE#01708941



Daniela Guilford
Realtor
(209) 675-4880
Hablo Espanol
CalDRE# 02156204



Lena Marshall
Realtor
(209) 761-3441
CalDRE#01418100

If you are interested in becoming a real estate agent, we can help! If you already have your license and are looking for a great place to work, call us today and ask for Jennifer.



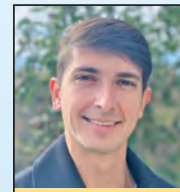
Leticia Moreno
Realtor
(209) 519-7792
American Sign Language
CalDRE# 02144775



Norma Munoz
Realtor
(209) 675-5353
CalDRE#01818704



Kim Ribeiro
Broker Associate
(209) 769-0696
CalDRE#01075644



Diego Velasquez
Realtor
(209) 704-2570
Hablo Espanol
CalDRE#02102488



Independently owned & operated

CalDRE #01426298

T. Kaljian Real Estate

Call us for commercial, multi-family investment development and farm land.

If you have a real estate question, call us for the answer.

645 E. Pacheco Blvd.
Los Banos (209) 826-8864
CalDRE #00528796



Thomas E. Kaljian
(209) 769-8091
Owner/Broker
CalDRE#00528796



Jarrett Sagouspe
(209) 769-7562
Realtor
CalDRE#01731872



DJ Vala
(209) 803-8039
Realtor
CalDRE#01456703

www.losbanoscommercialrealestate.com



LOS BANOS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Are you Happy with your Property Management Company?

- Locally Owned & Operated • Superior Management • Preventive Maintenance Inspections • Affordable Rates
- Effective Marketing • Thorough Credit/Background Checks

645 E. Pacheco Blvd. Los Banos CA 93635 • Office: **209-710-5680**

Email propertymgtlosbanos@gmail.com • www.losbanospropertymgtservices.com

CalDRE #01426297

