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Back Road Wineries event comes to Creston
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MEGA SWAP
Parts swap meet coming to Warbird museum
ENTERTAINMENT | B1



HOUNDS WIN
Atascadero tops Knights
SPORTS | C1

ATASCADERO NEWS

ATASCADERO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

VOL. 100 NO. 36

LOCAL



Allyson Oken/Atascadero News

Local residents wave flags and signs of thanks as firefighters pass by on their way to the Chimney Fire during a rally in Paso Robles Saturday.

Thanking firefighters

Residents rally as Chimney Fire nears full containment

BY ALLYSON OKEN
OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS

On Saturday, Aug. 27, the corner of Spring Street and 24th Street in Paso Robles was alive with residents out to thank firefighters for their efforts to extinguish the Chimney Fire, which has been burning since Aug. 13 and has destroyed 49 homes. Approximately 200 locals turned out for the event, many of them

waking up at 6 a.m. to arrive at Flamson Middle School in time to see the fire trucks driving by on their way to the fire. Those in attendance waved signs and children whooped and hollered to support the heroes of the Chimney Fire.

Long-time Paso Robles resident Tara Peck was out with her friends and family at the event, hoisting American flags in the air and signs that read "Our Life Line," "Our Home," and "Thank you Firefighters."

See FIRE, A10

ELECTION

Three vying for mayor

Two newcomers challenge O'Malley

BY LUKE PHILLIPS
OF THE ATASCADERO NEWS

ATASCADERO — Two newcomers — Ann Ketcherside and Nicholas Mattson — will challenge incumbent Tom O'Malley for the position of Mayor of Atascadero when residents head to the polls on Nov. 8. O'Malley has served two two-year terms as mayor including his current term. Ketcherside unsuccessfully ran for City Council in 2012. The election will mark Mattson's first run for political office.



KETCHERSIDE



MATTSON

Each of the candidates was asked to provide the *Atascadero News* with a short biography and a 150-word candidate statement, which will be presented here in alphabetical order by last name.

Ketcherside did not provide a biography but did provide a statement.



O'MALLEY

"The reason I am running is because the Lord put in my heart that people are not happy with many things going on in Atascadero," Ketch-

See ELECTION, A10

CRIME

Atascadero resident killed in Grover Beach hit-and-run

Second victim in serious condition

STAFF REPORT

GROVER BEACH — One Atascadero resident lost her life and another was left with serious injuries after being hit by a vehicle in Grover Beach Saturday.

Police responded to multiple reports of a hit-and-run collision at the intersection of 7th Street and Grand Avenue in Grover Beach on Aug. 27

at approximately 9:55 p.m. and found two adults lying in the roadway. Although first aid was administered, Juli Anna Conn, 59, of Atascadero, was pronounced dead at the scene and Steven Lee Stapleton, 54, of Ata-



CONN

scadero, was transported to a local hospital with major injuries and was admitted to the Intensive Car Unit.

According to witnesses at the scene, the suspect vehicle fled the area, heading eastbound on Grand Avenue after striking the victims.



STAPLETON

During the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 28, several people who claimed to have information about the incident contacted Grover Beach police investigators and provided the identity of the alleged suspect, 20-year-old Zachary David Diaz, of



DIAZ

Arroyo Grande.

Information obtained during the interviews also led police to the vehicle involved in the hit-and-run. Police arrested Diaz at approximately 3:38 a.m. and he was booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail on felony charges of vehicular manslaughter and felony hit-and-run.

The incident is still under investigation and anyone with further information is asked to contact the Grover Beach Police Department at 473-4511.

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WEATHER



Today
High 81° | Low 53°
Forecast, Page A10
RAIN SEASON YTD —0.00"

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WEATHER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	75 51	73 50	77 51	85 54	87 55	87 58



Allyson Oken/Atascadero News

Residents gathered at the corner of Spring Street and 24th Street in Paso Robles Saturday to show their appreciation for firefighters working to contain the Chimney Fire.

FIRE

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"It is really just amazing seeing an entire city's worth of firefighters come into our community and do so much to save homes, lives and our countryside," she said.

As the morning progressed, more locals turned out with signs ready to thank the passing firefighters. As the firetrucks passed the throng of people lining the streets they waved, honked their horns and were all

smiles.

As of Thursday morning the Chimney Fire is 91 percent contained and had not grown in size since Tuesday, Aug. 30, burning a total of 46,344 acres.

Cal Fire public information officer Brian Steiger said that full containment is expected to be reached Thursday, Sept. 1.

"With only 9 percent left, 100 percent containment is expected by the late afternoon Thursday," he said. "The cause of the Chimney Fire is still under investigation.

Today, firefighters will continue to make progress toward full containment of the fire. Crews will remain throughout the fire perimeter into next week to remove all firefighting equipment."

Steiger said that all road closures have been lifted and asked that people who do not own homes or businesses in the affected areas stay away.

Red Cross mobile teams were driving through the communities affected by the Chimney Fire throughout the day on Saturday, Aug. 27, to

distribute supplies.

Volunteers provided residents with sifters, work gloves, shovels, tarps, masks, and more to help with the recovery and cleanup process. Caseworkers were also on hand to work one-on-one with each family to provide financial assistance and additional resources or referrals.

"In some cases these families have lost everything," said Regional Director of Communications Jessica Piffero. "There's so much to think about, from the cleanup, to paperwork, or simply buying new clothes.

Our volunteers are here to help make that process a little easier."

Residents looking for more information about what Red Cross services available are encouraged to call the Red Cross Chimney Fire hotline at 250-1533.

Since the Chimney Fire began the North County and in particular citizens of Paso Robles have come together to support those who have lost their homes and to thank the more than 3,000 firefighters who have given up a month of their lives to stop the fire in its tracks.

ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

side wrote. "Atascadero claims to be business-friendly, but when a person wants to start a new business, City Hall puts up all kinds of stop signs such as high fees to get the planning portion done and other high fees. The town is losing good business due to high fees and rules that make it so the businesses can't make it here. Where you lose business you lose jobs. People tell me that City Hall has become greedy, so let's get new decision makers in City Hall."

A 1997 graduate of Atascadero High School, Mattson spent five years in Las Vegas after graduating where he found a passion for politics while working for a campaign management firm. He also spent two years living in Mammoth Lakes.

Mattson returned to Atascadero in 2006 to continue his education and in 2009 he began to dedicate his time to local nonprofit causes including postings with the Atascadero Greyhound Foundation, the Atascadero Colony Days Committee, the Friends of the Atascadero Li-

brary, the Atascadero Printery Foundation and RISE.

Mattson married his high school sweetheart Hayley in 2012 and positioned his education to return to work, taking his current position as the sports editor at the *Atascadero News* while continuing his nonprofit work.

Mattson is the father of two boys, Mirac, 4, and Maximus, 2, and a 12-year-old stepdaughter Elle.

"As a resident of Atascadero since 1978, it has always been my home," Mattson wrote in his statement to the *Atascadero News*. "When I returned home in 2006, I found a community worth dedicating to. I spent the next 10 years in service, studying City action or inaction, and developing a clear concern. In the past year, my understanding of City politics has grown, as has my concern for where we decided to go as a community. I see a lack of energy in the City to support our 2009 Economic Development Strategy, designate concentrated zoning for effective economic synergy, enlist a residents-first philosophy, reconnect a fractured political fabric, and make Atascadero economically independent. Looking at the candidates running for the seat

of Mayor of Atascadero, I felt it was the right time to give Atascadero voters the opportunity to choose to put our past in perspective, and decide on our future."

Tom O'Malley and his wife Peggy are third-generation residents of Atascadero and recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

O'Malley has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a master's degree from Cal Poly. He has extensive financial and computer systems management experience in both the public and private sector. O'Malley and his wife operate the Portola Inn in Atascadero where they host weddings and community fundraisers.

O'Malley is an active member of the Atascadero Chamber of Commerce and the Atascadero Kiwanis Club. He has founded many local fundraising events including the annual Kiwanis Mayor's Winemaker Dinner, a Mother's Day Brunch for RISE, and a performance dinner supporting Cuesta College. He has served as the chairperson of multiple county organizations including the Economic Vitality Corporation and

the Council of Governments.

"Born and raised in Atascadero, I know the critical importance of two things: volunteerism and relationships," O'Malley wrote in his statement to the *Atascadero News*. "Volunteers like my Scout leader Charles Paddock, who started our zoo, have built this community. My relationship with my father, one of our community's first firefighters, who built my childhood home, taught me a basic work ethic and that we can work together to solve any problem. I respect and support those traditions; traditions manifested by organizations like Peoples Self-Help Housing and others that offer people hope for housing and the important basics of life. These traditions lead us to build consensus on a long-term community vision and the plans to tackle complex issues. That vision is critical now. We are at a strategic crossroad. Others are investing in our community, more than ever before. Now is the time to guide that activity to preserve our heritage and guarantee a bright future for Atascadero."

See next week's issue of the *Atascadero News* for more on the local City Council and school board races.

Atascadero Chamber of Commerce Welcomes new members

 <p>Pampered Chef Laura Gholson (805)709-4286 https://www.pamperedchef.biz/lauragholson1020</p>	 <p>Mullahey Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram</p> <p>All the latest Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram models can be found at Mullahey Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. The chance for us to aid folks in the San Luis Obispo County area to buy the car they love and deserve is what we're here for. You can Find New & Used Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram with a huge inventory. Come visit us soon! 2520 Golden Hill Road Paso Robles CA 93446 (805)369-2400 www.mullaheycjdr.com</p>	 <p>Cali-Fresh Cuisine. Cocktails. Comfort.</p> <p>Jeff Marston, Tyler Phillips & Josh Cantrell 9006 West Front Road Atascadero, CA 93422 (805)460-7371 www.marstons101.com</p>	 <p>Popolo Catering is a family owned and operated catering company that specializes in Santa Maria Style BBQ, Italian, and Mexican food. We believe in customizing menus and services to fit our client's specific needs. Popolo Catering serves the Central Coast from Bradley to Santa Barbara. Leon Castillo 1605 Calle Joaquin San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805)543-9543 www.popolocatering.com</p>	 <p>We are a one stop eye clinic offering eye exams, glasses, contact lenses and medical eye care. We just completed a complete remodel with new frames, displays and examination equipment, without raising our prices which are the lowest in the county. We offer same day service on most eyeglass prescriptions. Rupert Chowins 8105 Morro Road, Suite A Atascadero, CA 93422 (805)466-6939</p>	 <p>At Volt, we measure ourselves by the success of our clients, so every service is tailored to give your business the flexibility, agility, and insights to achieve great results. Hayley Duncan 714 Pine Street Paso Robles CA 93446 (805)237-0882 www.volt.com</p>
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