



King City Rustler

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WILDFIRES

Smoke fills skies over the valley

DOLAN FIRE CONTINUES TO GROW, TRIGGERING EVACUATION WARNING FOR AREAS WEST OF GREENFIELD AND KING CITY

BY RYAN CRONK
MANAGING EDITOR

SALINAS VALLEY — Smoke from the Dolan Fire has made its way to Salinas Valley, as the wildfire continues to spread east from the Pacific coastline along Highway 1, about 10 miles south of Big Sur.

As of Tuesday morning, the fire has burned 73,089 acres of Los Padres National Forest's Ventana Wilderness, including

portions of Fort Hunter Liggett territory, and is 40% contained. More than 800 personnel have been assigned to the fire, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

"Very hot weather over the Labor Day weekend has meant increased fire activity, with uphill runs and trees torching," the U.S. Forest Service said in its incident overview Tuesday.

→ See FIRE, A10



Sarah McManamy/Big Sur Fire

The Dolan Fire spreads along the Pacific coastline south of Big Sur, the smoke of which can now be seen over the Salinas Valley.

COLLEGE



Sean Roney/Staff

IN THE WORKS Construction workers seal the building's exterior of the King City Education Center's expansion. Below, the expansion joins with the existing building, intersecting with the current walkways and stairwell.

Campus expands

CONSTRUCTION ON TRACK AT HARTNELL'S KING CITY EDUCATION CENTER

BY SEAN RONEY
STAFF REPORTER

New classroom construction at Hartnell College's King City Education Center continues, as the two-story framework is ready for weather barriers and sealing the building from outside elements.

The satellite campus has been undergoing an expansion since the beginning of this year.

"If all goes well in our county and if the Covid-19 cases decline, we will have a soft opening in spring;

→ See COLLEGE, A10



COVID-19

County's risk level remains unchanged

BY SEAN RONEY
STAFF REPORTER

MONTEREY COUNTY — Gov. Gavin Newsom announced revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities within California on Aug. 28.

The new program, Blueprint for a Safer Economy, replaces the County Data Monitoring List for determining which business can and cannot open and assigns counties to a tier-based color system using case rates and positivity rates.

Monterey County began at, and is currently placed within, the purple "Widespread risk" tier, which comes with the most restrictions to business operations.

→ See RISK, A5

LOCAL

City swears in new police sergeant

BY SEAN RONEY
STAFF REPORTER

KING CITY — Anthony Shaw swore in with a peace officer's oath as King City Police Department's newest sergeant during a broadcast via Facebook Live last week.

Shaw's wife, Amber, was present, as was his mother-in-law and his two sons, who had the honor of pinning the badge on their father during the Sept. 2 ceremony.

"I look forward to beginning my career here in King City and helping out," Shaw said.

King City Police Chief Robert Masterson introduced Shaw and read his biography.

Shaw was born and raised in Vallejo, Calif., and began his law enforcement career as an explorer for the Vallejo Police Department.

→ See SERGEANT, A10

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WEATHER

Sunny
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Thursday will be sunny
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Today's low: 57
→ Forecast on page A2

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NEWSV MEDIA

FIRE

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“The fire continues to be active at night and previously quiet areas have seen renewed activity because of the absence of the any marine layer inversion,” the U.S. Forest Service added.

Officials said a fire camp is being established at Fort Hunter Liggett near Jolon to move resources closer to the active fire edge and reduce travel times.

An evacuation warning was issued Monday for a modified Zone 24, west of Greenfield and King City, due to the Dolan Fire’s increased activity. This zone includes areas west of Reliz Canyon Road to the intersection of Arroyo Seco Road; south of Arroyo Seco Road to the intersection of Santa Lucia Trail; east of Santa Lucia Trail to the intersection of Bear Mountain Trail; and north of Bear Mountain Trail to the intersection of Reliz Canyon Road.

An evacuation warning means those in the specific area should be prepared to evacuate at any time, if a mandatory evacuation order is called.

“In Zone 24, the fire still has been pushing its way in that direction

but hasn’t hit our trigger point yet to turn that into a mandatory evacuation,” said Rob Allen, incident commander, at a press briefing Tuesday.

Monterey County has opened an evacuation center at the King City Library, 404 Broadway St., for residents who are being impacted by the Dolan Fire. The center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to provide information and support, snacks, water and device charging for evacuees.

Allen also confirmed a shelter deployment involving 15 firefighters, who were battling the Dolan Fire, occurred at about 8:31 a.m. Tuesday in the vicinity of Nacimiento Station, off Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. Three of the firefighters were injured, one critically, and the fire station was destroyed.

“We’re working with the sheriff’s department on re-evaluating where our closure zones are right now, what/where our evacuation zones are, and what areas will be in warnings next as the fire continues to move in different directions,” Allen said.

Cal Fire’s San Benito-Monterey Unit also issued a smoke advisory Monday for the River and Carmel



Smoke from the Dolan Fire moves across the sky Monday evening above King City.

fire areas west of the Salinas Valley due to the excessive heat.

“As the temperature increases and relative humidity decreases, we are reminded of the dangers associated with the River and Carmel fires,” Cal Fire said in a news release. “While this heat wave occurs, we remain vigilant and continue to patrol the reinforced fire containment lines as well as the pockets of unburned vegetation from within the fire perimeter.”

The smoldering vegetation from within each fire’s perimeter has been burning and will continue to burn, causing smoke to rise and be seen, officials said.

“While this occurs, we would like to advise the public that our fire resources are aware of this and will continue to patrol the areas involved,” Cal Fire said. “We ask that you contact 911 only if fire is observed outside of the River or Carmel fire perimeters.”

The River and Carmel fires reached 100% containment on Sept. 4. Final numbers show the

River Fire burned a total of 48,088 acres, destroyed 30 structures and damaged 13 others, while the Carmel Fire scorched 6,905 acres, destroyed 73 buildings and damaged seven others.

COUNTY EXTENDS ASSISTANCE CENTER

While the River and Carmel fires are now fully contained, Monterey County has extended its Local Assistance Center until Saturday to give more time to wildfire survivors who need disaster support.

“Monterey County is extending its Local Assistance Center to give those impacted by wildfires more time to get disaster assistance,” said Maia Carroll, communications coordinator for Monterey County. “The center will remain open through Sept. 12.”

Set up at the Monterey Conference Center, 1 Portola Plaza in Monterey, the Local Assistance Center provides resources for residents affected by the wildfires, including those whose business or home

was either destroyed or damaged and those who incurred expenses due to evacuation orders.

The center, which was originally set to close Sept. 5, will now be open through Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are on site to assist with disaster applications. New this week, the Employment Development Department is also available to help those whose jobs have been affected.

Other agencies on site include the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and State Vital Statistics to help replace DMV-related documents and other identification forms that might have been lost; Monterey County Resource Management Agency to assist with rebuilding permits; Department of Social Services; and the County Assessor’s Office.

Covid-19 safety protocols are in place at the Monterey Conference Center (MCC), which had adapted its conference

space in April to host socially distant meetings.

“MCC has been sitting empty since Monterey County’s shelter-in-place restrictions in mid-March,” said Doug Philips, general manager at MCC, in a news release from the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Seeing the community in distress, we wanted to help however we could. We have the space and we have the ability to operate safely.”

FEDERAL HELP FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL

Six counties in California, including Monterey County, have been designated to receive federal assistance for wildfire debris removal under FEMA’s Public Assistance Program.

A Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California was granted Aug. 22, triggering the release of federal funds to help communities recovering from recent wildfires. The declaration was amended Sept. 5 to add support for debris removal in Lake, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma counties.

These six counties, plus San Mateo and Yolo counties, were previously designated for FEMA’s Individual Assistance Program and for Public Assistance with emergency protective measures.

Monterey County residents can stop by the Local Assistance Center in Monterey to apply for FEMA financial assistance, or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 between 7 a.m. and 10:30 p.m., or visit disasterassistance.gov.

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COLLEGE

Continued from A1

however, we are still expecting to have online classes and services and there will be a brief soft opening,” said Mostafa Ghous, the dean of academic affairs for Hartnell’s South County education services.

“Classes will continue to be online and there will be minimal staff to assist students that require in-person assistance. Again, this will depend on the cases in the county and direction from our superintendent,” Ghous added.

Building envelopes have been prepared for the exterior application, and roofing is currently being put on the building. Interior sheetrock was

slated to begin this week, as the window installation continues.

Most recently, control joints were installed in the expansion, with testing of the windows having recently completed and passed.

Ghous said most windows and electrical components have been installed, with some plumbing completed.

“With the closing in of the building envelope, insulation can also start,” he said.

The walls of the prior building were broken through months ago to allow connection to the expansion’s walls, and they are now undergoing permanent attachment and integration.

Despite the new facility being able to

host more classes and students, the campus cannot immediately open to those new pupils due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

“The college is concerned with the safety of the students, staff and community,” Ghous said. “We do not want to expose the general and college population to the virus. We are 100% online until further notice.”

In addition to the expanded King City campus, Ghous is overseeing the construction of the new Soledad campus for Hartnell.

“For now, we are preparing for a soft launch with limited services, such as book lending, library services, etc.,” Ghous said about

how the King City Education Center and the incoming Soledad campus will function while the community college operates under distance learning mode.

Virtual attendants are available on weekdays for student services while they take classes online, during both the current semester and most likely the next one, as well.

“We encourage everyone to use the virtual attendant services as much as possible,” Ghous said.

In addition, pick-ups and drop-offs for book distributions and lending will take place in a “safe and coordinated manner,” Ghous added. He said students will be notified in advance of any such events.

SERGEANT

Continued from A1

Shaw served as a police intern for Concord Police Department prior to his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he received a combat meritorious promotion to corporal.

When Shaw returned from his combat deployment, he put himself through police academy and was hired by Central Marin Police Authority in 2007.

According to Masterson, Shaw’s duties during his 13 years with the Central Marin Police Authority included patrol, special response team, explorer adviser, diversionary device instructor, traffic officer, cadet supervisor,



Anthony Shaw joins the King City Police Department as a sergeant at a Sept. 2 swearing-in ceremony.

field training officer and the honor guard.

Masterson said Shaw was honored by his department with a values award and was recognized multiple times by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers “for his continued dedication to the enforcement of impaired drivers.”

“Shaw brings on a large amount of training and experience and we are happy to welcome him to the King City Police Department,” Masterson said. “We are very pleased to bring Sgt. Shaw on board here in King City. It helps round out our department.”

Masterson noted the infrequent vacancies in the department in recent years, calling the department “stable.”

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