County Scholarship Fundraiser: Last Call for Recipes

The Monterey County Scholarship Committee needs your – recipe!

It is not too late to submit your recipe for the committee’s employee cookbook fundraising project. This scholarship program supports county employee dependents who are continuing their education.

The deadline for submissions is now Friday, January 31st. Recipes submitted can be an old family favorite, from a magazine or a favorite cookbook. To submit a recipe:

- Send typed recipes to RobertsDM@co.monterey.ca.us
- Insert subject line: ‘Calling all Cooks’
- Include the food category (see list below), your name as you wish it to appear in the cookbook, and your department at the County.

Food categories for recipes include:

- Appetizers, Beverages & Dips
- Breads & Rolls
- Vegetables & Side Dishes
- Soups & Salads
- Main Dish
- Desserts
- Cookies & Candies
- Miscellaneous
How Sheriff’s Detectives Crack Those Cold Cases

In the movies and on TV, it takes just an hour or so to solve a so-called cold case crime. In real life, it can take years of dedicated work by detectives until a case is ‘cracked.’

“Our office does not have a Cold Case Unit,’ explains Sheriff Scott Miller, but he adds, that does not mean those cases are forgotten. “Sergeants regularly review cold cases and assign those files that can be worked with technology that was not available at the time the crime occurred, such as DNA.”

That tenacity has paid off. After several years of work, Detective Marty Opseth recently solved the 1981 murders of two women whose bodies were found on Chews Ridge in Monterey County, a case that was prosecuted in El Dorado County. And Detective Shaheen Jorgensen cracked a 30-year old homicide case, which resulted in a conviction last year.

“When you hear the words ‘cold case,’ most people think of unsolved homicides,” says Jorgensen. “Homicide and attempted homicide have no statute of limitations, so they can ‘go cold’ when leads and resources run out. However, any detective will tell you there is always interest in solving a crime, particularly a homicide no matter how old it is.”

The case Jorgensen solved dates back to 1982. On May 17th of that year, a man named Manuel Pasqueira Sandoval was killed on a remote horse ranch, apparently after an argument over a girl. Authorities suspected another ranch hand, Ubaldo Sanchez, but Sanchez fled the country and the case was never solved. Fast forward 26 years to 2008, and new information surfaced, so Jorgensen reopened the case.

In her own words, here is how an investigatory fire was lit under this cold case.

Q. Why were you able to reopen the case?

A. In 2008, witnesses came forward with previously undisclosed information that resurrected the investigation and gave other witnesses the courage to speak up. I was able to locate almost all of the original witnesses, even some of those that had fled to Mexico in 1982.

Q. What are the challenges of reopening a case this old?

A. One of the challenges we faced was having evidence items that by today’s standards would have been tested for DNA. But back in 1982, DNA was not available. Also in 1982, evidence items weren’t collected in the same way as today. Gloves were not always worn during the collection and processing of evidence, making DNA testing in this case useless.
The other hurdle we faced was that many of the original law enforcement members and support personnel had either passed away or were in deteriorated health, and of course, asking people to recall and recount events and statements from more than 30 years ago is a challenge.

Q. **What was the tipping point that solved the case?**

A. The one advantage to a decades old crime is that suspects tend to regain a sense of comfort and often go back to their old habits. Ubaldo Sanchez was taken into custody in San Luis Obispo County in 2010 for outstanding warrants. When I spoke to him, Sanchez himself ultimately corroborated many of the witness statements and made admissions as to his role in the death of Manuel Pesquiera Sandoval.

Q. **How was this suspect able to ‘get away’ with the crime for so long?**

A. In 1982, we did not live in the digital world of today. Inter-agency communication was not easily facilitated and it was a long process to confirm a person’s identity with fingerprints and Polaroid photos. We couldn’t easily communicate with the Border Stations as we do today. Mr. Sanchez showed himself to be very adept at crossing into the United States from Mexico without being noticed. As you can see, without the witnesses’ testimony, the investigation would have remained cold.

The case against Ubaldo Sanchez went to trial and in September 2013, Sanchez was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Jorgensen acknowledges and thanks Deputy District Attorney Scott Donahue and DA Investigator George Ramirez who worked long hours to bring the case to trial and win a long-overdue conviction.

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**Young Artists Put Health in the Picture**

Do you know a young artist? Encourage him or her to take part in the Health Department’s 4th annual Stay Healthy! Poster Contest.

Entries are now being accepted and the deadline for submissions is February 28th. This yearly contest is an opportunity for children in grades Kindergarten through 8th to use
creativity to share healthy messages. It’s also a great opportunity for teachers and parents to talk to children about healthy behaviors.

Children can select from these themes for their artwork:

- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough
- Stay home when you are sick
- Eat healthy
- Stay active

Students can use either English or Spanish in their artwork. Entry forms and additional information about entering posters can be found here:

Above and left are examples of poster art from previous year’s competitions.