**Monterey County Administrative Office**  
Lew C. Bauman, CAO

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**In this edition:**

- Parks Department forges international ties
- Health Department has tips for a food-safe Thanksgiving
- The Sheriff’s Office is calling all teddy bears

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**County Parks, Museum Make International Connections Through Agriculture**

The Parks Department and the Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life Museum (MCARLM) have launched an international agricultural collaboration bringing school children from two countries together using agriculture as their common bond.

The program is called Common Ground Garden. The project is funded through a Museums Connect grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, a program administered by the American Alliance of Museums. Museums Connect links U.S. communities with communities around the world through innovative, museum-based exchanges.

The County’s international partner is the Casa
K’ínich Children’s Museum in Copan, Honduras. Students from both countries will learn about environmental stewardship through shared experiences building and organic garden.

At MCARLM, students from Oak Avenue School in Greenfield were recruited through project partner the Greenfield Community Science Workshop (GCSW). In Honduras, students were recruited through the Casitas Copan Children’s Home and the Mayatan School. A total of 40 children are involved from both countries. All have already begun the hard work of garden building.

Last month, Greenfield students built raised garden beds and transported them to the garden at San Lorenzo Park where the garden project will be based.

Students filled the beds with soil, installed a drip irrigation system with the help of the University of California Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardeners and planted winter vegetables donated by the Monterey County Cooperative Extension.
In Honduras, the Casa K’ínich Common Ground garden is located at the Macaw Mountain Bird Park and Nature Reserve. The garden area had to be cleared and terraced before students could start planting. Besides planting vegetables, a living fence of papaya trees is being created which will help feed the endangered macaws and cut dust from the nearby road.

The children involved in the program range in age from nine to eleven and will be able to connect through shared lesson plans, as pen pals and through on-line chats. The program will culminate with the creation of a bi-lingual cookbook based on the vegetables they grow in their gardens. Each child will submit one family recipe.

You can visit the garden site at San Lorenzo Park in King City and watch the project’s progress. Park hours and directions can be found on the Parks Department website. Find out more about the Monterey County Agricultural & Rural Life Museum (MCARLM) at www.mcarlm.org.

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**Health Department Says Make Food Safety Part of Your Thanksgiving Meal Plan**

The Health Department wants us to put food safety on the menu this Thanksgiving.

Turkey is traditionally the cornerstone of this holiday meal and cooking it safely is important so guests don’t leave with an unwanted extra helping of food-borne illness. Staff at the Environmental Health Bureau are sharing these pointers from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for safe turkey preparation and cooking.

1. **Preparing your bird.**
   - If you are buying a frozen turkey, buy a few days in advance to allow time for thawing.
   - If you plan to buy a fresh turkey, don't buy it too soon. Fresh, unfrozen poultry should be kept in the refrigerator no more than two days before cooking.
   - Be sure you have a food thermometer for cooking.

2. **One to Two Days in Advance.**
   - Pick your stuffing. Stuffing is safest when prepared just before cooking.

3. **Thanksgiving Day – time to cook!**
   - Place your raw bird, stuffed or unstuffed, in a preheated oven set to 325 °F or higher.
The turkey must reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F, as measured with a food thermometer in the innermost part of the thigh, the wing, the thickest part of the breast and the stuffing in order to destroy bacteria that could be present.
Bacteria can survive in poultry or stuffing, whether cooked inside or outside the turkey. Don’t risk food borne illness; make sure stuffing reaches 165 °F as well.

4. **Right after dinner, "chill out."**
   After dinner, chill leftovers quickly to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. Bacteria spread fastest at temperatures between 40 °F and 140 °F

For more information about food safety visit [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov). Have a healthy, happy and delicious holiday.

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**Teddy Bears Top the Sheriff’s Office Holiday ‘Most Wanted’ List**

If you want to get into the holiday giving season a little early this year, the Sheriff’s Office has kicked off its Teddy Bear Program. This giving program puts teddy bears and other soft, cuddly toys in the hands of children very much in need of them.

The program started more than 20 years ago as a way to provide bears to Patrol Deputies to keep on hand and give out through the year when they respond to calls and encounter children in need of comfort.

These toys have found their way to children in homes where domestic violence or other such tragic or traumatic situation has occurred. The Detective Division has utilized teddy bears when interviewing young victims of sexual/physical assault and domestic violence cases. The Coroner’s Office has them on hand for those situations where they are making a death notification where a child may be present.
Donated bears are also provided to the Bailiffs for Adoption Court. They are presented to the adoptee at the time their adoption is finalized by the judge as a way to commemorate their special day.

During the holiday season, bears are provided to the many agencies the Sheriff’s Office works with for youngsters who may not otherwise receive a holiday gift.

Toy donations can be dropped off at the locations listed in the box at right. It’s a good idea to call before bringing a donation to insure someone will be available to accept your gift.

Cash donations are also accepted to purchase new teddy bears. Contact Donna Galletti at the Sheriff’s Office Coastal Station in Monterey at 647-7909 for more information.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COASTAL STATION-MONTEREY</strong></td>
<td>1200 Aguajito Road, Room 002, Monterey</td>
<td>831-647-7702</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRAL STATION-SALINAS</strong></td>
<td>1414 Natividad Road Salinas</td>
<td>831-755-3700</td>
<td>8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CASTROVILLE FIELD OFFICE</strong></td>
<td>10680 Merritt Street, Castroville</td>
<td>831-759-6675</td>
<td>8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH COUNTY STATION-KING CITY</strong></td>
<td>250 Franciscan Way King City</td>
<td>831-385-8312</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
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