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COLLEGE

Hartnell breaks ground

Construction begins on new Soledad campus



Ryan Cronk/Staff

Soledad youth help city and college officials shovel dirt during the Nov. 8 groundbreaking ceremony at the new Soledad Education Center site.

BY RYAN CRONK
MANAGING EDITOR

SOLEDAD — Hartnell College has broken ground on its new Soledad Education Center and celebrated the start of construction this month with a groundbreaking ceremony that was attended by more than 100 community members, local students and elected officials.

Scheduled to open in spring 2021, the 16,750-square-foot multipurpose educational center is being built on 3.7 acres at the north-east corner of Metz Road and Orchard Lane in Soledad.

The building will include four classrooms and both wet and dry science laboratories to support STEM, health care and agriculture training, in addition to a Student Success Center, courtyard and community room.

About 95 percent of the center's electrical needs will be met through solar panels installed on the facility.

The Nov. 8 ceremony at the new Soledad Education Center's site featured a dozen speakers, ranging from college officials to high school students to mayors from south Monterey County.

(See COLLEGE, page A12)

LOCAL



Flynn Larsen/Courtesy of RWJF

Gonzales delegation (from left) Jean Salcido, Isabel Mendoza, Mayor Maria Orozco, Sonia Jaramillo, Carmen Gil and City Manager Rene Mendez attend the RWJF Culture of Health Prize Celebration in Princeton, N.J., to accept the city's award.

Foundation recognizes Gonzales for health care

❖ City chosen from nearly 200 communities for national award

STAFF REPORT

Gonzales has been named one of five winners of the 2019 RWJF Culture of Health Prize, awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), which honors communities for working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity and equity.

Chosen from nearly 200 applicant communities across the country, Gonzales is being nationally recognized for pursuing innovative ideas and bringing partners together to rally around a shared vision of health.

(See AWARD, page A12)



Josh Kohanek/Courtesy of RWJF

As part of the Wings of Knowledge initiative, Gonzales students (from left) Veronica Rodriguez, Leslie Hernandez, Maria Lopez and Andres Hernandez work on engineering projects on local farms.



Contributed Photo

The new memorial garden's stone begins its journey from Davis Canyon to the Lockwood Post Office, with Ken Wilkinson operating the tractor.

UPCOMING

Memorial garden to honor Belva Lockwood

Public ceremony set for Saturday at Lockwood Post Office

BY SUSAN RAYCRAFT
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Lockwood Post Office, 68025 Jolon Road.

The community is invited to the ceremony at 11:30 a.m., which will be followed by a no-host luncheon at Hungry Flats Diner.

LOCKWOOD — A new memorial garden will be dedicated in honor of Belva Lockwood this Saturday, Nov. 23, at the

The garden was planned and installed by the Lockwood PerSisters. It surrounds a bronze plaque mounted on a large rock donated by Jesus and Rosa Pacheco. Ken Wilkinson helped move the stone from Davis Canyon to the post office site.

The plaque is the gift of local organizations, including the Southern Monterey County Rural Coalition, San Antonio

Valley Historical Association, Southern Monterey County Betterment Association, NAC-ITONE and the Hesperia Hall Foundation. Members of the PerSisters are donating time, energy and ideas as well, and special thanks goes to Patricia Ashe Woodfill for the garden plants and their installation.

(See LOCKWOOD, page A12)

INDEX

Calendar.....B8	Obituaries.....A4
Classified/Legals.....B6-7	Opinion.....A3
Comics.....B4	Police Reports.....A5
Local Briefs.....A5	Sports.....B1
Mind, Body & Spirit.....B3	Weather.....A2

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny
High 66° | Low 38°
Forecast, Page A2

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COLLEGE
Continued from A1

Aurelio Salazar Jr., president of the Board of Trustees for the Hartnell Community College District, welcomed everyone in attendance and was followed by remarks from Hartnell Superintendent-President Patricia Hsieh.

"We are here to collaborate together to offer our students the opportunity to start their higher education," said Hsieh, adding that the new Soledad facility and other upcoming projects have been a true collaborative effort between the college and the respective communities.

Hartnell recently hosted public forums in King City, Soledad, Gonzales and Castroville to seek input from residents and employers about how the new centers can best meet the long-term needs of the college and Salinas Valley communities.

"We want to make sure our students will get good pay and very rewarding professional careers eventually, and that is our goal," Hsieh said. "... We want to encourage many of them with available job opportunities in the local community to stay here to give back all they learned to these wonderful communities and support them where they grew up."

Soledad Mayor Fred Ledesma gave special recognition to former Hartnell Superintendent-President Dr. Willard Lewallen for his help in getting the Soledad project off the ground.

"Dr. Lewallen, my thanks to you publicly, and I would like to give him a great round of applause for all that he's done for us," said Ledesma, igniting an eruption of applause from the crowd. "... On behalf of the City, I just want to thank you. We're excited for what's going to happen here in Soledad."

Ledesma also thanked Hartnell District 6 Board Trustee Erica Padilla-Chavez, who spoke during the ceremony as well, and her husband



Gonzales Mayor Maria Orozco, who graduated with honors from Hartnell's re-entry program, proudly speaks about her achievement through the college and says the new Soledad campus will benefit all south Monterey County residents.

Alejandro Chavez, Soledad mayor or pro tem, for making the project possible.

"I want to acknowledge both of them, because without the Chavezes, we would not have Hartnell College here today," he said. "... Erica said it best: Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield — you will see that the kids (and adult learners) will really utilize this campus."

Gonzales Mayor Maria Orozco, who graduated with honors from Hartnell's re-entry program, proudly spoke about her achievement through the college and said the new Soledad campus will benefit all south Monterey County residents.

"We would like to thank Hartnell for a continued partnership with the City of Gonzales, especially in making sure that our students have an opportunity to achieve and further their education goals," Orozco said. "... A South County campus here in Soledad will be a great benefit not only to Gonzales residents, but to

other South County residents who also want to attend classes to achieve their goals."

Greenfield Mayor Pro Tem Yanely Martinez then spoke on behalf of Greenfield Mayor Lance Walker, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"This is huge," Martinez said. "This is access for our students more than anything, for my children. I have four kids myself and I just think of them, but not only them, my community and South County. This is a moment for South County."

Martinez shared her speaking time with fellow Greenfield resident, Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez.

"Congratulations to the entire community and the city council here for your wise investment," Lopez said. "... The kids here know that this investment is in them, and you all made that happen. Thank you for making that investment in our kids."

Hartnell student Angelita Cisneros, an agricultural production and plant science major, talked about the difficulty she encountered regarding transportation when she took college classes while attending Soledad High School.

"As a sophomore in high school, I took the challenge of taking a manufacturing class at Hartnell with three other junior students, but there was a challenge: it was transportation," Cisneros said. "Transportation was a huge problem for me and the three other students ... and I don't want to see future students struggling with that."

A new campus in Soledad will help alleviate that problem for many local students, like Cisneros, who struggle to find transportation and the time to travel up to 30 minutes to attend classes in either Salinas or King City.

"We are celebrating the groundbreaking of Soledad's Hartnell institution today," Cisneros said. "Future Panthers will have the opportunity to stay at their hometown without

transportation problems or worry that they won't make it to class because it takes 30 minutes. I wouldn't want that to be an obstacle for future generations of this valley."

Soledad's campus will also include a bus pullout, enabling regular stops from Monterey-Salinas Transit, which now offers free rides to Hartnell students throughout the day at any destination within its service area.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Tim Vanoli, superintendent of Soledad Unified School District; Soledad High students Amber Solorio and Bryana Harrell, representing the Soledad Youth Council; Anna Velazquez, district director for state Sen. Anna Caballero; and Ricardo Estrada, field representative for Assemblymember Robert Rivas.

Mostafa Ghous, dean of South County education services at Hartnell's King City Education Center, also attended the groundbreaking that Friday morning.

The new Soledad Education Center is part of the first phase of construction funded through Measure T, a \$167 million bond measure approved in November 2016 by voters in the Hartnell Community College District. The project's general contractor is Dilbeck and Sons, with In Studio Architecture as the design architect.

An expansion of the King City Education Center, also a Measure T project, will double the size of the existing facility to about 25,000 square feet. The addition includes two new classrooms, study and computer rooms, wet and dry science laboratories, a Student Success Center and community room.

Hartnell is planning a groundbreaking for the King City expansion in December.

Other Measure T projects on the horizon include an education center in Castroville, serving north Monterey County, and a new nursing and health sciences building on Hartnell's Main Campus in Salinas.

AWARD
Continued from A1

The city's award-winning efforts include implementing initiatives and programs over the past decade that are resulting in real progress in Gonzales on youth engagement, economic development, health care access and sustainability.

"The City Council and staff are committed to working collaboratively to provide the resources necessary to bring excellent services that enhance the quality of life of

our diverse community," said Gonzales Mayor Maria Orozco. "We are honored to be recognized by RWJF for the years of hard work by many of our residents and community partners who have contributed to the city's goal of improving the overall health of all residents."

Gonzales will receive a \$25,000 prize, join a network of award-winning communities and have its inspiring accomplishments shared throughout the nation. The other four prize winners

are: Broward County, Fla.; Greenville County, S.C.; Lake County, Colo.; and Sitka, Alaska.

"The 2019 RWJF Culture of Health Prize winners recognize that health is about more than just healthcare. It's about what happens where we live, work, learn and play. They are fundamentally reshaping their communities so that everyone has a fair opportunity for health and well-being," said Richard Besser, M.D., president and CEO of RWJF. "These communities show the nation that solutions are within our grasp when we use local data to identify challenges and work together to implement solutions brought forward by residents."



Josh Kohanek/Courtesy of RWJF

Gonzales Pharmacy owner Jimmy Eitoku (left) reads over a prescription label with Pharmacy Technician Rosa Leon. Eitoku received a city-backed low interest business loan to create a walk-in sonogram clinic inside the pharmacy.

Gonzales now joins Santa Cruz County, Santa Monica and San Pablo as the fourth California community to win

collective power of leaders, partners and community members; securing and making the most of available resources; and measuring and sharing progress and results.

"To the Gonzales community, this is a significant recognition for the ongoing efforts by the many contributors to the city's health and wellness goals," said City Manager Rene Mendez. "We look forward to celebrating this award with our partners and community and continuing to look for ways to engage residents and businesses to advance health, opportunity and equity for all."

A delegation of six community leaders from Gonzales, along with representatives from the other 2019 prize-winning communities, attended an award ceremony last week at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation headquarters in Princeton, N.J. Prize winners were presented with certificates and participated in a panel discussion on courageous conversations, among other activities.



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the distinguished prize. To become an RWJF Culture of Health Prize winner, Gonzales had to demonstrate how it excelled in the following six criteria: defining health in the broadest possible terms; committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions; creating conditions that give everyone a fair and just opportunity to reach their best possible health; harnessing the

LOCKWOOD
Continued from A1

Belva Lockwood was the first woman to mount a full presidential campaign in 1884, and again in 1888, the year Lair Patterson applied to open the local post office, which he chose to name Lockwood.

As Donald Thomas Clark explains in Monterey County Place Names, "While records in the National Archives do not show the reason for his selection, it has been assumed by most local historians that he did so to honor Belva Ann

Lockwood, who was in the national limelight at that time for being ... the first woman nominated for president of the United States."

It is documented that Belva Lockwood was the first female to argue a case before the Supreme Court in 1880.

After the brief ceremony Saturday, the public is invited to gather at the nearby cafe, where "Belva Burgers" and "Supreme Court Fries" will be served, along with all the regular menu items.

Lockwood memorabilia will also be on display for viewing.

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