



COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

May 12, 2023

WELCOME MERCED POLICE OFFICERS ESPARZA-SANCHEZ, HERR AND RESERVE OFFICER ANNA CALLENTE

Recently, Merced Police Department Interim Chief Craig Gundlach had the honor of swearing in two police officers, Jorge Esparza-Sanchez, Leon Herr, and Reserve Officer Anna Callente.

Officer Esparza-Sanchez is from Alisco, Mexico. He earned his Associate Degree in Administration of Justice and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Esparza-Sanchez graduated from Fresno City College Police Academy. He worked as a Correction Officer at Stanislaus Sheriff's Department and the Dos Palos Police Department until joining Merced PD.

Officer Herr is from Merced. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sacramento State. Before joining the Merced Police Department, Herr was a manager at AutoZone and worked as a private security officer at E & J Gallo Winery. Additionally, Herr was a member of Merced's Explorer Program. Officer Herr is the first member of his family to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Officer Callente is from Hanford, CA. She graduated from Monache High School in Porterville, CA, and later joined the Hanford C.O.S. Tulare-Kings Police Academy. Before joining the Merced Police Department, she worked for Our House Residential Care.



MERCED EXPLORERS HELP WITH ZOO MAINTENANCE

The Merced Police Department is proud of the work and dedication of the department's Explorer Program members. Recently, the group helped with exhibit maintenance at Applegate Zoo.

For more information about the program, visit <https://www.cityofmerced.org/dep.../police/explorers-program> or contact Sgt. Jenkins at jenkinsm@cityofmerced.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE APPLGATE ZOO

The Applegate Zoo has had a busy spring. The zoo has been hosting Merced and Stanislaus County schools, teaching students about the animals living at the zoo and the importance of rescue and conservation. Students have enjoyed visiting the animals, petting the tortoises, and feeding the goats. More than 300 students and teachers visited in April, while another 700 are expected through May. The zoo is an affordable, fun field trip for schools and has seen a significant increase in student visits in the past two years.

Meanwhile, long-time Lead Zookeeper Donna McDowell retired in April after almost 30 years of service. Donna began her career as a volunteer, became a temporary employee, took a full-time position, and worked her way to Lead Zookeeper. In her tenure, Donna oversaw hundreds of animals. She raised animals from infancy, including the beloved mountain lion Mac, and nursed sick and injured zoo residents back to health. Donna also spearheaded efforts to beautify the zoo and make it a destination where visitors could come and sit to enjoy the landscape and the animals. The Parks and Community Services Department wishes Donna a fantastic retirement!



MERCED COLLEGE CAREER FAIR

The Merced Police Department recently attended the Merced College Career Fair. Officers from the Bomb Squad, SWAT, Traffic Division, and Patrol discussed career opportunities with the department.



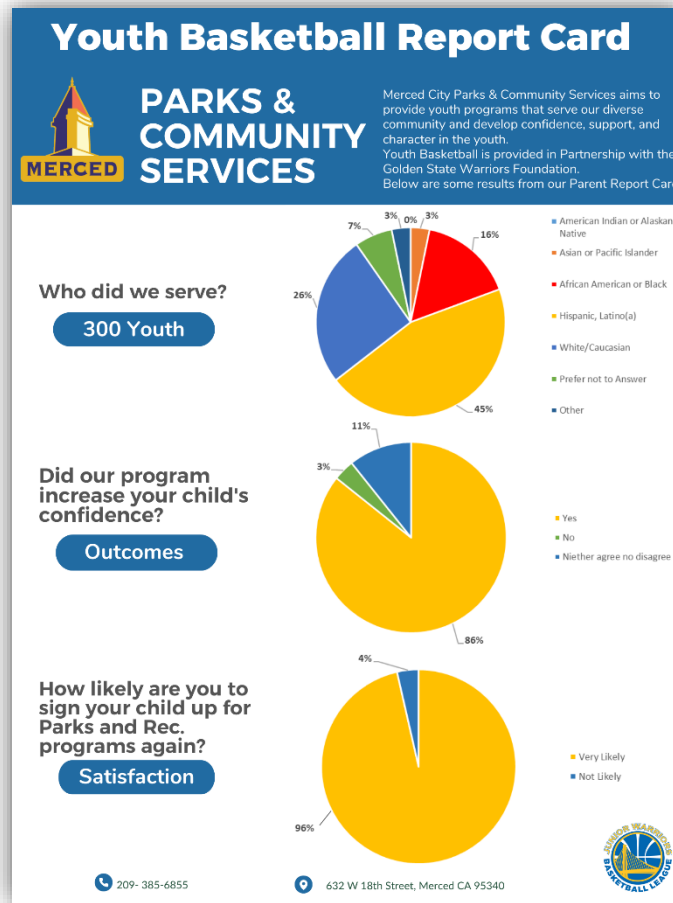
WHAT IS DRINKING WATER WEEK?

This week was **#DrinkingWaterWeek**. For more than 40 years, the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

In 1988, AWWA brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. Government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Rep. Robert Roe and Sen. Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week, and the week-long observance was declared in a joint congressional resolution signed by then President Ronald Reagan.







MAY IS
Mental Health Awareness Month
in Merced County

Join us for an outreach event in honor of
Mental Health Awareness Month!

MAY 24, 2023 • 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
301 E. 13TH ST, MERCED, CA 95341
(IN THE BACK PARKING LOT ALONG 15TH STREET)


• MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES • ENTER DRAWINGS •
• FREE T-SHIRTS • SNACKS •
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Call 1-866-626-6472
or email
MHSA@countyofmerced.com
for more information





FREE
Yoga in the Park

Begins May 14th, 2023
Every Sunday: 10:30am - 11:30am
Location: Bear Creek Park Strip
on 28th & H Street
Instructor: Gina Nardone



Bring a Towel or Mat

For more information contact:
City of Merced
Parks and Community Services
(209)385-6235





MAY **20** **RIDE WITH THE MAYOR**

Bob Hart Square
Sign in 8:30am • Ride at 9am

Enjoy a leisurely ride on Merced's beautiful bikeways, with Mayor Matt Serratto. Meet at Bob Hart Square in downtown Merced and sign in at 8:30am. Ride starts at 9am and ends with a refreshment stop. Free bike related goodies while supplies last!



Merced Parks & Rec Presents

PICKLEBALL

@ MCCOMBS GYM

**YOUTH: EVERY
TUESDAY NIGHT**
AGES 10 & UP

6:30PM - 7:00PM INSTRUCTION
7:00PM - 9:00PM OPEN PLAY

FREE PROGRAM

DROP-IN
MAY 16TH - JUNE 22ND

ALL SKILL LEVELS
ARE WELCOME!



FOR INFORMATION:

EMAIL:
PICKLEBALLMERCED@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL:
CITY OF MERCED
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES
AT (209)385-6235

**ADULTS: EVERY
THURSDAY NIGHT**

6:30PM - 7:00 PM INSTRUCTION
7:00PM - 9:00PM OPEN PLAY



SCAN CODE
TO WATCH
RECOMMEND
PICKLEBALL
TUTORIAL