

State Legislature an intended to focus on his current job. Alejo, who serves as the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, had been widely expected to run in a face-off with State Assemblywoman

ranging from helping expand the Esperanza Care health care program for the uninsured not eligible for coverage because they are in the country illegally to his work on establishing temporary

port for a Senate run, my heart is in staying in local government at this time and continue being an effective champion for our families as a county supervisor." **ALEJO » PAGE 4**



VERN FISHER —
MONTEREY HERALD

PHILANTHROPY

Ground Broken for new Food Bank



PHOTOS BY VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD

Construction work at the new location for the Food Bank for Monterey in Salinas on Monday.

To be located on West Rossi Street

By Nicoletta Lanese
newsroom@montereyherald.com

SALINAS » Ground was broken at a new location for the Food Bank for Monterey County on Monday, amidst the puddles created by an early morning rain.

"I apologize for the weather," said Melissa Kendrick, the Food Bank's executive director. "First, I'd like to draw your attention to our swimming pool," she said, gesturing to standing water left from the showers.

Jokes aside, Kendrick was all smiles for the groundbreaking ceremony. Preparations to build the new bank have been percolating over the last 18 months. The Food Bank is the largest provider of emergency supplementary food in Monterey County and serves 1 in 5 of the area's residents, half of those being children. Their fa-

cilities of the last 20 years were "woefully inadequate" for feeding those over 100,000 individuals a year, said Kendrick.

The old site, located at 815 W. Market St. in Salinas, was particularly limited in terms of food storage capacity. The limitation was worsened by a fire that took place on March 21, 2015, which damaged the bank's industrial-sized refrigerator. The blaze also took out three of the bank's trucks used to collect and deliver food.

"The fire really planted the seed" to build a better food bank at a new location, said Susan Spiegel, board president for the nonprofit.

The Market Street site was leased, she explained, and rent was the largest line item on the bank's budget. In addition, with only 5,000 square feet of refrigeration space, the old **FOOD BANK » PAGE 3**



Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter talks with Melissa Kendrick, executive director at the Food Bank for Monterey County at their new location in Salinas on Monday.

ORANGE COUNTY Deputies move to clear big homeless encampment

By Amy Taxin
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM » Southern California authorities on Monday went tent to tent telling the homeless living in a 2-mile-long encampment that the large riverbed encampment some have called home for years is being closed down.

Orange County sheriff's deputies called out to tent dwellers on the dusty trail designed for biking and jogging, letting them know county workers will haul their trash, store personal belongings and provide transportation to area shelters.

"We're basically informing all these folks, hey, you should have been gone by now," said Sgt. Shannon Parker after speaking with two homeless men who said they did not know where they would go. "It's a work in progress."

The move comes as West Coast cities grapple with a rise in homelessness caused in part by soaring housing costs, rock-bottom vacancy rates and a roaring economy. A drug addiction crisis and need for mental health services are also factors.

The decision had many of the roughly 450 people who live on the trail that passes by the stadium for the Los Angeles Angels baseball team on edge.

Heather Smith, 42, said she's been homeless for a decade after her husband left her and she was addicted to painkillers following surgery. She said she hasn't used drugs in years, but has no family and can't take her dog or cat with her to a shelter.

"There's no other place for me to go," she said, tears streaming down her face. "I'll probably end up in jail."

"People think we're all bad, and it's not true," she said.

Neighbors have long urged the county south of Los Angeles to shut down the encampment and restore the trail that leads to the Pacific Ocean for jogging and biking. They have complained about homeless people rattling shopping carts in their otherwise quiet neighborhoods and **HOMELESS » PAGE 3**

"We're basically informing all these folks, hey, you should have been gone by now. It's a work in progress."
— Sgt. Shannon Parker

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Homeless

FROM PAGE 2

allegedly stealing potted plants and bikes.

Undersheriff Don Barnes said authorities hope to get the homeless to move voluntarily and avoid arrests. He said deputies cleared another portion of the trail previously in about three weeks without arresting anyone.

Barnes declined to give a specific timetable for the move, but said he hoped it would be completed "as soon as possible."

The trail that runs through the cities of Anaheim and Orange will be shut to the public for up to three months while the county cleans the area. Officials said they'll take a harder stance on camping after it reopens.

Officials in nearby cities are concerned that home-



AMV TAXIN - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Heather Smith, a 42-year-old homeless woman, stands with her pit bull, She-Ra, outside her tent on the riverbed trail in Anaheim on Monday.

less residents will wind up living on the streets once they're pushed out of the riverbed.

That's what Brooke Weitzman, an attorney and advocate for the homeless, said she expects will happen since there's only

100 spaces at shelters that don't meet the needs of many homeless people.

"It's not effective. It's not humane. It's not giving people any choice," she said. "There's nowhere to go other than the city sidewalks."



VERN FISHER - MONTEREY HERALD
Glen Evertt of the Last Chance Mercantile Wharf Photo Mural" on Friday. The mural was sold over the weekend.

Collage

FROM PAGE 1

Over the weekend, one of those pieces — a wall-size mural created by Roman Catholic nun and artist Sister Mary Corita Kent depicting scenes of Monterey's Wharf area in the early 1900s — was purchased by a Pacific Grove resident and local history buff. The piece, which was commissioned by the city of Monterey in 1977, was featured in a story in Saturday's Herald. Kent was well-known for her work with silkscreen and printing that included messages of love and peace during the social upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s.

According to the sister of the work's new owner — who like her brother requested to remain anonymous — the mixed media "print on wood" that's 13-feet across and 8-feet high will remain on the Peninsula.

"He'll keep it until he finds the right place for it," she said.

The print collage, along with one other piece from the Conference Center — an 18-foot high hand-made paper mache-constructed sculpture made in 1992 by well-known Peninsula artist Eileen Avuil — found its place at the Mercantile as a last resort.

That's according to Challet Booker, the cultural arts assistant for the Museums and Cultural Arts Division for the city of Monterey, who said that after an intensive process of looking at the size and material of both pieces,

Arts Commission decided they were both outside the scope of the city's current collection policy.

"The city is unable to store or restore the pieces properly," explained Booker. "We just don't have the resources to take care of something like that."

Once the commission made the choice to relinquish the Kent piece specifically, the decision was approved by City Council and then a notice of public auction was sent out to area publications, noted Booker.

Out of the 25 total pieces that were deaccessioned from the original Conference Center, some went to places in Seaside and Santa Clara while one piece went to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

"Those two didn't make it," she said, about the Kent and Avuil pieces.

In the case of the Kent piece, Booker said it was commissioned by the city in 1977.

"They actively went out to look for people to create a piece such as this for the Conference Center at the time," said Booker, noting that the funds came predominantly from the Fisherman's Wharf Association. "The city still has these types of calls for proposals if they have a public art type of project they would like to do. There are a number of public art pieces throughout the city that are commissioned pieces."

At the time, Booker said a number of different prominent artists were researched to find somebody who could create something spectacular for the

"What they wanted to do — and this seems to be very common in Monterey — was to really focus on the history of Monterey considering that the city is the Plymouth Rock of the West Coast," said Booker.

"I mean we're an old city so they wanted to incorporate the history of this place with a photo collage of this type."

Back then, Kent had a lot of her work in collections all over the world including London, New York and Chicago.

"I mean she was known at that time," said Booker, noting the well-known 50-foot mural Kent created for the Vatican Pavilion in 1964. "She was known for her silk screen technology so she was sought out to create the historical wharf piece."

Booker also said that a slew of local artists were also sought to create the original work acquired for the Conference Center when it first opened.

In the case of the new Conference Center, a select few of the previous art pieces that hung in certain locations will remain and were recently re-installed. They include the iconic In-laid wood piece by Emil Norman "Two Dolphins," which was also commissioned, the bronze sculpture "Whale" by Douglas Purdy, the bronze/stone sculpture "Jazz Festival" by Robert Scott Holt and the bronze "John Steinbeck Bust" by Jesse Corsant.

"So there are pieces that went back in and they're all pieces that resonate for this area," said Booker.

Food Bank

FROM PAGE 2

location didn't fit the needs of a food bank distributing upwards of 10 million pounds of food a year.

"Our partners in the agriculture industry donate us their overage," Spiegel said. "At the old facility, we couldn't handle more food even if they wanted to give it - now we won't have to turn any food away."

Kendrick found the bank's new site at 334 W. Rossi St. The Food Bank purchased the \$2.5 million plot with funds from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, the Harden Foundation, Pinnacle Bank and Sunlight Giving. SSB Construction is building the new facility, designed by Belli Architectural Group, to be powered by an array of solar-panels and feature 20,000 square feet of refrigeration space.

The new food bank aims to minimize its own carbon footprint and that of its partners in agriculture.

California's landfills emit a steady stream of methane as the organic waste in them decomposes — enough to make them the second largest man-made source of methane in the state.

The landfills are made

up of about 18 percent food waste, making food a major contributor to the state's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

To help tackle the issue, Gov. Jerry Brown approved Senate Bill 1383 in 2016. The bill requires that at least 20 percent of edible food that is currently disposed of in California is recovered for human consumption by 2025.

CalRecycle propels the state toward this goal by regulating the disposal, recycling and recovery of organic waste. Partnerships with organizations like the Food Bank for Monterey County help agricultural companies comply with the new regulations.

"When they have excess food, they think of us first," said Kendrick. "We're able to divert produce and perishable waste from landfills and get it into the mouths of those that need it."

The new food bank should be open by June, she said, and operations will continue at the old facility in the meantime.

"I'm surprised she didn't make the sun come out," said Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter of Kendrick at the groundbreaking. Gunter commended Kendrick's tireless passion, noting the community's reliance on her efforts at the Food Bank. The nonprofit provides food to 150 agencies, including Meals on Wheels, Dorothy's Place and many church pantries.

"Because of the food bank, people are getting fed tonight," he said. Congressman Jimmy Panetta, D-Carmel Valley, sent his support from Washington, where he is working to reauthorize the Farm Bill, which supports supplementary food programs like the Food Bank.

Supervisor Simon Salinas, Social Services director Elliott Robinson, and Salinas councilmembers Gloria De La Rosa and Scott Davis also attended the event.

"The Food Bank has so many faces," said District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams, who has supported the organization since her days as CEO of United Way Monterey County. Many county residents are impacted by hunger, she said, from military families to seniors to young people.

Residents interested in contributing to this cause can call the Food Bank at (831) 758-1523 or visit <http://www.foodbank-montereycounty.org/>. They are also encouraged to donate to the organization's newly launched "a spoonful of love" campaign.

All proceeds will go toward the new warehouse and food distribution building.

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