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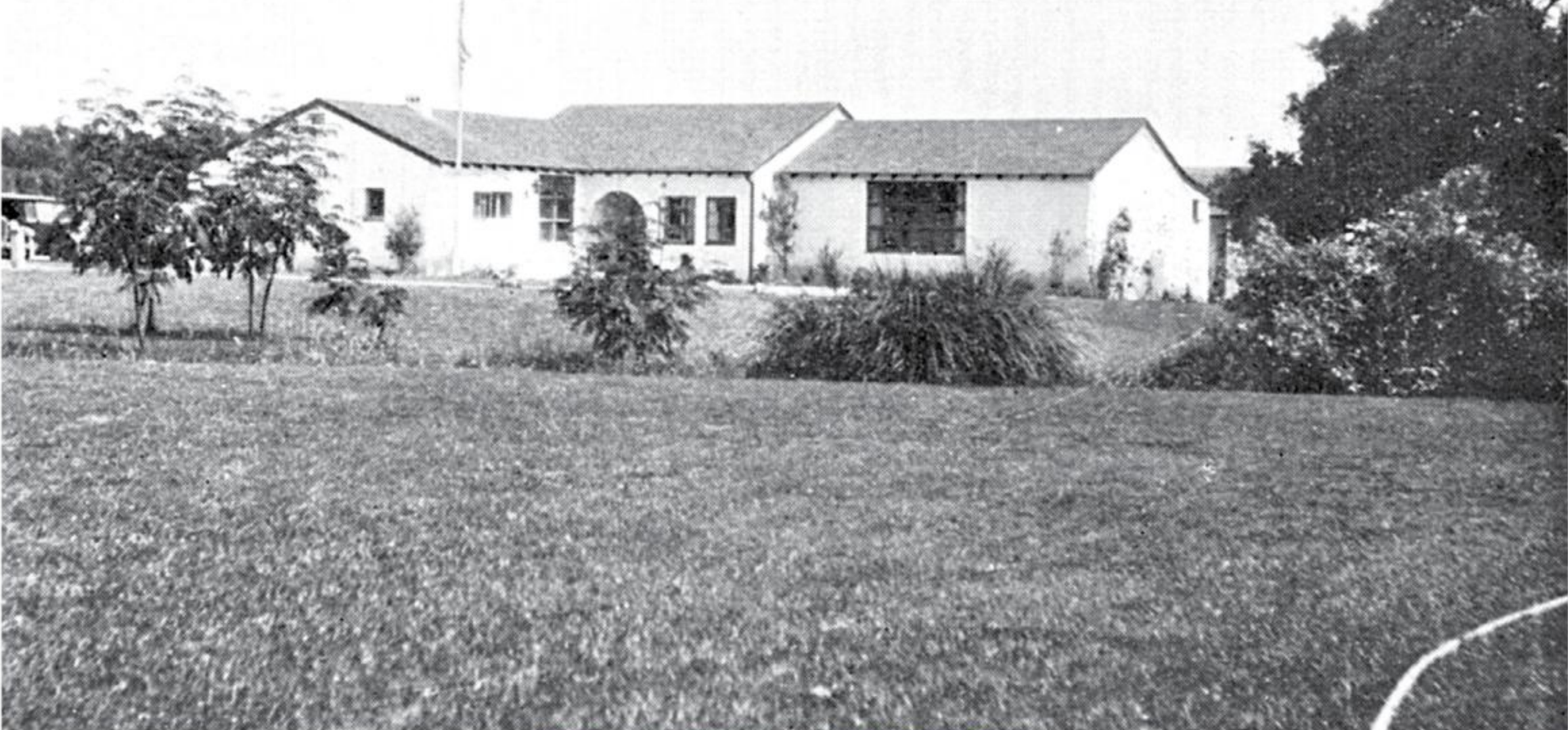


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ALL HANDS ON DECK!

HEAD OF SCHOOL JOEL WEISS LEADS 90TH YEAR CELEBRATION AT CRANE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, MONTECITO'S "HANDS-ON" EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PLACE (PAGES 5 AND 12)



In Memory of Mollie's
Cat Cora to open new Mesa Burger outlet on Coast Village Road, in space occupied by Mollie's for over 20 years, **p. 24**

Road Map to Inner Peace
"Pursuing Mindfulness" is a full-time job for Barbara Rose Sherman, who brings her search back to Santa Barbara, **p. 13**

Going Mobile
SBPD unveils new mobile command unit, purchased thanks to money raised at last year's Big Ash Bash fundraiser, **p. 16**

sits on an 11-acre campus, and during the 2018/19 school year serves a total of 252 students from Kindergarten to eighth grade (136 Lower School and 116 Upper School). The school employs 41 teachers, 14 staff members, and six administrators. *Crane Celebrates 90 Years* is a 128-page commemorative book that will be given to every celebration attendee, thanks to a generous donor.

Given that the original buildings are 90 years old, the past 15 years has brought a number of fundraising campaigns resulting in the construction of new physical spaces to the campus: the library, two art studios, new classrooms and offices, and a Design & Engineering Center. The most recent project, the Oak Tree Quad, was finished in 2017 and is the largest building project in the school's history. The project, as well as a 2014 parking lot project, are part of a larger Master Plan update, which includes future demolition of two of the school's older buildings to make way for an expanded Cate Hall. The campus was opened as a staging ground for first responders during the Thomas Fire and subsequent 1/9 debris flow in 2018. "This campus has always been at the center of the Montecito community," Williams said.

Crane has many traditions that have roots going back to its founding in

1928: prioritizing the importance of academics while at the same time giving students experiences with both studio and performing arts, experiential education, and public speaking. Currently, 23% of the students at Crane receive some level of tuition assistance with that budget totaling over \$1M. "This has always been a focus of Crane and helps to increase the diversity of our student and parent body," Williams said.

The anniversary event, dubbed "Crane Coming Home," will be held on May 3rd and 4th. The events committee is seeking any and all alumni, so if you are a former Crane parent or student and have not received correspondence about the event, please contact **Anne Perkins**, 90th Anniversary Coordinator, at aperkins@craneschool.org or (805) 969-7732 x 321.

Microgrid Moves Forward

In a unanimous vote on Monday, February 25, the Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors authorized Fire Chief **Chip Hickman** to enter into negotiations with Clean Coalition, a non-profit whose mission is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and a modern energy grid.

Craig Lewis, founder of Clean



The Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors: Abe Powell, Peter van Duinwyk, Sylvia Easton, Judy Ishkanian, and Michael Lee

Coalition, explained to the Board that the ultimate goal is to increase Montecito's resilience during emergencies, and to not be dependent upon Southern California Edison during a time when climate change, wildfires, earthquakes, and other disasters can cause us to be vulnerable to long-term power outages. "The overall goal is to provide renewables-driven energy resilience to critical facilities, and ultimately residents in Montecito, and to showcase the benefits of community microgrids for communities around the world," he said. Lewis, whose company has staged microgrids in other areas hit by disasters, including East Hampton in Long Island NY (hit by Hurricane Sandy), and northern California (hit by devastating wildfires), explained that building a microgrid in Montecito would require the installations of solar panels at several critical sites in the community, beginning with the MFPD headquarters and Montecito Water District.

The first phase of the project, which would cost nearly \$850,000, includes building a solar photovoltaic canopy on top of a single carport, to be located in the back parking lot area of Station 1 on San Ysidro Road. The panels would be able to power the station at the same rate or better than Edison's current rates, said **David Yanni** of GI Energy, a construction engineering company that has been analyzing the potential project. Taking into account the state and federal tax breaks and the money earned by selling the energy to MFPD, there is a \$285,000 gap to pay for the facility, which will be funded by grant money sourced by Clean Coalition. "It's a win-win for us," said Board President **Abe Powell**, who also leads the *ad hoc* committee that has been studying the pros and cons to allowing a microgrid site on the property. "It's not going to cost us more money, and we get the benefit of having reliable energy when we need it most," said Powell.

Future potential sites include MWD, Montecito Union School, San Ysidro Pharmacy, and the upper village gas station. "All of these sites are critical during an emergency. We need to

make sure these places stay open and functioning," Lewis said. "This is the first step in a much larger project to bring resiliency to the greater community."

MFPD and Clean Coalition will be in negotiations for the next 60 days, working on the details for potentially building the microgrid site. The negotiations will include an executable long-term power purchase and easement agreement, which will require board approval at a future meeting. Green will be at the Montecito Association Land Use Committee next Tuesday for a briefing on the project. For more information, visit www.clean-coalition.org.

Mobile Command Center Unveiled

Earlier this month the Santa Barbara Police Department accepted and unveiled a new 32-ft long, 12-ft tall, custom mobile command unit that will be dispatched during community events, emergency situations, and disasters. The \$350,000 vehicle was purchased by the Santa Barbara Police Foundation and One805, a local non-profit that was born after the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow.

"In the aftermath of the Thomas Fire and mudslide disaster, we quickly realized that this was not a one off; that our first responders didn't only need our help in the wake of a disaster, they need it year-in and year-out," said **Richard Weston-Smith**, board president of One805. The non-profit hosted the large scale Kick Ash Bash in February of last year, marking the largest non-profit event in Santa Barbara history and raising over \$2M for the local Fire, Police, and Sheriff departments.

This is the second of three Mobile Command Units to be delivered; the first was to Santa Barbara County Fire last year, with the third slated for the Sheriff's Department this July. Major sponsors include Yardi Systems (represented by **Gordon Morrell** and **Kelly Johnson**), **Nora** and **Michael**

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