

From: A-Town Daily News <news@atowndailynews.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Terrie Banish
Subject: Today's Headlines

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A-Town Daily News

Video: Vandals remove metal monolith atop Pine Mountain in Atascadero

By News Staff on Dec 04, 2020 08:36 am




—On Wednesday afternoon, the City of Atascadero received reports from hikers of a steel monolith at the top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park.


Overnight, [...]

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State announces strict 'Regional Stay at Home Order' triggered by ICU capacity

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STEVE SCHMIDT TOPSOIL, INC.
Your neighborhood landscape materials yard

By News Staff on Dec 04, 2020 08:00 am



Update posted Dec. 4: State order could impact SLO County as soon as Sunday –The State of California has issued a Regional Stay at Home

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Local assemblyman says new stay-at-home-order is arbitrary and irrational

By News Staff on Dec 04, 2020 07:45 am



—Assemblyman Jordan

Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) released the following statement regarding Governor Newsom’s most recent Regional Stay-At-Home Order, which groups San Luis Obispo and Santa [...]

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By News Staff on Dec 04, 2020 07:41 am



A project to replace concrete pavement at five locations on US Highway 101 between the Hwy. 58 Interchange in Santa Margarita and Traffic Way in [...]

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Lara Christensen

From: Serge Kovaleski <kovaleski@nytimes.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Terrie Banish
Subject: Re: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update

Hi Terrie,

Here is a quick write up of our interview from yesterday before the press release was issued. Obviously, we will incorporate the changes included in the press release, which we will use, and adjust this file accordingly.

Thank you again for your gracious help!

Serge

Terrie Banish, deputy city manager of Atascadero, California, said in an interview that the monolith was left on city land and that officials do not know who removed it or placed it there.

“The monolith was brought to our attention Wednesday afternoon by a hiker,” Ms. Banish said. “But we also don’t have any information about how it arrived or disappeared.”

“There are still a couple iron stakes in the ground that will be removed so no one will trip on them,” she said, adding, “the structure was mildly secured to the ground.”

Ms. Banish said that whoever placed the monolith there or took it would have had to hike up to the site, which has an elevation of about 1,300 feet and is approximately two miles from the nearest parking lot.

“We are not planning to look into this, but are flattered that the monolith chose the city of Atascadero,” she said.

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 4:43 PM Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:

You are welcome! Nice talking with you today! 😊

From: Serge Kovaleski [mailto:kovaleski@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update

Thank you, Terrie!

Cheers,

Serge

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 4:03 PM Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:



News Release:

[City of Atascadero](#)

[6500 Palma Ave.](#)

[Atascadero, CA 93422](#)

(805) 461-5000

For Immediate Release: December 3, 2020

Contact: Deputy City Manager, Terrie Banish, 805-470-3490

Monolith Update

On the afternoon of Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the [City of Atascadero](#) received reports from hikers of a steel Monolith or Obelisk structure at the top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park.

As of early this morning, the Monolith had disappeared. The City has received the actual video that has surfaced on social media showing a group of men from out of the area removing the Monolith and replacing it with a plywood cross. The video shows them replacing the structure and talking amongst themselves.

“We are upset that these young men felt the need to drive 5 hours to come into our community and vandalize the Monolith. The Monolith was something unique and fun in an otherwise stressful time,” said Mayor Heather Moreno.

The Atascadero Police Department has not received any reports to date that the Monolith had been removed and/ or stolen. Currently, the Atascadero Police Department is reviewing the video and looking into this incident further. We will provide updated information as soon as it’s available.

The steel 3-sided structure stood about 10 ft. tall and appeared to weigh an estimated 200 pounds. The area of Stadium Park offers a 2 mile looping trail up to the top or you can take a more challenging trail with a higher level of difficulty to the top that would be about a 30-minute hike. The altitude of Pine Mountain sits at 1300 ft. and there is no vehicle access to bring something that large to the top. The City owns and maintains 75 acres of the Stadium Park area and the five-acre entrance is owned and maintained by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS). At this time, neither the City nor the ALPS have any information on how the structure found its way to the top of the mountain or who placed it there.

If you have any information about the Monolith, please contact the Atascadero Police Department at (805) 461-5051.

For further information, please contact Terrie Banish at (805) 470-3490, tbanish@atascadero.org. The area of Pine Mountain where the Monolith was located, can be found at www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/ and click on Stadium Park.

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events

City of Atascadero | City Manager’s Office

[6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422](http://6500PalmaAve.com)

Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



--

Serge F. Kovalski |
Investigative Reporter |



[620 Eighth Avenue | New York, NY 10018 |](#)

[Office 212.556.1652 | Mobile 917.674.3364 |](#)

[Twitter @sergenyt | Skype sergekovalski |](#)

[Email kovalski@nytimes.com](mailto:kovalski@nytimes.com)

[Bio http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/k/serge_f_kovalski/index.htm](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/k/serge_f_kovalski/index.htm)
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Serge F. Kovalski |
Investigative Reporter |

The New York Times

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[Email kovalski@nytimes.com](mailto:kovalski@nytimes.com)

[Bio http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/k/serge_f_kovalski/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/k/serge_f_kovalski/index.html)

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Rachelle Rickard
Subject: RE: Voicemail Message (BROWN,DAVID > CMMain) F [REDACTED]

Ok! Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Rachelle Rickard
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>; Lisa Cava <lcava@atascadero.org>
Cc: Amanda Muther <amuther@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: Voicemail Message (BROWN,DAVID > CMMain) Fr [REDACTED]

I already called and am taking care of it

-----Original Message-----

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Lisa Cava <lcava@atascadero.org>; Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>
Cc: Amanda Muther <amuther@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: Voicemail Message (BROWN,DAVID > CMMain) From: [REDACTED]

Thank you! I can reach out and talk with her.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Cava
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>; Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>
Cc: Amanda Muther <amuther@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>
Subject: FW: Voicemail Message (BROWN,DAVID > CMMain) From [REDACTED]

This is from Val Houdyshell (sp?), re the Pine Mountain trail issues (related to the monolith I'm assuming), parking, safety, liability, etc. She lives at the corner of Escarpa and Pinal and has concerns she wishes to discuss.

-----Original Message-----

From: BROWN,DAVID <syservice@atascadero.org>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 9:48 AM
To: CM Main <CMMain@atascadero.org>
Subject: Voicemail Message (BROWN,DAVID > CMMain) From [REDACTED]

IP Office Voicemail redirected message

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Jason Carr
Subject: RE: USA TODAY statement request

Thank you! I will send the release to her as soon as we have it drafted and approved.

From: Jason Carr
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Fwd: USA TODAY statement request

Just forwarding this along to you. I have not responded.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moniuszko, Sara" <smoniuszko@gannett.com>
Date: December 3, 2020 at 10:54:21 AM PST
To: Jason Carr <JCarr@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: USA TODAY statement request

Hello,

Just following up on the request below.

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Moniuszko
Digital Editor
USA TODAY, Life
smoniuszko@gannett.com
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

From: Moniuszko, Sara
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:11 AM
To: jcarr@atascadero.org <jcarr@atascadero.org>
Subject: USA TODAY statement request

Hello,

My name is Sara Moniuszko, I'm a reporter with USA TODAY. We're seeing reports that a monolith was discovered on a hiking trail in Atascadero called Pine Mountain. Can you please confirm, on the record, that police are investigating the structure? And would you be able to provide a statement about a safety warning for hikers/selfie takers?

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Moniuszko
Digital Editor
USA TODAY, Life
smoniuszko@gannett.com
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Megan Leininger
Subject: Re: The Monolith

Thanks Megan! Just working to keep SLO County on the map! ... seriously wish I could take that kind of credit, but we have no idea how it got here and how it disappeared. Kinda goes with the fact that it's still 2020!!

Have a great day!

Best,
Terrie

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 3, 2020, at 9:26 AM, Megan Leininger <mleininger@morrobayca.gov> wrote:

Hi Terrie –

Are you behind this genius Atascadero marketing? Either way hope you have a great day 😊

Megan Leininger | Marketing and Communications Coordinator
695 Harbor Street, Morro Bay 93442
(p) 805.225.7411 ext.1
mleininger@morrobayca.gov
www.morrobay.org

<image002.png>

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:00 PM
To: 'Sarah Bahr'
Subject: RE: The Monolith is Back

Hi Sarah!

Thank you for reaching out. In regards to its return to its perch:

We are happy to see the Monolith return to Atascadero, as it brings back that joyful spirit that was taken away and it gives something for people to look forward to. It's also nice to see all ages and families getting out to explore, be together and enjoy the surroundings of our area in such a difficult time.

Please let me know if you need anything further. Happy to help.

Warm regards,
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Sarah Bahr [mailto:sarah.bahr@nytimes.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: The Monolith is Back

Hello! I'm working on a story about the Pine Mountain monolith's return, as well as the fabricators, [who have come forward](#). Would you care to comment on its return to its perch?

Thanks!

Sarah

--

Sarah Bahr

Culture reporter



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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:19 AM
To: 13 Stars Media - Nic
Subject: Re: Obelisk

Interesting!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 3, 2020, at 10:17 AM, Nicholas Mattson <nic@13starsmedia.com> wrote:

Thanks Terrie.

We have video of the people who took it down. Looks like they are from SoCal.

We'll report as well shortly.

In this together,

Nicholas Mattson

[Publisher, 13 Stars Media](#)

cell: [805-466-4086](tel:805-466-4086)

office: [805-466-2585](tel:805-466-2585)

5860 El Camino Real, Suite G

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On Dec 3, 2020, 10:15 AM -0800, Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>, wrote:

Hi Nic!

The Monolith disappeared this morning. We did not remove it. There was rebar found in the ground, so we are planning to remove that as it's a safety hazard. At this time, the City does not have any plans to investigate this further. If the media inquires about the location, I have been sending them to <https://www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/> and to click on Stadium Park for elevation and trail information.

For future stories, please reach out to me as I am the point person for all media. I have been talking to quite a few media outlets today as well and am available if they wish to speak to the City - best number is (805) 470-3490.

Please let me know if you have any further questions!

Warm regards,
Terrie

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 3, 2020, at 9:49 AM, Nicholas Mattson <nic@13starsmedia.com> wrote:

Hey Terrie,

I'm told the obelisk is removed from the top of Pine Mtn. Do you have any info about that? Not sure if it was the City or someone else.

I go on a UK radio station in an hour and wanted to have as much info as possible.

I called Dawn and she transferred me to you.

Thanks!

In this together,

Nicholas Mattson

Publisher, [13 Stars Media](#)

cell: [805-466-4086](tel:805-466-4086)

office: [805-466-2585](tel:805-466-2585)

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:55 PM
To: 'Syed, Mohammed (NBCUniversal)'
Subject: RE: NBC News Network request -- monolith at Atascadero

Hi Syed!

Please let me know that you received our press release. I blind copied you on it, but wanted to make sure as it provided updates.

Thanks again for your coverage of our little town! 😊

Best,
Terrie

From: Syed, Mohammed (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Syed@NBCUNI.COM]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Cc: Social Newsgathering (NBCUniversal) <SocialNewsGathering@nbcuni.com>; Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>; Luke Knight <LKnight@atascadero.org>; Rachel Hunter <rhunter@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: NBC News Network request -- monolith at Atascadero

Thank you for the prompt reply Terrie!

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Syed, Mohammed (NBCUniversal) <Mohammed.Syed@NBCUNI.COM>
Cc: Social Newsgathering (NBCUniversal) <SocialNewsGathering@nbcuni.com>; Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>; Luke Knight <LKnight@atascadero.org>; Rachel Hunter <rhunter@atascadero.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: NBC News Network request -- monolith at Atascadero

Hello Mo!

Thank you for reaching out to our City! We do not have any information at this time on how the Monolith was placed at Pine Mountain. We were notified yesterday afternoon of its presence. As of early this morning, it has already disappeared. The location of the Monolith was at Stadium Park on the top of Pine Mountain, about a 30 minute hike and you cannot access that location by driving up to it. If you would like to see Stadium Park where the Monolith was located, please go to: <https://www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/> and click on Stadium Park.

We do not have any current plans to look into this further. I am happy to answer any further questions and am available at the numbers provided below.

Warm regards,
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Syed, Mohammed (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Mohammed.Syed@NBCUNI.COM>]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Rachele Rickard <rerrickard@atascadero.org>; Lara Christensen <lchristensen@atascadero.org>; Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>; Rachel Hunter <rhunter@atascadero.org>; Luke Knight <LKnight@atascadero.org>
Cc: Social Newsgathering (NBCUniversal) <SocialNewsGathering@nbcuni.com>
Subject: NBC News Network request -- monolith at Atascadero

Hi there,

Mo Syed here, I'm an NBC News reporter. I'm inquiring about the monolith that appeared on Pine Mountain, I'm sure you haven't heard the end of it today...

Does the City of Atascadero have a statement to share with us about the monolith on Pine Mountain? Do you know who planted it there? Does the city have a plan to deal with it by any measure? Can you confirm to me that you are aware of the monoliths presence?

We located this video of it on Instagram, can you confirm that this is the same monolith on the Mountain?
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CIUcCYFnbWZ/>

This is the local story: <https://keyt.com/news/offbeat/2020/12/02/mysterious-monolith-appears-in-san-luis-obispo-county/>

I am also reaching out to the Atascadero Land Preservation Society...

Best,
Mo

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:59 AM
To: 'Sarah Bahr'
Subject: RE: Monolith Story Help
Attachments: Monolith.mp4; IMG_1982.jpg; Monolith by Phil Dunsmore.jpg; Monolith removed 2.jpg

Hi Sarah!

I do not have any video footage of the monolith, only photos. Attached is what we have.

For the video of the young men removing the Monolith is attached. We do not have the video that was on Dlive...that was taken down. There were about 3-5 young men and it was captured on video that they traveled 5 hours from Southern California to come up here.

Thanks!
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Sarah Bahr [mailto:sarah.bahr@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Monolith Story Help

Hello! Looking into the story of the monolith that was removed in Atascadero yesterday -- do you have the video you could share? Saw it was taken down online. How many young men were in the group that removed it?

Thanks!

Sarah

--

Sarah Bahr
Culture reporter

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 3:07 PM
To: 'Eric Parker'
Subject: RE: Monolith Photo/Loc

Thank you!

From: Eric Parker [mailto:Eric@slocal.com]
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monolith Photo/Loc

Interesting story. Thanks for the information, and the press release. I'll keep an eye out for the missing monolith...Good luck finding it!



Eric Parker | Digital & Marketing Specialist
Visit SLO CAL
Eric@SLOCAL.com
O: 805.541.8000 | C: 805.305.8806
SLOCAL.com

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 1:25 PM
To: Eric Parker <Eric@slocal.com>
Subject: RE: Monolith Photo/Loc

Hi Eric!

So sorry to report the Monolith was taken last night. 😞 I don't think a photo will do you much good...but let me know.

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Eric Parker [mailto:Eric@slocal.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Monolith Photo/Loc

Hi Terrie – Weird news in the past 12 hours coming out of Atascadero. Exciting global coverage though! Do you have any cleared photos of the monolith we could use? Or do you know where it's located, so we can go out to take some of our own?

Thanks,



Eric Parker | Digital & Marketing Specialist

Visit **SLO CAL**

Eric@SLOCAL.com

O: 805.541.8000 | C: 805.305.8806

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:25 PM
To: 'Kaytlyn Leslie'
Subject: RE: Monolith in Atascadero?

Press release is coming out shortly. I will make sure you receive it, but it is gone.

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Kaytlyn Leslie [mailto:kleslie@thetribunenews.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monolith in Atascadero?

And now it is apparently gone? Any idea what's going on?

Kaytlyn Leslie
The San Luis Obispo Tribune

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 4:52 PM Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:

Well, ALPS would be the best resource to know how that happened. 😊 A mystery indeed!

From: Kaytlyn Leslie [mailto:kleslie@thetribunenews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monolith in Atascadero?

Hey Terrie! Thanks for the help! I reached out to ALPS and they said they also don't know how it go there, and to ask y'all at the city. Seems like a fun mystery :D

Best,

Kaytlyn

Kaytlyn Leslie

The San Luis Obispo Tribune

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 3:16 PM Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:

That is correct! Sounds like it is 3 sided made of metal, 12 ft. tall and white. Since Pine Mountain is a part of the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS), they would be the best to talk with about it, as ALPS maintains Pine Mountain.

Please let me know if I can be of further help with this.

Thanks,

Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events

City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office

6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422

Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Kaytlyn Leslie [mailto:kleslie@thetribunenews.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 3:07 PM

To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>

Subject: Monolith in Atascadero?

Hey Terrie! We heard from a few people that one of those mysterious monoliths popped up in Stadium Park in Atascadero this week, and I was wondering if the city need anything about it? It's at the top of Pine Mountain Loop and is just a big shiny structure oit of nowhere. Kinda fascinating! Let me know!

Best,

Kaytlyn

--

Kaytlyn Leslie

The San Luis Obispo Tribune

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:05 PM
To: 'Bertola, Alexa'
Subject: RE: Monolith

Hi Alexa!

I just sent that out. Please let me know if you need anything else. I am happy to answer any other questions.

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Bertola, Alexa [mailto:Alexa.Bertola@ksby.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monolith

Thanks Terrie!

Alexa Bertola
News Reporter
KSBY TV
760-310-9990

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:56:39 AM
To: Herndon, Kathrene <Kathrene.Herndon@ksby.com>
Cc: Bertola, Alexa <Alexa.Bertola@ksby.com>
Subject: RE: Monolith

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Kathrene & Alexa!

We are drafting a release recapping everything and where we are at this time. That will be sent out shortly. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Warm regards,
Terrie

Terrie Banish
Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Herndon, Kathrene [<mailto:Kathrene.Herndon@ksby.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Cc: Bertola, Alexa <Alexa.Bertola@ksby.com>
Subject: RE: Monolith

Hi Terrie,

We are hearing someone may have stolen this overnight. Do you have any info on that or photos/video that can be shared?

Thank you,

Kathrene

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Herndon, Kathrene <Kathrene.Herndon@ksby.com>
Subject: RE: Monolith

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Kathrene,

My apologies for the delay. Yes, we do – sounds like it is 3 sided made of metal, 12 ft. tall and white. Since Pine Mountain is a part of the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS), they would be the best to talk with about it, as ALPS maintains Pine Mountain.

Please let me know if I can be of further help with this.

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Herndon, Kathrene [<mailto:Kathrene.Herndon@ksby.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Monolith

Hi Terrie,

Have you heard anything about a monolith in Atascadero? We were told one recently appeared at the top of Pine Mountain.

Thank you,

Kathrene

Kathrene Herndon

KSBY-TV Managing Editor

San Luis Obispo, CA

(805) 471-0152

Kathrene.Herndon@ksby.com



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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:36 PM
To: 'Connor Allen'
Subject: RE: Monolith, Mayor Moreno

I have that on your list and promise I have not forgotten about the Chief of Police!

From: Connor Allen [mailto:connor@13starsmedia.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monolith, Mayor Moreno

You are the best.

While I've got you here. I would love to set up an interview with Bob, the new police chief, as soon as possible :)

Thans so much, Terrie. I owe you a coffee or something for all your help!

Connor Allen
News Correspondent
cell: 805-235-7869
office: 805-466-2585
5860 El Camino Real, Suite G
Atascadero, CA 93422
Paso Robles Magazine | Colony Magazine | Central Coast TRVLR & Vino
Atascadero News | Paso Robles Press | Morro Bay Life | Avila Beach Life | Ranch Life

On Dec 8, 2020, at 12:52 PM, Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:

Thank you for the reminder! I have it for you. I will respond to the other email.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish
Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539

<image001.png>

From: Connor Allen [<mailto:connor@13starsmedia.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:43 PM

To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>

Subject: Monolith, Mayor Moreno

Hi Terrie,

I just wanted to reach out and see if Heather was able to give a quote on the monolith? I have the story on who put it up, when, how etc almost done and would love to add her comments and perspective to the piece. Thanks! No trying to rush you, I just have a deadline for 9 AM tomorrow.

Best,

Connor Allen
News Correspondent
cell: 805-235-7869
office: 805-466-2585
5860 El Camino Real, Suite G
Atascadero, CA 93422
Paso Robles Magazine | Colony Magazine | Central Coast TRVLR & Vino
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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:04 PM
To: 'Ed Zuchelli'
Subject: RE: Monoliith Update

Hi Ed!

I just sent that out. Please let me know if you have any further questions as I am happy to answer them.

Warm regards,
Terrie

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Zuchelli [mailto:ed.zuchelli@kcoy.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Monoliith Update

Great thanks for the press release! I'm sure you have been getting a lot of people reaching out.

Thanks,

Ed Zuchelli
Managing Editor
NewsChannels 12 & 3 | FOX 11

----- Original Message -----

From: "tbanish" <tbanish@atascadero.org>
To: "Ed Zuchelli" <ed.zuchelli@kcoy.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:23:10 PM
Subject: RE: Monoliith Update

Hi Ed!

Thank you for reaching out to us! We are working on putting a press release out in the next 15 minutes. I will make sure you receive it and then I am happy to talk with you if you need any further information.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish
Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Zuchelli [mailto:ed.zuchelli@kcoy.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:40 AM

To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>

Subject: Monoliith Update

Hey Terrie,

Do you have any information on the monolith today, including whether it's vanished overnight? We're sending a crew back up the mountain to go look. Thanks in advance for your response to a very weird story request!

Thanks,

Ed Zuchelli

Managing Editor

NewsChannels 12 & 3 | FOX 11

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Dick Mason
Subject: RE: Frozen iPhone

Hi Dick!

I had reached out via text today to see if you would be open to doing a story around the monolith with the artists that brought it back. Just let me know. I can only imagine the issues with not having a phone work well. Good luck with that.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Richard Mason [mailto:slomason@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 7:29 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Frozen iPhone

Terrie,

My iPhone froze Saturday, perhaps due to overwork.
I've only had it three months, so I'm disappointed.

It's really impacting my communication.

I sent Heather a message suggesting that perhaps she should issue a news release on the significance of the monolith as a phallic symbol. That may generate some discussion and give Heather an opportunity to express her feelings as a woman mayor.

Do you think that would be appropriate?

Sincerely,

Dick Mason

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Robert Molle
Cc: Jason Carr
Subject: Re: Facebook ideas for next week

Me too! Btw - the monolith is back ...

<https://www.yourtango.com/2020339086/metal-artists-who-created-california-monolith>

If anyone can confirm for me, that would be appreciated.

Thanks,
Terrie

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 5, 2020, at 9:25 AM, Robert Molle <rmolle@atascadero.org> wrote:

I got this text from one of our sergeants. Can we talk next week, I love the idea.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

Bob

Good morning, just wanted to mention this since it is weighing heavily on my heart... I would like to suggest we start blowing up our social media feeds with info on the 211 hotline, posts about recognizing that this time of year a lot of people suffer from feelings of isolation and loneliness and how important it is to show support for one another, ideas to bring joy to your "neighbor", posts about us supporting our community, posts about positive things, etc.

Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Patti Deirmenjian
Subject: RE: concerned resident

Perfect! Thanks!

From: Patti Deirmenjian
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: concerned resident

No need to call – she was happy it was removed. I just wanted to let you know! 😊

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Patti Deirmenjian <Pavilion@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: concerned resident

Thank you! I will call her later. We are working on a press release now.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish
Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Patti Deirmenjian
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: concerned resident

Hi Terrie,

Adrienne Hunt called as a concerned resident of Atascadero to request the removal of the monolith to preserve the environment because she has relatives who live in Utah and said the droves of people destroyed the area where that monolith is. I told her that as far as we know, it has been removed. She was happy to hear that. She also thanked us for our service as city employees and said we do a really great job. 805-423-3512.

Thank you!

Patti

Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:27 PM
To: KPRL Jaime
Subject: Re: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update

Thank you so much for having me on the air! After I saw you yesterday all hell broke loose with this new addition on Pine Mountain. It's been a busy media day and a half! Thanks again! I appreciate you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 3, 2020, at 9:02 PM, jaime@kprl.com wrote:

We can't even make this stuff up anymore . . . but Atascadero made international news!

I live 3 houses from the top of pine mountain, where the upper trail head is. It has been a strange couple of days.

So happy to see you yesterday!

Jaime

-----Original Message-----

From: "Terrie Banish" <tbanish@atascadero.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:03pm

To: "Press" <Press@atascadero.org>

Subject: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update

<image005.jpg>

News Release:

City of Atascadero
6500 Palma Ave.
Atascadero, CA 93422
(805) 461-5000

For Immediate Release: December 3, 2020

Contact: Deputy City Manager, Terrie Banish, 805-470-3490

Monolith Update

On the afternoon of Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the City of Atascadero received reports from hikers of a steel Monolith or Obelisk structure at the top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park.

As of early this morning, the Monolith had disappeared. The City has received the actual video that has surfaced on social media showing a group of men from out of the area removing the Monolith and replacing it with a plywood cross. The video shows them replacing the structure and talking amongst themselves.

“We are upset that these young men felt the need to drive 5 hours to come into our community and vandalize the Monolith. The Monolith was something unique and fun in an otherwise stressful time,” said Mayor Heather Moreno.

The Atascadero Police Department has not received any reports to date that the Monolith had been removed and/ or stolen. Currently, the Atascadero Police Department is reviewing the video and looking into this incident further. We will provide updated information as soon as it's available.

The steel 3-sided structure stood about 10 ft. tall and appeared to weigh an estimated 200 pounds. The area of Stadium Park offers a 2 mile looping trail up to the top or you can take a more challenging trail with a higher level of difficulty to the top that would be about a 30-minute hike. The altitude of Pine Mountain sits at 1300 ft. and there is no vehicle access to bring something that large to the top. The City owns and maintains 75 acres of the Stadium Park area and the five-acre entrance is owned and maintained by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS). At this time, neither the City nor the ALPS have any information on how the structure found its way to the top of the mountain or who placed it there.

If you have any information about the Monolith, please contact the Atascadero Police Department at (805) 461-5051.

For further information, please contact Terrie Banish at (805) 470-3490, tbanish@atascadero.org. The area of Pine Mountain where the Monolith was located, can be found at www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/ and click on Stadium Park.

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539

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<image005.jpg>

<image006.png>

Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Lisa Cava
Cc: Rachelle Rickard
Subject: RE: CC mtg - RR report and Open for Biz slides

I don't have any other new businesses to report as we have done that already. I have asked Farron Elizabeth for the Bloke photos as that is her 2nd store on Entrada and I feel like she would have more professional photos she would rather we use. I just nudged her again....

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Lisa Cava
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 9:04 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Cc: Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: CC mtg - RR report and Open for Biz slides

Ok, thank you Terrie. I won't say anything about the monolith; other than Bloke, are there additional new biz in town RR should mention? I added a slide and pulled some pics/logs from their fb page.
Thx!

From: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 6:04 PM
To: Lisa Cava <lcava@atascadero.org>
Cc: Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: CC mtg - RR report and Open for Biz slides

Hi Lisa!

My apologies, it's been a busy day and I am sorry that I am just getting back to you on this. The other item is the Monolith. Attached provides all of the updates to pull from. In addition to our local channels, here is a sampling of where it has been covered (and the list goes on):

- NY Times
- Newsweek
- CNN Atlanta
- Fox
- KIRO Seattle, KCTV Kansas City
- Daily Mail, London
- Stockton Record
- News.Artnet.com
- Vice.com

- Business Insider India
- The Guardian, UK <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/02/new-monolith-california-mountaintop-atascadero>
- Across a variety of European media channels and a host of others...

Another item to add to this if Rachelle would like to add it is: The City will be evaluating placement of the monolith in the coming week. In the meantime, it has been evaluated for safety until a more detailed evaluation can be performed.

<< File: CPZ Closed FB.jpg >> << File: City of Atascadero - Monolith Second Showing TALKING POINTS ONLY!.doc >>

In regards to the Zoo being closed, attached is the creative we are using on our FB cover page that can be used, but something that says the Zoo is closed is a good idea.

I will take a peek at the PowerPoint and can work to get pictures sent over for Bloke.

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Lisa Cava
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Cc: Rachelle Rickard <rrickard@atascadero.org>
Subject: RE: CC mtg - RR report and Open for Biz slides

Oh! and should I say something about the Zoo is closed too?

From: Lisa Cava
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: CC mtg - RR report and Open for Biz slides

Hi Terrie – I was busy getting started on a couple of my “to-do” items this morning and I didn’t catch everything you said about the CM report, could you send me your list? I have Trail of Lights and New Businesses that are open on my list, could you tell me what I missed? And then whatever info/flyers you have, that’d be awesome. thx!! Lisa.

Lisa Cava – City of Atascadero – City Manager’s Office – Administrative Assistant – lcava@atascadero.org - 805-470-3400

Please Note: With the current spread of COVID-19, the highest priority for the City of Atascadero is to protect the health and safety of our community and staff members. Many staff members are working from remote locations, but are available as always by telephone and email. Please, Be Safe, Be Calm, and Be Kind! Thank you.

The information contained in this email pertains to City business and is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If the reader/recipient of this message is not an intended recipient and you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply email or phone and

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:19 PM
To: 'Connor Allen'
Subject: RE: Atascadero Monolith

Hi Connor!

Here are a couple things to answer your questions:

The Monolith is on City property. There are 75 acres of Stadium Park/ Pine Mountain that is City property. The Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) owns 5 acres at the entrance to the park. Currently, the City is in the process of evaluating the placement of the monolith in the weeks ahead. Currently, it has been deemed safe and secure until a more detailed evaluation can be performed.

In regards to Mayor Moreno's thoughts on the return of the Monolith: "We are delighted that the Monolith has returned to Atascadero and the way it came back to our City. It brought back the joyful spirit that was abruptly taken away."

Please let me know if you need anything else for now.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Connor Allen [mailto:connor@13starsmedia.com]
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: Atascadero Monolith

Awesome. Yes I would love her thoughts on it's return and if the City is intending on making it a permanent feature? I'm also wondering, maybe you can help with this, is that city property it is on?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2020, at 2:30 PM, Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org> wrote:

Yep! Thank you for starting with me too. What would be the overarching quote that you need....happy it came back? What do you think of its return? Just let me now and I will get that for you.

Thanks,
Terrie

From: Connor Allen [<mailto:connor@13starsmedia.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Atascadero Monolith

Hi Terrie,

I also wanted to see if I could get a quote from Heather Moreno on the Monolith. Do I need to go through you to ask Heather? I want to make sure.

Best,

Connor Allen
News Correspondent
cell: 805-235-7869
office: 805-466-2585
5860 El Camino Real, Suite G
Atascadero, CA 93422
Paso Robles Magazine | Colony Magazine | Central Coast TRVLR & Vino
Atascadero News | Paso Robles Press | Morro Bay Life | Avila Beach Life | Ranch Life

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Robert Molle; Jason Carr
Cc: Casey Bryson; Rachelle Rickard; 'Luke Knight (LKnight@atascadero.org)'
Subject: Monolith being removed - Video Stream

Hi Bob & Jason!

Here is the link of the video we have: <https://streamable.com/1sngc0>. Unfortunately, they (people who traveled here) removed the other video that we viewed earlier. Luke is going to download the video on this link so we do have it. The media that sent the link to me is asking me for the video, so obviously they did not pull it either.

If I am able to get that video back, I will let you know. To date, I do not believe we have located or found either the monolith or the cross.

Thanks,
Terrie

Terrie Banish
Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539

Lara Christensen

From: Val Houdyshell <valh@pacbell.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Terrie Banish
Subject: Monolith and Stadium Park Trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I live at the corner of Pinal and Escarpa. Because of the publicity of the monolith our quiet neighborhood is now jammed with cars and people.

The upper trailhead to Stadium Park is located here. The monolith is fun. However, due to all of the people coming to this location to see the now nonexistent monolith they are parking their cars on our narrow road and making it hard for us to get into our driveway.

I am also concerned that if a fire engine or ambulance had to get to our house they would have a very difficult, if not impossible, time doing that. This is not a safe or desirable situation. I understand that this will hopefully be a short-term amusement, but I would really like someone to let people know 1) the monolith is gone, and 2) if they want to park and hike to Pine Mountain they should use the main Stadium Park entrance off of Capistrano. I believe (but not certain) that when people google Stadium Park/Pine Mountain it directs them to the small area at Pinal and Escarpa, as opposed to the main, larger entrance at Capistrano. If this congestion does continue, the City will have to do something to control the parking and people using this location for the safety of the neighborhood.

Thank you, Valene Houdyshell

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Terrie Banish
Subject: Google Alert - atascadero

Google Alerts

atascadero

Daily update · December 4, 2020

NEWS

[Mysterious **Atascadero** monolith ripped down by youth chanting 'Christ is king'](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

If space aliens visited **Atascadero** this week, they went to a lot of trouble for nothing. The tall, shiny metal sculpture left at the summit of a mountaintop ...



Flag as irrelevant

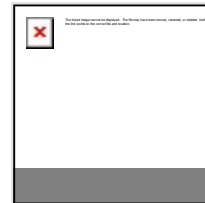
[Monolith in California, similar to structure found in Utah, removed, replaced with cross](#)

USA TODAY

The **Atascadero** News also reported that unlike the Utah monolith, the "**Atascadero** obelisk was not attached to the ground, and could be knocked over ...



Flag as irrelevant



[Highway 101 Repair Project in **Atascadero** Continues Next Week with Overnight Full Highway and ...](#)

Atascadero News

ATASCADERO — A project to replace concrete pavement at five locations on US Highway 101 between the Highway 58 interchange in Santa ...



Flag as irrelevant

[ECHO Raises Record \\$96K in Virtual Turkey Trot](#)

Atascadero News

ATASCADERO — The El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO) held its second annual Turkey Trot this Thanksgiving and raised \$96,900 thanks to ...



Flag as irrelevant

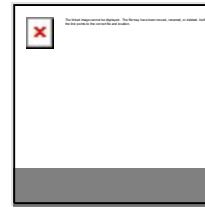
Chamber's Josh Cross Joins 'We the People'

Atascadero News

The 13 Stars podcast "We the People" hosts **Atascadero** Chamber of Commerce interim CEO. Watch the show here, or visit We the People website for ...



Flag as irrelevant



Gov. Newsom Issues Regional Stay-At-Home Order

Atascadero News

April 14, 2020. Getting through this together, **Atascadero**. Share ...



Flag as irrelevant

Another mysterious monolith appears, this time in California

WPXI Pittsburgh

ATASCADERO, Calif. — Maybe three is a magic number. A third mysterious monolith appeared Wednesday, this time on a hill in **Atascadero**, ...



Flag as irrelevant

Monolith monotony? Another mystery structure appears and vanishes in California

Reuters

"I can't say it's aliens, but it was here and now it's gone," said Terrie Banish, deputy city manager of **Atascadero**, California, a city of about 30,000 off ...



Flag as irrelevant

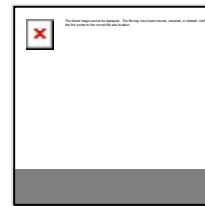
Another metal monolith appears on Calif. hiking trail

WOWT

ATASCADERO, Calif. (KEYT) - The monolith frenzy that captured the world's attention last week continues after another appeared on a hiking trail in ...



Flag as irrelevant



A new metal monolith appeared out of nowhere in California, but it didn't last for long

WTHITV.com

Hikers in **Atascadero**, California, came across a mysterious metal monolith just a few days after a similar structure was removed from the Utah desert.



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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Terrie Banish
Subject: Google Alert - Atascadero, California

Google Alerts

Atascadero, California

Daily update · December 4, 2020

NEWS

[Another monolith appears in Atascadero, California](#)

ABC 4

ATASCADERO, California (ABC4 News) — The monolith saga continues as another monolith was spotted in California on Wednesday. The monolith ...



Flag as irrelevant

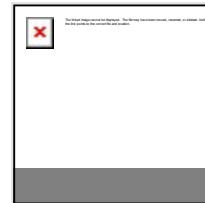
[Hikers discover new mystery monolith in California](#)

KeysNews.com

Hikers in **Atascadero, California**, came across a mysterious metal monolith just a few days after a similar structure was removed from the Utah desert.



Flag as irrelevant



[Third Monolith Appears in California; Alien Invasion or Insufferable PR Stunt Imminent](#)

Consequence of Sound

... latest shiny sculpture was spotted the morning of Wednesday, December 2nd, perched atop Pine Mountain in **Atascadero, California**. Like the others ...



Flag as irrelevant

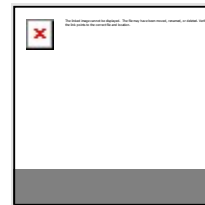
[Another metal monolith appears on Calif. hiking trail](#)

WDBJ7

ATASCADERO, Calif. (KEYT) - The monolith frenzy that captured the world's attention last week continues after another appeared on a hiking trail in ...



Flag as irrelevant



[Atascadero monolith destroyed by vandals](#)

KEYT

ATASCADERO, Calif. - A metal monolith that appeared atop a peak in Atascadero Wednesday was destroyed by vandals overnight. A livestream ...



Flag as irrelevant

[Mysterious Monolith Update: Third Monolith Appears Atop California Mountain](#)

Free

Another unexplained monolith has been spotted, this time in **Atascadero, California**. The ever-familiar silver silhouette stands atop Pine Mountain, ...



Flag as irrelevant

[CIF Says Competition Start Dates for HS Athletics on Hold](#)

Atascadero News

The **California** Department of Public Health was expected to issue updated youth sports guidance that would allow high school athletics to begin full ...



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[Alien or art? Utah monolith removal explained, third found in California mountain](#)

Philstar.com

The "mysterious" monolith was found atop Pine mountain in **Atascadero, California**. Connor Allen via Twitter. Alien or art? Utah monolith removal ...



Flag as irrelevant

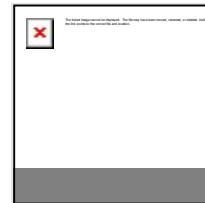
[Another monolith appears in California](#)

CANOE

Another monolith has been spotted on California's central coast. ... object at the top of the Pine Mountain Loop hiking trail in **Atascadero, Calif.**



Flag as irrelevant



[Breakfast Briefing: 5 things for PR pros to know on Thursday morning](#)

PR Week

Following the mysterious monolith appearances in Utah and Romania, the latest one has popped up on Pine Mountain in **Atascadero, California**.



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Lara Christensen

From: Heather Moreno
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 7:14 AM
To: Rachelle Rickard
Cc: Lara Christensen; Terrie Banish
Subject: Fwd: Mysterious Monolith video

In case anyone wants to see it. And to note, the guy was wearing a mask. 😊

Heather Moreno, MA, CPA
Mayor, City of Atascadero

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Frazier <fritter63@me.com>
Date: December 3, 2020 at 18:31:58 PST
To: Heather Moreno <hmoreno@atascadero.org>
Subject: **Mysterious Monolith video**

Or is it an obelisk?

Hi Heather,

Here is a link to the video I made of our visit to the monolith on Wednesday. I can't make the video public/searchable as it would get flagged for a music copyright violation by YouTube, but feel free to pass the link around to the city council, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvAZiokRrh4>

ATTENTION:

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Lara Christensen

From: Heather Moreno
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 6:41 AM
To: Rachelle Rickard; Terrie Banish
Subject: Fwd: Atascadero Monument Replacement

Very interesting...

Heather Moreno, MA, CPA
Mayor, City of Atascadero

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Naisuler <dave@stollerstudio.com>
Date: December 3, 2020 at 19:48:29 PST
To: Heather Moreno <hmoreno@atascadero.org>, Charles Bourbeau <cbourbeau@atascadero.org>, Roberta Fonzi <rfonzi@atascadero.org>, Susan Funk <sfunk@atascadero.org>, Heather Newsom <hnewsom@atascadero.org>
Subject: Atascadero Monument Replacement

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,

This letter is in regards to the recent events regarding a monument in Atascadero that was illegally erected and subsequently torn down by militant white supremacists and religious bigots.

Stoller Studio has been making sculpture for 25+ years in public settings. Though illegally placed, we here at the Studio are pained to see the abuse of an innocent yet playful and thought provoking icon in our fair state, which prides itself on welcoming all creeds and colors in the best of the American spirit.

We would like the opportunity to erect a new monolith as a statement of freedom and tolerance for all. It would be set in a location of your choosing (if not the location of the original), and financed by donors from around the state. We have deep experience installing in civic environments: With our familiarity with heavy and durable materials as well as engineered and permitted construction methods and techniques, the new monolith would be impossible to harm while maintaining a lightness of aesthetic and a surety of communication.

Please allow us to help Atascadero make a statement to California, the country and the world that it will continue on as a bastion for freedom and tolerance, and that we will both as citizens and a nation persevere in the remaking this country's ideals while enduring these divisive times.

As both a former Arts and Culture Commissioner For the Town of Los Gatos and as a sculptor, I would be privileged to discuss this over Zoom with you in any capacity, and at your convenience.

Respectfully,
- - David Naisuler

--

David Naisuler
Director, Stoller Studio Inc.
394-A Umbarger Rd San Jose, CA 95111
408 206 7424
dave@stollerstudio.com
www.stollerstudio.com

https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=curated_vice_daily_1023202

<https://atascaderonews.com/news/vandals-remove-object-from-pine-mountain/>

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:49 PM
To: 'smoniuszko@gannett.com'
Subject: FW: USA TODAY statement request

Hi Sara!

I included you in our press release that we sent out a little bit ago, but if you have any other questions, or need anything else, please let me know as I am happy to help!

Warm regards,
Terrie

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moniuszko, Sara" <smoniuszko@gannett.com>
Date: December 3, 2020 at 10:54:21 AM PST
To: Jason Carr <JCarr@atascadero.org>
Subject: Re: USA TODAY statement request

Hello,

Just following up on the request below.

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Moniuszko
Digital Editor
USA TODAY, Life

smoniuszko@gannett.com

7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

From: Moniuszko, Sara

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:11 AM

To: jcarr@atascadero.org <jcarr@atascadero.org>

Subject: USA TODAY statement request

Hello,

My name is Sara Moniuszko, I'm a reporter with USA TODAY. We're seeing reports that a monolith was discovered on a hiking trail in Atascadero called Pine Mountain. Can you please confirm, on the record, that police are investigating the structure? And would you be able to provide a statement about a safety warning for hikers/selfie takers?

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Moniuszko
Digital Editor
USA TODAY, Life
smoniuszko@gannett.com
7950 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102

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Scott Brennan is the publisher of the A-Town Daily News and founder of [Access Publishing](#). Connect with him on [Google+](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [follow his blog](#).

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Robert Molle
Subject: FW: Monolith

-----Original Message-----

From: Manuel Martinez [mailto:zte1776blade@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 3:31 AM
To: Terrie Banish <tbanish@atascadero.org>
Subject: Monolith

Dear Terry,

The article left your email address for comments and more info. IMO, I'm glad they destroyed the penis of Satan and took down this pagan statue. They probably danced around a fire pit, high on drugs, and had an orgy around it. It was vandalism if you ask me. That thing doesn't belong in nature.

Have a nice Friday

- Christ is King!

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Lara Christensen

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:16 PM
To: 'samir.ferdowski@vice.com'
Subject: FW: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update
Attachments: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update!.doc; Monolith removed 1.jpg; Monolith removed 2.jpg

Here you go Samir! Again, thank you for your help.

Best,
Terrie

From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Press <Press@atascadero.org>
Subject: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update



News Release:

City of Atascadero
6500 Palma Ave.
Atascadero, CA 93422
(805) 461-5000

For Immediate Release: December 3, 2020
Contact: Deputy City Manager, Terrie Banish, 805-470-3490

Monolith Update

On the afternoon of Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the City of Atascadero received reports from hikers of a steel Monolith or Obelisk structure at the top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park.

As of early this morning, the Monolith had disappeared. The City has received the actual video that has surfaced on social media showing a group of men from out of the area removing the Monolith and replacing it with a plywood cross. The video shows them replacing the structure and talking amongst themselves.

“We are upset that these young men felt the need to drive 5 hours to come into our community and vandalize the Monolith. The Monolith was something unique and fun in an otherwise stressful time,” said Mayor Heather Moreno.

The Atascadero Police Department has not received any reports to date that the Monolith had been removed and/ or stolen. Currently, the Atascadero Police Department is reviewing the video and looking into this incident further. We will provide updated information as soon as it’s available.

The steel 3-sided structure stood about 10 ft. tall and appeared to weigh an estimated 200 pounds. The area of Stadium Park offers a 2 mile looping trail up to the top or you can take a more challenging trail with a higher level of difficulty to the top that would be about a 30-minute hike. The altitude of Pine Mountain sits at 1300 ft. and there is no vehicle access to bring something that large to the top. The City owns and maintains 75 acres of the Stadium Park area and the five-acre entrance is owned and maintained by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS). At this time, neither the City nor the ALPS have any information on how the structure found its way to the top of the mountain or who placed it there.

If you have any information about the Monolith, please contact the Atascadero Police Department at (805) 461-5051.

For further information, please contact Terrie Banish at (805) 470-3490, tbanish@atascadero.org. The area of Pine Mountain where the Monolith was located, can be found at www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/ and click on Stadium Park.

Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager’s Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539



From: Terrie Banish
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Press
Subject: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update
Attachments: City of Atascadero News Release - Monolith Update!.doc; Monolith removed 1.jpg; Monolith removed 2.jpg



News Release:

City of Atascadero
6500 Palma Ave.
Atascadero, CA 93422
(805) 461-5000

For Immediate Release: December 3, 2020
Contact: Deputy City Manager, Terrie Banish, 805-470-3490

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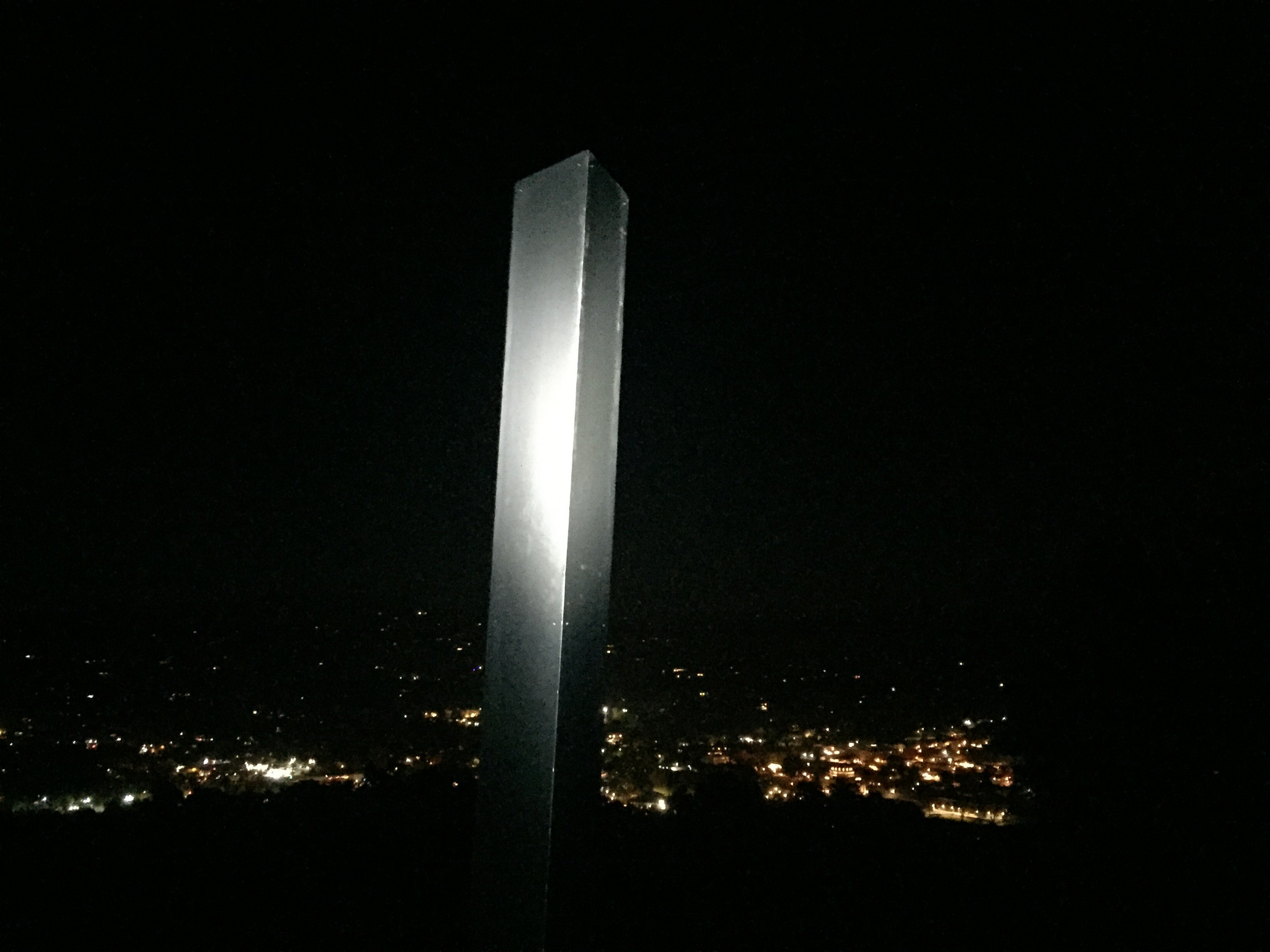
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Terrie Banish

Deputy City Manager | Outreach, Promotions, Events
City of Atascadero | City Manager's Office
6500 Palma Ave | Atascadero, CA 93422
Direct: 805.470.3490 | Mobile: 805.235.2539











cityofatascadero



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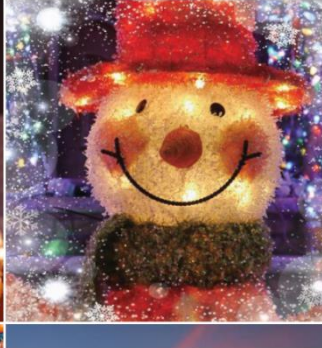
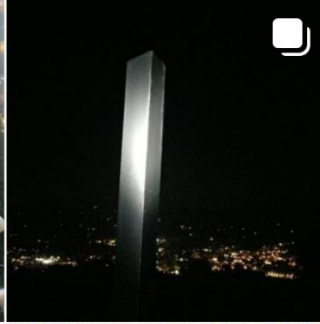
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Liked by atascadero_chamber and 131 others

cityofatascadero MONOLITH UPDATE!

Many of you have had questions around the appearance and disappearance of the Monolith on top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park. At this time, the Monolith has been taken down by a group that traveled over five hours in the middle of the night to remove the mysterious 3-sided steel structure that stood about 10 ft. tall and appeared to weigh an estimated 200 pounds.

If you have any information about the Monolith's arrival and/ or departure, please contact the Atascadero Police Department at (805) 461-5051.

#besafebecalmbekind #monolith

Photo credit: Monolith by Phil Dunsmore; Monolith remnants by Dawn Patterson

View all 27 comments





Comments



Top Comments



aliciakristen619 They should be arrested and charged with a hate crime. Not even from our county to come and take an art installation that was not theirs and spew their hateful racist crap is UNACCEPTABLE. Vice has a video, you can google it and be just as upset as we are.



5d 9 likes Reply

— View 2 previous replies



ketogenic_kayla @aliciakristen619 yes, behavior like that should not be accepted in our town!



5d 1 like Reply



aliciakristen619 @ketogenic_kayla I heard the mayor and APD are going to press charges. 🙏🙏🙏



4d 1 like Reply



ketogenic_kayla @aliciakristen619 this is great news!! 🙌



14h 1 like Reply



steveoakeast The so called racists out-of-towners story is obviously a convincing red herring tactic. The MIB is trying to cover up the



Add a comment as cityofatascadero...



Comments



steveoakeast The so called racists out-of-towners story is obviously a convincing red herring tactic. The MIB is trying to cover up the fact that aliens are contacting us in some way. The Utah story is similar.



5d 5 likes Reply

— Hide replies



ketogenic_kayla @steveoakeast I absolutely LOVE this theory!! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸👽



5d Reply



nathan_wilsonnnn @steveoakeast yes



5d 2 likes Reply



v.photos_03 Dang, something interesting happened in Atascadero for once



5d 3 likes Reply



william_red86 Who put it up and why?



5d 1 like Reply

— View 1 reply



kristi.k_ This is a shame, I hope the police catch the group.



Add a comment as cityofatascadero...



Comments



v.photos_03 Dang, something interesting happened in Atascadero for once



5d 3 likes Reply



william_red86 Who put it up and why?



5d 1 like Reply



ketogenic_kayla @william_red86 the aliens did 🙄



5d Reply



kristi.k_ This is a shame, I hope the police catch the group.



5d 2 likes Reply



mikdes26 A "group?" What does that even mean?



5d 1 like Reply



kindheartpearl Sadly, trump cult supporters always say this after the damage is done



4d Reply



tom.bolton.5872 Another distraction away from the most important election since the civil war. Carry on.



Add a comment as cityofatascadero...



Comments



carlosr2082 🙄

5d Reply



ketogenic_kayla They streamed the entire destruction of it...so sad.

5d Reply



mtiberi39 It's a shame it was vandalized.

5d Reply



kt_cramer <https://streamable.com/1sngc0>

5d Reply



aliciakristen619 https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens?utm_source=lterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=curated_vice_daily_1023202&fbclid=IwAR1XoO_3I3AK2XDTg3eL4TC07q_a6BJNMGiGDKnX_j48f2GTu99cSPg8KMU

5d Reply



zybachh @mmeyer86 We just missed it 😂👁️!

5d 1 like Reply



Add a comment as cityofatascadero...



Comments



5d Reply



mtiberi39 It's a shame it was vandalized.



5d Reply



kt_cramer <https://streamable.com/1sngc0>



5d Reply



aliciakristen619 https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens?utm_source=lterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=curated_vice_daily_1023202&fbclid=IwAR1XoO_3I3AK2XDTg3eL4TCo7q_a6BJNMGiGDKnX_j48f2GTu99cSPg8KMU



5d Reply



zybachh @mmeyer86 We just missed it 😂👽!



5d 1 like Reply



ceceaortiz @mrs_jess_reyes



5d 1 like Reply



sugasean21 @dear_abbs



5d Reply



Add a comment as cityofatascadero...



City of Atascadero



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City of Atascadero



Posted by Terrie Wahl-Banish

5d ·

MONOLITH UPDATE!

Many of you have had questions around the appearance and disappearance of the Monolith on top of Pine Mountain in Stadium Park. At this time, the Monolith has been taken down by a group that traveled over five hours in the middle of the night to remove the mysterious 3-sided steel structure that stood about 10 ft. tall and appeared to weigh an estimated 200 pounds.

If you have any information about the Monolith's arrival and/ or departure, please contact the [Atascadero Police Department](#) at (805) 461-5051.

[#besafebecalmbekind](#) [#monolith](#)

Photo credit: Monolith by Phil Dunsmore; Monolith remnants by Dawn Patterson





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Ashley Elizabeth
[ViCharlotte Juarez-Frost](#)

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Amanda Jean
[Trinity Parks](#)

5d Like Reply Message



Eric Smith
Sorry Dave, I can't do that....

5d Like Reply Message

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Ashley Elizabeth
[ViCharlotte Juarez-Frost](#)

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Amanda Jean
[Trinity Parks](#)

5d Like Reply Message



Eric Smith
Sorry Dave, I can't do that....

5d Like Reply Message

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Glenda Selzer Goulet
Did the cross that they put up get taken down? I see the picture of the hole in the ground I don't see the cross.

5d Like Reply Message



Author

City of Atascadero
[Glenda Selzer Goulet](#) the cross was taken down & found later by a hiker nearby.

4d Like Reply



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Carrie Pulse
[Grea Riffenburgh](#)



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taken down & found later by a hiker nearby.

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Greg Riffenburgh

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Troy Tidwell
Tammy Hembree



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Daniel Baker

Are you aware that this made The Friendly Atheist Facebook Page?

https://friendlyatheist.patheos.com/2020/12/04/california-monolith-torn-down-replaced-with-cross-by-racist-christians/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook&fbclid=IwAR0tywVZkUWoCfZSnVE9mXhzsFAk0e44F7k3aMvhAqGyFfkPBlpiP9yekEQ



California Monolith Torn Down, Replaced with Cross by Racist Chri...

friendlyatheist.patheos.com

4d Like Reply Message



Noury Pat

Can't wait to see what this marketing stunt is about! 🙌 😄

5d Like Reply Message

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Walter Beazy

[Noury Pat](#) No way anybody takes credit, so many laws have been broken

4d Like Reply Message



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Tanner Hayes

Cool 😎 🌴 🏕️ 🌊

5d Like Reply Message

1



Shanny Raye Stern

May I ask a question? I seen another report of the people coming 5 hours away to take it down, but both articles ask for help with it being gone, my question is if they don't know who took it, how do you know they came from 5 hours away?

5d Like Reply Message

11



Molliann Jones

Shanny Raye Stern <https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens>



Racists Destroy California Monolith, Proclaim Christ Supe...
vice.com

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< City of Atascadero's Post ...

5d Like Reply Message 1



Shanny Raye Stern

[Lily Arfa](#) thank you for answering.
Where can the video be viewed please?

5d Like Reply Message



Lily Arfa

[Shanny Raye Stern](#) because they posted a 5+ hour live stream video of them driving here from down south.

5d Like Reply Message 2



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Vicente Torres

https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens?fbclid=IwAR0Z8ax89SqfV4WX-XTHJwhpAUN2y7nb8Qv9AR7-eEwX1m1gSRNcl_cj7s8



Racists Destroy California Monolith, Proclaim Christ Superior to Aliens

vice.com

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Lily Arfa

[Shanny Raye Stern](#) because they posted a 5+ hour live stream video of them driving here from down south.

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https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjpk7/mysterious-monolith-update-racists-destroy-california-monolith-proclaim-christs-superiority-to-space-aliens?fbclid=IwAR0Z8ax89SqfV4WX-XTHJwhpAUN2y7nb8Qv9AR7-eEwX1m1gSRNcl_cj7s8



Racists Destroy California Monolith, Proclaim Christ Superior to Aliens

vice.com

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Vicente Torres

This does not appear to be safe, calm, or kind. I'm sad for the residents of Atascadero.

5d Like Reply Message

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Visit Atascadero



Posted by Sprout Social

5h · 🌐

Have you seen the mysterious monolith yet? Grab your hiking buddy and head up Stadium Park Trail to catch a glimpse of Atascadero's newest tourist attraction!

Photo Credit: greenloveelixirbar

<https://www.visitatascadero.com/things-to-do/hiking-and-biking/>





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Michael Rummel

If people ran to Jesus like they do to this silliness this country wouldn't be in trouble

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