



CITY OF SOLEDAD

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 20, 2026

WELCOME

New Year, New Newsletter Format 🎉. Welcome to the City of Soledad's (redesigned) monthly newsletter. Here, you will get the latest scoop on the City's news, upcoming events, and important updates.

The City of Soledad's newsletter is brought to you by the City Manager the Community Engagement Office.



MEGAN HUNTER
City Manager
City of Soledad



ERIC MORA
Community
Engagement Manager
City of Soledad

PAST EVENTS



Soledad Family Welcomes First Baby Born in Monterey County in 2026

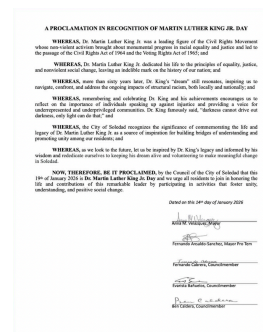
The Soledad City Council began their January 14, 2026 City Council meeting by presenting a certificate of recognition to Elizabeth Medina Mora and Sergio Mora, Soledad residents and proud parents to Noah Mora Medina, Monterey County's first baby of the year.

Noah was born at 12:00:09 am on New Year's Day, arriving only 9 seconds into 2026!

Soledad Adopts Proclamation for MLK Day

On January 14, 2026, the Soledad City Council adopted a proclamation honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his lasting legacy of justice, service and unity.

Soledad City offices were closed in observance of MLK Day.



Mexican Consulate Hosts "Ruta Informativa" Session in Soledad

Thank you to the Mexican Consulate of San José for visiting the City of Soledad as part of its "Ruta Informativa" series.

These visits help connect our community with important resources, information, and support—strengthening the bond between our residents and the services available to them.

We appreciate the Consulate's continued commitment to serving Mexican nationals and families throughout the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ribbon Cutting & Community Health Fair

Join the Monterey County Health Department and the City of Soledad as we come together to celebrate our Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strip Kiosk, and our Community Health and Resource Fair

📍 Soledad Fire Department
📅 Friday, January 23, 2026
🕒 Ribbon Cutting: 10am
Health Fair: 11am-1pm



SOUTH COUNTY SATURDAY MARKET VENDOR INFO SESSION

Thursday, January 29th 2026
5:30 PM - 7 PM
Soledad City Hall
248 Main St, Soledad, CA 93960

Vendor Interest Form: linktr.ee/MonarchSBDC
Are you a small business owner, artisan, maker, or food vendor in South Monterey County? Join us to learn more about a new, recurring South County Saturday Market coming to Soledad!

South County Saturday Market Vendor Info Session

Interested in selling at a new South County Saturday Market in Soledad? Join us for a Vendor Information Session to learn how the market will work and to help shape it from the start.

At this session, you'll learn about vendor participation, required permits, market operations, marketing and promotion — and you'll have the opportunity to share what you would like to see to make the market successful for everyone.

Hosted by Monarch Small Business Development Center, Soledad Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Soledad.

📍 Soledad City Hall | Soledad, CA
📅 Thursday, January 29
🕒 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Soledad State of the City

We invite all residents to attend this year's Annual State of the City Address, where we'll reflect on our community's progress, celebrate accomplishments, and share key initiatives shaping the year ahead.

This is a great opportunity to hear directly from City leadership about ongoing projects, upcoming priorities, and how we're working together to support a thriving, connected community.

📍 Soledad Community Center
📅 Thursday, February 5
🕒 6:00 PM



SOLEDAD POLICE DEPARTMENT





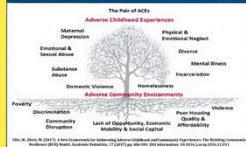
Forced labor occurs when individuals are compelled against their will to perform work or service through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

- Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries.

Sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

- Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be victims of human trafficking, **REGARDLESS** of the use of force, fraud, or coercion. *CDC (2024) recommends:*

**We can Prevent
Adverse Childhood Experiences**



**For 24hr support call the Monterey
County Rape Crisis Center:
831-375-4357**

CDC (2024) recommends:

- Strengthening economic support to families.
- Promoting social norms that protect against violence and adversity.
- Ensuring a strong start for children.
- Teaching a variety of skills.
- Connecting youth to caring adults and activities.
- Intervening to lessen immediate and long-term harms.

January is **Human Trafficking Awareness Month**, and the Soledad Police Department is committed to raising awareness and standing with victims of this crime.

Human trafficking can happen in any community and often goes unnoticed. By learning the signs and staying informed, we can help identify situations where someone may be at risk and connect them with the help and resources they need.

From the Soledad Police Department, we encourage our community to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, and support efforts that protect vulnerable individuals.

Together, through awareness, education, and partnership, we can help combat human trafficking and promote safety and dignity for all.

CHIEF'S CORNER



By popular demand, the **Soledad Police Department** has brought back a familiar **patch design** that reflects our history, pride, and professionalism.

While the change may seem small, details like this matter. Returning to this sleek, previously worn design has been a **morale boost** for our team and a reminder that while styles may evolve, **our mission remains the same:** serving and protecting the Soledad community with dedication and integrity.

Sometimes it's the little things that reconnect us to who we are, and we're proud to wear it once again.



PATRICK VALENZUELA
Chief of Police
Soledad Police Department
236 Main Street, Soledad, CA 93960
Main Line: (831)223-5120

OPPORTUNITIES

CANCER AWARENESS & PATIENT NAVIGATION WORKSHOP 🗣️: Join the Monterey County Health Department and the Soledad Family Resource Center on January 28 at 5PM at the Soledad Family Resource Center for a workshop conducted in Spanish focusing on breast & uterine cancer. More information? Call 831-809-9870.

GIRLS INC. 8th GRADE RETREAT 🏡: Join Girls INC. for an exciting retreat designed for 8th graders on Saturday, January 31st from 9am to 3pm at Soledad High School. Registration is FREE for Main Street participants--register by Friday, January 23 at tinyurl.com/8thgradesCe

WINTER COUNTY CAREER FAIR 🏢: The County of Monterey will host their second annual Winter County Career Fair on Thursday, February 5th from 2-4:30PM at Hartnell College's Soledad Campus (1505 Metz Road, Soledad, CA 93960). Attend the career fair and learn about exciting careers at the County of Monterey.

INCOME TAX PREPARATION AT NO COST TO LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS OVER 60 YEARS THROUGH ALLIANCE ON AGING 🧓: Alliance on Aging has volunteer tax counselors that can prepare your 2025 Federal and CA income tax returns at no cost if you qualify. Visit AllianceOnAging.org or call 831-655-1334 for more information.



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