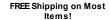
Olympus











Contact us | Customer Service | Subscribe | iTribune | Place an ad | Today's ads | iPhone App | SIGN IN | BECOME A MEMBER SanLuisObispo.com Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH dealsaver JOBS REAL ESTATE Find n Save HOME NEWS CRIME OPINION SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT TOURIST INFO OBITS BREAKING LOCAL STATE BUSINESS NATION/WORLD WEIRD NEWS CRIME VIDEOS SPECIAL PROJECTS CAMBRIAN You are here: Root 🔕 Published: Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012 Skateboarder, truck driver injured in San Updated: 12:14 am Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012 Luis Obispo collision

More room for every body at new Sheriff's Office morgue



By Cynthia Lambert | clambert@thetribunenews.com

Share

For the first time in its history, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office will have its own, separate facility to conduct autopsies or medical examinations.

The 2,600-square-foot medical examination facility, in a modern, tan-and-white building at 835 Aerovista Place in San Luis Obispo, will give the three-person coroner's team better ventilation, a larger refrigeration system and an autopsy suite with two exam tables.



Sheriff gets supervisors' OK to move morgue into new facility

The coroner's team currently conducts autopsies and medical examinations once a week at Los Osos Valley Mortuary. The team's current offices are at the Sheriff's Office on Kansas Avenue off Highway 1.

"This is huge," said Jeff Nichols, a detective coroner who has worked nearly six years with the team, which investigates every suspicious death and signs off on every

Two arrested after pipe bomb found at Arroyo Grande home

Study: Calif. heat waves increasing toward

Dead man found in Cambria was killed, authorities say

Small fire at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant is extinguished

Letter: Film has lesson 458 comments · 32 minutes ago

Letter: Founders' intent 70 comments · 2 hours ago

Davidson's Furniture in SLO is closing; Halloween store moving in 41 comments · 5 minutes ago

1 in 3 pregnant women in SLO County drinks alcohol in first trimester, officials say 90 comments \cdot 51 minutes ago

Letter: S.S. made simple 147 comments · 19 hours ago

Get the Deal!



Discount: 50% You Save: \$16

dealsaver.com



- Sheriff asking for new morgue
- Evidence storage must be improved
- Paso man found dead on train tracks died from fall
- Cambria man identified as driver of car that crashed into bus

County coroner's team faces death every day

death certificate those areas of the Sheriff's Office that flew under the radar for most people."

The new facility will allow detective coroners to work faster and more efficiently, Nichols said.

"Now, if we have to re-examine someone, we have to leave our (office), drive 20 minutes, do the exam and drive 20 minutes back," he said.

Sheriff Ian Parkinson said the improved ventilation system will protect employees and other investigators who visit the facility. A separate room allows investigators to view an autopsy through a window without having to be in the same room.

Nichols said the Sheriff's Office plans to hire someone, likely a retired mortician, on a parttime contract basis to clean up on days in which autopsies are completed.

The county will pay \$60,000 annually to lease the facility from WestPac Companies — a little less than the county is paying now to use the private mortuary's facility.

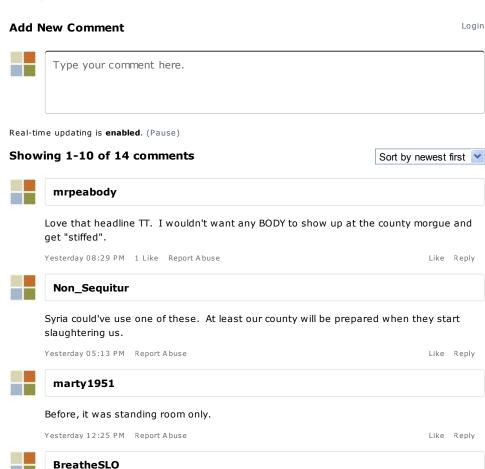
Funds to purchase and install the specialized equipment, the refrigeration unit and the ventilation system came from the nonprofit San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Foundation and asset forfeiture funds, or money from the seizure of illegally gained assets from suspected criminals.



About comments

Reader comments on SanLuisObispo.com are the opinions of the writer, not The Tribune. If you see an objectionable comment, click the "report abuse" button below it. We will delete comments containing inappropriate links, obscenities, hate speech, and personal attacks. Flagrant or repeat violators will be banned. See more about comments here.

Like



Oh, how nice to have a dentist that shares his office with the medical examiner.





This Extraordinary Band marches in the Rose Bowl & Performs at Disneyland.

Sponsored by American Legion Post #432

SanLuisObispo.com THE TRIBUNE OUR NEWS, YOUR WAY

Be the first to know what's going on in San Luis Obispo County. Just tell us how you want to find out — we'll take care of the rest.













GET BREAKING NEWS ON YOUR CELL PHONE

Sign up for breaking news alerts from SanLuisO bispo.com and get the latest news sent to your cell phone via text message.

Type in your cell phone number



I accept the terms and conditions (click to view)

Keep your phone handy!

Upon hitting the Sign up! button, you will receive a message with a four-digit code at the end. Enter this number on the next screen and press the Confirm button.

Sign Up!



Top Jobs

Like Reply

	^
RECEPTIONIST A	- 8
US-CA-San Luis Obispo RESTAURANT	
US-CA-San Luis Obispo	~

Yesterday 10:29 AM Report Abuse



top

"Funds to purchase and install the specialized equipment...came from...money from the seizure of illegally gained assets from suspected criminals".

If they are certain the assets were gained illegally wouldn't the people be proven criminals, not suspected? And if they are suspected, their assets are sold off before they are proven to be criminals?

(Edited by author 21 hours ago)

Yesterday 10:21 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



TomHandley

Yeah, it's called asset forfeiture, which is a loophole around criminal due process that essentially allows the government to permanently seize anything they want from anyone they suspect of a crime. They also have tremendous incentive to be forfeiture-happy and strongly encourage its use at all times, because individual departments can directly use most of the proceeds gained to buy high end toys. This attitude is exemplified by a taxpayer-funded run of custom engraved Leatherman multitools distributed to BATFE agents inscribed with "ATF-Always Think Forfeiture". It's been around for a good while and it's a key component to supporting the vast scope of criminal law and law enforcement operations that -cough- some folks around here routinely advocate for.

Yesterday 08:18 PM in reply to top Report Abuse

Like Reply



beachgal

Not sure why the corner office needed this facility. The morgues at Sierra and French are hardly ever used. Maybe those private facilities wanted to charge the local govt too much \$ for use?

Yesterday 10:04 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



beachgal

Just looked at the other photos...when in the world would this little area need to 'frig 24 bodies at the same time? And Ok that the space is \$60,000/yr now - but that's never going to stay the same. Then all that equipment when the space is sold or the rent is too high needs to be pulled out and where to put it then? To me not good long range planning went into this project.

Yesterday 10:11 AM in reply to beachgal 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply



HughJassSpeaking

"when in the world would this little area need to 'frig 24 bodies at the same time?"

PSA Flight 1771 crashed in Cayucos in 1987, killing all 43 people aboard. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to think of plenty of accident, disaster or terrorism mass casualty scenarios where the corner would be dealing with far more than 24 bodies.

Yesterday 01:58 PM in reply to beachgal 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



top

The estimated population of SLO county at the 2011 census was 271,969, and the county is a fairly high tourist destination with wineries and the 101 artery. You don't think there could ever be 24 bodies waiting for an autopsy or re-examination?

Yesterday 10:14 AM in reply to beachgal Report Abuse

Like Reply

1 2 Next \rightarrow

Government Jobs
Search 1000s of jobs.
Top employers. Local
& national. Apply now. www.JobsOnline.net

ISCSI and NAS
Appliances
High Performance
ISCSI Appliances up to Openings Paying \$13-243TB, Prices starting \$995.
Digiliant.com

Immediate Job
Openings
Found: 4,241 Job
Openings Paying \$13-243TB, Prices starting \$79/ Hr + Benefits.
Apply Now!
www.JobsuSeek.com

Ads by Yahoo!

SITE MAP MY 1

News	Opinion	Sports	Entertainment	Living	Classifieds	Resources
 Obituaries Breaking News Local Business Tech State Nation/World Politics Environment Weird News Photos Video Special Projects Gas Prices Crime Traffic Report 	 Letters to the Editor Columns Blogs Caption Contest 	 Local Prep Sports Stats Outdoors College Baseball Football Basketball Hockey Motorsports Golf Tennis Olympics 	 Ticket Event Calendar Dining Wine Celebrities Movies Music TV Horoscopes Comics Sudoku 	 Health Fitness Travel Relationships Wedding Pets 	 Jobs Cars Homes Place an Ad Local Coupons National Coupons Display Ads Yellow Pages Special Sections 	 Visitor Guide My SLO County Contact Us Subscriber Services News in Education RSS Feeds E-Newsletters Archives Photo Reprints Yellow Pages

Terms of Service Privacy Policy About our ads Copyright