

DEPUTIES/ More needed on street

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Most of the crimes the substation investigates are related to agriculture, including trespassing and vehicle burglaries, Miller said. The station is also part of the countywide Gang Task Force and assists agencies in surrounding cities as needed.

The station's four sergeants are Bill Kaye, Ron Willis, John Pellerin and Evelyn Bass. The station has a budget of about \$10,900 for services and supplies.

'The deputies here do the best they can with the limits we have. We want to get more people on the streets to serve and protect'

— Fred García,
Monterey County Sheriff commander

Since late January, the south county substation has been investigating a case where four horses were stolen from a ranch owner south of San Ardo. The station has also investigated shootings in King City and San Lucas over the past few months.

Another challenge for the sheriff's substation is limited funding, which has led to reduced staffing.

"As the whole county has been hurt with their budget, our response times have been down because we are experiencing short staffing," Cmdr. Fred García said.

With the county having placed a hiring freeze, the substation has had to make do, García said. Some deputies have begun looking elsewhere for work, he said.

"The deputies here do the best they can with the limits we have," García said. "We want to get more people on

MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTH COUNTY SUBSTATION

n **SUPERVISOR:** Cmdr. Fred García

n **STAFFING:** 19 paid employees.

n **LOCATION:** 250 Franciscan Way, King City.

the streets to serve and protect but that's just not possible now."

As station commander, he said, the Sheriff's Office needs to move to a larger substation in south Monterey County so that there can be more personnel and deputies on the streets.

Contact Victor Calderón at vcalderon@thecalifornian.com.



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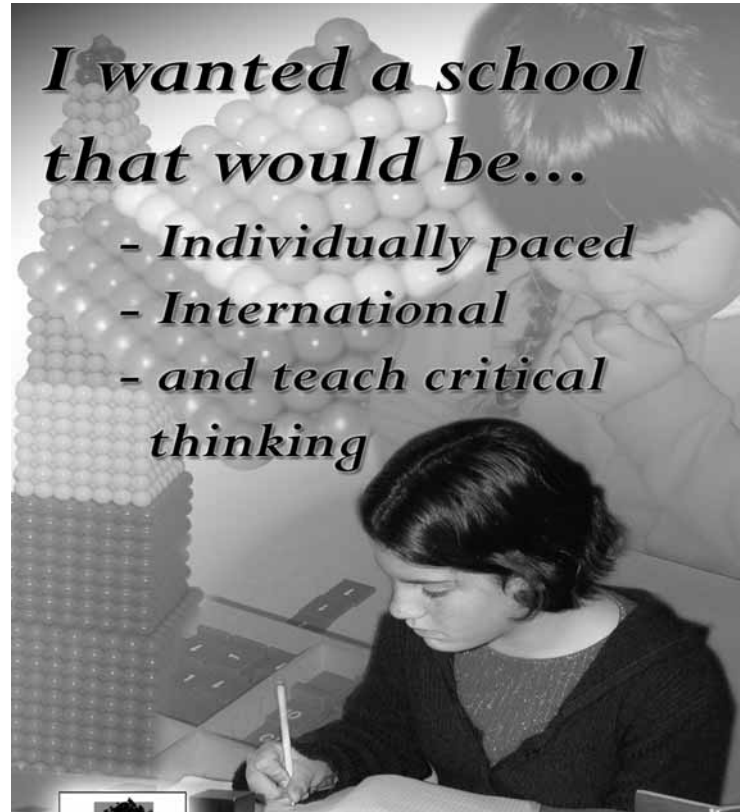
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