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Rushing Around Town...

CIOPPINO AND BOLAWRAPPS

What is the connection between a spicy Italian tomato and fish soup with a "less than lethal" life-saving tool used by police departments throughout the country? Drones vs. BolaWrap?

In April 2021, Chico Police Chief Madden accepted the donation of \$26,000 to purchase five drones and related equipment. These donations came from Chicoans who raised money from an Italian Cioppino dinner.

In January of this year, I offered a \$5,000 donation to Chief Madden, Mayor Coolidge, and Manager Orme, to purchase four BolaWraps together with BolaWrap training for CPD.

The BolaWrap is a proven non-lethal tool used by police departments across California. This tool saves lives, check out the YouTube videos of the BolaWrap in action. The BolaWrap could have saved Tyler Rushing's life.

Why is my donation of this life-saving device being ignored? **So far, no response from Madden or any city official.** Isn't it time for Chico police to employ nonlethal tools to dis-arm and or de-escalate police confrontations?

PS: Over 56,000 viewers, worldwide, have watched the video of my son Tyler Rushing being killed in Chico on July 23, 2017. The video link is below.

<https://youtu.be/gEBwhGF7KA0>

A production of the Real News Network, Police Accountability Report.

Send your comments to: therealchiconews@gmail.com

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Butte County Director of Child Support Services Sean Farrell has used Zoom and video recordings to keep his department connected during the pandemic. Teleworking has worked well for the county, with productivity increasing by 38 percent in one division. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN FARRELL

ment, and we'll be doing the same," Koch told the CN&R. "This is not a short-term change."

The Chico Chamber of Commerce is hearing similar things from its members. Chamber President/CEO Katy Thoma said companies have shared with the chamber that having their workforce at home has increased productivity, and some are eyeing cost savings long-term by potentially reducing their commercial office space. (Many are waiting until life stabilizes before making that call, she added.)

"So it's really been a win-win, not only for the worker but also for the company as well," Thoma said.

Flex office

Similar to what Build experienced, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, Butte County offices had to adapt quickly.

Teleworking allowed the county to continue to provide essential services safely, according to Sheri Waters, director of human resources. The county adopted a voluntary teleworking policy that has no sunset date—and will continue to explore remote work options moving forward, Waters said, "because of the positive feedback we've gotten from employees and from some departments."

In Child Support Services, for example, which is made up of 100 employees, 75 percent of the department shifted to working from home, according to Director Sean Farrell. Only about 5 percent

decided to return to the office as pandemic restrictions were lifted.

It's not only been a popular option for employees, it's worked well for the county, Farrell said. Job performance from March 2020 through April 2021 improved by 38 percent in the operations division, which includes case managers.

Shelby Boston, director of the county's Department of Employment and Social Services, has seen similar positive changes within her department when it comes to productivity, as well.

She actually began gearing up to shift divisions of her department, such as its call center, to remote work even before the pandemic. Her team had conducted staff surveys and began drafting a work-from-home policy. When the pandemic hit, "it basically fast-tracked our implementation plan," she said.

Boston said that overall, many employees have felt supported throughout the pandemic, and having the ability to continue working from home has played an important role.

"They find it's helped them with their work-life balance, and they appreciate not having to come in every day physically to the office, and they feel they get a lot more work done when they are working remotely," she said.

Boston has appreciated the flexibility, as well. She has a son in high school who doesn't drive, and busing isn't available where they live. She has worked remotely

"All companies are looking at how their workforce can work, and they're moving to that more adaptive, flexible environment, and we'll be doing the same. This is not a short-term change."

—Bryce Koch, general manager;
Build with Ferguson