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SOUTH COUNTY BEAT



Blooming for the judges

Two judges from the America in Bloom contest visited Arroyo Grande this week. It's the first of four U.S. communities of similar populations they're evaluating.

Judges **Diane Clasen** and **Jim Corfield** graded the city in the categories of floral displays, environmental awareness, landscaped areas, tidiness, urban forestry, heritage preservation, turf and groundcovers, and community involvement. They stayed at the House of Another Tyme bed and breakfast owned by **Jack Tiedemann** and **Judy Zwarg**.

"I've seen very beautiful, gorgeous floral displays," Clasen said. "And I'm glad to see many drought-tolerant and native plants, which help conserve water."

Several local leaders and volunteers who participated in Arroyo Grande in Bloom gathered for lunch at Heritage Square on Monday to welcome the judges. Mayor **Tony Ferrara** addressed the community's efforts. Among the groups represented were the Tree Guild of Arroyo Grande and South County Historical Society.

Kristen Linn Barneich, co-founder of the Tree Guild, started in 2005, said the group's mission is preservation and enhancement of the city's trees. The group planted 27 trees along Traffic Way on April 28.

Arroyo Grande's results in the competition will be announced in the fall.

