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Non-Profit Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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TO: Morgan Hill Life
Morgan Hill Times

RE: Cancellation 41st Annual Morgan Hill
Mushroom Mardi Gras Festival

Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras cancels 41st Annual Festival due to COVID-19

It is with a heavy heart that the Board of Directors of the Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras, Inc. announce the cancellation of the 41st Annual Festival which was to be held Memorial Weekend, May 23-24, 2020.

The final decision was made during a special Board of Directors conference call to discuss new developments happening daily regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. The recommendation of the Center for Disease Control to cancel or postpone any event or festival within the next eight weeks, as well as the health and safety of the public, were major factors taken into consideration. Postponing the event until later this year was not a viable option given the factors involved in planning and executing the festival. Site availability was also a major impediment.

To date the festival has awarded over \$1.2 million in scholarships to public and private high school seniors who reside within the Morgan Hill Unified School District. The festival also has awarded tens of thousands of dollars in mini-grants for elementary and middle schools, as well as providing significant stipends for volunteers from school groups, sports teams, booster clubs and other community non-profit organizations. With

a loss of revenue last year due to inclement weather, and with the cancellation of the Mushroom Mardi Gras this year, the board has also made the difficult decision to not award any scholarships, grants or stipends this year. The board will re-evaluate their position in 2021.

We sincerely regret the disappointment these decisions create for so many, and are saddened that so many who were looking forward to joining us this year will not be able to participate in the Mushroom Mardi Gras. This was a difficult decision and we did not take it lightly. We hope all remain in good health and are safe during these unprecedented times. We look forward to seeing you at the 41st Annual Morgan Hill Mushroom Mardi Gras, May 29-30, 2021. For more information, please contact Executive Director Sunday Minnich.