

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of April 20, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

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- Crime victims are remembered during special event
- Elections reaches out to the next generation of voters



Environmental Health Takes Ag Education to the Heart of the Salinas Valley



The Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau took its education 'on the road' again this year, holding the 17th annual South County Environmental Compliance Workshop for Agriculture at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds in King City last month.

The annual workshop typically has a good attendance, and this year was no exception, attracting 60 participants from the agriculture industry and related businesses.

Topics this year included agriculture-related crime, safety, tire recycling, the drought and food safety in the fields.

"We have been offering this educational workshop since 1999 in order to help those in our county's top economic industry," says Bruce Welden, Supervisor of Hazardous



Participants are provided information on a wide variety to topics at the compliance workshop.

Materials Management Services for the Monterey County Health Department. “It’s critical that owners and operators have the latest information about environmental laws and regulations concerning hazardous material and waste management, solid waste, air and water quality, pesticide application and health and safety in the field.”

The workshop is free of charge to attendees and featured speakers from local agencies and organizations.

Presentations from the event are posted on the Health Department [website](#) if you’d like to see the information provided. Topics include:

- Waste Tire and Solid Waste Handling
- Recycling Opportunities for the Agricultural Industry
- Safety in the Agricultural Industry
- The Dangers of Abandoned Wells
- Food Safety in the Fields and the Food Safety Modernization Act
- Air District Update
- The Drought, and the Groundwater Management Sustainability Act
- Agricultural Business & Technology at Hartnell College

The workshop has an intensive format, all of the sessions were packed into a four hour time period before attendees and speakers took time for lunch and a little networking.



Environmental Health Bureau Director John Ramirez welcomes the workshop crowd.



County Remembers, Honors Crime Victims

Each year, the District Attorney's Office marks National Crime Victims' Rights Week by reminding us that for every crime there is a victim, and for victims and survivors, crime has changed their lives forever.



The Silent Witness silhouettes were first created in 1997 with 16 figures. There are now 40, each telling the story of a person whose life was cut short by domestic violence.

Today, Friday, April 25th, marks the end of Crime Victims' Rights Week. For the last week, the DA's Office has been reaching out to the community with a sad but necessary reminder that crime victims have rights and there are services available for those in need.



One visible reminder of the need for those services and terrible impacts of violence are the red cutouts that have been stationed in the lobby of the County Government Center building all this week. These figures are part of the Silent Witness Exhibit, representing women, children and men who have been killed in domestic violence situations. Each figure carries the name and story of someone who lost their life at the hands of a spouse, partner or parent. Those represented range in age from 12 to 82.

To launch Victims' Rights Week, the District Attorney's Office Victims of Crime Unit held its annual Victims Dedication Ceremony at the County Government Center in the Board of Supervisors Chambers last Friday, April 17th. During this moving and emotional event, there were inspirational speakers, a special slide show presentation honoring local homicide victims and families are invited to announce the name of their lost loved ones. The program then moves outside to end with a release of white doves.



District Attorney Dean Flippo talks to attendees at the Victims' Dedication Ceremony on April 17th.

Since 1978, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Victims of Crime Unit has worked diligently to ensure that victims are aware of assistance and compensation programs available to help them cope with the aftermath of crime.

In 2014, the unit provided over 12,000 mandated services to 2,400 new crime victims in Monterey County.



Elections Department Reaches Out to Future Voters

The next generation of voters in Monterey County is finding out the importance and power of voting from the Elections Department.

The Department has outreach programs that regularly include meeting with high school students; most recently the staff has been focusing on students at Rancho Cielo.

The Department and Rancho Cielo are partnering to promote civic education and participation to students. These students are learning to redirect and improve their lives at Rancho Cielo, why not encourage them to play an important role in the community by voting?



Greta Arevalo, Bilingual Outreach Elections Program Manager, helps two Rancho Cielo students register to vote.

Outreach Manager Greta Arevalo says she has had three get togethers with students at Rancho Cielo. Most recently, Arevalo spoke to students enrolled in the culinary program about voting and the importance of civic participation. At the end of the presentation, a number of students registered to vote and some signed up to become poll workers during the upcoming November 3rd Cities, Schools and Special Districts Election.

“Some students were very eager to register to vote and make a difference,” says Arevalo. “Others were more pessimistic at first, thinking their vote would not matter, but by the end of my time there, many understood the importance of voting and decided to register.”

