

The CAO Weekly Report

The week of July 13, 2015



Monterey County Administrative Office

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- Behind the scenes creating the Crop Report
- Little Hat lunch a big success



Probation Earns National Award for Collaborative Program with Arts Council

A collaborative program bringing together the Probation Department and the Arts Council for Monterey County to improve outcomes for incarcerated youth has earned national recognition.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has selected the departments “Arts as Healing in Juvenile Justice” program for its 2015 Arts and Culture Award. NACo leadership was so impressed with the program, that when announcing the award, officials said, “We see your program as engaging, collaborative and life-changing and are excited to present this award to Monterey County.”

The award was presented at the NACo national conference this past Sunday evening. Supervisor Fernando Armenta accepted the award on behalf of the county, and then presented it to Probation and the Arts Council at Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting.



“Since 2009, the Monterey County Arts Council, in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Probation, has provided services to the young men incarcerated at our Youth Center on Circle Drive,” says Probation Chief Marcia Parsons. “This collaboration allows our young men to explore new ways of expressing themselves, to discover hidden talents, and most importantly, to experience success and feelings of worth in pro-social activities.”



Students in the Arts as Healing program work together on a mural project.

Each week, artist Linda Hevern and her teaching artists, in consultation with Probation staff, provide arts learning for youth at the Center. Students develop skills in painting, multimedia and design and at the same time learn to

reduce anxiety, communicate feelings and value teamwork. The results of the program have been amazing for both students and staff.

“When you see their final work in our exhibitions, it’s hard to believe that most of our students have had no art experience at all,” says teaching artist Linda Hevern. “At every step, they are amazed

by their own success! We are thrilled by the recognition as a ‘life changing’ program and a model for other communities.”

“The Arts as Healing in Juvenile Justice is a very exciting program with significant short-term and long-term benefits for a group of students who start the program in grave danger of spending the rest of their lives in the justice system,” says Paulette Lynch, Executive Director of the Arts Council for Monterey County. “While participating in this program, they become calm, focused and determined. This transformation at this key developmental stage in life proves that the arts are



Posing with the NACo Arts and Culture Award are (l-r) Paulette Lynch, Arts Council for Monterey County; Marcia Parsons, Probation Chief, Linda Hevern, Teaching Artist, and Jennifer Butz, Youth Center Director.

essential to a healthier, more vibrant future for all.”

The Arts as Healing program was selected from 19 programs vying for this year’s award. The NACo Arts and Culture Award is designed to recognize county governments involved in successful community efforts to enrich American cultural and intellectual life and help children succeed in school, work, and life through arts education.

Parsons is pleased the program and the collaborative effort is receiving the recognition it deserves.

“Many thanks go to Paulette and Linda for their support of our youth and commitment to opening windows to a world of imagination and possibilities drastically different from the realities of their own neighborhoods.”



“Growing” the Crop Report



The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office released its 2014 Crop Report last week, which revealed Monterey County crops reached a record value last year. By the numbers, total crop values were \$4.49 billion, an increase of 6.5%, or \$277 million, over the previous year.

The annual crop report is an important document, so important it’s required by law. Ironically, while the report is mandated, agriculture companies are not required to submit data for its creation. Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Graham Hunting and Agricultural Biologist Shayla Neufeld are closest to the project.

“All the data we collect is provided to us on a voluntary basis,” explains Graham, who says about 70% of agribusinesses share data for the report. “At the end of each year, we ask growers and shippers’ for annual production and field pricing data. The data we receive is treated with confidentiality and will only be used for producing the Crop Report.”

Work on the Crop Report begins in December. Here is the project’s timeline for getting information:

- In December, surveys are sent to specific companies to capture acreage, yield and pricing information.
- Companies have until February 1st to submit their surveys back to our office.

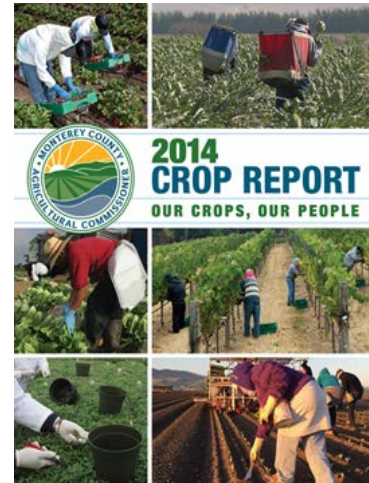
- In February, staff begins contacting the companies that did not submit a survey and “encourages” them to participate.

Once data begins to come in, numbers must be verified for accuracy.

“It is a competitive industry, and some companies don’t participate because they don’t want to release production or financial information,” says Hunting, who also says companies don’t understand how important their data is to capture a clear picture of the industry “Erroneous data is difficult to weed out and only skews the final numbers. Since that happens occasionally we have diversified where data is collected and focus on accurate data sources that report detailed values.”

How then to get an accurate big picture of the industry? Hunting says to handle the data gaps, outside data from commissions, boards and publications are used to generate some numbers, as well as extensive analysis. As a precaution, final numbers for some commodities are verified with key industry leaders.

Once the numbers are confirmed, they are formatted into a variety of tables for easy reading and publication, then checked and rechecked again. A local marketing firm now does the final formatting and delivers the colorful and informative report.



In years past, the report was just numbers and data. Now it includes articles on interesting topics, such as this year’s feature on the various faces of agriculture; the dedicated and hard-working labor force behind the numbers. The online version of the report includes short videos that were filmed by Christina McGinnis, Ag Resources and Policy Manager at the Commissioner’s Office, which highlights the personal stories of six people who work in agriculture.

You can read the entire report and see the videos [online](#).



Probation Sees Big Turnout for Little Hat Barbeque

The grill was sizzling and the conversation lively at the Probation Department’s annual Little Hat Barbeque this week.



Enjoying the camaraderie at the Little Hat Barbeque are (l-r) Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon, Supervisors Jane Parker, Probation Chief Marcia Parsons, Judge Robert Burlison and District Attorney Dean Flippo.

The event takes place each year during Big Week and this year there was a big turnout - 448 tickets were sold for the lunchtime get together, the most in recent memory.

The Little Hat is a way for Probation staff to bring together its many partner agencies and organizations, county departments and court representatives which work with the department, but the event is now so well known that tickets for the Tri Tip or Chicken lunch with salad, corn and strawberry shortcake sell well to those looking to support the department or who simply want a great meal.

Many local dignitaries stopped by, including Presiding Judge Marla Anderson, Judges Timothy Roberts,

Robert Burlison and Julie Culver; retired Judge Jonathan Price, retired Judge and District 2 Supervisor John Phillips, Supervisor Jane Parker, Sheriff Steve Bernal, District Attorney Dean Flippo, Health Director Ray Bullick, Parks Director Mark Mariscal and Assistant CAO Manny González who assisted with the grilling. Also stopping by was a familiar face and friend, retired Chief Probation Officer Manuel Real.



The Little Hat 'grill team' (l-r): Juvenile Institutions Supervisor Brian Gonzales, Juvenile Institutions Officer John Nava, Deputy Probation Officer Tom Hall, Probation Services Manager Leo Salas, Juvenile Institutions Supervisor Roger McRae, Juvenile Institutions Officer Noel Estrada, Juvenile Institutions Officer Gil Meza, Juvenile Institutions Officer David Sims, Juvenile Institutions Officer Chris Rodriguez, Deputy Probation Officer Celeste Jimenez, and Assistant CAO Manny González.

Behind all the food, atmosphere and music was a crew of volunteers who made it all happen.

The Little Hat is supported by donations and ticket sales, but it wouldn't happen without those hard-working volunteers.

“My sincere gratitude goes out to the many staff members who worked so hard to put this event together,” says Probation Chief Marcia Parsons. “Special thanks to Deputy Probation Officer III Isabel Anderson and Deputy Probation Officer Melissa Fanning for coordinating - I hope we can convince them to do it again next year!”

The Probation staff and volunteers would like to thank all those who came and made the event such a success.



Deputy Probation Officer Desiree Saldana puts the finishing touches on strawberry shortcake.

