

The CAO Weekly Report

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Monterey County Administrative Office

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Libraries Add Successful Youth Science Programs

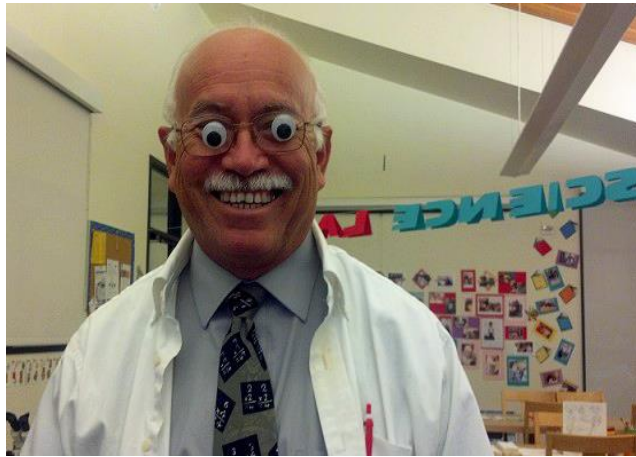
County Libraries show us time and time again that libraries are more than just books. This summer, they are about - science.

Over the last year, Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) has launched two new projects to promote science in a fun, hands-on way using the STREAM Van project and Summer Science Labs.

The STREAM Van expands the STEM emphasis to Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math, and takes the very popular Science programs to preschools and Head Starts around the county. These programs consist of monthly story times, projects and crafts built around a single science theme like motion, ramps, or sound waves. A STREAM kit is left in the classroom for the teachers to continue teaching the theme through the month.

In addition to these monthly class visits, MCFL has found a way to continue science fun through the entire year for the many Monterey County students who do not have opportunities for exposure to science programs in a non-academic environment.

The Summer Science Labs program evolved from a pilot project at the Marina Branch's Homework Center, where children gather year round. Retired school teacher and Marina Homework Center Coordinator Domingo Ramirez began to get children focused on exploring science concepts during the summer. The program was so popular with the children, MCFL decided to expand it to all of the library system's ten Homework Centers.



To the delight of participating children, Marina Homework Center Coordinator Domingo Ramirez takes a fun, 'mad scientist' approach to Summer Labs.

MCFL raised \$2,300 for Summer Science Kits through the annual Monterey County Gives program. The Science Kits at each of the Homework Centers contain the following items:



Kids explore contents of the science kits.

- Microscope: 52-piece set with case
- Marbulous: marble tower activity
- Science Specimen Center: Sea Life, Mammals, Birds, Reptile and Insects
- Magnet Science Kit
- Gears (bag)
- Tangles-tangrams
- Magnifying Glass
- Instruction booklets
- Various additional items

Branches have free reign in how to use the kits. Some have created a whole science zone with stations set up for different types of exploration; others are working on a weekly theme and offering extra activities to go along with those themes.

So far the science projects are a big hit, meeting the goal of keeping youth reading, engaged and interested in science during

summer, as well as the overarching goals of laying the foundation for school success and productive careers in the STEM fields.



Employees Delight Audiences With Unusual ‘Roles’

There is a lot of talent among the 4,500 employees that make up our County ‘family.’ Two staff members from the Department of Social Services are so talented you might not recognize them away from the office.

Arlene Boyd and Jeff Hinderscheid are dedicated DSS staff by day, but for three weekends this month, when the sun goes down and the lights come up on the Western Stage theatre in Salinas, they are cast members of the fantasy-comedy-musical “Into the Woods.”

This renowned musical intertwines the plots of several Grimm’s fairy tales, exploring the consequences of wishes and quests of familiar characters such as Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Cinderella. The musical has had long runs on Broadway, was recently made into a movie and is now wrapping up its run at Western Stage.

How did they land roles in the show? Courage and confidence!

“I left the stage 30 years ago to start my family and since all my kids are grown, I wanted to pursue my love of the stage again,” says Arlene Boyd, who readily admits the theatre world was quite different from when she was 20. “Each January, I look at my bucket list



Jeff Hinderscheid (left) and Arlene Boyd (right) in costume and make-up for their roles in “Into the Woods.”

and this year noticed “audition for a play” was still there. So I decided this was the year I was going to do that.”

Boyd, who is Administrative Secretary - Confidential to DSS Director Elliott Robinson, earned a spot in a Pacific Repertory Theatre Improvisation Night and then set her sights on Western Stage. Snapping a selfie for her glossy audition ‘head shot,’ she sang, danced and read her way into the role of Little Red Riding Hood’s Granny.

“This has been one of the hardest and most grueling things I have done,” says Boyd. “Six weeks of intense rehearsals which

paid off when we opened the show. It was the greatest feeling.”

For Jeff Hinderscheid, a Social Worker in the Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Office, the musical is a return to his roots.

“I have a BA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine and ‘Into The Woods’ is a show I have always wanted to do so I auditioned for the character of the Wolf and was fortunate to get the role,” says Hinderscheid, a Monterey County native who tries to fit in as much stage work as possible while advancing his County career. “I started with the County in 2010, recently moved to the AAS Office and received an MA in Psychology with an emphasis on Mental Health Administration.”

Arlene and Jeff - congratulations and break a leg!



Contracts/Purchasing Earns National Procurement Award

Congratulations to County Contracts and Purchasing, which continues its winning ways.

Contracts and Purchasing, which is a division of the CAO’s Office, has been awarded the first “National Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award” (AEP) presented by the National Procurement Institute (NPI). The AEP Award recognizes the County’s ongoing efforts to implement best practices and transform county-wide procurement practices.



“This is an award given by our peers, through a very lengthy submission and review process,” explains Contracts and Purchasing Officer Mike Derr. “We have to identify our ability to meet a number of specific goals and accomplishments established by the review committee. It is a very prestigious award, one that identifies our team’s efforts to embrace and implement excellence in the public procurement profession.”

NPI focuses on professional development and networking for members and others who work in public sector (government, education and institution) procurement and supply management. It also gives yearly awards recognizing excellence in the field.

In June, Contracts and Purchasing was honored with a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for the development of its Contracts and Purchasing Academy.

