

The CAO Weekly Report

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Monterey County Administrative Office

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- County brings home State Fair ribbons
- Librarian honored for rebuilding adult literacy programs
- New healthcare clinics celebrated



County Brings Home Awards from California State Fair

Anyone who has ever entered a county or state fair competition knows how exciting it is to bring home a winner's ribbon. The Economic Development Department has a 'Best of' and Gold Ribbon to show for the County's entry in this year's California State Fair California Counties Exhibit.



One side of the exhibit offers videos from the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The County's exhibit won a Best Use of Special Effects/Animation Award as well as the high ranking Gold Award for the exhibit which was on display during the fair run July 10th-26th.

The County partnered with the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) to create this year's display which highlighted popular tourist destinations and county industry.

The creation was a large, four-sided booth which offered visitors video, interactive play and selfie spots.

The exhibit featured:

- Pinnacles National Park, where visitors could take selfies amid faux rock and park images
- Bixby Bridge, which also featured a selfie set up by an image of the iconic bridge
- Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway, which offered interactive fun with a steering wheel connected to a racing video
- County wine display with rotating wine barrels
- A showcase of local agriculture's top crops
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium with large and small screen videos of marine exhibits.

Each side of the exhibit had brochure racks so folks could take home information about the county.



Selfie photo spot featuring Pinnacles National Park.

The Counties Exhibit area is very popular, drawing thousands of visitors each year.

For counties, it's a chance to introduce themselves to potential visitors and business opportunities, so it's critical that each display really grabs the public's attention.

Monterey County's exhibit was constructed by Mikon Productions, one of only a handful of companies which specialize in county exhibit building. Mikon has been creating exhibits for the County for more than ten years and this year's results did not disappoint.



The agriculture section of the display featured top crops and wine barrels that rotated.



State Award Honors Librarian for Adult Literacy Efforts

The rebuilding of adult literacy programs at the Monterey County Free Libraries has earned County Librarian Jayanti Addleman the California Library Association's Outstanding Librarian in Support of Literacy Award for 2015.

In notifying Addleman of her selection, the President of the California Library Association, Robert Karatsu, said the award demonstrates Addleman's passion, excellence and dedication in support of adult literacy.



“Jayanti Addleman’s commitment to Adult Literacy is demonstrated through expanding the services to additional locations where there is the greatest need,” Karatsu wrote. “She is forward thinking by including the use of technology in literacy classes and has helped to break down the barriers for adults who are seeking to improve their lives.”

Karatsu pointed out the increase in literacy staff and resources, which Addleman says was part of a department commitment.

“When I joined MCFL, the library was still recovering from a serious economic downturn which had resulted in cutbacks to the Adult Literacy Program as well as literacy being dropped from the list of core services,” explains Addleman. “I believe strongly that literacy services in their various forms are core to all libraries, particularly for our county and some of the communities MCFL serves; so we set about rebuilding the program with the support of staff.”

MCFL now has 1.75 FTEs supporting just the Adult Literacy portion of the program, including a full-time professional Literacy Coordinator who, among other duties, trains tutors and matches tutor-learner pairs. Programs have expanded to include conversational English groups and new programs such as ESL classes are thriving.

“I do want to acknowledge the support of all the frontline staff that is typically the first contact with potential tutors and learners,” says Addleman. “And most importantly I would like to acknowledge the following staff members who are the main reason for the success of our programs: Cathy Andrews, Orquidea Olvera, Arely Hernandez, and Marian Toledo.”

Addleman will receive her award at a CLA Awards program in November.



Laurel Clinic Opening Celebrated

The Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) Clinic Services Bureau and the Natividad Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program opened the new Laurel Vista Clinic and the expanded Laurel Family Practice and Women’s Health Clinics on July 1st.

A grand opening celebration was held June 24th, prior to the official opening, to introduce the community to the new facilities. The celebration included tours of the new clinics

and remarks by Joan Wheeler, Chairperson of Monterey County Community Health Center Board; Dr. Caroline Kennedy, Medical Director for the Clinics; Ray Bullick, Director of Health and elected officials.



The new clinics enable Health Department clinics and the NMC Family Medicine Residency Program to more fully meet the expanding healthcare needs of our community. This expansion strengthens access to care with the addition of more providers and exam rooms as well as greatly needed access to care for residents regardless of the ability to pay.

The Laurel Family Practice Clinic serves two major roles in the County. It offers comprehensive women's health and family medicine services for people of all ages and serves as an outpatient medicine learning center, training family medicine residents to become family medicine physicians.

“We merged the Laurel Women’s Health Clinic into the Laurel Family Practice Clinic, which allows the County to expand and improve capacity

Dr. Steven Harrison, Program Director of the Residency Program at Natividad Medical Center talks to attendees at the clinic opening (above). A look inside one of the new clinic exam rooms (right).



to provide more full-service family care,” said Julie Edgcomb, Director of MCHD Clinic Services. “The family medicine residents will work alongside the obstetricians and family medicine physicians ensuring that prenatal, antenatal, pediatric and subsequent family care will be seamless.”

The Laurel Vista Clinic is a new primary care clinic that offers a daily walk-in schedule, ensuring that people who are ill or need immediate emergency department or hospital discharge follow-up care will not have a long wait for a medical appointment.

