



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Probation Department staff at the 5K run: Yvette Sarmiento, Cristal Sanchez, Pascuala Rios, Yadira Cadena, Laudemer Palado (back row). Maria Mendez, Marcia Parsons, Lucy Vasquez (front row).

County Notes

- > Veterans, active and reserve military personnel have free admission to any state park this coming Memorial Day. Find out more [here](#).

Probation ‘Pursuit’ Nabs Trophy

Best not get on the wrong side of these Probation employees since it’s clear that if you run, they will catch you.

The Probation Department’s mission is to provide protection to the citizens of Monterey County by preventing and reducing the frequency, severity, and impact of criminal and delinquent behavior among adults and juveniles who come within the jurisdiction of the Probation Department.

Probation Officers and staff work hard and often under stressful conditions, but this is a department with plenty of camaraderie - they work and play

together. The department has created softball teams to compete in tournaments and some find common ground in the joy of running.

Earlier this month, the department formed two teams to compete in the Inaugural Hollister Police Explorer 5K Foot Pursuit. The event was a fundraiser for the Hollister Police Department Explorer Program and C.O.P.S, a national organization which assists the families of fallen officers. The race drew teams from law enforcement, civilian and explorer teams from through the Central Coast and Silicon Valley. Monterey County Probation entered the competition and proved to be formidable competitors, as one team came in 2nd place in the Law Enforcement Division.

"I am so proud of my staff for so many reasons - for all the hard work they do day in and day out, Monday through Friday, then on the weekends for running races like this one to humor their old lady chief," says Probation Chief Marcia Parsons. "We ran this race to show our support for fallen officers and also to support our neighboring law enforcement agency. We plan to come in first next year!"

Congratulations to the members of the 2nd Place Team:

- Child Advocate Lucy Vasquez
- Deputy Probation Officer III Pasquala Rios
- Probation Chief Marcia Parsons
- Probation Services Manager Cristal Sanchez
- Secretarial Assistant Maria Mendez

Three other Probation staff ran in this event but since teams were limited to five, they formed their own team to support the cause. They are Deputy Probation Office III Laudemer Palado, Deputy Probation Officer II Yadira Cadena and Deputy Probation Officer III Yvette Sarmiento.



Employees Give Youngsters a Glimpse of the Work World

If you are a parent, have your children ever asked what you do all day? Dozens of youngsters whose parent works in the Department of Social Services (DSS) got to see firsthand what mom or dad does when they are not at home.

61 children participated in the department's "Take a Young Person to Work Day" event at DSS offices.



Ilsin Puga Politron (center) shared her workday at DSS offices in Salinas with her children Angelina Valdez (left) and Frank Valdez (right).

The program allows employees to bring to work a daughter, son, grandchild, niece, nephew or other significant child in their life. The day was designed for youth to learn about the world of work and for the adults to share information about their work and how the community benefits from it.

Children ages 9 to 12 are allowed to spend up to two hours working with their parents. Children ages 13 to 15 can spend up to four hours and work on projects with supervision.

In DSS's King City office, staff hosted 19 young participants. Youngsters made paper ID badges and then spent time in their parent's work locations. In the DSS offices in Salinas, more than 40 kids spend time working alongside their parents. All of the young participants received a snack 'goodie' bag and each office hosted a reception for the young 'workers.'

Because DSS staff often work with the public regarding sensitive issues, care was taken so that children could see how their parents worked but not have client interaction.

Organizers of the event say they owe a big 'thank you' to the DSS branch secretaries for their help coordinating the event.

Health Department Branch Bakes for the Cause, Shines at Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life Bake Sale at the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program and California Children's Services (both part of the Health Department's Public Health Branch), was a big success again this year.

But success for this event is not just raising money for a good cause, it is taking the time to remember those affected by cancer.

Organizer Maria Lopez says the event is a team effort as staff donates everything for the sale.

“To all of you who contributed to this fundraiser, a big thank you,” says Lopez. “With all of us working together as a team, we were able to raise \$335.20 and purchase 34 luminarias for our ladies.”

The ‘ladies’ are colleagues in remission or former colleagues who lost their battle with cancer. Bake sale proceeds purchased luminarias as part of the Relay event which took place May 20th. The luminarias shined with the names of Vicky Mojica and Yogie Celaya, two colleagues gone but not forgotten and in honor of three fellow workers who are in remission: Barbara Koranda, Sonja Harris and Mattie Culver.



Some of the luminarias at the Relay for Life event in Salinas which were purchased with bake sale monies. They are personalized and dedicated to those lost to cancer or still battling the disease.