



COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
**CAO Weekly Report**

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## SPECIALREPORT



*Former patient Derek Van Patter (center), his sister Cara Chiarappa (left) and Dr. Brian Lugo (right).*

## Natividad Trauma Center Marks Milestone

### County Notes

- > There is a new scam warning from the Sheriff's Office. Find out about the ['Grandson Scam.'](#)

**It was a very happy New Year at Natividad Medical Center. January 5<sup>th</sup> marked the first anniversary of the hospital's designation as the area's only Level II Trauma Center.**

Since the designation in January through the first week of December, Natividad has treated 1,307 trauma patients.

"I'm extremely proud of what the hospital and our entire trauma team has been able to accomplish in less than a year," says Dr. Alexander DiStante, Trauma Medical Director. "We have made a significant difference in the lives of the people in our community and we'll continue to build on our success and keep improving."

Some of the enhancements that were put in place for the trauma center designation include:

- An in-house highly skilled trauma care team, critical-care trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, nurse practitioners, nurses, technicians and support staff available 24/7
- Trauma care team expertise includes, but is not limited to, trauma surgery, neurosurgery, interventional radiology, anesthesia, emergency medicine and orthopedics
- Facility, equipment and system improvements to elevate trauma care
- Expanded imaging services including a dedicated Interventional Radiology (IR) suite
- Extensive staff education and training on trauma care
- Trauma prevention and outreach programs to reduce trauma-related injuries in the community through programming on pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduction of injury related to motor vehicles, car seat safety, and violence prevention
- Establishment of CHOICE, a hospital-based violence intervention program

“Having specialized personnel, equipment and services to treat the most severely injured patients is crucial,” says Dr. Gary Gray, Natividad's Chief Executive Officer. “Local trauma care is a vital community service that saves lives and eliminates the need to fly critically injured patients to a distant trauma center.”



*John Walker.*

And with a year's worth of work completed, there are also patients with lifesaving stories to tell.

John Walker doesn't remember a lot about what happened to him on April 15<sup>th</sup>, when he was brought to Natividad Medical Center Trauma Center in Salinas by CALSTAR helicopter. But he clearly remembers the care and treatment he received from the staff at Natividad.

“I don't remember a lot. After I hit the ground, I was lucky enough to have an off-duty paramedic stabilize me, call 911, get me to Watsonville Hospital and airlift me to Natividad,” said the 65 year old who crashed while bicycling with friends.

John was unable to move his arms or legs at the scene and at Natividad required surgery to his spine as a result of a cervical spine fracture and spinal cord injury.

Derek Van Patter (pictured on page 1), 43, a father of two young boys, was in a motorcycle accident on Highway 1 near Big Sur. He was found under a guardrail with a crushed chest, severe lung damage, multiple rib fractures and other damage to his torso.

His condition was so dire that the Big Sur volunteer firefighters who were first on the scene called a CALSTAR helicopter to transport him to Natividad Medical Center.

Van Patter spent a total of 55 days at Natividad, 30 of them in ICU. He says the whole experience at Natividad was all a “bit of a blur,” but he's sure of one thing — it saved his life.

“It was a miracle, a life-changing miracle. I was amazed by the care that I received,” he said. “It’s unbelievable that they were able to keep me alive based on what had happened to me.”

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## Warm Up for the Exercise Challenge

**The Health Promotion Partnership Exercise Challenge is on! This exercise program lets county workers see how they stack up against their colleagues as well as other local businesses.**

Exercise Challenge is a free, 10-week exercise program designed to encourage and motivate friends and colleagues to participate in regular, aerobic exercise. A heart healthy exercise program should include at least 30 to 60 minutes of aerobic exercise activity five to six times a week.



This year’s program begins February 1, 2016 and ends April 10<sup>th</sup>. First, second and third place trophies will be offered for the three groups who have the most minutes of exercise per employee at the end of the 10 weeks. Volunteer coordinators for departments are needed!

Volunteer coordinators post the Challenge Progress Charts at Monterey County work locations, help individual participants sign up and record their minutes of exercise on the chart, track total minutes of exercise for their group/department and report totals to the Wellness Program twice throughout the challenge and distribute prizes to team members.

If you are willing to act as Coordinator for your department or group, or for more information, contact The Health Promotion Partnership at 411-healthpromotion.

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## Sustainability Manager Settles In

**Daniel Bertoldi, the County’s first Sustainability Manager is settling into his new role. Being the first person in a new position can be a challenge, but not for this self-confessed science geek.**

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*Daniel Bertoldi.*

The Sustainability Manager is responsible for the county's Go Green! Program which has broad responsibility for coordination of sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives.

Bertoldi has previous experience with the Alliance to Save Energy and investor-owned utility companies. He shares his thoughts about his new position and how his science background led him to the expanding field of Sustainability.

**Q. How did your science education lead you to sustainability work?**

As a biology undergrad, I learned a lot about how lifeforms and systems interact on a microscopic scale. As I progressed through my degree, I realized I preferred interactions on a bigger scale, specifically between people and the environment. Scale is really the big difference between biology and environmental science. So, I made the choice to go back and get a master's degree in Environmental Management. I quickly learned that sustainability was the right path for me because it wasn't just environmentally focused, it involves the economy, culture, and social equity. Sustainability is the embodiment of human evolution, something that appeals to any science geek, such as myself.

**Q. What was interesting about the Sustainability Manager position?**

The Sustainability Manager position offers the ability to enact real change and see those changes take place before your eyes. That's exactly what I was looking for in a career. Moreover, this is a really exciting time in the sustainability field, what can be seen as sort of a "Sustainability Renaissance." As the County's Sustainability Manager, I get to be on the front lines of something that will have implications for years to come.

**Q. What plans do you have for the Go Green! Program?**

First things first, and that is to spend my time focused on bringing Monterey County, as an organization, closer to hitting our greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals. After all, the county needs to lead by example if we are to make Monterey County's communities more sustainable. As time goes on, I hope to shift my focus more to the people of this great county.

**Q. Do you see this position as an avenue to not only tackle county requirements but reach out into the community and increase awareness?**

Absolutely. It is imperative that Monterey County play a part in ushering its citizens into the next era of sustainability and environmental consciousness. I'm really excited to reach out to the community because sustainability is something that can benefit everyone and anyone.

**Q. Tell us a little about yourself.**

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, I have adopted many of the typical hobbies: fine food, wine, and fixed gear bikes (well ok, single speed). I love nothing more than to ride my bike and absorb my surroundings. I'm an avid music fan and have been as long as I can remember. As I get older, I am turning into an audiophile (someone who has a hankering for hi-fidelity audio equipment). The only money I spend on music these days is on vinyl records.

2016 will be a big year for me, as I'll be getting married in Cape Town, South Africa. My fiancée is from South Africa, and it's basically a second home to me. I've been there three times and I look forward to returning. There's really nothing like a South African Braai (look it up)!