Natividad Doctor Named Physician of the Year

Dr. James Hlavacek, an anesthesiologist, is the Monterey County Medical Society’s 2019 Physician of the Year.

He was honored during a special Medical Society event which brought out leaders in the medical field and County leaders as well, as County Supervisors were on hand to present a resolution noting his achievements.

“Dr. Hlavacek is an ambassador to public officials for the medical community. He exemplifies the best of our community,” said Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo. “Not only is he inspiring us, but he’s educating the next generation.”
Also joining in to honor Hlavacek was Supervisor Jane Parker.

“Dr. Hlavacek is a link between the medical world and the policy world,” she said.

The Physician of the Year Award is given to a person who has made a significant contribution in the health care field, is a strong motivator and educator, has good rapport with patients, demonstrates extraordinary professional competence and is a strong role model for young physicians.

“I am honored to receive this award from my peers,” Dr. Hlavacek said. “Serving patients in Monterey County over the last 20 years is an extremely rewarding experience and I look forward caring for people in our community for years to come.”

Dr. Hlavacek has deep ties to the community and a commitment to service. He was recognized as the 2017 Philanthropist of the Year for Natividad Foundation and as the 2018 Philanthropist of the Year for Meals on Wheels Monterey. He previously served as Natividad’s Chief of Staff, is on-staff at Mee Memorial Hospital in King City and maintains affiliations with local and state medical organizations.

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Public Works Continues Care of Carmel Lagoon

If your holiday weekend plans take you to Carmel River State Beach, you might notice a HUGE hill of sand near the Carmel River Lagoon, where the river meets the ocean.

It’s not for a giant sand castle contest – it is part of the County’s continuing management of the lagoon.

During the year, crews either lower the sandbar at the lagoon to prevent flooding in neighborhoods nearby or raise the sandbar during the dry months to protect the lagoon habitat. This work requires monitoring and coordination with many agencies which oversee the beach and river; the County secures permits for this work.

For instance, to raise the sandbar and allow the lagoon water level to rise, crews must monitor the river and can only close the lagoon when the river...
The week of July 1, 2017

inflow falls below 20 cubic feet per second but not less than 10 cubic feet per second. Timing is everything!

In preparation for a closure, work crews were out on the beach this week with bulldozers, stockpiling 1,200 cubic yards of sand into position. It’s ready to go when they get the green light.

DSS Celebrates High Local CalWORKs Work Participation Rate

CalWORKs, the California Works Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program, is administered locally through the Department of Social Services and is one of the state’s major efforts to assist low-income residents, specifically families with children.

Monterey County Administrative Office
Those who assist these clients got some exciting news - the County’s Work Participation Rate (WPR) for this program is ranked second in the state!

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) reports that Monterey County Department of Social Services CalWORKs Employment Services (CWES) achieved a Work Participation Rate (WPR) of **66% for All Families** and **73.3% for Two-Parent** households, which is 21.6% and 28% (respectively) higher than the state average. As a result, **Monterey County ranked 2nd overall in the State for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 and exceeded the performance goal for All Families.**

WPR is the primary performance indicator for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs and is used to determine the overall performance of the CalWORKs program at the state and county levels. The tenets of work, self-sufficiency and support have become the cornerstones of the CalWORKs program.

What makes these numbers most exciting is the concerted efforts by DSS-CWES and its community of partners, agencies and staff that work together to ensure a holistic approach to providing high quality service, education, training and ancillary services such as childcare and transportation assistance for example; all which collectively lead towards improved outcomes for customers.

DSS-CWES celebrated its success by hosting an appreciation ceremony at the Harden Foundation. Staff was treated to a delicious dessert buffet prepared by management and all those involved shared heartwarming customer comments and success stories.

**Congratulations!** to the team for this incredible achievement. Check out some of the party photos on the next page!