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Public Works Fast Tracks Temporary Bridge Fix for Rural Community

A small County-maintained bridge on Old Stage Road which crosses the El Gabilan Creek, known simply as Bridge #119, is getting a lot of attention from RMA-Public Works this week, undergoing a temporary but emergency fix so it can safely support cars and trucks.

The bridge is about a mile and a quarter northeast of the Crazy Horse Canyon and Old Stage Road intersection and serves as the only access to about two dozen residences and ranch lands.
Caltrans, which inspected the bridge, notified the County that the bridge, which is supposed to be able to handle weights up to 12 tons per vehicle and 20 tons per truck, could no longer carry those weights. The inspection revealed degradation in the bridge columns.

Public Works staff quickly posted new, reduced weight limits for the bridge, but those limits severely impacted truck and utility vehicle access to the area, so they quickly got to work developing both a temporary and permanent fix.

The temporary fix launched Tuesday and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Crew are adding supports under the bridge so that the span can carry heavier vehicles again. Because the bridge is the only access for this small community, Public Works staff had to allow some vehicles to cross the bridge. In those cases, staff inspected the bridge before and after each crossing.

Along with the temporary bracing work and design, staff is also working on a permanent repair of the bridge which should get underway later this year. If you use this area for commuting, you already know that the work is causing some lane closures and short delays.

*Images from the bridge inspection report show the deterioration in the bridge columns (left). The temporary fix includes adding supports where columns are failing (right).*
MVAO Staff Honored for Veteran Employment Assistance

The Military and Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) is dedicated to assisting local veterans, helping them get the benefits and services they are entitled to - and it takes that work wherever it is needed.

MVAO staff has been working at the One Stop Career Center helping veterans who are looking for work, so much so that they are being recognized for those efforts.

This work is in partnership with the Employment Development Department’s Veteran Employment Services. MVAO staff participates in a twice monthly ‘veterans club’ workshop for veteran job seekers as well as making them aware of other state and federal benefits to which they may be entitled. MVAO also takes part in an annual Veterans Appreciation Conference.

In recognition of this effort, at a recent meeting, each MVAO staff member received Certificates of Recognition from Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and the Board of Supervisors, thanking them for their tremendous efforts. Check out the gallery of your colleagues receiving their honors.
Natividad Wants You – to Volunteer

If one of your 2020 resolutions is to do more volunteer work, you don’t need to look beyond the County community to find fulfilling opportunities.

Natividad Medical Center has a very robust Volunteer Auxiliary with a wide variety of ways to help visitors, families and those facing medical care each day.

“We are looking for individuals who care deeply about people,” explains Jennifer Ferguson, Volunteer Coordinator at Natividad. “Not only do volunteers get hands-on experience while working in the hospital, they also get a chance to network, make friends and — most importantly — experience a general sense of pride knowing they’re helping the lives of others.”

Who are Natividad volunteers? Current volunteers include young adults seeking work experience in a professional environment, college and high school students who have medical careers in mind and retired seniors who wish to remain active.
Volunteers at Natividad take on a wide variety of tasks, including welcoming guests at the front desk, providing concierge service to families in waiting rooms, offering Pet Therapy Service and spiritual care, participating in the Infant Cuddler Program, providing patient transport, staffing the Gift Shop, offering clerical support for administrative offices, providing meal delivery to patients and guiding hospital tours.

The volunteer program has been in existence for nearly 60 years. To be a volunteer, you must be 18 years of age or older and be able to work a minimum of one four-hour shift per week for four months.

To learn more or apply, call (831) 755-4215 or visit: www.natividad.com/community/volunteer.