



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIAL REPORT



Acute Rehabilitation Center Medical Director Dr. Anthony Galicia (center) does the honors at the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the newly renovated facility.

County Notes

- > Don't love the chilly weather? Here are [tips to stay warm safely](#) this winter.

Natividad Medical Center Celebrates Rehab Renovation

Natividad Medical Center's Acute Rehabilitation Center has helped many many residents over the years. Now, the center itself has gotten a little 'help' and is sporting a fresh look and expansion to help even more patients in the years to come.

Last month, hospital staff, community and county leaders all came together to celebrate the center's recent renovations. The addition of four additional



A peek into one of the newly renovated patient rooms (above) and treatment space (below).



acute rehab beds and four new dialysis beds (new total capacity is 24 beds) make it the largest Acute Rehab Center in Monterey County.

Included in the renovation are new furnishings and equipment, a new nurses' station, dining room and gym. The renovated center now also features 'HOME Monterey County,' an art exhibition of 70 beautiful photographs of landscapes throughout Monterey County, generously donated by local artist Kirk Kennedy.

"The renovations to our center are a symbol of our unparalleled care for all patients and their families," said Dr. Anthony Galicia, Medical Director of the Sam Karas Acute Rehabilitation Center. "Our physicians, nurses and therapists provide consistency, stability and full support as patients recover and regain their independence."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house brought a 'who's who' of local political, community, healthcare industry leaders. Members of the Natividad Medical Center Board of Trustees, Monterey County Supervisors and Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter, City Councilwoman Gloria De La Rosa and representatives from Kindred Healthcare (which recently honored the facility with an award of excellence) took part in the grand opening event. Well-wishers were treated to a light lunch and guided tours of the facility.

Adding Up Storm Damage, Staying Prepared

Another stormy weather event is over the county this week and will last into the weekend. That means another watchful weekend for residents and another long weekend for county departments and staff working hard to protect life and property.

Our rainstorms this month have had county departments such as RMA-Public Works working around the clock in areas of concern such as Big Sur, Carmel Valley and Pajaro.

The damage to county roads and infrastructure has been significant and no part of the county has been immune. If you'd like to see the complete look at what repair work is needed due to storm damage, it is detailed in a report prepared for the Board of Supervisors next Tuesday. You will find it on next week's [agenda](#), item 6.1.

Kudos also to the RMA team, Water Resources Agency, Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Services staff for their hard work, monitoring and preparedness efforts being done to safeguard our community. Please stay informed about storm conditions by checking the OES [Winter Storm Preparedness](#) page, which has links to weather and road condition information.

These heavy rain storms can bring on problems all by themselves, but if you are wondering how much of an impact the Soberanes Fire had in the damages we are seeing due to rain and flooding, it is significant. Interim RMA Deputy Director of Public Works and Facilities Benny Young says half of the estimated winter storm damage related to roads (about \$8 million) can be attributed to effects from the fire.

This week, the Board of Supervisors ratified a local state of emergency proclamation due to these heavy damages. This proclamation is critical to allow the rapid hiring of contractors if needed to make repairs as well as position the county to apply for reimbursement from the state.



One example of storm damage is along Palo Colorado Road in Big Sur. Floodwaters in Rocky Creek caused the culvert under the road to fail (below) and major road damage (above). Palo Colorado Road is closed here, with only foot traffic allowed until repairs can be made.



DA DUI Prosecution Team Sees Success, Increased Funding

For the last several years, the District Attorney's Office has received a grant to fund a special unit focused on Driving under the Influence cases. The Office once again received funding for this effort this year, and it's the largest grant yet for this work.

The \$572,322 grant is from the California Office of Traffic Safety and supports a Vertical Prosecution team which works alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases from arrest through conviction and sentencing. Making up the unit are veteran team member Deputy District Attorney Meredith Sillman and new to the team this year, Deputy District Attorney Brian Jones.



Meet the DUI Vertical Prosecution Team: veteran team member Deputy District Attorney Meredith Sillman (above) and new to the team this year, Deputy District Attorney Brian Jones

The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2013, there were four deaths and 167 serious injuries as a result of DUI crashes in Monterey County. In the past year under the 2015-2016 OTS grant, the special team filed 264 felony and misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The office as a whole filed 1,903 DUI cases.

“Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both is a very serious problem that every year results in the death and injury of innocent motorists and passengers,” says District Attorney Dean Flippo. “This funding lets us focus direct attention on the problem and bring those responsible to justice in a more efficient and effective manner.”

Prosecution team members work with the State’s Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program, receiving specialized training which they share with peers and law enforcement personnel.



“With this unified training, our department is seeing more successful prosecutions and better cases being put together,” explains Managing Deputy District Attorney Ed Hazel. “Ultimately, our aim is to hold people accountable for their actions.”

“When there is a trained, seasoned and committed team working serious DUI cases, prosecutors get the positive results needed,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “The Office of Traffic Safety and Monterey County District Attorney’s

Office will be working together to help keep the streets and highways safe across Monterey County and the state.”