



COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Behavioral Health and Sheriff's Office staff celebrate No Zip Code Left Behind funding announcement.

County Notes

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Health Department Celebrates Funding for 'No Zip Code Left Behind'

It is certainly something to celebrate: a \$6 million grant award to launch substance abuse disorder treatment services and expand existing mental health services to underserved south Monterey County.

The money comes from Proposition 47, which as you'll recall reduces certain low-level crimes from felonies to misdemeanors and directs the savings to rehabilitative programs.

For Monterey County, the program is “No Zip Code Left Behind,” a collaboration between mental health services and law enforcement. The program will establish two new service sites in King City to provide substance use disorder treatment. It’s anticipated these sites will serve a minimum of 100 individuals per year. Also to be funded, a centrally located ‘sobering center,’ job training, civil legal services, restorative justice and case management.

“This project involved extensive collaboration with south county leadership, local law enforcement as well as our south county mental health commission sub-committee which has been working for the last few years to address the inequity in this area” said Dr. Amie Miller, Behavioral Health Director. “The sobering center funded with this grant represents a new opportunity to divert people from jail and into treatment.”

As part of the project, the Health Department will be hiring additional staff, including mental health professionals and support staff. The planned sobering center is expected to open this fall.

“This project will begin to fill the gaps for substance use disorder services in South Monterey County,” says 3rd District Supervisor Simon Salinas.



Probation Joins Special Olympics Torch Run

Probation Department staff does a lot of team athletic competitions, but one recent run was for the money, not just the ‘bragging rights.’



Torch run participants in Oldtown Salinas.

Probation was among the many law enforcement agencies which took part in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run held earlier this month in Salinas.

Probation fielded 29 runners - roughly 1/3 of all participants!

The event brings together Special Olympic athletes who run alongside law enforcement officers and agents to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics Summer Games.

The Salinas leg of the run was more than two miles in the Oldtown area, starting at Salinas City Hall and ending at the Taylor Farm Building.

Besides Probation, officers and agents from the Salinas Police Department, Monterey County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices; Soledad Prison and California Highway Patrol all took part.

There were about 100 runners overall on this leg of the run, they raised \$13,000 for the cause!



The Probation Department's Torch Run team.

Library Arts/Literacy Program Earns National Recognition

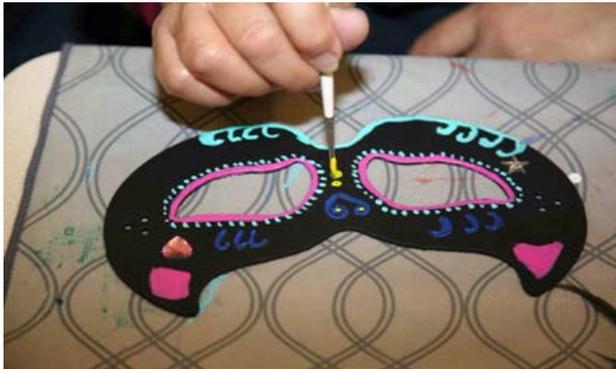
A wonderful arts and literacy program at the Andy Ausonio branch library in Castroville has been bringing families and artists together for the last eight years.

That program is now earning recognition at the national level! It is a finalist in the prestigious 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its partner agencies which include the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Arts Literacy Program, which is offered monthly and is free to all who take part, introduces children to art and artists and brings families and the community closer together. Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) provides the venue and staff support, the Friends of the Andy Ausonio Library, the Haynes Foundation and the Arts Council of Monterey County fund other costs such as art supplies.



The Arts Literacy Program in action in Castroville.



“We are so happy that this wonderful program that has been transforming young lives in Castroville for so many years is finally getting the recognition it deserves,” said Library Director Jayanti Addleman. “You go to one of these monthly programs and you see the concentration of the children, you see how serious they are about researching the art form or the artist and then you see the pride and enjoyment in the finished product, it simply warms your heart.”

The Castroville program was selected from among 342 applications from 46 states, the District of Columbia and two U.S. territories. If selected as a winner, MCFL will receive a \$10,000 one-time award which it hopes to use to expand the program.