



COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
**CAO Weekly Report**

SPECIALREPORT

**In This Edition:**

- > Little Hat serves up food and fun
- > NMC celebrates new and outgoing residents
- > Health staffer earns federal food safety certification



*Cowboy duds are optional at the Little Hat Barbeque. Having fun are Carol Cuellar, Marcia Parsons, Janet Holmes, Stacey Saetta and Wendy Strimling.*

**County Notes**

- > Are you connected with the County on social media? Check out social media feeds and interesting information [here](#).

## Little Hat BBQ Dishes Up Good Times

The name of the event maybe the Little Hat Barbeque, but there is nothing little about it. The Probation Department's annual event is now in its third decade, and shows no signs of slowing down.

Set during the fun of Big Week in Salinas, the Little Hat brings together Probation's many partner agencies, organizations, court and county

representatives for a celebration. And a lot of folks got in on the fun – the department sold 500 tickets for Wednesday’s Tri Tip lunch which includes a signature dessert – strawberry shortcake.

Another treat at the event – the entertainment. Did you know Monterey County has a singing Sheriff? Sheriff Steve Bernal dusted off his guitar and made a return to the Little Hat ‘stage’ to provide some great music.

Probation Chief Marcia Parsons says big ‘thank yous’ are in order to the army of volunteers who make this all happen starting with Isabel Anderson who organized this year’s event and Assistant CAO Manny González who led the grilling team.

Food Prep and Kitchen:

Desiree Saldana  
Erika Cruz  
Janice Barber  
Yvette Sarmiento  
Debbie Perez  
Robert Garcia  
Celia Radilla  
Kurt Matthews  
Jeff Johnson

Ticket Sales:

Elizabeth Balcazar  
Maria Mendez  
Janet Garibay  
Dawn Allen  
Gerri Bravo  
Janice Ringer  
Patty Esparza



*Putting the finishing touches on dessert (left), the Little Hat grilling team (right), Sheriff Steve Bernal serenades (above).*





*Little Hat is a place for reunions! Retirees Manuel Real (far left) and Bruce Welden (center) reconnect with Yuri Anderson, Supervisor Mary Adams and CAO Lew Bauman.*



*The verdict? It's delicious! The Honorable Timothy Roberts and the Honorable Vanessa Vallarta take a moment to enjoy that great strawberry shortcake.*

More thanks to the grill team and others:

Leon Salas  
 Roger McRae  
 Gil Meza  
 Noel Estrada  
 Celeste Jimenez  
 Omar Ramirez  
 Edward Alfaro  
 Tony Gutierrez  
 Alex Torres  
 Benny Espiritu

Tom Hall  
 David Sims  
 Debbie Martin  
 Alex Carillo  
 Meredith Gonzales  
 Cristal Sanchez  
 Michelle Lim  
 Aileen Bravo  
 Pascuala Rios  
 Julie Kenyon

Robert Romero  
 Johnny Segovia  
 Claudio Vasquez  
 Guillermo Hernandez  
 Lourdes Rivas  
 Marisela Morales  
 John Nava  
 Robert Pulido  
 Melissa Fanning

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## NMC Celebrates New Residents, Graduates

They came from California, Washington, New York, Guadalajara, even the Caribbean – and call Monterey County and Natividad Medical Center home for now.

Natividad Medical Center (NMC) is welcoming the newest members of its Family Residency Program class while at the same time saying goodbye to graduates of the program.

There were just ten spots available in the program this year and those who were accepted must feel fortunate, as there were 800 applications for those ten positions. The new residents are already on the job, beginning their rotations on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome to the new residents:

- Joshua Deutsch, MD, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health
- M. Alejandra Espinoza, DO, AT Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Forrest Hamlin, DO, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Anne Irvine, MD, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara
- Jordan Katz, MD, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the U. at Buffalo
- Natalie LaCorte, MD, Ross University School of Medicine
- Benjamin Ramsden-Stein, DO, Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Tracey Taylor, DO, Pacific Northwest U. of Health Science College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Shane Walker, MD, University of California San Francisco School of Medicine
- Nicole Woodel, MD, American University of the Caribbean

Here are a few interesting facts about Natividad's residency program:

- It's the only residency program between San Jose and Santa Maria
- Since its founding in 1975, the program has graduated 277 residents
- Currently, 15 graduates are working at NMC
- 22% of all graduates stay in Monterey County

Congratulations to residency program graduates:

- Angela Brennan, DO
- Kristin Burstedt, DO
- Natalie Gallardo, DO
- Navneet Kaur, MD
- Sebastian Marchevsky, MD
- Mary Pennington, DO
- Judi Wong, DO
- Poorna Thiru, MD



*Graduates and current residents of Natividad Medical Center's Family Residency Program stand with Program Director Dr. Steven Harrison (center).*

# Susan Rimando Meets the Standards for Special Certification in Food Safety

One of Environmental Health's many tasks is food safety for the public. Susan Rimando is a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist and she has added some new food safety skills and a sought-after certification to her professional toolkit.

Rimando recently completed highly specialized training to earn a certification as a Standardized Retail Food Inspection Officer from the Food and Drug Administration. This is a major achievement; the training takes several years and she is one of only a very few in the state with this designation.

Why did she decide to take on this training?

"In 2005, the Environmental Health Bureau determined that our food safety program should be raised to the level of the FDA Food Safety Code requirements and we enrolled in the Retail National Voluntary Food Standardization Program," she explains. "A critical component of this was to create FDA Standardized Food Safety Inspection Officer, and I took on this challenge."



*Susan Rimando.*

"Susan made a great commitment to our food program by completing this rigorous training," says Environmental Health Director John Ramirez. "We will support her training and attendance to the FDA annual Food Protection Seminar and in helping her standardize our Consumer Health Protection Services (CHPS) staff."

This is not the kind of certification where the work ends upon completion – in fact, her work has just begun!

Among the requirements of her certification is that during the next three years, Rimando must standardize – or train - at least five other CHPS employees per year. Rimando says her colleagues are ready to meet the challenge.

"CHPS staff is highly motivated to learn more and protect the public from foodborne illnesses," she says. "I know they are ready to take on this work, and there is a lot of it. There are nine standards to meet in this program, it is very detailed!"