Child Support Services Launches Help Program

This week, the Department of Child Support Services (CSS) launched a new monthly workshop program for parents who need help with what for many seems like a maze of paperwork involved in the child support process.

The program provides free assistance for parents who need help with child support paperwork such as establishing or modifying orders, establishing paternity and discussing other options that may be available in providing financial and medical support for their children. Both custodial and non-custodial parents will be able to meet with a child support officer to ask questions about the paperwork and process. The idea for the workshop came from CSS front desk staff that saw a need.

“The idea for the workshop came from one of our front desk staffers after hearing from so many customers that they did not know how to complete their documents,” explains Director Stephen Kennedy. “To assist parents, staff came up with a monthly workshop program and schedule.”
The workshops are by appointment only and are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. for non-custodial parents and the first Thursday of the month at the same time for custodial parents.

The first two sessions this week had 14 participants, two of which opened cases for support services.

If you or someone you know needs help with support paperwork, call CSS at 831-796-3674. The workshops are held at the Department’s offices at 752 La Guardia Street in Salinas. Parents making an appointment need to know that these workshops are designed for parents to focus on paperwork, so Child Support Officers ask that parents do not bring children to the workshops.

Applications for services are available at 1-866-901-3212 or by visiting the DCSS website at http://mcdcss.org/.
Are You Flu Proof? County Employee Flu Shot Clinics Serve Hundreds

If you give them, they will come.

Tweaking that famous movie line certainly describes the employee flu shot clinic series offered by the Health Department in October. During a series of 12 clinics held in locations throughout the county, 1,340 employees received the vaccine, an increase of 24 from last year.

Health Department officials are pleased so many employees are getting ‘flu proof.’

“Flu shots can prevent influenza and complications of influenza including pneumonia, hospitalization and death,” says Public Health Officer Dr. Ed Moreno. “I encourage all employees to receive a flu vaccine each year.”

The costs of the clinics were funded by the Employee Wellness Program.

The Health Department is still holding community clinics around the county, offering no-cost shots, so if you did not get the vaccine at one of the employee locations, there is still time to find a community clinic near you.

Halloween Brings Out the ‘Spooky’ Side of County Staff

There is only one day a year can you check out a book from a zombie nun or ask for a board report from a character from the Wizard of Oz.

Halloween brings out the fun and creative side of county employees and we have the pictures to prove it. Departments such as Social Services, Information Technology, Treasurer-Tax Collector and Libraries all got into the ‘spirit’ of the day. Enjoy these photos from various departments and from the Clerk of the Board’s Annual Halloween Costume Contest.
Clerk of the Board’s Annual Halloween Costume Contest

Costume Contest Winners:
Best Group: ITD-Snow White and her Dwarfs
Funniest: Suzanne Navarro, RMA - Witch Riding her Ghost
Most Original: Barbara Grant (HR) and Mary Zurita (CAO) - Jellyfish Umbrellas
Scariest: Rosa Guerrero, Auditor - Zombie Attack
Best “What are you Supposed to Be:” Rich Gierman, ITD - Breaking Bad

Pumpkin Carving Contest winners:
1st Place: Skeleton Goblet – Claudia Link (District 2)
2nd Place: Cinderella Carriage – Margarita Arista (RMA)
3rd Place: Pumpkin eating an apple – Denise Hancock (Clerk of the Board’s Office)
Monterey County Free Libraries took a literary theme for Halloween with such favorites as Superman, Dora the Explorer, the Pied Piper and Day of the Dead. While there is no book about zombie nuns, Orquidea Olvera could write one (above).

Impersonating literary characters are (above) Sam Shields, Marina Branch Manager (Superman) and (below) Library Director Jayanti Addleman (Pied Piper), Administrative Services Assistant Jackie Bleisch (Dia de los Muertos) and Managing Librarian Chris Ricker (Dora the Egyptian Explorer).
Will the real Elliott Robinson please stand up? Social Services held its Halloween costume contest and this group scored with the many faces of their boss, Director Elliott Robinson (above). At left, Kendall Perez, Eligibility Worker, took the award for scariest costume.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office staff combined ghouls and ‘groovy.’