Deputy County Counsel Earns Award for State, Local Efforts

When an organization outside of the County honors one of our own, it reminds us of how many amazing co-workers are in our county family.

Many county employees never encounter a member of the County Counsel’s Office, but the work they do impacts us all. A statewide organization has singled out one deputy county counsel for outstanding contributions both locally and at the state level.
Jerrold Malkin was honored at the 2016 County Counsels’ Association of California Annual Awards event this month. The Association recognizes deputies who have made a significant contribution to the Association or have performed other extraordinary service benefiting counties statewide. He was nominated by his peers and selected by the Association’s Board of Directors. Malkin, whose motto is that ‘an attorney best serves who serves in the background’ was brought into the limelight for the awards, which were given during a conference in Monterey. A huge turnout of his colleagues made for a festive occasion.

County Counsel Charles McKee introduced Malkin to the overflow crowd and cited his extensive experience advising on virtually every area of law affecting counties.

“For over 30 years, Deputy County Counsel Jerold Malkin has been a tireless advocate for California counties and Monterey in particular,” says McKee. “If you need a zealous advocate, you can find no one more zealous to be on your side. Jerrold has been in the background of numerous successes locally and statewide. That is why the County Counsels’ Association of California gave Jerrold Malkin the well-deserved Recognition Award for 2016.”

Congratulations Jerrold!

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Natividad Gives Back to its Volunteers

Volunteers at Natividad Medical Center give thousands of hours of service to the hospital each year, and once a year, the hospital gives back to these helpers with a lunch in their honor.

The volunteer lunch is an annual tradition. This year’s event took place April 20th, participants were treated to a delicious lunch and entertained by singers from among volunteers and their families. Hospital CEO Gary Gray thanked the group for their outstanding contribution to Natividad.

During 2015, the hospital’s 450 volunteers logged in nearly 50,000 service hours (49,437 to be exact). Volunteers need to be at least 16 years of age, but did you know the hospital’s oldest volunteer is 93?
CSUMB and high school students who are planning health care careers are among the list of volunteers, requesting placement in clinical areas such as ER and Medical Surgical Unit. Other areas popular with volunteers are the Neonatal Intensive Care, Maternal Infant and Pediatrics Units.

Snapshots from the volunteer event. Natividad CEO Dr. Gary Gray, Volunteer Auxiliary Vice President Yolanda Benavente and Chief of Staff Dr. James Hlavacek (left). Janine Bouyea, Human Resources Administrator, was acknowledged by the Hospital Auxiliary for her role in new volunteer uniforms (center). Volunteer Tom Bailey and therapy dog Stormy Blue enjoy the luncheon (right).

You can see more photos from the event on the hospital's Facebook page.

Sheriff Sergeant’s Wildlife Rescue Has a Happy Ending

As a Sheriff’s Sergeant in the County Jail and member of the department’s Dive Team, Sally Pritchett is accustomed to emergency situations and can handle most anything that comes her way. That capability came in handy when she helped rescue a most unusual county resident who had been hit by a car – a Golden Eagle.

Pritchett was heading home from a conference this past January and had just passed the county line at San Miguel when she came upon the injured eagle and a Good Samaritan who was trying to direct
traffic around the injured bird on Highway 101. Watching from a nearby tree was another Golden Eagle, possibly a sibling or mate, since these great birds mate for life.

Pritchett knew that the nearest wildlife center at the SPCA of Monterey County was nearly two hours away, too long to wait for a wildlife rescuer as the bird was in bad shape. She called the center and let them know she was coming with a patient and was able to wrap the injured bird in a super heavy duty jacket she always keeps on hand and a tarp. It’s such a heavy jacket that at one point the bird began to wriggle and only was able to get one of its 2-3 inch talons through one layer of the jacket.

She drove the bird directly to the wildlife center and checked on his progress from time to time. The bird had suffered trauma from being hit by a car and required intensive care. A young male raptor, he recovered for a time at the center then was transferred to the California Raptor Center in Davis. Pritchett was thrilled to find out that the bird made a full recovery and on March 17th he was released back to the wild in the same area as he was found.

The video of the eagle release is online.

“Having the opportunity to see wildlife like Golden Eagles is part of what I love about living here but rescuing one is something I would have never believed I would have the opportunity to do,” she says. “What an amazing creature, and being that close to a bird of that caliber was indeed an honor. I am thankful for the chance to be a part of that eagle’s life path.”