

# The CAO Weekly Report

The week of March 23, 2015



## *Monterey County Administrative Office*

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In this edition:

- Child Support Services recognized for high performance
- A look at tsunamis
- Librarian among Outstanding Women of Monterey County



## Child Support Services Honored by State Agency

Monterey County's much-lauded Department of Child Support Services is being singled out again for its outstanding work. This time, the Department is being honored for exceeding performance goals and increasing the amount of child support monies collected for children.

Last week, the State of California Department of Child Support Services, which oversees the operation of local child support agencies, recognized the Monterey County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) staff for its hard work and commitment to enhancing the child support program in California as well as exceeding its performance goals and standards.

Monterey County DCSS exceeded its performance goals in two Federal performance measures during the 2014 Federal Fiscal Year:

- Paternity establishment
- Cases with support orders

In addition, the Monterey County DCSS improved upon its previous years efforts in two other performance measures:

- Collection on current support
- Cases with payment on arrears.



Jody Holtzworth, Deputy Director of Child Support Services (left) and Stephen Kennedy, Director of Child Support Services (center) receive a letter of recognition from State Director of DCSS Alisha Griffin (right) for the department's outstanding work.

Monterey County DCSS is among the top 10 most cost effective child support programs operating in California. Here is how that breaks down: for every dollar expended, DCSS collected \$3.68 in child support.

Did you know that DCSS has collected more than \$40 million in support two years in a row?

Additionally, Monterey County DCSS increased distributed collections in the same time period by \$178,082 over last year. This means more families within Monterey County are receiving the benefit of child support. The work done by Monterey County DCSS staff makes a difference not only to our community, but to child support statewide.

Congratulations to DCSS, which continues to achieve tremendous results for families in Monterey County!



## A Look at Tsunamis from the Office of Emergency Services

Breathtaking views. Rocky cliffs. Beautiful beaches. Highway 1. Sunshine. Otters.

If you guessed that these are all things that you may find along Monterey County's 99 miles of coastline, you're right. But amidst the beauty of our coast lies something else - the potential to experience the effects of a tsunami. A tsunami is defined as a "wave or series of waves generated by an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or even large meteor hitting the ocean."

The Office of Emergency Services is marking this year's Tsunami Awareness Week, which ends today, by sharing interesting facts about the phenomenon and how tsunami warnings are determined.

Did you know California has experienced more than 80 observed or recorded tsunamis?

When people think of a tsunami, many expect to see something similar to a wind wave only much larger, something like the giant wind waves in Hawaii and Australia. But for most occurrences, including the 2011 tsunami which caused in excess of \$20 million dollars in damage to the Moss



Power wave. A tsunami wave striking upper Santa Cruz Harbor in 2011.

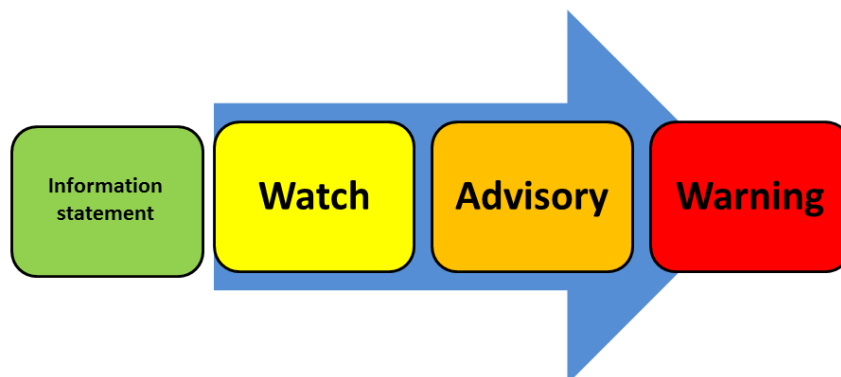
Landing and Santa Cruz harbors, a tsunami looks more like turbulent water and is virtually undetectable to the eye until it has nearly reached the shore.

### **How high is high ground?**

The good news is that for most local areas, safety and relief from any water and debris that might come ashore during a tsunami is close by - sometimes as close as just a few blocks away. By taking yourself to approximately 20 feet above sea level, the chances for danger are greatly reduced. [You can see a tsunami inundation map for Monterey County here, which also shows safer areas.](#)

### **How will I know?**

The National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) in Palmer, AK, is the primary warning center for the California coastline and issues four types of tsunami statements: information statement, watch, advisory, and warning.



**Information statement:** Minor waves at most; No action suggested

**Watch:** Danger level not yet known; Stay alert for more information

**Advisory:** Strong currents likely; Stay away from the shore

**Warning:** Inundating wave possible; Full evacuation suggested

Since January 2014, the National Weather Service has had a system in place that allows messages to be sent through all wireless devices. These messages are known as **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)** and come automatically to your device(s). A single (one time) WEA message will be sent only when a Tsunami **WARNING** is issued and will read:

*“Tsunami danger on the coast – go to high ground or move inland. Listen to local news. NWS.”*

For tsunami information that is more specific to you and Monterey County, or to receive other important local notifications, you must register online at [A!ert Monterey County](#).

The notifications that you receive, how you receive them (landline, cell, VoIP or email) and what locations you are concerned with (home, work, school, etc.) are selected by you and will not be used for any other purposes.

It is important to remember that while catastrophic events are rare and cannot be prevented, we can all help to diminish adverse impacts through taking steps to prepare and by building a strong community.

For more information, visit the Office of Emergency Services [online](#) or follow them on Twitter [@MontereyCoOES](#). Tsunami information can be found at the [California Geological Survey](#).



## Librarian Selected as one of Monterey County's Ten Outstanding Women

Current day libraries are not your grandmother's or even your mother's libraries. And it is librarians like Jayanti Addleman who lead the way, cutting a path into the future for libraries, keeping them accessible, relevant and in touch with community needs.



Addleman receives her award and shares her passion for literacy and cultural understanding.

For that reason, and many others, Addleman was honored this last weekend as one of Monterey County's Outstanding Women of 2015 by the Commission on the Status of Women.

In selecting Addleman for the award, the commission noted her many volunteer positions, most recently as Chair of the Monterey County Equal Opportunity commission, and that she challenged the 'glass ceiling' by becoming one of the first minority female department heads in Monterey County as the Director of the County Free Libraries as well as the first Indian American President of the California County Librarians Association.

"When I accepted the award, I could not help but joke that while this wasn't the Miss American contest, I do want to say that my big hope in life is for world peace," she says. "I have two main passions that I believe truly can bring about world peace – universal literacy and cultural exchange programs."

Addleman told those in attendance about the value of everyone learning to read and the importance of getting to know other countries and cultures.

"I asked people to imagine a world in which every teenager has the opportunity to spend at least a summer or a semester with a family from a different country or culture and where every family hosts at least one youth from a different culture or country. I asked them to open their homes to someone who is different: if you are Christian, open your home to a Muslim; if you are Muslim, open your home to a non-believer."



Who says librarians can't have fun? Here Addleman takes part in a flash mob 'freeze,' where readers struck a pose and held it for 5 minutes to promote National Library Week.

Addleman is a tireless advocate for children, youth and families. She serves on the board of the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County and advocates for literacy needs and poverty in her role as a member of the Children's Council and the Monterey Gang Violence Prevention Initiative; both of which have made improved literacy a priority.

