



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



The Amgen peloton coming over Laureles Grade Road towards Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

Amgen comes to Laguna Seca

County Notes

- > Animal Services' [Spring Fling half price pet adoption event](#) is going on through June 20th. Check it out and find a furever friend!

When Amgen Tour of California cyclists came speeding down the final turn on the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca track this week creating a spectacular finish for a leg of the race in Monterey County, it was all thanks to the work of county departments and partners.

The County's concessionaire at Laguna Seca reached out to the Amgen organizers about making a stop in Monterey County, which brought Amgen and the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula together to hammer out an agreement to use the world famous raceway for a finish that would cap off a day of bicycle racing through some of California's most scenic areas.



This oversized event sign was prominently featured at the raceway during the Amgen event, thanking the County Parks Department and other local sponsors (above). Many of those coming to watch the Stage 4 finish were cyclists themselves. They were able to leave their rides with the convenient Bike Valet (below).



Amgen is a great addition to the types of events that come to this world class venue. “You could almost feel the riders’ pain as they came over Laureles Grade, climbed A Road in the park and finally took on a steep portion of the track in their final few minutes. It was a very happy crowd in attendance and they made a lot of noise as the riders crossed the finish line. The energy, as with all sporting events, was palpable.”

Preparing for the single day event, which would be seen by millions via network TV in more than 200 countries plus bring 4,200 people to the raceway itself to enjoy a festival atmosphere and watch the finish of the 4th leg of the event, took more than six months of planning and preparations.

Concessionaire staff worked to coordinate logistics on bringing the race to the county facility. County departments also played a major role in the event, including the Parks Department which reviewed contractual requirements, the Resource Management Agency which handled permits and the Health Department which provided inspections for crowd and food needs.

On race day, Parks staff made sure systems in the park were operating smoothly and assisted campers who checked into the park as the campground area of the park remained open to the public.

Because Amgen starts and finishes in different locations, the race infrastructure is completely mobile. Raceway staff said that when Amgen teams appeared the day of the race in

Monterey County, sponsor, hospitality and VIP tents went up quickly and were followed by vendors who came to each race location.

When the race was over and trophies given, they were off to the next location.

“It was exciting to see the television coverage of our beautiful county on the big screens,” says Parks Director Mark Mariscal who notes

Libraries Invite Poets to Bust a Western Rhyme

Go west young poet – or go in whatever direction takes you to the nearest county library! If you know a young writer, encourage him or her to enter their work in the annual Cowboy Poetry contest at the Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL).

Monterey County youth under age eighteen are invited to enter original poems celebrating the 'western' way of life. What makes a 'cowboy poem?' Cowboy poetry is about:

- Cowboys/cowgirls and the work they do
- Cowboy/cowgirl values and their work practices
- Western landscapes/lifestyles
- Stories of life on the range

Poems can be in English or Spanish and must be submitted by May 31st.

Winning poets will be invited to read their winning works at this year's California Rodeo Salinas Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering which is sponsored by the Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries and have their winning entries published on the county library website. They will also receive two free tickets to the 2016 California Rodeo Salinas and ride on the Cowboy Poetry Tractor Wagon in the California Rodeo Parade.

For more information and entry forms go to MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org, call (831) 883-7542 or contact your local Monterey County Free Libraries branch.



2015 Cowboy Poetry winners Xochitl Leyva (left) and Amie Yebra (center) riding in the Rodeo parade.

Relay for Life Tasty Fundraiser

The Auditor-Controller's annual Tostada Fundraiser for Relay for Life is something folks at the Government Center look forward to each year. The tasty event took place this past Thursday and had hungry employees lined up for lunch.

Those who bought tickets were treated to tables filled with tostadas with all the trimmings and a drink. Desserts were available for purchase as were tickets for raffle baskets.

This labor of love was coordinated by Idalia Ow and Alex Estey of the Auditor-Controllers Office, but the event was entire office effort, as staff donated all the food for the event and put in many hours planning, preparing, cooking and serving. The end result? The lunch raised \$812.83 for Relay for Life.

Many thanks to this Tostada Team!

Congratulations also to the raffle winners: Warner Howser, Connie Villegas, Elsa Aguirre, Denise Espinosa, Caroline McMillin and Gary Nauslar.

If your department is planning a Relay for Life fundraising event or activity, share it with other county employees who would like to support the cause. Email carrollm@co.monterey.ca.us with event details and we'll share it in the Weekly Report.



Tostada enthusiasts line up for lunch in the Auditor-Controller conference room (left). Ebby Johnson from the CAO's Office shows off her custom tostada with all the trimmings (right).

