The week of February 10, 2020

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Seaside Library Throws Birthday Bash Marking its 90th Year of Service

When the original Seaside Branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries opened in 1930, the Seaside Ladies Aid Society hosted an old-fashioned box social featuring a spelling bee and a community sing. That was when the library was the Emerson Library Club, whose members had pooled their books to make them available to the Seaside community.

Fast forward 90 years and there will be another big party, with a much more modern feel.

On Saturday, February 15th, the library will host an all-day open house and community party to mark its 90th birthday.

Seaside Branch Manager Beata Obydzinski shows the “Avenue of Memories,” thoughts shared by former library staff, gathered for the birthday event.
Library staff have put together a really fun event that includes performances by singer-songwriter Juan L. Sanchez, Spector Dance and a sea turtle presentation by the Save the Whales Foundation. There will also be displays showing off the library’s early days such as this 70’s era scrapbook, children’s activities and of course, birthday cake. An added bonus - the party goes on in the evening with night-sky telescope viewing with local astronomers.

For its humble beginnings, this branch has evolved into a community treasure. Launched during depression times, within a year it was so popular it joined the county library system which gave it an $18.00 a month budget. Its location moved a few times before finally finding a permanent home in the Seaside Civic Center in 1975.

Today, the Seaside Branch Library is one of the largest branches in the county system, with over 100,000 users per year and dozens of programs, services, computers and a popular homework center.

Don’t miss this party! There are more details online about event activities and you can register here so they know how much cake to bring. 😊
Elections Offers Primary Prep Talk

The Elections Office has been working hard, gearing up for the new, earlier California 2020 Presidential Primary. And it wants all of us to be ready too!

As you may know, California is now an early primary state. Here are some tips from Election staff about the March 3rd Super Tuesday vote:

- Remember, in a Presidential Primary Election party matters. The party you are registered with determines the ballot you will get. Be prepared and check your voter status at: https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/
- If you have never registered to vote, have recently moved or have changed your name; register to vote! https://www.registertovote.ca.gov/
- Vote by mail voters can now sign up to track their vote by mail ballot every step of the way! From the moment it is sent to the moment it gets counted. Sign up today at: https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/

Are you ready? There is a lot more information on the Election website that can help.

Did you know you can join the elections team on Election Day? Sign up to be a poll worker! There is a stipend for services. You can sign up online or call for more information (831) 796-1485

BE A POLL WORKER:
As a poll worker:
You will set up the polls, greet incoming voters, help them out, close the polls at the end of the day.

The hours you will work
Poll workers work from 6:00 a.m. to help set up equipment and voting stations until approximately 9:00 or 9:30 p.m.

It’s a long day but a very exciting day!

BE A COURIER:
Working in teams of two, you will be transporting materials from polling places and/or drop locations to the Elections Office following strict chain of custody procedures.

Requirements:
Be at least 18 years of age and a registered voter or a lawful permanent resident; provide own transportation to and from the Elections Office; have a valid driver’s license (drivers only).
County Joins Forces for Pro Am Safety

They may not have been able to hit the greens or hob nob with the stars, but county employees from public safety departments played important roles at the famous Pebble Beach Pro Am last week.

The Sheriff’s Office always has a presence at the Pro Am and preparations for the 2020 event began several months ago.

“An event like this gets re-evaluated based on lessons learned. As most events grow in size, we adapt to those changes,” explains Sergeant Jason Smith, with the Community Services Division of the Sheriff’s Office. “Prior to the event, I worked with our partners at the state and federal level and requested a threat assessment which is standard protocol for any major event like this.”

Also participating was Emergency Communications, which provided both law and fire dispatch.

“We created an extension of our systems and had two dispatchers working at the Command Post from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily from February 3rd through the 9th,” says Emergency Communications Law Operations Manager Leslie Ragghianti. “Our dispatchers handled radio traffic from the various law enforcement personnel at the event such as Sheriff, Coast Guard, FBI and National Guard and other emergency and public safety personnel and volunteers.”

Ragghianti says it takes a couple of months of planning and preparation and at least two days of set up to prepare the remote system and dispatchers really enjoy the change of scenery.
The tournament crowd of about 100,000 kept sheriff deputies busy. During the event, seven arrest were made and approximately 15 people were escorted out of the event for various violations of conduct. The Sheriff’s Bomb Squad and Explosive Ordinance Detection K-9 teams responded to seven unattended bags at locations in the three tournament courses during the week. All bags were deemed safe and were ultimately returned to their rightful owners.