

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 101 No. 42

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

October 16, 2015

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Packing out what the losers left behind



PHOTO/STEVE BENOIT

These hikers in the Ventana Wilderness are carrying the usual accoutrements — change of clothes, bedrolls and even a tent or two. But what's that stuff in the clear plastic bags? See page 26A.

Helicopter shuttle to Big Sur event causes stir

By CHRIS COUNTS

MONTEREY COUNTY'S code enforcement staff is investigating whether the use of helicopters to transport dozens of people to a gathering on Garrapata Ridge in Big Sur in September violated any laws.

Scott Bogan, who lives in Big Sur, told The Pine Cone he watched the helicopters deliver numerous guests to a private residence on the ridge, which is located about 10 miles south of Carmel. He said helicopter use in Big Sur is becoming more common — and he considers the loud noise they make a nuisance.

"They disrupt the peace and serenity Big Sur is known for," Bogan said. "They create a level of noise pollution that's detrimental to the quality of life most of us seek here."

Bogan said he's also concerned about the impact helicopters have on wildlife, and he's worried a crash could spark a devastating wildfire. He said that helicopter crashes have started fires before, and he noted that the Pines Fire in 2002, which scorched more than 60,000 acres near San Diego, was started when a helicopter clipped a power line.

Two weeks before the Garrapata Ridge incident, Bogan said he watched one helicopter travel "less than 100 feet" above a house along the coast. "It was flying so low I could see people in the cabin," he recalled.

Bogan predicts helicopter traffic down the coast will only increase. "Is this the future of Big Sur?" he asked.

It is unclear if the county can ultimately prohibit helicopters from landing on private property. But for now, the county is taking a stance against the practice — at least without a permit. A

See **CHOPPERS** page 26A

Supes asked to affirm Mehdipour mothball plan

By KELLY NIX

COUNTY PLANNERS have recommended that the board of supervisors next week deny Massy Mehdipour's appeal of a "mothballing" plan that would require her to protect her crumbling Pebble Beach house from further damage.

Some of her neighbors and local preservationists claim the existing ramshackle house, designed by Richard Neutra and built in 1958, is historic, and they want the government to force her to preserve it. Mehdipour dismisses such claims and believes she should be allowed to build a new house, designed by the late architect Ricardo Legoretta, in its place.

The mandatory mothballing plan, which was approved by the county's historic resource review board Sept. 3, will be considered by county supervisors next week after Mehdipour asked them to overturn it. On Tuesday, county planners released a two-page report calling for supervisors to affirm it.

The recommendation is yet another stumbling block for Mehdipour, the wealthy CEO of tech company Jotter, who purchased the structure in 2004 for \$4.5 million in hopes of tearing it down and replacing it with a nearly 12,000-square-foot house.

The home was not considered significant when she bought it; however, her plans were foiled when local preservationists caught on to the building's provenance

and launched a campaign to stop her.

Since 2014, the house has been listed on the California Register of Historical Resources, according to the county report, prepared by senior planner Luis A. Osorio, and approved by planning director Mike Novo and resource management agency director Carl Holm.

See **MEHDIPOUR** page 24A



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Massy Mehdipour says she spent more than \$125,000 to shore up her structurally unsound Pebble Beach house. Now, county officials want to require her to spend a lot more to protect it.

COASTAL COMMISSION, CITY REMAIN AT ODDS OVER BEACH FIRES

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER MEETING with officials from the California Coastal Commission Friday to discuss how to develop a beach-fire program that would please the state agency as well the city, local officials thought they might get a reprieve from the commission's stance that the coun-

cil has to lift its emergency ordinance banning beach fires on weekends and holidays.

But they didn't.

"Is the Oct. 2 letter in effect? I ask because here we are on a Friday, and I would like to know whether the CCC agrees that fires are not allowed today and over the long weekend. I have no doubt someone will test whether our urgency ordinance is in effect. Do you think it is?" Mayor Jason Burnett said in an Oct. 9 email to coastal commission district director Dan Carl. "We will protect public health regardless, but I'd hope that our efforts to do so do not get us crosswise with the CCC (at least until you can assess the data and science), especially in light of the good outcome to today's meeting."

The debate is whether the coastal commission's staff will agree with local air official Richard Stedman's conclusions that the smoke from beach fires constitutes a hazard to health and safety — the reason cited by the council when it enacted the emergency ban, which is set to run until next September.

Carl responded Saturday morning that the coastal staff is standing behind its enforcement letter, which determined the city's emergency ban on beach fires is unenforceable because it wasn't adopted in accordance with the Coastal Act, and beach fires don't constitute a sudden emergency because they have been allowed — and are explicitly permitted in the city's Local Coastal Program — for decades.

See **PACREP** page 15A

See **FIRES** page 27A

Paving the way to the future

By ELAINE HESSER

MOST PEOPLE don't think much about asphalt — until they hit a pothole or have to sit in a long line of traffic while a road's being repaired. John Smith of Monterey thinks about it a lot, however. For the past 17 years, he's been working on an idea that would change the way roads are repaired, and now he's ready to move into the next phase of research and development, and is looking to the public for support.

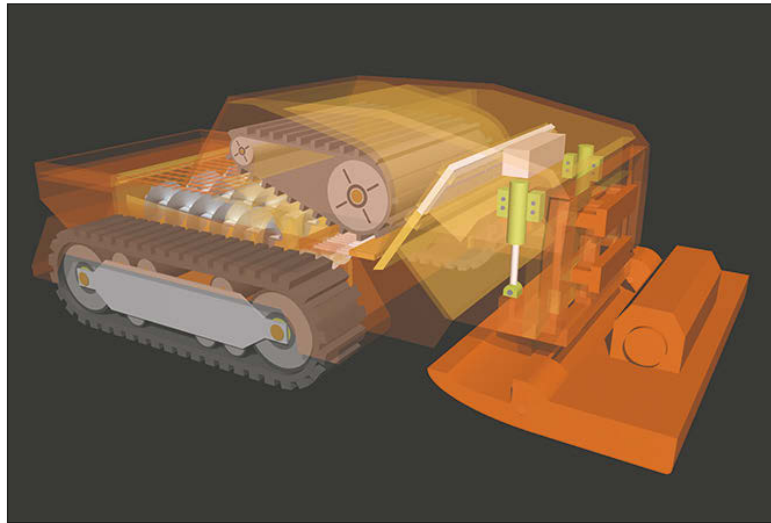
Smith is a Carmel High graduate who's made a career in electrical engineering and computer science. He works for IBM and has

also worked for Lockheed. And, he said, it's because of his lack of background in paving and road construction that he hasn't been able to get taxpayer-funded grants intended to facilitate improvements to the nation's transportation infrastructure.

When he approached companies that did paving to ask for support, he was largely met with an attitude of, "The way we do it works fine."

Smith respectfully disagrees. Additionally, he sees his initial lack of background as the reason he was able to think dif-

ferently. Instead of existing technology that uses a flat blade to spread asphalt on the road, Monterey resident John Smith proposes this futuristic paver that will adjust for irregularities in the road surface and speed road repairs.



See **PAVING** page 23A

Sandy Claws

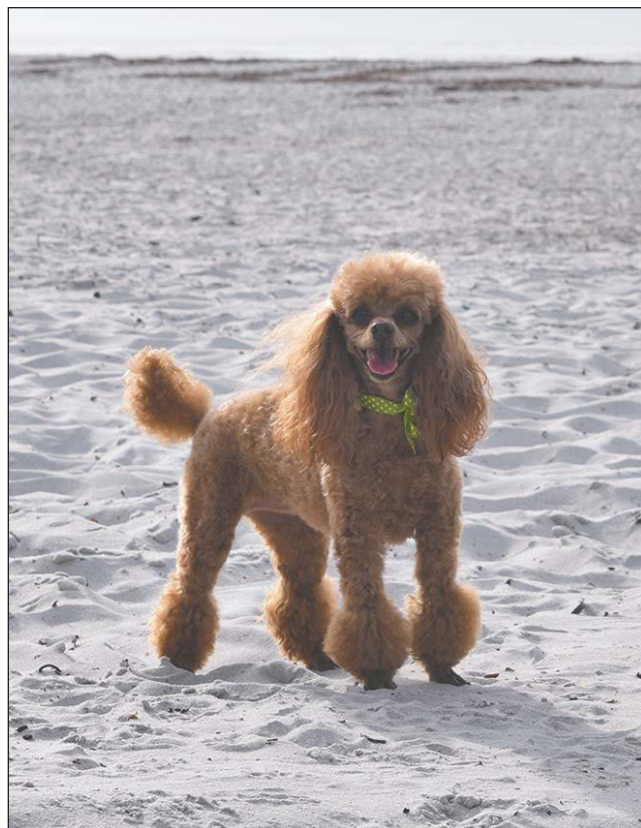
By Lisa Crawford Watson

Daddy's little diva

HER NAME is Chanel. But sometimes she goes by Coco Chanel, lest anyone become confused about just how sophisticated and stylish she really is. She may not even know it herself. But her family does, since the moment they laid eyes on that baby miniature poodle five years ago. Her person, in fact, will tell you she's gorgeous.

"The breeder brought out three red-coat little girls," says her person, "and there she was, with this dainty little face. Their dad was show stock, and they all were just beautiful. But I was so drawn to her face; I just knew she was my little girlfriend."

Her person has had all kinds of dogs — Dalmatians, chocolate Labs, Bichon Frises, Maltese poodles — and has enjoyed them all. But Chanel, as small as she is, has



become the great love of his life.

"Chanel is so loving, so sweet," he says. "She sleeps right by me at night, and if she wants to go out, she just gives my ear a little lick. She's so gentle."

Chanel is also a bit of a diva, determined to be the boss of the house and control her family. No matter how her family arranges things — such as the couch pillows — in their home, she rearranges them, to suit her fancy. The couch is her lookout from which she watches whatever is going on outside, at which she barks, as if to control that, too.

Chanel likes to watch TV, and barks at the dogs on the screen. Once they leave the scene, she runs outside to see if she can find them. She also likes to go to Carmel Beach, but her confidence wanes near big dogs. Then the barking stops, and she tucks in close to her person, waiting to be picked up.

Arbor Day celebration planned for Oct. 24

THE CITY is seeking volunteers to help plant trees and do other work in First Murphy Park in celebration of Arbor Day Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to noon. Four new trees — two of which will be dedicated to longtime activists Steve and Barbara Brooks — will be put in the ground, and new drip irrigation will be installed. Workers will also help plant drought-tolerant shrubs and spread fresh wood chips.

Representatives of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District will talk about composting and sustainable landscape products, while folks from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District will discuss drought-tolerant landscaping and irrigation solutions.

Volunteers should bring work gloves and wear sturdy shoes, but coffee, pastries, water and tools will be provided. They should also advise assistant city forester Matt Feisthamel the plan to attend by emailing mfeisthamel@ci.carmel.ca.us or calling (831) 620-2070.

The park is located at Lincoln and Sixth, next to the historic First Murphy House, headquarters of the Carmel Heritage Society.

Pierce

Pierce is a cute 4-month-old Chihuahua mix puppy looking for a loving home. He is a cheerful fellow who loves to play. He had a rough start in life when his mother died the day after he was born.

Visit the AFRP Adoption Center to meet Pierce and other adoptable dogs and cats.

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City prepares for winter storms, gets update on emergency plan

By MARY SCHLEY

CITY GENERATORS were scheduled for servicing this week, in preparation for a winter that some are predicting will bring torrential rains, and “the public works and forestry department is energetically undertaking” numerous storm-related projects, city administrator Doug Schmitz said last week, including:

- shoring up wobbly landscape barriers along the Scenic Road pathway;
- clearing debris in the creeks in Mission Trail park; and
- inspecting, clearing and performing maintenance on storm-drain inlets and out-falls.

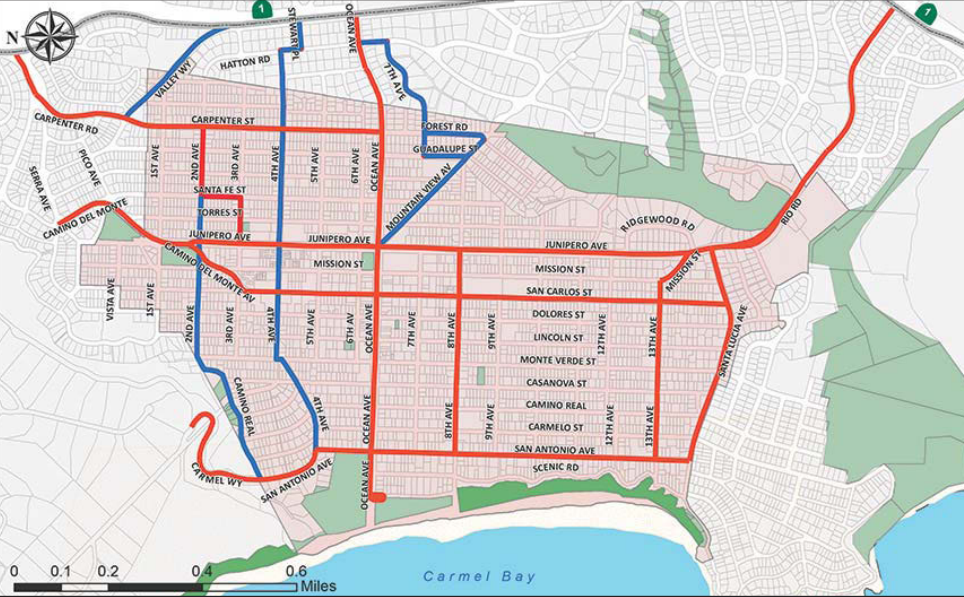
Next week, Schmitz said, forestry workers will also begin an assessment of the city’s

main evacuation routes to determine which trees need to be trimmed so they don’t present obstacles to a rush of cars trying to leave the area.

Schmitz’ announcements came after Carmel Police Chief Mike Calhoun’s update on the city’s emergency operation plan at the Oct. 6 city council meeting. His report focused on “strategies and ideas that have been or are in the process of being implemented this year to better enhance our capabilities and the city’s level of preparedness, response and recovery during any emergency,” and he discussed training, communications, and updated technology and equipment.

He also said the city is developing haz-

See **EMERGENCY** page 30A



The city’s evacuation map, available at www.ci.carmel.ca.us, shows the routes people should take to get out of town during a disaster. The red routes, which basically follow the main roads, are the primary ways to go, while the blue lines show alternatives.

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Police & Sheriff's Log

Evicted tenant left her animals behind

HERE'S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office last week. This week's log was compiled by Mary Schley.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen brought a dog found loose on Atherton to the police station. The dog was scanned for a microchip, and no owner information was obtained, so the person said she would take the dog back to the location where it was found. Later, the dog owner called the department to report the dog missing. Information was exchanged with both parties to return the dog.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 39-year-old male entered a store at Lincoln and Ocean to commit theft with a fictitious credit card and ID. Store contacted police, and the suspect was arrested. Suspect was found in possession of stolen property from another burglary.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run collision at Junipero and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a dog running loose in the area of Carmelo and Ocean. The area was checked, and the officer was unable to locate the dog, but found it shortly after running in and out of traffic in the business area. The dog appeared

lost and was unapproachable. The officer followed the dog until it was cornered in a parking lot, where, after settling it down, the officer was able to slowly approach. The dog was then secured on a leash, and the ID tag was used to identify the owner. The person caring for the dog was contacted and advised the dog escaped out of an open door. The owners are out of town, and educational information was given and the dog turned over to the caregiver.

Carmel area: Yankee Beach Way resident reported a neighbor violating the short-term rental county ordinance and thought the neighbor's guests were trespassing.

Carmel area: A 39-year-old male suspect and a female accomplice purchased two Rolex watches using a suspected stolen credit card and an altered ID. Suspects then attempted to do the same in Carmel-by-the-Sea. The male was arrested by Carmel PD.

Carmel Valley: Woman reported that her mother made suicidal threats.

Pacific grove: Resident interrupted a burglary on Chestnut Street. Suspects caught after a BOL was placed. Arrested were a 26-year-old male and a 26-year-old female.

Pacific Grove: Ocean View Boulevard business was broken into, and a safe and cash register were taken.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury traffic accident on San Carlos Street.

Big Sur: Female battered a 29-year-old female on Highway 1 because she was having an affair with her husband. No prosecution desired.

Pebble Beach: Pebble Beach Security reported finding an abandoned motorcycle on a fire road off of Sunridge Road. The unregistered motorcycle was towed. Research on a possible owner was unsuccessful.

Carmel Valley: Mail theft was reported along Carmel Valley Road. Victims included a 67-year-old male and a 55-year-old female.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Attempted burglary to a commercial business on Mission Street at 0650 hours. Suspects still at large.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a window smash to a business at Dolores and Sixth. No property taken.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Unknown person vandalized a city tree on Lincoln Street south of 10th Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of an attempted burglary to a local restaurant at Junipero and Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident involving a parked vehicle on San Carlos Street.

Pacific Grove: Forgery investigation on Glen Lake Drive.

Pacific Grove: Stolen vehicle from Arkwright Place.

Pacific Grove: Dispatched to a male under the influence of a drug yelling and running outside an apartment complex on David Avenue.

Carmel area: Vehicle was burglarized while parked outside a repair shop on Carmel Rancho Boulevard overnight.

Carmel Valley: Sexual abuse of a female child, approximately age 10 when it occurred about three to four years ago, reported on El Caminito. Suspect is a 54-year-old male. Case continues.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to Ford Road for a report of threats.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Injury DUI accident on Santa Fe at 0053 hours, resulting in injury.

See **POLICE LOG** page 8RE in the Real Estate Section



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Group seeks feedback on how to improve and expand Sunset Center

By MARY SCHLEY

WHAT ARE the weakest aspects of Sunset Center? What are the top priorities in improving it? How should it be used? What should it look like?

A consultant hired to help create a master plan for the city-owned cultural center and theater spent several days asking those and similar questions of stakeholders, elected officials and others interested in the center, and will host a community meeting to gather more information Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Executives and the nonprofit board that runs Sunset are trying to define “what we’re striving to do and be, and then how we’re going to achieve that,” the center’s executive director, Christine Sandin, explained last week. “We want to deliver diverse programming. We want to be a vibrant community center. We want to grow arts engagement and education programs.”

But accomplishing those goals and others depends a lot on the facility itself, which is where the master plan comes in.

“One of the tactics to achieve that is to, in partnership with the city, develop and implement a long-term facilities master plan,” she said. Sunset hired Anderson Brulé Architects to do the planning, with taxpayers covering half of the \$300,000 cost, according to a decision by the city council Sept. 1.

David O’Brien, director of strategic planning for Anderson Brulé, has made a couple of trips to town to gather information that will help with developing the master plan.

“We’ve been interviewing, trying to hear from people what they see as being the current compelling value of the Sunset Center

and the lands it uses — and where they see opportunity to advance that,” he said.

Specifically, O’Brien is asking:

- What do you believe are the five most critical issues for Sunset Center to consider today and in the future?
- What would you like to be able to do or have access to at Sunset Center?
- What is your vision for a future Sunset Center?
- What positive impacts would you like Sunset Center to have on the community?
- What are your criteria for success for the Sunset Center Master Plan?
- What are your key thoughts when considering land use?
- What financing options do you think should be considered?
- What criteria should be used to evaluate the different financing options?

After compiling answers from city council members, other public officials, business people, representatives of the hospitality industry, residents and stakeholders, O’Brien and his staff will host a joint meeting with the planning commission and the community Oct. 27, following an invite-only meeting with neighbors.

During the public meeting, which will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the theater lobby, people will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss the master plan and Sunset Center overall.

“From there, we will sort through what elements of a master plan we want to dig into,” he said. Several meetings will also take place with the Carmel City Council, and O’Brien said he hopes to have the master plan completed by April 2016.

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Being more active in your daily routine can even help you once you do make it in to the health club. You’ll notice that you have more stamina which will allow you to exercise for longer a period of time as well as an increase in strength which will help perfect your posture and prevent injuries. To improve your results in the club, consider working with a personal trainer at In-Shape: Pacific Grove. They can help you create a schedule and keep you accountable for showing up.

DEAR IN-SHAPE: I feel like my metabolism, and I need a boost. I want to work out and be more active, so I can feel better and lose some extra weight. However I always put it off because I’m feeling tired. Do you have ideas on how I can get a little more energized?

-MARTHA, 54, CARMEL

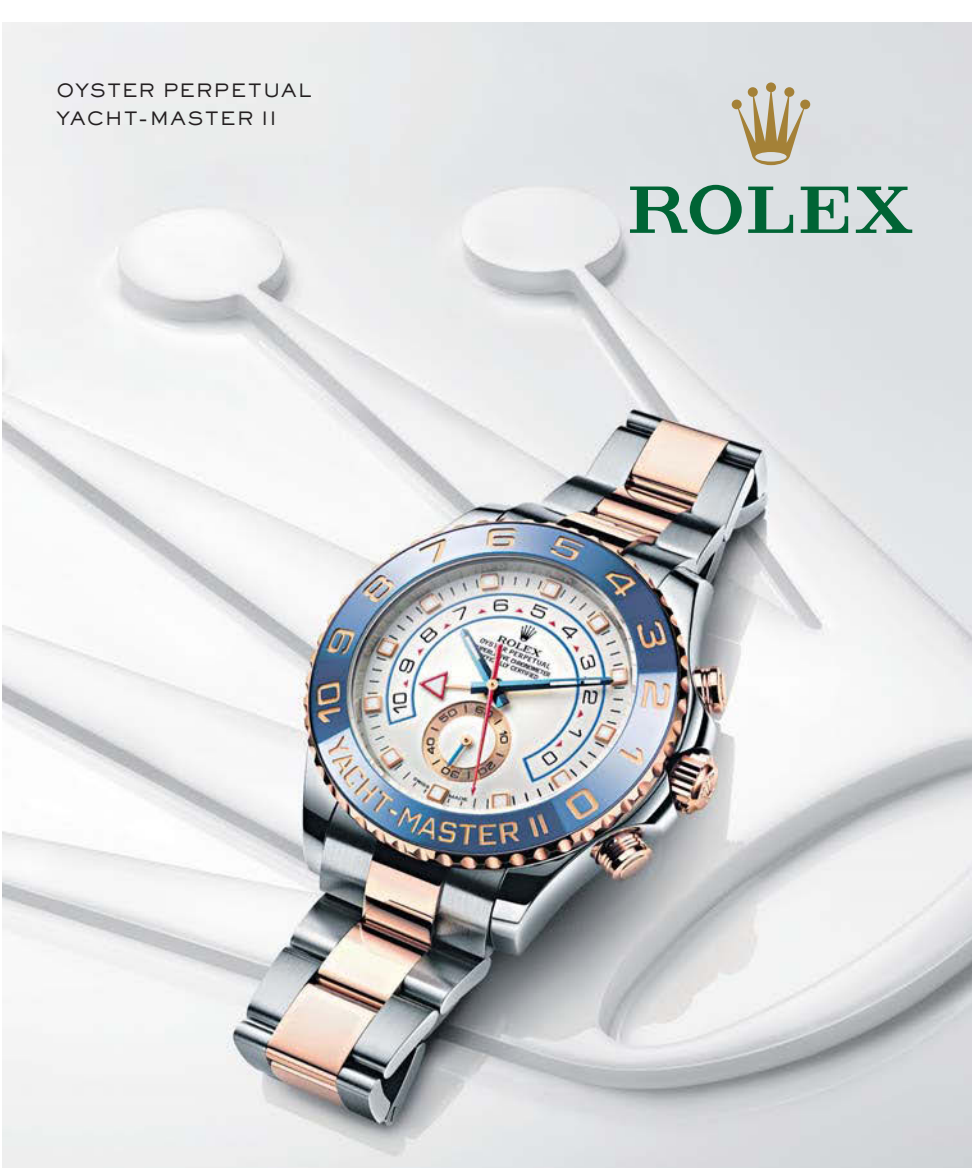
DEAR MARTHA: It can be very hard to push yourself to be more active when you’re feeling tired all the time. The best thing you can do is make sure that you are getting enough sleep every night. If you know that you are getting enough sleep, you might need some changes to your diet. Nutrition and exercise go hand in hand, and believe it or not eating more of what your body needs will help you lose the extra weight faster.

Don’t be afraid to enjoy that morning cup of coffee or caffeinated tea. Coffee or tea, preferably green tea, will speed up your heart rate and give a boost to your metabolism. Try not to add creamers or flavored syrups which adds unnecessary calories and sugar which will actually cause your metabolism to drop. Instead try almond milk which is high in protein and agave syrup which is a slow acting sugar.

Don’t skip breakfast. It’s an old adage, but it really is the most important meal of the day. Eating a breakfast high in protein will give you the energy and minerals you need to avoid being irritable and tired. Also, skipping any meals causes your metabolism to slow down even further. Try something simple like peanut butter on wheat toast and a banana to keep you going for hours.

Beat the mid-afternoon slump by taking a brisk 15-20 minute walk after lunch, and then having a small protein snack about 3:30. A handful of almonds with some dried fruit is a tasty treat that will keep you going all afternoon. Then you’ll be ready and raring to try that new Group Fitness class at In-Shape: Carmel tonight.

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Farr opponent Lucius is raising \$\$\$ and spreading the word about her candidacy

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE City Councilwoman Casey Lucius has so far raised \$40,000 toward her effort to oust longtime Congressman Sam Farr next year, but perhaps more importantly, she's getting her name out there.

Lucius, 39, a republican, announced in June her candidacy against Farr, 74, a democrat who has held the office since 1993. Since then, Lucius has been fundraising and campaigning, trying to make herself known to voters outside Pacific Grove.

"It's been really exciting," she said Tuesday of campaigning. "I told my husband 'I have never been more professionally satisfied than I am now,' which leads me to believe I'm doing the right thing."

A U.S. Navy veteran and former professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, Lucius quit her job as professor of national security decision making there before announcing her bid for the 20th Congressional District seat. During the first four months of her campaign, she's reached out to small business owners, chambers of commerce, veterans groups and individuals.

A fundraising event last week on property in Soledad owned by the Bragas, a longtime agricultural family, drew more than 50 people and raised \$10,000, she said. Each guest paid \$99, and sponsors contributed additional funds. Those in attendance included farmers and republican officials from Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, and South County politicians.

"It was a good mix of people in the ag community, plus party leadership and local officials," she said.

Lucius said she's also winning over some local democrats, too, and told The Pine Cone about an event at a home in Pacific Grove two weeks ago where most of the hosts' friends and family in attendance were democrats.

"By the end of the night, they were all supporting me," she said. "It was great that I had a whole room of democrats and was able to convince them that I had something to offer, regardless of party differences."

Last week Lucius was in San Juan Bautista, Carmel and Pebble Beach for fundraisers and speaking engagements. This week, she addressed the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce, and next week, she'll speak to members of the San Benito County Farm

Bureau.

"I'm going around and speaking and introducing myself, just to get my name known," she said.

Meanwhile, Farr, whose term ends Jan. 3, 2017, commented this week on Lucius' campaign.

While Farr "respects" Lucius, he also said that she has a "lot to learn about the varied nature and demands of this district," Farr's campaign manager, Plasha Will, told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

"The voters have come to appreciate the depth and breadth of his experience and accomplishments for the community," Will said, "and Sam feels that is what will come out on top in any electoral contest."

However, Lucius, who has a 5-year-old son, said she's reached out to many parents, some of whom have said they want fresh congressional leadership.

"There are people of my generation who are working and raising kids who don't want to get into political ideology, but they want to see some new solutions and new people elected," Lucius said. "Right now, people just seem tired of career politicians."



Casey Lucius

President Johnson's daughter to attend scenic highway ceremony in Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

LANDMARK BIXBY Bridge will be a very popular place Monday, Oct. 19, but this time, the crowd can't be blamed on tourists taking selfies.

Instead, Congressman Sam Farr, 5th District Supervisor Dave Potter and other government officials will gather near the bridge to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Highway Beautification Act, which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law. The act placed limits on the use of billboards along interstate highways and included provisions for protecting scenic viewsheds.

Planning to attend this week's ceremony is Johnson's daughter, Luci Baines Johnson, who will rededicate a plaque near the famed bridge that her mother, Lady Bird Johnson, dedicated on Sept. 21, 1966. Because the president's wife was such a strong supporter of the federal legislation, it became known as

Lady Bird's Bill.

Among those standing alongside the First Lady at the 1966 ceremony — which celebrated the start of the state's scenic highway system — were photographer Ansel Adams, Gov. Edmund G. Brown and Farr's father, Sen. Fred Farr.

Just last week, Farr told his colleagues in the House of Representatives why he believes the Highway Beautification Act is important.

"Fifty years ago, this House of Representatives took a bold move to protect and improve our scenic highways," recalled Farr, who said the legislation empowered "states and local communities to have the ability to prevent billboards from going up" and gives them funds for taking them down.

But Farr also warned that there is still much work to do. "We now have approximately 700,000 billboards in the United

See SCENIC page 30A

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BROWN SHOOTS DOWN LEGISLATION TARGETING RETIREMENT HOMES

By KELLY NIX

SIDING WITH Republican Assembly members, Gov. Jerry Brown this week vetoed proposed legislation that Sen. Bill Monning said would have given more rights to seniors and their families.

The bill, SB 475, introduced by Monning in February, would have required continuing-care facilities to return at least 20 percent of an entrance fee to a resident, or 10 percent to their estate, within 120 days of relinquishment of a property.

Before Brown vetoed the bill Oct. 11, it passed the state Assembly on Sept. 8 with a 53-26 vote — with only Republicans rejecting the legislation — and on Sept. 10 sailed through the Senate with unanimous support.

On the same day he vetoed the bill, Brown released a statement explaining his decision.

“While it is important that residents who buy into these communities be treated fairly, this bill would change the terms of contracts entered into by willing participants,” Brown said. “It would also insert the [Department of Social Services] into the resolution of contract disputes. For these reasons, I am not signing this bill.”

The guy didn’t understand?

An amendment to SB 475 would have required the Department of Social Services to investigate, in a small number of cases, whether good faith efforts were made to resell units.

Lynn Davis of Carmel Valley sparked the

legislation when he wrote Monning earlier this year about the issue. Davis and his family have waited more than five years for Forest Hill in Pacific Grove to refund 90 percent of a \$280,000 deposit his mother paid the facility in 2008 for a small apartment. His mother vacated the unit in 2010 before dying in 2014 at 104 years old.

“It would appear the governor did not understand the effective date of the legislation was Jan. 1, 2016, therefore it could not change any existing contracts,” Davis told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “Those entering contracts after Jan. 1, 2016, would be protected by the new law, and those with existing contracts would have no change to their contract obligations.”

The bill would have also required that

unpaid balances after 180 days be subject to a fixed interest rate of 4 percent, which would increase to 6 percent after 240 days.

Monning, in a statement sent to The Pine Cone, said he was “extremely disappointed” by the bill’s rejection, since it would have offered protection to “thousands of elderly” continuing-care residents and their estates “by guarding against the delayed repayment of entrance fees.”

“Continuing-care retirement community residents will now continue to enter into these contracts, and they or their families may be forced to wait years for the repayment of their entrance fees,” Monning said.

Only one Republican Assemblyman, Eric Linder from Riverside County, voted in favor of the bill.

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Mission Room at Soledad
High School
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Soledad, CA 93960

TUE, OCT 20, 10 a.m.

Crazy Horse Restaurant
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1425 Munras Ave
Monterey, CA 93940

THU, OCT 22, 2 p.m.

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Golf Course
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Seaside, CA 93955

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H8764_MKT_AEPAD_02_0915_CMS Accepted 10/04/2015

Three who robbed downtown jewelry store could be jailed for life

By MARY SCHLEY

THE GANG members who walked into a Dolores Street jewelry store nearly two years ago, brandished guns, tied up the business owner and an employee, and then robbed them and stole more than \$170,000 worth of jewelry from the safe, have all pleaded guilty to a litany of felonies and are set to be sentenced by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta Oct. 27. Combined, they face a prison sentence of more than 308 years.

According to testimony delivered during a preliminary hearing in the case more than a year ago, the frightening incident began on the morning of Nov. 6, 2013, when Miguel Jimenez, Leonel Ramirez and Omar Vasquez were driving around Carmel in a Chevy Blazer before deciding to walk downtown — and, ultimately, to rob La Renaissance Jewelers, where the owner and an employee were helping a female customer at the time the men entered the store. Jimenez went to a display case and pretended to be ring shopping for his girlfriend, while the other two followed. One of the men held a revolver, and another carried a semiautomatic handgun later discovered to be an Airsoft pellet gun, according to testimony.

They herded the three victims into the back of the store, used zip-ties to bind the owner and employee, and stole cash

off of them before raiding the floor safe. After the robbers fled the jewelry store, the employee managed to run outside, and a witness who saw the men get into the Blazer alerted him, police said at the time. Carmel P.D. quickly notified other agencies, and less than 15 minutes after the initial 911 call, Seaside officers saw the suspects northbound on Highway 1, called for additional units and arrested them at gunpoint at the Imjin Parkway exit in Marina.

Later, the store employee identified all three suspects, and police also found a large amount of jewelry, cash, what appeared to be a semiautomatic handgun, a loaded revolver, zip ties — and the store's business cards.

They were charged with multiple counts of armed robbery, kidnapping, weapons charges, gang crimes and other wrongdoing, and were held on bail amounts ranging from \$6.5 million to \$8 million. All three are affiliated with the Norteño gang and have remained in jail since their arrest.

Subsequently, the cases against the men nearly went to jury trial in December 2014 and again in June of this year, but each time, the trials were taken off the calendar as they and their attorneys considered plea deals. Finally, on July 9, Jimenez, Ramirez and Vasquez pleaded guilty to multiple counts of felony kidnapping, robbery, use of a firearm and gang crimes.

The convictions constitute eight strikes against each

defendant in California's Three Strikes law, and Vasquez and Ramirez face maximum prison terms of 117 years and four months, while Jimenez' maximum is 73 years and eight months. They could also be forced to pay fines and restitution. Jimenez was 22 at the time of the robbery, while the others were 16 and 17 years old.

Originally scheduled for Oct. 6, their sentencing was delayed to Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 4 in Salinas.

Police: Man used stolen credit card, fake ID to steal Rolexes

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER HE and his female accomplice walked out of a Crossroads jewelry store with two Rolexes purchased with a stolen credit card and a well crafted fake ID, a 39-year-old El Monte man tried the same trick at a downtown Carmel store Sept. 29. But when the card was declined because the \$18,750 watch exceeded the available credit, the store owners became suspicious and called the police, according to Carmel Police Cmdr. Paul Tomasi.

Hung Tu had visited Fourtané at Lincoln and Ocean with a woman and looked at watches earlier in the day, and then Tu returned alone to buy one of the expensive Rolexes with a credit card stolen from a Chino Hills resident, Tomasi said. He provided a fake ID in the same name.

“The license looked really good — it's a good fake,” he said. But “there wasn't enough money on the credit card. They got suspicious because the credit card didn't go through.”

So the store owners contacted Carmel P.D., and when Sgt. Luke Powell arrived to talk to Tu, he discovered the man was wearing a stolen watch on his left wrist, according to Tomasi.

See ARRESTED page 24A



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Activists seek reimbursement for their efforts in opposing steeper water rates

By KELLY NIX

SEVERAL GROUPS opposing a bid by California American Water to raise its rates to contend with a \$40 million shortfall are seeking hundreds of thousands of dollars from the CPUC because they intervened in the matter. Among them is a nonprofit from Marin County that wants \$195,000.

The California Public Utilities Commission allows individuals or groups who participate in proceedings involving public utilities to request compensation if they have made “substantial contributions.” The money comes from the public’s utility bills and taxes, and payouts must be approved by a CPUC judge.

The nonprofit seeking the biggest bucks is Mill Valley-based Public Trust Alliance. In its notice of intent to claim compensation the group filed with the CPUC Oct. 9, it estimates it will rack up \$195,000 in expenses, including \$90,000 for 300 hours of work by its executive director, Michael Warburton.

Warburton, who is not an attorney, is listed as “expert 1” in the filing, and he wants \$300 per hour.

The group’s other estimated expenses include \$15,000 for attorney work; \$56,000 for another expert; and \$18,000 for a “to be determined” advocate.

Warburton did not respond to questions from The Pine Cone, but according to its application, the group will evaluate the “reasonableness of Cal Am’s ratemaking proposals and whether they can be considered in the public interest ...”

The groups are protesting, in part, Cal Am’s application with the CPUC to collect a \$40 million shortfall from Peninsula water customers over 20 years.

“The rates have been so steeply tiered and everyone [on the Monterey Peninsula] has conserved so much water, that we’ve actually been failing to collect our authorized revenue by a significant amount — 20 to 30 percent annually — for the past five years,” Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman explained.

Raising rates, which would also help pay for Cal Am’s

future operating expenses, would cost the “typical water customer” \$13 more per month, she said.

WaterPlus, a group headed by Ron Weitzman that advocates for the public ownership of Cal Am and supports a competing water project over the company’s proposed Marina desal plant, is requesting \$171,000 for its efforts.

In a 6-page application, WaterPlus lists \$80,000 in attorneys’ fees (two attorneys each working at \$400 per hour); \$40,000 for two experts (each working for \$200 per hour); and \$40,000 for advocates and two others.

WaterPlus, which, among other things is asking the CPUC to require an audit of Cal Am’s shortfall, also estimates it will rack up 200 hours of travel at \$35 per hour for a total of \$7,000, and \$4,000 in “other” costs.

Another group, Public Water Now, a spinoff of George Riley’s Citizens for Public Water, has requested a more modest \$38,450 in compensation.

“For more than 15 years, Cal Am has had a series of proj-

ect failures, and the ratepayers have had to pay for them,” according to the group’s compensation application. “The CPUC has been a handmaiden in the costs ending up on ratepayer bills.”

The group wants \$12,375 in attorneys’ fees; \$4,750 for two experts; \$15,000 for Riley, who estimated he would work 150 hours at \$100 per hour; and \$2,500 for another advocate. Travel and meals are expected to cost \$2,000.

On Oct. 6, Cal Am attorney Sarah E. Leeper urged the CPUC to deny WaterPlus its request for compensation, saying the group had “failed to demonstrate that its activities enhance the goal of promoting ratepayer interests in this proceeding and that its activities are not duplicative of other ratepayer groups.”

On Monday, Oct. 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at a public meeting at Embassy Suites in Seaside, Cal Am and the Monterey County Association of Realtors will discuss Cal Am’s proposed rates.

Hearing set in felony DUI manslaughter case

A PRELIMINARY hearing is scheduled for next week in the case against Breezie Snyder, the Carmel Valley resident accused of hitting and killing her friend, Kate Thomas, with her car while driving drunk on Esquiline Road in Carmel Valley Village in March 2014. The two women had been drinking at the Running Iron, and Thomas was walking home around 2 a.m. March 8, 2014, when Snyder ran into her with her Toyota Highlander.

More than a year after the crash, on June 3, the California Highway Patrol filed charges against Snyder for felony gross vehicular manslaughter, felony DUI causing bodily injury and felony DUI. She appeared in court to enter her not-guilty plea on July 14 with defense attorney Larry Biegel, and is out on bail.

The preliminary hearing, when the prosecution will make its arguments for why the case against Snyder should proceed, is set for Thursday, Oct. 22.

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Mission restoration wins Governor’s Historic Preservation Award

By MARY SCHLEY

THE PEOPLE who carried out the recent \$5.5 million restoration of the Carmel Mission Basilica will travel to Sacramento next month to receive the Governor’s Historic Preservation Award, according to Vic Grabrian, president and CEO of the nonprofit Carmel Mission Foundation that raised the money and organized the work. The state has presented the award annually since 1986 “to projects, individuals, and organizations whose contributions demonstrate significant achievements in preserving the heritage of California.”

The Basilica restoration project, which also included seismic retrofitting, “was recognized as an exceptional example of historic preservation efforts on behalf of California’s cultural heritage,” according to Grabrian.

The governor’s award marks the second major recognition the Basilica restoration has received. Late last year, it was named a regional Project of the Year by the construction industry. Grabrian credited architect Franks Brenkwitz & Associates, Architectural Resources Group, structural engineer Donald Urfer & Associates, general contractor Blach Construction and project manager Brian Kelly with the honors and success.

And, he noted, “The foundation’s grateful appreciation also goes out to all of our wonderful donors, for without them, none of this would have been possible.”

Grabrian and Mike Blach, president of Blach Construction; David Wessel, principal of the Architectural Resources Group; Brett Brenkwitz and Charlie Franks, principals of Franks Brenkwitz and Associates; and probably oth-

ers, will accept the award.

Meanwhile, fundraising efforts and planning are under way for the next phase of the renovation, which will cost an estimated \$20 million and include upgrading the gift shop, museums and other structures on the Mission’s 22-acre campus. The city’s historic resources board and planning commission have already approved some of the work, and Grabrian said the foundation has raised roughly \$3.3 million so far — about one-third of its immediate goal.

“One way we hope to raise these funds is to find special donors willing to individually sponsor the restoration of a historic structure or courtyard,” Grabrian said. “Sponsorships range anywhere from \$500,000 to \$6 million.”

He reported “several individuals” are considering sponsoring specific parts of the renovation, and the \$1.5 million Blessed Sacrament Chapel sponsorship has already been reserved by an anonymous donor.

The design development phase should wrap up soon, with architects working on construction drawings for further permit applications. Grabrian said the initial round of work planned for next year includes trenching in all new utilities — electrical, water, gas, sewer, fire protection, communication, and drainage — in the Quadrangle courtyard.

“After that, we intend to begin seismic stabilization and infrastructure upgrades, including climate control to protect artifacts,” in the Mission’s five museums, California’s first library and the Orchard House, the oldest adobe residence in the state, he said.

“Of course, all of this depends on our being able to raise sufficient funds in time, as well as the severity of the weather this winter,” Grabrian continued.

The work will take into account maximum efficiency and cost effectiveness, and be undertaken with as little disruption as possible, especially with the increased number of visitors and attention since its founder, Junipero Serra, was made a saint by Pope Francis last month.

Grabrian said the number of people from around the world coming to the Mission — which was the first headquarters of the California missions system and is where Serra is interred — has more than doubled since Pope Francis announced his intention to canonize Serra earlier this year.

CYC needs volunteers for Mission event

‘HELP THE Mission, help Carmel, and help us do a little fundraising,” urge officials with the Carmel Youth Center, which is operating shuttles during the Oct. 24 Bishop’s Canonization Celebration at the Carmel Mission. The center is looking for volunteers to help drive shuttles and assist with parking during the event, which is being held as part of the celebration of Mission founder Junipero Serra being made a saint by Pope Francis on Sept. 23.

According to the youth center, volunteers are needed for driving and parking from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and from 4 to 6:30 p.m. In exchange for providing shuttle service for visitors, the CYC receives monetary donations.

To sign up, visit www.carmelyouth.com/volunteer or call (831) 624-3285.

Sunset Center Facilities Master Plan Community Workshop

Tuesday, October 27, 5:30-7:30PM

Sunset Center Theater Lobby

Attention Carmel Community Members:

Sunset Center, in partnership with the City, has engaged Anderson Brulé Architects to initiate a Sunset Center campus master plan that aligns with our strategic vision. Please join us for our first public workshop led by ABA on Tuesday, October 27, from 5:30-7:30.



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Don Edwards



Former Congressman Don Edwards died peacefully in his sleep on October 1st at age 100. A memorial gathering is planned for 2:00 p.m. on October 25th at Mission Ranch, 26270 Delores St., Carmel. Mr. Edwards’ family has requested, in lieu of flowers, that remembrance contributions be made to the Citizens Committee to Complete the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge, www.bayrefuge.org, P.O. Box 50991, Palo Alto, CA 9434

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FIREFIGHTING BIG SUR LIFEGUARDS READY TO GET THEIR FEET WET

By CHRIS COUNTS

KNOWN FOR their efforts to put out fires and respond to emergencies on land, the Mid-Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade now has a team of lifeguards who can help people who get into trouble in the water.

“We’ve had eight drownings or near drownings last year along the coast, from Hurricane Point, to Otter Cove,” fire chief Cheryl Goetz said. “After over a year of planning, program development, fundraising to purchase the needed equipment, physicals and passing of the stringent lifeguard swim tests and training, we are launching this much needed program.”

The three lifeguards are Brian Gorrell, Brent Bispo and Bryce Hall. To help fund their training and equipment, Gorrell — who Goetz said has experience as a big wave lifeguard in Hawaii — organized a fundraising musical event in Carmel. The effort raised about \$5,000, which “paid for walkie-talkies, surf rescue boards and assorted equipment — everything they need to be in the water and rescue someone,” Goetz explained.

Before they could become lifeguards, Gorrell, Bispo and Hall had to take a series of physical tests and classes. “They’ve met the qualifications” she said. “We’re ready to go — the program has officially started.”

Now that the team members qualified to do their job, they will provide help to California State Parks lifeguards. “Our goal is simply to assist state park lifeguards,” she explained. “Clearly, it’s their jurisdiction. But if we can get in the water before they arrive, we will.”

The fire chief said she’s thrilled to see the fire brigade’s lifeguard program get off the ground.

“This program is the first of its kind on the coast,” she added. “We’re pretty happy and proud. We think this will really help. Our hope is that someday we will see joint efforts with other fire departments.”

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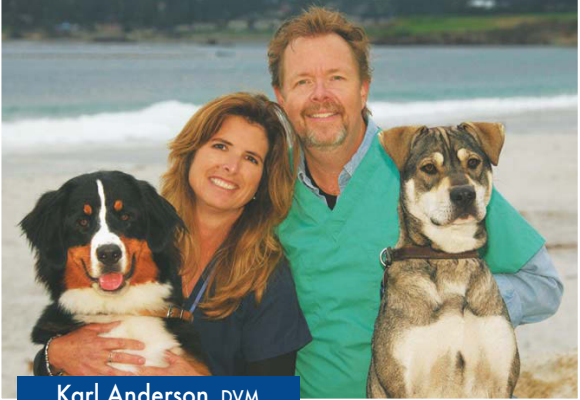
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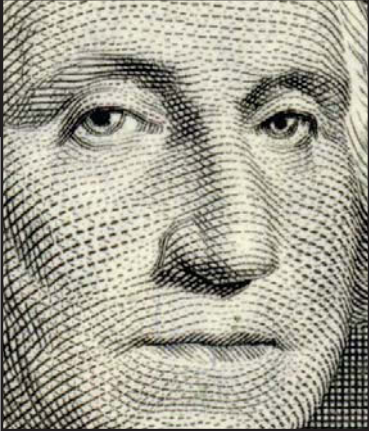
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New valet service should get 40-plus cars off downtown streets

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER THE owners and managers of the event center at Dolores and Seventh received permission from the Carmel City Council last month to offer valet parking there when the building's not being used, National Parking & Valet owner Steve Summers announced last week his company would begin offering valet parking outside the Cypress Inn daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"We'll be charging \$5 per hour or \$30 for overnight parking for hotel guests," he said, with the cars parked in the Dolores and Seventh and Cypress Inn lots.

"Our service at this location can move approximately 43 cars off the streets in Carmel," he added.

The service began Oct. 9, and Summers said his valets are using a high-tech system that tracks every car's arrival time, make, model and year. It also scans VINs and stores guests' names, and allows for payment by credit card as well as cash.

To protect themselves against false accu-

sations and liability, valets can document any damage on an arriving vehicle.

And guests can request their cars by sending a text message or email.

Before the valet service began, Summers said, guests were "parking on the street and jockeying cars around throughout the day."

"We're helping to solve a parking problem and providing a service for customers and visitors to easily park and enjoy the town," he said.

At the Sept. 1 city council meeting when members voted to allow the Dolores and Seventh property to be used for valet parking, Bobby Richards, business partner to Cypress Inn owner Denny LeVett, said the idea would relieve parking congestion — a much discussed issue downtown.

And the inn is doing its share, he said. Cypress Inn employees are already required to park outside the commercial core, and the new valet service takes advantage of an off-street, private lot that's been mostly unused.

"It's a fabulous idea," he said at the meeting.



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Pacific Grove preschool to throw annual fundraiser

SAINT ANGELA'S Preschool in Pacific Grove will host its annual Food & Wine fundraiser and auction later this month, and the public is invited to join in the fun.

On Oct. 23 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at St. Angela Merici Parish Hall at Lighthouse Avenue and 9th, the school will celebrate its 30 years of "providing high quality early childhood education for families all over the Peninsula."

The event features delicious food, wine,

beer, music, silent and live auctions, games, dessert sales and more.

Event sponsors include Bernardus, Hahn, Bargetto, Dametra Café and the Wharf Marketplace. The fundraiser is supported by grants from the Pebble Beach Company Foundation, the Give Back Brands Foundation and Wells Fargo.

For more information about the event, call Susan D'Angelo at (831) 372-3555. Tickets are \$40.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

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Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:

Mary Schley: Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools.....mary@carmelpinecone.com

Chris Counts: Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sportschris@carmelpinecone.com

Kelly Nix: Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water.....kelly@carmelpinecone.com

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Musical auditions set for Nov. 7-8

OFFERING LOCAL actors and actresses an opportunity to show their talent, the Forest Theater Guild is hosting auditions for role in “The Borrower — the Musical.”

Written by Walt deFaria and based on the series of children’s books by the late author Mary Norton, the musical is scheduled to be staged at the Outdoor Theater sometime during the 2016 season.

The auditions will be scheduled by appointment only Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Carmel Youth Center. The youth center is located at Fourth and Torres. For more information, call (831) 760-0127.

P.G. church has rummage sale

THE CHRISTIAN Church in Pacific Grove is having its annual “Amazing Rummage Sale” Saturday to raise money for the church.

The sale — featuring household items, small appliances, tools, furniture, jewelry, electronics, CDs and DVDs, children’s toys and other items — is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 17.

There will also be discounts at the church’s benefit shop. The Christian Church is located at 442 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove.



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DANCER-ILLUSIONISTS DAZZLE AT SUNSET

A TALENTED troupe of dancer-illusionists, MOMIX will present its latest visual spectacle, “Alchemia,” Friday, Oct. 16, at Sunset Center.

By employing lights, shadows, props and human bodies, founder and artistic director Moses Pendleton has created a stage show that has

See **DANCE** page 20A



Using lights, shadows, props and human bodies to create a visually stunning show, a troupe of dancer-illusionists from the Connecticut dance company MOMIX will visit Sunset Center Friday.

Symphony enters eighth decade, John Denver tribute returns to P.G.

KICKING OFF its 70th year — and presenting the first of eight concerts this season — **The Monterey Symphony** performs Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17-18, at Sunset Center.

Led by conductor **Max Bragado-Darman**, the symphony will play Wagner’s “Siegfried’s Rhine Journey” from *Götterdämmerung*; Strauss’ *Death and*

Transfiguration, Op. 24; and Shostakovich’s *Symphony No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 10*.

“This concert is like having a beef dinner with sides of pork and bacon,” said musicologist **Todd Samra**, who will offer a free talk before the concert. “It’s so rich.”

Samra called the Wagner piece “a very dramatic and

See **MUSIC** page 20A



Cafe Musique (above) will serve up an original blend of gypsy music Friday in Carmel Valley. Jim Curry (right) has made a career of portraying the late pop star John Denver. He’s playing Saturday in Pacific Grove.



Veterans turn to art for help, Sand City offers studio tour

CALLING ATTENTION to the challenges facing military veterans — and utilizing the power of creativity — the Monterey Museum of Art began collaborating with the Veterans Transition Center in Marina on an art therapy program earlier this year.

“Our county’s veteran population is

welcome them.”

“The program began about six months ago,” reported **Ami Davis**, the museum’s director of education and community partnerships.

As many as 15 veterans — some from the Vietnam War era and others from the more recent Middle Eastern conflicts — have participated in monthly visits to the museum. They’ve also started to create their own art.

Davis said the program is showing great promise. “We see an immediate impact,” she explained. “We see them bloom as we open them up to art. We’ve also had incredible testimonials from them about how meaningful and healing the experience is. We are incredibly inspired by our veterans, and we are so excited about our collaboration with them.”

At least some of the work created by veterans will be part of a multi-faceted military-themed exhibit that is scheduled to open Feb. 11 at the museum’s new Community Gallery at its Pacific Street location.

See **ART** page 21A

Art Roundup

By **CHRIS COUNTS**

searching for help and answers about themselves and the world in which they live,” VTC director **William Bare** explained. “Art is inspirational and can create a spark in these veterans to write, create, sing, dance, express themselves.”

Each month, veterans visit the museum to practice and learn about art. Their work is supported by volunteer docents.

“The museum is deeply committed to making a positive impact through meaningful connections with art and community,” executive director **Charlotte Eyerman** said. “We honor the service of all veterans and



Richard MacDonald (above) was recently named an art “champion.” Will Furman’s photograph, “By the Winding River,” (right) is featured in a one-day show.



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New tasting room, restaurant open for business, and a walk through history

CARMEL ROAD winery quietly opened its new tasting room in the Pine Inn complex on Lincoln Street north of Ocean Avenue last week and will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon cutting and other special events toward the end of the month.

Owned by Jackson Family Wines, Carmel Road features Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir made with fruit from its local vineyards, most notably the Panorama Vineyard, located in the Arroyo Seco area, which is adjacent to the Santa Lucia Highlands winegrowing region.

The tasting room is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and managed by Chrissy Gray,

company, and she's brought in a couple of qualified hosts to accompany her.

Tastings run \$15 to \$20, depending on the guest's choice of wines, but regardless, everyone starts with a free taste of Barrymore Pinot Grigio. Actress Drew Barrymore was working with an Italian winemaker when she formed her label a few years ago but more recently made the leap to Jackson Family and Carmel Road winemaker Kris Kato. "She's very hands-on in the winemaking process," Gray said. "He got a sense of her style."

Carmel Road offers two wines that bear her mark: the Pinot Grigio and the Drew's Blend Pinot Noir. Both are light, lower in alcohol and quaffable — wines designed to be enjoyed during a casual afternoon at home, for instance.

But the tasting focuses on the Carmel Road estate wines made from its 419-acre Panorama Vineyard. After the bright, crisp unoaked Chardonnay comes the Panorama Vineyard Pinot Noir, the spiciest of the bunch, with the dominant black fruit flavors and aromas like berry and black cher-

ry. The South Crest Pinot, made with fruit from the southern end of the vineyard, is softer and more fruit oriented, with a long finish, while the North Crest is more similar to wines from the neighboring Santa Lucia Highlands, with earthiness, oak, cocoa and dark fruit flavors — as well as a deeper hue. The First Row Pinot Noir is crafted from the block at the front of the vineyard.

All of the Pinot Noir wines are very limited in production and are only available for purchase from the tasting room, according to Gray. While it's not in the regular tasting lineup, fans of slightly sweet wines should also ask for a taste of the Riesling, which is limited as well, since Carmel Road only grows 7 acres of that varietal.

Bottle prices range from \$18 to \$45, and one tasting fee — which includes the glass — is waived with each \$75 spent.

The ribbon cutting with the Carmel Chamber of Commerce is set for Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., with Gray and Kato onsite to lead guests through their tastings. Passed hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Carmel Road's neighbor, Il Fornaio.

Then, on Friday, Oct. 30, from 3 to 6 p.m., Paws & Pinot will showcase Animal Friends Rescue Project adoptable pets in the Pine Inn courtyard. Light appetizers and mini flights will be provided for \$5 in the tasting room.

And on Saturday, Oct. 31 — Halloween and the city's 99th birthday celebration and parade — the tasting room will offer 99-cent shipping on cases of wine all day.

Carmel Road is located on the west side of Lincoln Street between Ocean and Sixth avenues. For more information, visit www.carmelroad.com.

■ Wrath in the kitchen

Stone Creek Kitchen's final Winemaker Dinner in the Kitchen, set for Friday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., will feature the wines of Wrath Vineyards and costs \$125 per person. Winemaker Sabrina Rodems will talk about the small-production wines she makes at Wrath, located at the south end of the county.

Prepared in front of the guests and served at eight-person rounds placed throughout

Stone Creek's demonstration kitchen, dinner will include soft goat cheese with pumpkin seeds and fennel pollen, served with Wrath Fermata Chardonnay; goose pâté with sour cherries and rye toast, served with Wrath Swan/828 Pinot Noir; and roasted pumpkin soup with piquillo pepper, speck lardons and Wrath Ex Vite Pinot Noir. The next course of warm spinach salad with crispy duck leg will be paired with a side-by-side tasting of Wrath Pinot Noir from the Boekenoogen Vineyard and Wrath Pinot Noir from Tondre Grapefield. Pork roast with Wrath KW Ranch Syrah reduction and stuffing will be served with the same Syrah, and dessert of dark chocolate and Amarena cherries will be paired with Wrath Doctor's Vineyard Syrah.

To register, call (831) 393-1042. Stone Creek Kitchen is located in the shopping center at the intersection of Highway 68 and Canyon del Rey.

Continues next page



Chrissy Gray manages the new tasting room for Carmel Road, which specializes in small-hot Pinot Noir and is open daily.



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

■ Cooking tips at expo

The 2015 Inspired Fall & Garden Expo of Monterey, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17-18, at the Monterey Fairgrounds at 2004 Fairground Road in Monterey, is free to attend and will showcase about a hundred local home and garden professionals ready to answer questions and provide expert advice. Displays and exhibits of the latest ideas in home improvement, remodeling, interior design, decorating and landscaping will be shown, as will seminars and demonstrations designed to help people enhance the beauty and the value of their homes.

The expo will also feature a few culinary elements for those who like to cook and entertain.

On Saturday from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., Mundaka chef Brandon Miller will demonstrate how to make Spanish tapas, and from 1 to 1:30 p.m., “Festive Dining and Holiday Decorating with Taft & Teak” will focus on “the art of setting a dining table properly.” From 1:45 to 2:15 p.m., Nenito Fajilan, a 20-year employee and mixologist at the Hyatt Carmel Highlands Sunset Lounge, will demonstrate “Delicious Cocktails from the Herbs in Your Garden.”

And on Sunday at 1 p.m., chef Matt Chartier from

Williams-Sonoma will teach attendees how to brine and carve a Thanksgiving turkey. He’ll also discuss how to prepare traditional holiday side dishes and how to properly set a table. For more information, go to InspiredExpos.com.

■ Smokehouse hosts Hot Roux

Bon Ton L’Roy’s Lighthouse Smokehouse will host a live appearance of Hot Roux Sunday, Oct. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. KPIG will be there doing a live broadcast of the performance, which blends “Louisiana-flavored rock and country blues.”

The restaurant is located at 794 Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey.

■ Tarpy’s Roadhouse History Dinner

The story of Matt Tarpy and Rancho Saucito, where Tarpy’s Roadhouse now stands, will come to life Thursday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., when Terrence Gargiulo, tells the story of how Tarpy went from well respected rancher to vilified murderer. The History Dinner will also include details of life in Monterey in the 1800s, a tour of the Ryan Ranch Homestead — and a feast prepared by chef Todd Fisher.

See FOOD page 21A

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MUSIC

From page 17A

excited work that centers around the return of the hero, Siegfried.”

He said the composition by Strauss — which was written when he was just 25 — is a “heavy but amazing piece of music.”

Shostakovich’s Symphony, meanwhile, “is so rhythmic and has so much activity and cool things going on,” Samra explained. “There’s percussion, there’s brass, and there’s even a piano that plays with the orchestra. It adds a lot of color.”

Like Strauss, Shostakovich wrote his work when he was young enough to be attending college.

Samra said the three compositions — each a powerful piece of music — truly showcase the collective talent of the symphony. “It’s a brilliant way to start our 70th season,” Samra added.

Bragado-Darman also chimed in on the kickoff the symphony’s 2015-2016 season.

“I work with a dedicated, talented group of musicians,” said the symphony’s conductor and music director. “We all share the same love and passion for bringing beautiful music to this community, and I can’t wait to introduce the 70th anniversary season to our patrons.”

Saturday’s concert starts at 8 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$40 to \$79. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 646-8511.

■ Fans celebrate late pop star’s music

Eighteen years after singer-songwriter John Denver died in a plane crash near Point Pinos, friends and fans of the late pop star will meet for a three-day memorial “Blue Water Weekend” gathering that culminates with a tribute concert Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Pacific Grove Performing Arts Center.

Playing Denver will be **Jim Curry**, whose career as a tribute artist began after he landed a singing role in a television movie about the singer-songwriter’s life. Accompanied by acoustic guitarist **Pete Huttlinger**, Curry will perform hits made famous by Denver like “Rocky Mountain High,” “Take Me Home, Country Roads,” and “Thank God I’m a Country Boy.”

The weekend’s events also include a kayaking trip (Friday at 2 p.m.), a sing-a-long at the Bay Park Hotel (Friday at 7

p.m.), a beach clean-up (Sunday at 10 a.m.) and more.

Saturday’s tribute show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. The performing arts center is located at 835 Forest Ave. Visit www.jimcurry.com

■ ‘It’s a monster mash’ in Big Sur

The founder and lead singer of the Los Angeles-based rock band, Thelonious Monster, singer-songwriter **Bob Forrest** introduces his first solo recording, “Survival Songs,” Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

In addition to a live performance by Forrest, the event will feature the screening of a film about the singer-songwriter, whose rock ’n’ roll odyssey took him from the edge of stardom to the depths of heroin addiction. Today, the musician is not only sober, but he works as a drug counselor.

The multi-faceted gathering, which also includes a book-signing event, starts at 7:30 p.m. The library is located 28 miles south of Carmel. Call (831) 667-2574.

■ S.L.O. quintet brings gypsy music to C.V.

Serving up an original blend of gypsy music, classical, folk and jazz, **Cafe Musique** will perform Friday, Oct. 16, at the Hidden Valley Theatre.

The San Luis Obispo-based quintet features **Brynn Albanese** on violin and vocals, **Duane English** on accordion, **Fred Murray** on bass and vocals, **Craig Nuttycombe** on guitar and vocals, and **Eric Williams** on guitars, ukulele, bouzouki, banjo and vocals.

The music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Hidden Valley Music Seminars is located at Carmel Valley and Ford roads. Call (831) 659-3115.

■ Live Music Oct. 16-22

Terry’s Lounge at Cypress Inn — pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.); singer **Andrea Carter** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.); guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 5 p.m.); and singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz and pop, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

Barmel — singer-songwriter **Hannah Jane Kile**, multi-instrumentalist **Corey Morgan Strange** and bassist **Barry Prior** (Friday at 7 p.m.); and . San Carlos and Seventh, (831) 626-3400.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz and pop, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.); and pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., (831) 625-9040.

The Fuse Lounge at Carmel Mission Inn — **The Stu**

Heydon Blues Band with singer **Jessica Le Jeune** (Friday at 8:30 p.m.); and blues jam with **Stu Heydon** (Saturday at 8:30 p.m.). 3665 Rio Road, (831) 624-6630.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer **Neal Banks** and guitarist **Steve Ezzo** (pop and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.); singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (pop and jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.); singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Tuesday at 4 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive, (831) 620-1234.

Folktales Winery — singer-songwriter **Casey Frazier** (“eclectic Americana with roots in country and ’70s rock,” Friday at 4:30 p.m.); **Samurai Gypsies** (salsa and flamenco, Saturday at 4:30 p.m.); and singer-songwriter **Johan Sotelo** (Sunday at 4:30 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

The Safari Club at the Bay Park Hotel in Monterey — **The Fretless** (folk, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 1425 Munras, (831) 235-7662.

Lucia Restaurant + Bar at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley — pianist **Martin Headman** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.). 415 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 658-3400.

Cooper’s Pub & Restaurant in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Sean Ryan** (pop, rock and jazz, Friday at 8:30 p.m.), 653 Cannery Row, (831) 373-1353.

Julia’s restaurant in Pacific Grove — guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 5:30 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave., (831) 656-9533.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach —**The Dottie Dodgion Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 7 p.m.); **The Jazz Trio** with pianist **Bob Phillips** (Friday at 7 p.m.); **The Jazz Trio** with pianist **Jan Deneau** (Saturday at 7 p.m.); and singer-songwriter **Bryan Diamond** (Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.). Also, a bagpiper plays every evening at 5:45 p.m. 2700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 647-7500.

Courtside Bistro at Chamisal Tennis and Fitness Club in Corral de Tierra — singer and pianist **Tom Lawson** (blues, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 185 Robley Road, (831) 484-6000.

DANCE

From page 17A

dazzled audiences around the world for more than 30 years.

“It’s 88 minutes of nonstop action,” Pendleton told The Pine Cone. “It’s very inspiring to see the beauty and mystery of the human form, and [MOMIX] allows you to go places you haven’t seen before.”

A founding member of the groundbreaking American dance company, Pilobolus, Pendleton choreographed the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in 1980. He later founded MOMIX, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.

In his latest work, Pendleton presents “Alchemia.” As its title implies, the show is inspired by the power of change. “It’s all about transformation,” he added.

Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$49 to \$69. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048.

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The 2015 Golden Pine Cones

Winners to be announced in the October 30th issue

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FOOD

From page 19A

Fisher is planning to prepare rice fritters with sausage, parmesan and crisp parsley; oysters with Bloody Mary sauce; black truffle and Fontina grilled cheese with shaved white asparagus; blackened watermelon and dungeness crab canapé with avocado mousse; achiote spice-marinated shrimp and grits with sweet pepper and creole carrot sauce; chili- and cocoa-rubbed, slow roasted Prime New York strip loin with squash and caramelized pearl onions with Gruyere scalloped potatoes and rosemary, with Cabernet Franc sauce; and blackberry cake with pomegranate molasses and sweet corn ice cream.

The cost is \$65 per person, inclusive. Reservations are required. Call (831) 647-1444. Tarpý's is located at Highway 68 and Canyon del Rey in Monterey.

■ Il Tegamino debuts

Brothers Giuseppe and Salvatore Panzutto realized their dream of opening a restaurant together with the debut of Il Tegamino in the small space in the Court of the Golden Bough behind the Cottage of Sweets. The name refers to the traditional pan used in a lot of Italian cooking — and which their mother collected and hung on the wall of their kitchen in Napoli, Italy.

Completely remodeled, the restaurant features a small main room, a coffee bar in the back, and abundant outdoor seating. The

menu is filled with the Italian comfort foods the brothers want to offer to their guests — like the sformato di potato (creamy potatoes baked with Italian salumi and cheese, topped with bread crumbs), and the Polpetta Bar, with a half-dozen different types of meatballs (mushroom, cauliflower, tuna, beef, pork and crab seafood) and various dipping sauces. The meatballs come in orders of two and are also offered in a \$20 sampler with one of each flavor.

Several Primi Piatti — gnocchi, lasagna, seafood spaghetti, lemon risotto and Paccheri al Ragu Napoletano — complement main courses of roasted chicken, a mixed grill and other meats. Salads and contorni round out the offerings for vegetables and other side dishes, and a couple of variations on tiramisu, among other items, make up the dessert menu.

The wine list is diverse and accessible, and the Panzuto brothers, with Giuseppe in the front of the house and Salvatore in the kitchen, strive to make their new restaurant warm and hospitable.

Filled with patrons, the room can get a little loud, but it's a comfortable and enjoyable place to be — and a glass window into the kitchen allows guests to check out the action, too.

Il Tegamino is open for dinner from 4 to 9 p.m. nightly except Wednesdays. For more information and reservations, visit www.iltegamino.com or call (831) 250-5790. The Court of the Golden Bough is located on the south side of Ocean Avenue between Monte Verde and Lincoln streets.

Run to honor Monterey County military who died during wars

By KELLY NIX

WHEN MARGOT Stengel's 41-year-old son died in Afghanistan in early 2010, she was distraught beyond words. When she was finally able to recover somewhat from the pain, Stengel decided to organize an event that would honor her son and other military servicemen from Monterey County who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Stengel established the Honor Our Fallen 10K run, an event on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Fort Ord Dunes State Park, that will recognize county residents who served in the military and lost their lives defending the country in those wars — a number that is now up to 14.

"I thought an annual run would be perfect," she told The Pine Cone. "Living in a running and military community, I decided to raise money by having a run to honor our fallen."

So far, the event, which originally sought to raise funds for the veterans cemetery, has raised more than \$50,000.

The funds now go to the Veterans Transition Center, which provides services to homeless veterans.

Stengel's son, Vincent Wayne Ashlock, an Army Ranger and a tank commander, reenlisted at age 41 after serving in the branch in his late 20s.

"He said, 'I want to do something and make my family proud,'" she said. "All he wanted to do was deploy."

This year's event will feature the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's honor guard, a flyover from the West Coast Ravens, a team of pilots who will perform a missing man formation, and post-race activities.

Stengel said she's going to hand over the reins to the U.S. Army, which will organize the event beginning next year.

The Honor Our Fallen course is a fast 10K loop course that "rolls gently along the dunes of the Pacific with beautiful views of the Monterey Bay and the Monterey Peninsula," according to the event's website. There is also a shorter 5K run.

On Oct. 23, a day before the event, there is a dinner fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Monterey.

For more information about the events, and to register for the 10K, go to www.honourourfallen10k.com or call (831) 331-1267.

ART

From page 17A

■ Go west, young photographer

Showcasing a body of work that captures the wide open spaces the Western United States is famous for, Carmel Valley fine art photographer **Will Furman** offers the public a glimpse inside his studio Saturday, Oct. 17.

More than 200 landscape photographs will be displayed at the day-long event.

"The beauty of the west continues to be endlessly exciting to me photographically, and I keep returning to capture these magical places," Furman said.

The photographer lives at 27150 Los Arboles Drive. Visit www.willfurmanphotography.com.

■ Sculptor named 'Champion of the Arts'

A Carmel sculptor and a Carmel Valley nonprofit group have been named Champions of the Arts by the Arts Council for Monterey.

Along with five other recipients, sculptor **Richard MacDonald** and Hidden Valley Music Seminars will be honored Jan. 16 at gala in the Portola Hotel and Spa.

One of the world's most distinguished figurative sculptors, MacDonald is best known for his elegant bronze works that capture the power, grace and beauty of athletes and dancers in motion. He owns three galleries — including one in Carmel — and operates a studio at Ryan Ranch.

Founded in Southern California in 1963

and relocated to Carmel Valley in 1972, Hidden Valley has been the site of countless music, theater, opera and dance classes and performances.

"The mission of the Arts Council is to improve the quality of life in our region through the arts," executive director **Paulette Lynch** said. "In our 30 years of experience, observation and research, we have found over and over that the arts are the answer. Our champions provide many great examples — their vision, talent, passion and dedication create a stronger and more vibrant community."

For more about the gala, visit www.arts4mc.org.

■ Industry, art and a studio tour

Celebrating the town's quirky mix of industry and art, the Sand City Artist Open Studio Tour happens Saturday, Oct. 17, from noon to 5 p.m.

Participating artists and businesses include Holly and Ashlee Temple, Sand City Sculpture, TCK Studio, Sweet Elena's Bakery, Manny Espinoza Gallery, Gaga Hair Salon, Gallery Ilad, Studio Fumf, Ironspeak, Monterey Sculpture Center and Discount Screen Printing. Maps will be available.

"We encourage guests to visit the studios, talk with the artist and get a rare glimpse of artists' workspaces and see their processes," said **Maya Freeman** of the Sand City Art Committee, which is organizing the event. "This is a rare opportunity as many of the studios aren't open to the public during regular business hours, if at all."

The studio tour is just the first in a series of gatherings the Sand City Art Committee has planned. Next up is a Holiday Art Sale Marketplace Dec. 5. www.sandcity.org



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Oct. 19 - Carmel Woman's Club presents Paul Miller, Publisher of The Carmel Pine Cone, speaking on "Newspapers, We're Not Dead Yet," Monday, October 19, 2 p.m. Mr. Miller, an award winning journalist for over 30 years worked for CBS, and for NBC as a foreign correspondent editor. Refreshments served. Guests are \$10. Membership available. Contact: Donna Jett, Jettcarmel@gmail.com or (831) 238-9081.

Oct. 24 - Join Us For A Harvest Celebration! Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 12 to 5 p.m. Barrel tastings, exclusive wine flights, great food, live music. Tickets: \$20 Wine Gang/ \$30 Non Wine Gang. Chauffeured transportation available from The Crossroads, Advance Reservations. Limited Availability, \$20pp. Event Special, Buy 6 bottles at the event, and your event fee goes towards your purchase. Galante Vineyards Ranch, 18181 Cachagua Road, Carmel Valley. For tickets visit us at www.galantevineyards.com or call (831) 624-3800

Oct. 23 - "A Chorus in Miracles", full-length documentary celebrating 50th anniversary of "A Course in Miracles", 7 to 9 p.m. at Monterey Center for Spiritual Living, 400 W. Franklin St., Monterey. \$10.00 entry fee. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.montereycsl.org.

Oct. 26 - "Book Publishing 1-2-3." Monday, 2-3:30 p.m. Tips for finding agents and publishers, writing prompts, marketing ideas, hand-out, Q&A, sample edit. Jacks Restaurant (Portola Hotel, Monterey). \$20. Presenter: Laurie Gibson, editor. (831) 646-4507 / eaglet5223@mypacks.net.

Oct. 31 - Carmel-by-the-Sea's Annual Halloween Parade, Party, Pumpkin Roll, and 99th Birthday celebration, Saturday, October 31. Parade starts on San Carlos Street & 9th at 11 a.m. Lunch at Noon at Sunset Center, San Carlos & 9th. Lunch tickets: \$5 (includes hot dog, chili, chips, and soda.) Free cake and ice cream. Live music 2 to 5 p.m. (831) 620-2020.



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P.G. BUSINESS IS FINALIST IN MARTHA STEWART COMPETITION

By KELLY NIX

IT WAS only two years ago that Jef and Kathi Encinas of Pacific Grove started the pet-related company, League of Crafty Canines, and now their business is a finalist in a national competition.

The couple entered the pet food category of the Martha Stewart American Made contest in August on the last day it was open for submission. Jef quickly wrote up a few hundred words about the business, and to their surprise, they got good news about two months later.

"Jef woke me up in the middle of the night and said 'we are finalists, we are finalists!'" Kathi explained. "I said 'what are you talking about?' We went to the Martha Stewart website and we were on the front page."

Not only did the company — which makes dog cookies, toys and other products — make it to the finals, it's the only such business in California that made the cut, she said.

"There were 18 finalists, then they moved it down to eight, and we are now in the top three of those eight," Encinas said. "We have [2,662] votes" as of Thursday. We are just chugging along and doing what we can to get votes from everybody."

The competition, according to the website, celebrates small entrepreneurs, artisans and small-business owners and their products. The winners will be announced Oct. 23, two days after voting closes.

"American Made spotlights the maker, supports the local, and celebrates the handmade," according to the Martha Stewart website. "The program is made up of people and communities that have turned their passion

for quality craftsmanship and well-designed goods into a way of life."

Besides being a lifetime dog lover, Encinas said the idea for their business began during a quest to find food for their Jack Russell terrier, Valentine, now 14, who suffered from food allergies. At the advice of her veterinarian, they switched Valentine to a raw-food diet.

"We were told it was the gluten in her food that was bothering her," Encinas said.

Although Valentine's health improved with the new regime, Encinas said she wasn't

See COMPETITION next page



Kathi Encinas, with her Westie, Paisley, is a finalist in a national Martha Stewart competition.

CLOSING WEEKEND! FINAL 4 SHOWS!

FRI Oct 16 7:30p (Freekid Friday*)
SAT Oct 17 2:00p & 7:30p
SUN Oct 18 2:00p (Closing Matinee)



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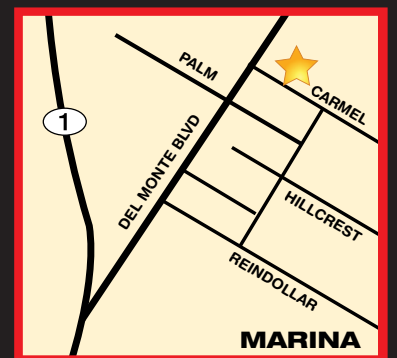
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PAVING

From page 1A

ferently about the problem.

According to Smith, the way roads are repaired hasn't changed much since the early 1930s. Either asphalt is piled onto the existing roadway and then smoothed with a flat blade, or the entire road surface is chopped up, trucked away, remixed, brought back and re-laid.

Resurfacing the existing asphalt that way is a short-term fix, said Smith. The main problem is that asphalt compacts, so laying more asphalt over a bump or depression soon results in a cracks and potholes. And don't even get him started on tearing up the road. In fact, don't get most drivers started on that scenario, with its lane closures, increased traffic and long delays.

Smith's solution is a paver that uses high-tech imaging to lay asphalt in one pass, in varying thicknesses that compensate for irregularities in the road surface.

It would work like this: first, the road surface to be paved over would be mapped in precise 3-D imaging using something called Lidar, short for "light detection and ranging." The technology has been around since the 1960s, and combines highly accurate laser imaging with radar. It's been used in mapmaking, mining and aerospace applications, among others.

COMPETITION

From previous page

able to find quality dog cookies that weren't loaded with stuff her pooch couldn't eat.

"I didn't like the treats out there," she explained. "They were all pretty much full of gluten and filler and all of that. We decided to play around and come up with our own recipes, and she loved them."

League of Crafty Canines offers many flavors of treats, including pumpkin peanut butter, peanut butter black strap molasses and lavender, chamomile and honey. The treats are all natural, gluten free, and the only preservative is rosemary. Their 3-year-old Westie, Paisley, also loves the cookies.

"For Christmas we have a gingerbread cookie, and in the spring we make a mint peppermint one," she said. "We also do butterfly bites, which are pumpkin, flaxseed and Monterey jack cheese treats."

And, all of the treats — which are baked a couple of times a month in a commercial kitchen in Sand City — are "human grade," which means people may snack on them too.

"We do have customers who eat them," Encinas said.

The League of Crafty Canines' products are sold in numerous stores, including three Whole Foods locations, Diggidy Dog and Raw Connection in Carmel, and Miss Trawicks and Grove Market in Pacific Grove. The company also makes a paw salve, dog beds and other items.

To cast a vote for their business, go to www.marthastew-art.com and click on the "American Made" link. "You can vote up to six times a day," Encinas said.

Smith's paver would use the imagery and computer software to deposit varying amounts of asphalt over the road's surface, automatically compensating for irregularities. Once the asphalt was compacted, it would be a smooth surface with no underlying bumps or depressions waiting to turn into cracks and potholes.

He said it would not completely eliminate the need for milling, but it would substantially reduce the need to tear up entire lanes. "Conservatively speaking," he said, "it can reduce the scope of resurfacing by at least 35 percent in terms of time and resources."

Letters of support for the project from UC Davis, as well as The Transtec Group, a pavement engineering firm from Texas, and Montana-based Century, which also does paving and highway work, have encouraged Smith to pursue his project. He also has a 2006 letter of support from Caltrans, and a professor from the University of Washington called his idea as a "game changer."

In 2002, Smith paid for a \$25,000 feasibility study out of his own pocket — a study that had positive results. He has also secured patents in the United States, China, Japan and Korea.

His next step is to raise \$60,000 to support what he called "core research" on the project at the UC Davis Pavement Research Center. He plans to rent Davis' Lidar scanner, scan

test segments of a road to model its shape, and then manually place asphalt over it, compact it, and have it tested like any other road surface for smoothness.

Smith is hoping people will see enough value in his research to support it through Kickstarter, an online organization which helps "bring creative projects to life." More information about his research and his company, Advanced Paving Technologies, can be found online at adpavtec.com.

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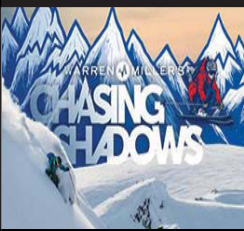
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MEHDIPOUR

From page 1A

The objective of the mothballing plan, according to the county, is to protect the house from additional loss; weatherize and maintain the building to stop moisture penetration; and control humidity levels inside the building. The report does not indicate how much implementing the plan would cost. Whatever it is, Mehdi pour would have to pay it.

Mehdi pour appealed the historic review board’s mothballing plan on Sept. 28, taking issue with its recommendations. Planners, though, say Mehdi pour’s alternative proposal “does not sufficiently address measures to protect the house from additional damage, or correct the existing problems.”

While the house has been unlivable for years, in February, Mehdi pour reported that someone broke into the house and severely vandalized it, jeopardizing its structural integrity.

Load-bearing beams were cut in half and drilled through.

“Due to this event (vandalism),” planners said in this week’s report, “the requirement to maintain the house was changed to a requirement to mothball the house in compliance with guidance provided” by the federal government.

‘Done intentionally’

Supervisor Dave Potter said at a June 30 meeting that the damage had been done intentionally, while Tony Lombardo, an attorney for Mehdi pour’s neighbor, Sam Reeves, who opposes the teardown, outright accused the tech CEO of intentionally doing the damage so she could get a county permit to raze the home.

Since then, Mehdi pour’s son, Sateez Kadivar, has accused his mother’s opponents of doing the damage to make her look bad. He also said burglars could have been responsible, since copper fixtures were stolen from the home.

Kadivar couldn’t be reached for comment Thursday, but he has said his mother has spent more than \$125,000 on shoring

up the house to comply with a county order, and will likely spend hundreds of thousands more to adhere to the county’s orders. Included in those expenses is an environmental impact report Mehdi pour was required to pay for.

A few weeks ago, Kadivar escorted a Pine Cone reporter onto the property and inside part of the house he said was OK to enter. Though the home offers a stellar view of the Pacific Ocean, the structure’s foundation is crumbling, there is mold throughout, windows are broken, ceilings are falling, and it is generally in a terrible state.

ARRESTED

From page 8A

“He was going to these places and using his fake ID and credit card to buy watches,” he said.

Monterey County Sheriff’s Cmdr. Keith Wingo said Tu had stolen two Rolexes with a total value of more than \$16,000 from Hesselbein’s in the Crossroads shopping center using the same credit card and fake identification that same day.

“He went to the store with another person, a female, and looked at a lot of watches, and subsequently purchased two,” he said.

The burglary at Hesselbein’s was discovered after police arrested Tu in Carmel, where he was booked on charges of second-degree burglary, identity theft, possession of stolen property, theft via forged credit card and presenting a false identity, all felonies, and possession of a fake ID, a misdemeanor.

The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office filed cases against him for the alleged crimes in Carmel and at the Crossroads, and he was arraigned on both Oct. 1 with preliminary hearings set for Nov. 10.

His female companion is still at large.



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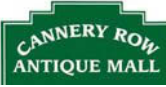
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THURSDAY OCTOBER 21ST

Carl Cherry Center		
Becoming Bulletproof	10:00am	Documentary
Stink!	12:30pm	Documentary
The Funeral Guest	3:00pm	Feature
Stealing Chanel	5:30pm	Feature
Lighthouse Cinemas		
Son of Saul	6:00pm	Feature
Room	8:30pm	Feature
MIIS Irvine Auditorium		
Yemeniettes	7:00pm	Documentary
Sunset Center Main Theater		
All Things Must Pass	8:00pm	Documentary

FRIDAY OCTOBER 22ND

Carl Cherry Center		
Shorts Program #3	10:00am	Shorts
AFI Student Shorts	12:30pm	Shorts
Big Voice	3:00pm	Documentary
USC Student Shorts	5:30pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #1	8:00pm	Shorts
Carmel High School Theater		
A Light Beneath Their Feet	4:30pm	Feature
The Preppie Connection	7:30pm	Feature
Lighthouse Cinemas		
45 Years	6:00pm	Feature
Miss You Already	8:30pm	Feature
MIIS Irvine Auditorium		
The Tainted Veil	5:00pm	Documentary
The Trials of Spring	7:30pm	Documentary

Sunset Center Studio 105		
Chapman University Student Shorts	10:00am	Shorts
Shorts Program#4	12:30pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #5	3:00pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #6	5:30pm	Shorts
The Man Who Saved the World	8:00pm	Documentary

Sunset Center Main Theater		
James White	8:00pm	Feature

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23RD

Carl Cherry Center for the Arts		
Show Business	12:30pm	Feature
Lesson Plan	3:00pm	Documentary
Nathan East: For the Record	5:30pm	Documentary
Shorts Program #5	8:30pm	Shorts

Carmel High School Theater		
Shorts Program Shorts #7	10:00am	
Racing Through the Forest	12:30pm	Documentary
Buried Above Ground	3:00pm	Documentary
A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velasquez	8:00pm	Documentary

Carmel Youth Center		
Shorts Program #4	10:00am	Shorts
Shorts Program #1	12:30pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #6	3:00pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #3	5:30pm	Shorts
Shorts Program #5	8:20pm	Shorts

Hidden Valley Theater		
Lesson Plan	10:00am	Documentary
It’s A Wild Life	12:30pm	Documentary
Nathan East: For the Record	3:00pm	Documentary
Becoming Bulletproof	5:30pm	Documentary
Stealing Chanel	8:30pm	Feature

Lighthouse Cinemas		
Anomalisa	6:00pm	Feature
Spotlight	8:30pm	Feature

MIIS Irvine Auditorium		
Hajwalah	12:30pm	Documentary
El Cacao	12:30pm	Documentary
Out of Sight, Out of Mind	12:30pm	Documentary
The Stand-by Generation	12:30pm	Documentary
Daisy & Max	3:00pm	Documentary
Open Your Eyes	3:00pm	Documentary
The Last Man on the Moon	5:30pm	Documentary
Mustang	8:00pm	Feature

Sunset Center Studio 105		
Code	10:00am	Documentary
Best of Shorts	12:30pm	Shorts
Fear No Fruit	3:00pm	Documentary
UCSC Student Shorts	5:30pm	Shorts
Maybe Someday	8:30pm	Feature

Sunset Center Main Theater		
The Makings of You	4:30pm	Feature
Crescendo: The Power of Music	8:30pm	Documentary

SUNDAY OCTOBER 24TH

Carl Cherry Center		
Roman Citizen	12:00pm	Feature
Hitchcock/Truffaut	1:30pm	Documentary

Carmel High School Theater		
Steve McQueen: The Man and Le Mans	12:00pm	Documentary
Diablo	3:00pm	Feature

Carmel Youth Center		
Shorts Program #2	10:00am	Shorts
Shorts Program #7	12:00pm	Shorts

Hidden Valley Theater		
Best of Shorts	12:00pm	Shorts

Sunset Center Studio 105		
Cliff4Word	10:00am	Documentary
The Moment I Was Alone	12:30pm	Documentary
It’s a Wild Life	2:00pm	Documentary

Shorts# 1

91 minutes

Missed Call
A Good Egg
Mail.Man
Mannish Boy
The Train
Father

Shorts # 2

62 minutes

Cracked
Throwing Stones
Merry Xmas
Foes Your Daddy
Wanted
Il Dilemma

Shorts#3

74 minutes

Another Love
Simon
Runaway
Un Signe, Un Geste
Farewell My King

Shorts # 4

70 minutes

The Window
Spark
Mermaids on Mars
Adam of the Sheetlands
Servant and the Sea

Shorts # 5

82 minutes

Suicide Sam
Sons of Guns
Sabre Dance
Neither or Both
Wild West Fan Co.

Shorts # 6

93 minutes

Catching Fireflies
The Lion Man
Broken Basket
Beauty Shots
Grace
The Moment I was Alone
Truant Moon

Shorts # 7

72 minutes

Tom Girl
Left Hook
Powerful Medicine: Simply Magic
The Persecution of Falun Gong
Dreaming Awake & the Exquisite Doors of the Fractal Self

Best of Shorts

101 minutes

Whispering Pines
The Mediator
Beneath Water
La Tête de l’emploi
(The Right Person for the Job)
The Emissary
Our Father
Birthday

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DIABLO

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WOMEN IN FILM LUNCHEON

The CIFF Women in Film Luncheon is a celebration of women in the creative arts and beyond who push the boundaries in their respective fields. Held this year at the La Playa Hotel, a champagne reception is followed by lunch, a provocative panel discussion and dynamic screening. It is also our biggest fundraiser for our awards and scholarship fund. Visit www.CarmelFilmFest.com for more information.

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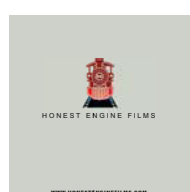
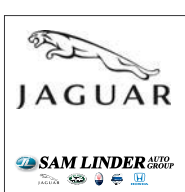
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HITCHCOCK/ TRUFFAUT

Filmmakers discuss how Francois Truffaut's 1966 book "Cinema According to Hitchcock" influenced their work.



CHP offers Start Smart class for National Teen Driver Safety Week

CAR CRASHES are the leading cause of death for kids between the ages of 14 and 18 in the United States, and in 2013, 2,614 teen-driven cars were involved in crashes in which someone died, with an estimated 130,000 injured.

But, according to the California Highway Patrol, a recent survey indicates only a quarter of parents have “had a serious talk with their kids about the key components of driving,” not to mention dangers like alcohol, seat belts, texting, speeding, and extra passengers.

In honor of National Teen Driver Safety Week, the CHP is asking parents and teens to take some time to attend a free driving safety class, Start Smart, on Monday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Monterey Area CHP office at 960 E. Blanco Road in Salinas.

The two-hour class is designed for new and future drivers, ages 15 through 19, and their parents. It’s taught by CHP officers who discuss factors that contribute to crashes, and how they can be avoided.

For more information, call (831) 796-2100.

Orville Joseph Golub

August 24, 1915 - September 28, 2015



Orville Joseph Golub saw his last sunset on September 28, 2015 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. Born to Edith and Simon Golub on August 24, 1915 in St. Louis, Missouri, he was a compassionate spirit with a cheerful countenance and confident grace. Wise, witty, and wonderful, Orv lived well and was well-loved for one hundred years.

Orv grew up in Seattle, Washington and graduated from the University of Washington (B.S., 1936, M.S., 1938). He received his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1944. Orv met the love of his life, Ellina Marx Jacobs, by the Great Fireplace at the "I" (International) House, where he lived as a graduate student. Orv and Elli wed in San Francisco on June 15, 1941 and honeymooned in Carmel. Their marvelous marriage lasted for 67 years.

During World War II, he served in the U. S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and was stationed with his growing family at Camp (Fort) Detrick, Maryland, doing research in virology.

In 1948, Orville J. Golub, Ph.D., returned to civilian life and, with three colleagues, founded Bio-Science Laboratories in Los Angeles. For the first time, physicians had global access to a clinical reference laboratory for diagnostic testing. Dr. Golub's creative mind made him well-suited to direct the promotional development of Bio-Science Laboratories. "There is no substitute for integrity" was more than the BSL motto; they were words by which he lived.

Orv and Elli raised their five children and three Yorkies in Westwood where Orv enjoyed simple pleasures---dining with friends, life-long learning (PLATO Society at UCLA), golf, and cultural events at the LA Music Center.

Starting in 1961, and for four decades thereafter, the Golubs delighted in annual adventures, "Travels with Elli." Orv penned witty limericks on postcards and searched for antique microscopes while Elli "shopped 'til she dropped." Orv's camera captured the essence of faraway places and exotic peoples with such an artistic eye that his best photographs became shared memories for the entire Golub family.

The Golub Collection is Orv's legacy and gift to his alma mater. It is one of the finest collections of 18th century microscopes, and is on permanent display in the Life Sciences Building at UC Berkeley. Steve Ruzin, Ph.D., Curator; golubcollection.berkeley.edu/. Golub served on the Advisory Council for the Lawrence Hall of Science and was honored to be a Berkeley Fellow and a Builder of Berkeley.

Thirty years after their honeymoon, Orv and Elli returned to Carmel-by-the-Sea, and found the perfect place to build their dream home, "C'est la View." They savored the spectacular, vivid, and dramatic sunsets overlooking the ocean.

For the past fifteen years, daughter Laura lived with her parents. Affectionately referred to as “chauffeur, chef, and Sherpa,” Laura lovingly tended to their every need, enabling them to live happily and in good health. Laura and her husband, Tom, were devoted caregivers for Orv after Elli's passing in 2008, and her family is forever grateful.

Pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Ellina Marx Golub, and his brother, Stanley David Golub, he is survived by his five children: Judith Marx Golub, Jeffrey Golub (Martha), Cary Lurie, Laura Overett (Tom), and Katherine Smith, and ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

In memory of Orville Joseph Golub, family and friends who wish to make donations to the Golub Collection may do so by making checks payable to "UC Berkeley Foundation". Include on the memo line "Golub Endowment" and "Dr. Golub". Checks should be mailed to: UC Berkeley Foundation, 2080 Addison St. #4200, Berkeley, CA 94720-4200.



Hikers chip away at Big Sur trash

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE POPULAR Sykes Camp has gained much notoriety for the amount of trash backpackers leave behind, a new trend offers hope that fellow backpackers will solve the problem.

“The trash pile at Sykes has gotten a lot smaller in the last few weeks,” explained hiker and volunteer extraordinaire Steve Benoit on the Ventana Wilderness Alliance’s online forum.

Much of the credit has gone to a local hiker, “Fat Popi,” who came up with the idea of packaging bags of garbage small enough for any hiker to pack out. He even cut up abandoned sleeping bags.

The idea has worked like a charm — Benoit said the trash pile now weighs an estimated 200 pounds, a considerable reduction from its peak of about 500 pounds.

“It seems to make an impression on people when they see someone carrying out trash,” Benoit told The Pine Cone this week, just hours after he hauled out about 50

pounds of abandoned sleeping bags. “They want to help. I’m hoping it’s contagious.”

As visitors pour into Big Sur in larger numbers every year, the number of hikers — no doubt lured by photos of the backcountry posted on the Internet — has also increased. Most of them travel along just one route, the Pine Ridge Trail, despite the fact that there are several hundred miles of hiking trails in the local mountains. Many are headed about 10 miles from Highway 1 to Sykes Camp, where a murky and lukewarm “hot” spring awaits them.

The uptick in visitation has resulted in a proliferation of litter, particularly at Sykes Camp, where a pile of trash began to grow.

“Over the last three years, volunteer rangers have been collecting trash from Sykes Camp and hauling as much as they can, but there is so much trash that we have to cache it, and remove it when we can.”

Benoit is thrilled by the help he and his fellow volunteers are now receiving from the public. “Thank you everyone for helping keep our wilderness wild,” he added.

CHOPPERS

From page 1A

county official said he is still researching the subject.

“Our policy is that landing helicopters on private property is not allowed, except as part of some allowed use, such as the spraying of agricultural fields or on an emergency basis,” Monterey County planning official Mike Novo told The Pine Cone. “There may be other exemptions in federal law, which is part of the investigation being conducted by our enforcement staff. However, our position is that they are not allowed until someone shows us a law that supersedes our zoning

requirements.”

Chris Gularte of Specialized Helicopters of Watsonville posted a photo on his Facebook page of a helicopter on Garrapata Ridge. He told The Pine Cone he attended the Sept. 19 event but insisted he didn’t transport the guests.

Gularte said it’s not surprising people are wary of helicopters.

“I totally understand where the frustration is coming from,” he said. “Billions of dollars are rolling in from outside the area, and it’s changing.”

But Gularte said he’s convinced there’s nothing on the books that bans helicopters from landing on private property. “Show me the law,” he added. “There’s nothing prohibiting it.”



This photo posted on the Facebook page for Specialized Helicopters apparently shows a helicopter after it landed on a Garrapata Ridge property in September. Neighbors have complained to the county that such landings should be prohibited.

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FIRES

From page 1A

The coastal commission staff also disagreed that the air was unhealthy.

“Our letter stands at this point, based on our to-date understanding,” Carl responded. “If we make any clarifications to it, it will be after we have had a chance to discuss with our in-house experts ... to see if there is a need for refinements to it.”

Regardless, city administrator Doug Schmitz told The Pine Cone Thursday the city is continuing to enforce the ban, which he noted has resulted in less trash and better air quality, as intended. The city’s hired private security guards continue to patrol the beach and prohibit people from lighting fires.

Working on solutions

Meanwhile, city officials and coastal staff are rushing to put a beach-fire program together that stands a chance in front of the coastal commission when it meets in Monterey in December. While it’s charged with protecting and preserving coastal resources, the commission also puts heavy emphasis

on visitor use and access to beaches, and low-cost activities they can enjoy there.

Coastal planner Mike Watson emphasized the need to move quickly, since he must complete his report for the commission by Nov. 10.

“Looking ahead to the December hearing, there are a lot of work and details to be developed on a pilot program that manages fires in a manner that maximizes public recreational opportunities and protects coastal resources, including air and water quality,” he wrote in an email to the city after the meeting. “We all agree that unmanaged beach fires are no longer appropriate.”

The revised beach-fire program should “allow for alternative fuel/fire sources,” with “specifics of the device, including numbers, locations, usage, availability, maintenance, etc.” But he directed city officials to “please be mindful not to preclude any one type of fire source, which could frustrate our efforts to develop a management plan in compliance with Coastal Act and LCP requirements.”

Carl also noted the short timeframe and desire for the city’s help. “Also, as discussed, we would very much like to coordinate on the materials to be presented to the city council in early November, to help ensure we are on the same page as much as possible,” he said.



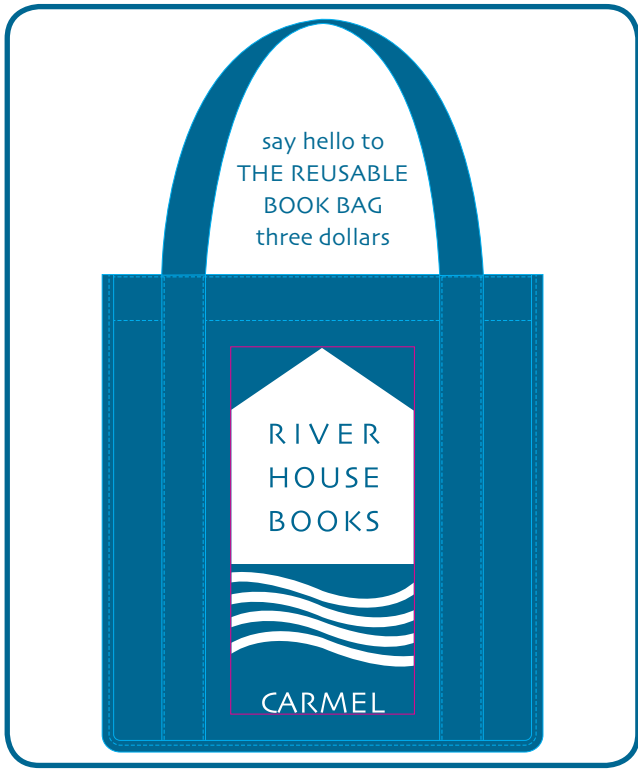
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Editorial

The easy answer to short-term rentals

ONE OF the hottest debates up and down the coast of California is the question of short-term rentals, especially in wealthy areas, where people on the “con” side warn that allowing such rentals would mean the destruction of their quiet, residential neighborhoods, even as the people who favor short-term rentals warn that widows and orphans will be kicked out of their homes if they can’t supplement their incomes by bringing in tenants once in awhile.

Even in Pacific Grove — where a short-term rental program was approved with barely an objection during the recession — voices are beginning to be raised asking for the program to be rescinded.

Thanks to Internet-based facilitators, of course, short-terms rentals of private homes and apartments have become wildly successful. Recently, a spokesman for one of the industry leaders, Airbnb, noted that on the night when a crime allegedly happened at one of the company’s rentals in Spain, more than 800,000 other properties around the world were listed for rent on the company’s site, with several hundred thousand actually occupied. That’s a force to reckon with, and obviously represents some very powerful public sentiment in favor of the phenomenon.

But that doesn’t mean you want it in your neighborhood — if for no other reason than along with short-term rentals can come long-term problems, such as noise and traffic. And, whether crime is part of the mix or not, people understandably feel ill at ease when they see a bunch of new strangers in their neighborhood every few days.

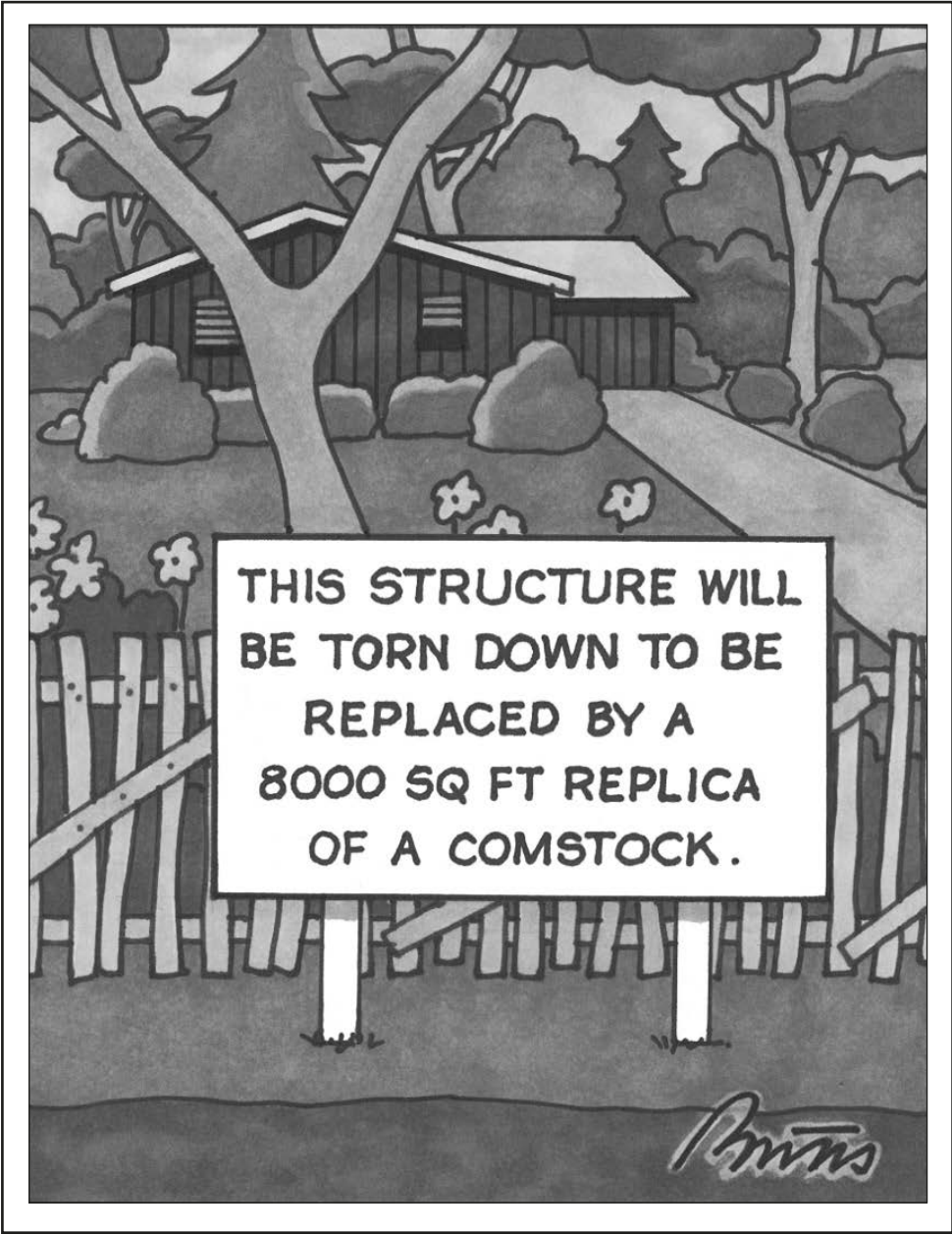
In fact, short-term rentals, if properly managed on suitable properties, don’t have to be a problem for anybody. On the other hand, if you live in an apartment or in a neighborhood of homes on small lots (such as Carmel-by-the-Sea), you obviously don’t want the cottage next door turned into a 24/7 party shack. You also don’t want estate speculators buying up numerous homes or apartments in your neighborhood and renting them out full-time. An operation like that would be more like a scattered hotel than anything else.

Maybe one day everybody will be renting out their homes for part of the year, but for now, short-term rentals are too new to be easily accepted. They also come with so much potential downside the burden falls on people who want to rent their homes to vacationers to show that such operations won’t cause too many problems for their community.

Furthermore, the decision whether they are an unacceptable burden should be left solely up to the local democratic process — which is to say that your neighbors get to decide if they approve of what you’re up to or not. And that if they don’t, you’re out of luck.

The question of whether or not short-term rentals are a good idea has no easy answer. But there’s an easy way to answer it: Let the people, either directly or through their elected representatives, decide. And whatever they decide should be final.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

Doris Day opposes canine center

Dear Editor,

I understand that at the Monterey County Planning Commission meeting on Aug. 26, my name was brought up giving the impression that I would be in favor of the Carmel Canine Sports Center project because of my love of animals.

I want it to be known that I am NOT in favor of this project. I have never been in favor of dogs being exhibited in “dog shows”!

I want to stress that I firmly oppose the Carmel Canine Sports Center project, and I insist that my name never be mentioned to the contrary.

Doris Day, Carmel Valley

‘Great idea in an appropriate place’

Dear Editor,

It is extremely frustrating for supporters of the Carmel Canine Sports Center to continually read letters from people who are misinformed about the project. (I give them credit for being misinformed, rather than knowing the facts and still making bogus allegations.) To rebut a letter from Oct. 9:

1. Opponents say it’s inappropriate for a member of the planning commission to promote his/her own project. If being on the planning commission meant one could not

be involved in any project requiring a permit, would anyone do that job? I’m sick of accusations that Martha Diehl is somehow suspect of undue influence when she has followed all the steps required for a use permit.

2. Opponents say the proposed location for CCSC is not appropriate because it will disrupt a “quiet, residential neighborhood.” Could it be they want the community at large to picture the sports center being smack dab in the center of the homes at Quail? In truth, only 11 homes are anywhere near the CCSC property boundary — behind plantings and across a golf fairway. Most of Quail is one-half mile or more away. By the way, this “residential” community is surrounded by a public golf course with a 93-room lodge, which conducts huge events multiple times a year. I guess events with expensive cars are fine, but events with dogs are not.

3. Opponents of CCSC continue to assert that there will be 24 events a year. Not true. There will be up to 24 DAYS of events — that’s 7 percent of the year. They also persist in calling CCSC a “private RV campground.” Yes, during some events there will be RVs — no hookups, no generators allowed between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.

I hope those who read last week’s letter will read this one and weigh the accusations against the actual facts.

Marilyn Evans, Monterey

‘Spit in the face’

Dear Editor,

What puzzles several of us who oppose the Canine Carnival at Quail Lodge is how a government appointee can spit in the face

See LETTERS page 31A

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This doctor proves that new horizons can keep you young

TALKING WITH Carmel Valley author and retired doctor Richard Wheat is like taking a long, pleasant walk, with the views changing around every turn. As a young man in Palo Alto, Wheat became an Eagle Scout and loved camping. He thought he might be a history teacher, and discovered a talent for writing in Miss Ophelia Oppenheimer’s high school class. Medicine soon beckoned, however, and Wheat followed.

He attended Pomona and Occidental colleges through the Navy’s V-12 officer training program, and continued his education at Johns Hopkins medical school, where he graduated in 1948.

From 1951 to 1953, he served as a Navy medical officer on troop transports, treating soldiers who were returning from Korea. After his discharge, he returned to practicing internal medicine in Los Altos and worked as a doctor in various settings until he retired in 2005.

Some high points on that career path included 28 years teaching medicine at Stanford, working as the medical director of El Camino Hospital in Mountain View and then Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and crisscrossing the country as a senior medical analyst for patient safety for NASA and the Veterans Administration.

He also took three extended trips to the Himalayas with his late brother, combining his enthusiasm for travel and backpacking with the practice of medicine. He said, “They were pleasure trips in part with a little clinic every day for the locals.”

Each trek was from 300 to 350 miles long, with Wheat hauling his medical supplies along in a large Halliburton aluminum suitcase. Among his many memories of the journeys was a side trip to India, where he fell in love with the spicy cuisine.

Good food and wine have long been a part of Wheat’s life. He and his late wife, Mickey, went to Europe with some like-minded friends, mainly to taste wine and tour the vineyards. Mickey was the love of his life. They were together 67 years until her death two years ago from Alzheimer’s disease.

The two loved to travel, said Wheat. “She never camped a day in her life before she met me. She flunked out of Campfire Girls.” But once she caught the bug, he said, “She was a

real trooper — a great backpacker and camper.” They traveled to every state but Hawaii and put more than 92,000 miles on one camper alone.

His concern for preserving the countryside he loves led him to serve for 38 years on the board of the Sempervirens Fund, which is dedicated to preserving redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He served as presi-

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

dent for 18 of those years.

He and Mickey moved to Carmel Valley Manor in 2003, and Wheat put many of their memories into a book he self-published in 2012, “The Saga of Dick and Mickey Wheat — The Story of an American Family.” By then he’d already been part of a writers’ group at CSUMB for about a year. He wrote the book for his family, including his three sons, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

When he finished, he realized how much fun he’d had and decided it was finally time to write a novel. The result is “Blood Red Vines,” a well-researched page-turner that begins in modern-day Afghanistan with Jeff Thomas, a Navy medical officer who was raised on a California ranch with a vineyard.

Drawing on his own Navy experience and veterans’ memoirs, Wheat created believable characters, vivid settings and thoughtful dialog.

After Thomas returns to California, he finds work in an emergency room in Monterey. He meets a mysterious old Frenchman at a Carmel Valley restaurant. The man is looking for help with his vineyards and ranch, a gem of a property hidden in the hills beyond Cachagua.

Thomas seizes the opportunity to escape the burnout he’s begun to feel in the ER and moves to the ranch. Unexpected memories and ties to his past begin to surface as the fast-moving story reaches its climax.

Wheat’s love of food and wine is evident throughout the book, as he describes meals all but guaranteed to send hungry readers dashing to the kitchen for a snack.

See LIVES next page



Pictured here with the locals on one of his three treks through the Himalayas, Richard Wheat has had a long-running and wide-ranging career as a doctor. He brings his experience as a Navy doctor to his second career as an author.

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CARNAC STILL MAGNIFICENT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

HAS THE news got you down? Has the fight to save Carmel Beach put a crimp in your smile? Has the drought parched your funny bone and withered your pucky? Has your last remaining nerve been frayed to a frazzle? Then join the club.

What you need is a healthy dose of hilarity. And I’ve got just what the doctor ordered. It so happens there’s something worthy of celebrating in October other than Halloween (and it won’t rot your teeth).

The 23rd of this month is the birthday of an American comedy icon. A man who set the gold standard in late night television. His genius for witty conversation, quick quips, hilarious monologues and side-splitting sketches were responsible for three decades of national sleep deprivation. The one-and-only king of late night, Johnny Carson.

When you need an emergency infusion of spirit-lifting humor, there’s nothing better than watching DVD collections of highlights from “The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson.” The mere mention of characters like Tea Time Movie host Art Fern, turbaned psychic Carnac the Magnificent, cranky plaid-coated conservative Floyd R. Turbo and the slightly libidinous senior citizen Aunt Blabby guarantees a smile.

His opening monologues stand the test of time, with lines like: “Last night, it was so cold in New York, the flashers were only describing themselves.”

And this: “Some sad news from Australia — the inventor of the boomerang grenade died today.”

And: “Married men live longer than single men. But married men are a lot more willing to die.”

I had the great pleasure of interviewing Carson for my book, “The Great Comedians Talk About Comedy.” It was my sixteenth and final interview for that hardcover volume, and the best of the bunch. But it almost never happened.

I’d spent three years gathering interviews with the other comedians including Woody Allen Jack Benny, George Burns, Phyllis Diller and Bob Hope. But Carson ignored all of my requests. He was known for refusing to talk about politics, social controversies, his childhood, or his private life. Even though my book was strictly about comedy, he did not respond.

Finally I decided to try another route and contact his lawyer. The attorney returned my call immediately. “Your project sounds interesting,” he said. “Johnny will be happy to meet with you. He gets \$10,000 for an interview.”

Fat chance. I’d gone into debt trying to finish the project. “Will Johnny take

Monopoly money?” I joked.

So I figured that was that. Three years of trying and I had hit the last dead end.

Then fate stepped in. My good friend, singer Tommy Leonetti, phoned from Hollywood to say he was coming to New York to appear on “The Tonight Show.” “Meet me at NBC,” he suggested. “We’ll hang out backstage before the show.”

So I was in Tommy’s dressing room at NBC. We were joking and laughing when there was a knock the door. In walked Johnny Carson. He greeted Tommy with a hug. Then Tommy said, “John, meet my friend, Larry Wilde, the stand-up comedian. He’s writing a book about comedy and he’d

Wilde Times

By LARRY WILDE

like to interview you. He’s already talked to Jack Benny, George Burns, Bob Hope”

Carson shook my hand. “Sounds great, Larry. I’d be happy to talk to you. Call my secretary tomorrow and tell her I said to set up an appointment.”

At that moment Ed McMahon bellowed, “And now, heeeeere’s Johnny!” and Carson rushed away.

Two days later I was in Johnny’s office. After my second question, apparently satisfied I was there to talk comedy, not pry into his personal life, he buzzed his secretary and told her to hold all calls. He lit a Pall Mall, put his feet up on the desk and talked for hours about a subject he clearly loved. He was expansive, philosophical and funny, displaying an intellectual insight into every aspect of his craft. Like this gem:

When I asked about his marvelous gift for ad-libbing, he explained that sometimes he saw where the conversation was going and could create a quip in advance. Other times it was an immediate reaction. He explained: “The other night we had a fellow on the show, weighed five hundred pounds ... a writer ... big fellow. One of the guests on the show, a girl, said, ‘I wanted to be a nun.’ And this writer who was sitting there said ‘I always wanted to be a monk.’ And I said, almost without thinking, ‘You could be a monastery.’”

Johnny Carson is gone, but lucky for laugh lovers, the legacy of comedy he left behind still uplifts amazes, and delights.

Larry Wilde is a former standup comedian and the author of 53 humor books. With sale over 12 million copies The New York Times has dubbed him “America’s Best-Selling Humorist.” E-mail larry@larry-wilde.com.

Don’t miss “Scenic Views,” by Jerry Gervase, every week in the Real Estate Section.

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EMERGENCY

From page 3A

ard-specific guides so emergency personnel “are better informed to handle any disaster or emergency.” Each guide takes the most crucial information from the city’s emergency operation plan and organizes it into a format that can be quickly and more easily utilized by Emergency Operations Center staff to address a particular type of emergency.

Sherrie Collins of the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services also spoke at the meeting, and both urged people to sign up for cell phone notifications during disasters by registering their numbers at www.alert-montereycounty.org. Various alert systems are allowing public safety officials to reach more people more quickly, Calhoun said, including the county’s emergency notification system, and more technology is being added.

“By addressing these areas, as well as continuing to build on what we already have, the city will have a modern and capable emergency notification system and an increased level of service to our population,” he said.

Further, he said an updated evacuation route map is available on the city’s website, and a temporary assistance center would be activated at the Carmel Youth Center during

an emergency. Powered by a generator, the center is not a shelter but would serve as a meeting place and information hub, as well as somewhere to get a hot cup of coffee or charge a cell phone.

Finally, the city is working on its volunteer programs and the Community Emergency Response Team, which includes a seven-week training course emphasizing disaster preparedness and basic response skills, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. As a result, CERT members can help their neighbors or coworkers during a major emergency, when professional firefighters and police are busy tending to more urgent matters. The team comprises two dozen people who train alongside Monterey CERT members, since Monterey Fire Department provides fire services for Carmel.

When it was her turn, Collins addressed concerns about this winter.

“We’re in an El Niño weather pattern and that has a lot of people very concerned,” she said, estimating there is a “50-50 chance” the town will experience flooding this winter.

The peak time for that would be toward the end of November, she said. Sandbags to be used to stop basements, garages and other low areas from flooding can be found and filled in Carmel at the public works department and on the outskirts near the fire station on Rio Road.

“Or it could be just as dry as last year,”

she said.

Whatever the case, during any major emergency, she urged people to have disaster kits ready and to “be prepared to leave when you need to leave.”

She also reminded people to take their pets with them, as emergency shelters are available for them, too, and to carry their

important papers, vital records, most valuable items, thumb drives or external hard drives containing computer backups, and prescriptions.

Finally, she told people to dial 211 — not 911 — if they need information during a disaster. The free service is a collaboration between the county and the United Way.

LIVES

From previous page

So what do you do when you’re 91 and you’ve just published your first novel? You start writing a sequel, of course. He has additional books planned, including “one about a bunch of old folks and marijuana.”

Wheat also keeps a hand in the medical profession by giving lectures on dementia to nursing students who rotate through the Manor. He continues to love cooking and says he makes a mean lemon meringue pie.

And a nice glass of wine at a local tasting room is always welcome, too. “I’ve had a very good life and I’m still enjoying it,” he said. We’ll drink to that!

SCENIC

From page 6A

States,” he reported. “These hundreds of thousands of signs are robbing America of its scenic view, of its iconic images that once defined the open road. Let’s help protect America’s beauty. Let’s ban billboards.”

The ceremony will start at 4 p.m. Parking is available at Rocky Point Restaurant, and shuttles to the bridge will begin at 3 p.m. No parking will be permitted in the turnout and scenic overlook next to the bridge.

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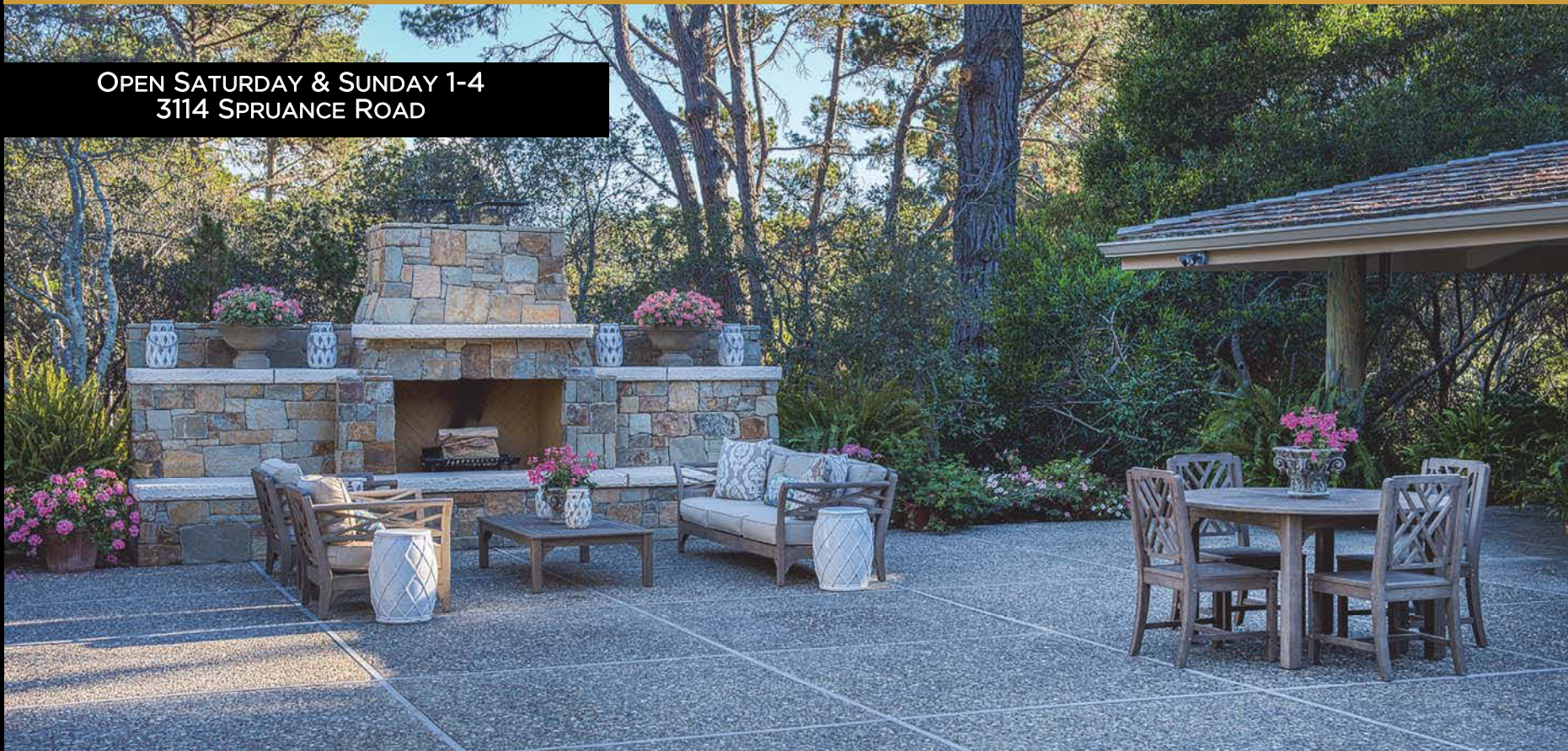
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